

2007 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Tournament
Illinois State 75, Bradley 60
Quarterfinal Round
Friday, March 9, 2007
Knapp Center, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

Illinois State head coach Robin Pingeton: "I was really proud of our girls. I knew it would be a tough match up because they (Bradley) had four seniors in the lineup, and they had already played one game in the tournament. We challenged our kids at halftime and came out with strong sense of urgency in the second half. It was a great team win.

"I was concerned and anytime you are trailing I felt like knowing our kids if we challenge them to play hard and lock in defensively that they would respond. We just weren't finishing shots in the first half. In the second half our defense started our offense and we did a great job in transition. The challenge was to continue to get out and go north and south."

Illinois State sophomore guard Kristi Cirone: "We're still a little young and we were a little soft late in the first half. So we dug in defensively in the second half. "

Illinois State senior guard Megan McCracken: "I came here with Coach P (Pingeton). I believe in her and this program that we're going to build. We are taking one game at a time and trying to do the best we can. We were moving the ball well on offense, and the team was doing a great job distributing the ball. "

Illinois State freshman forward Kenyatta Shelton: "I learned early in the season no game is bigger than the other. But my teammates said this is the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament and it's different. I really got up for this one; I ran the court hard and rebounded well."

Bradley head coach Paula Buscher: "It is frustrating. We gave it what we could. We emptied our gas tank, and I'm proud of them. I'm really proud of our seniors. They left it all on the court. Illinois State did exactly what they should have done. Any time there was a missed shot, they kept coming at us with their transition going, especially in the second half."

Bradley senior center Ashley Chelleen: "I knew it was either go on or this was it. So I gave it all to help my team."

Bradley senior guard Erika Nelson: "I don't want to say that playing yesterday had an effect on us. I know that our minds weren't focused on that. We were trying to give it everything we had, but just came up short."