

2007 STATE FARM MVC TOURNAMENT
Semifinal Round – Creighton 59, Illinois State 56
Saturday, March 10, 2007
Knapp Center, Des Moines, Iowa

MVC TOURNAMENT NOTES: Creighton's victory means this will be the first time in MVC Tournament history that a No. 6 seed (Creighton) will face a No. 8 seed (Drake) in the championship game. Creighton has faced Drake one other time in the championship of the MVC Tournament in 2002 with the Bluejays claiming a 77-74 victory against the Bulldogs.

CREIGHTON NOTES: The Bluejays, who won their second straight game, improved to 13-18, while advancing to the championship for the first time since 2002 and fourth time overall (others were 1994, 1999). The Bluejays snapped a four-game losing streak to Illinois State dating back to 2006. Creighton improved its MVC Tournament record to 14-13, including a 3-0 record against Illinois State.

Creighton did capture the 1999 MVC Tournament championship played in Des Moines as a No. 7 seed.

The Bluejays had entered the MVC Tournament losing all 14 games this season in which they had shot less than 40 percent from the floor. However, they have won both games in the MVC Tournament despite shooting less than 40 percent.

CREIGHTON PLAYER NOTES: Freshman **Megan Neuvirth** and junior forward **Sara Cain** had 13 points in the game for Creighton. Freshman forward **Sam Schuett** led the Bluejays with nine rebounds.

ILLINOIS STATE NOTES: Illinois State, which had a three-game winning streak snapped, fell to 21-10. The Redbirds' MVC Tournament record fell to 15-14, including an 0-3 mark against Creighton and 5-5 record in the semifinal round.

PLAYER NOTES: Sophomore guard **Kristi Cirone**, the MVC Player of the Year, had 12 points for Illinois State, while freshman center **Kenyatta Shelton** added 10 points and five rebounds off the bench.

FIRST HALF-RECAP: Reserve **Kenyatta Shelton** came off the bench to collect six points and four rebounds helping Illinois State enjoy a 31-29 halftime lead. Clinging to a 14-12 lead, **Kristi Cirone** scored five points as Illinois State went on a 7-0 run to enjoy its biggest lead of the first half at 21-12. A three-point basket by **Chevelle Herring** just before the buzzer pulled Creighton within 31-29.

SECOND HALF RECAP: There were four lead changes in the last 3 minutes 13 seconds of the game before a jumper by **Megan Neuvirth** with 1:31 left gave Creighton a 57-56 lead. Following a turnover by Illinois State's **Lashawn Johnson**, Creighton expanded the lead to 59-56 on a layup from the left baseline by **Sara Cain**. The Redbirds missed consecutive three-point shots from **Tiffany Hudson** and **Kristi Cirone** on their next possession but were given second life when Creighton's **Amy Thrall** missed the front end of a bonus free throw. However, a three-point shot by **Megan McCracken** fell short with two seconds left.