



## 2010 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Championship Tournament

Semifinals – Game 7

### Northern Iowa 61, Illinois State 59

**#1 Illinois State 24-7, #5 Northern Iowa 16-15**  
*Saturday, March 13, 2010 \* Family Arena, St. Charles, Mo.*



**2010 REGULAR-SEASON MEETINGS** -- The Redbirds won a pair of nail-biters against the Panthers ... Ashleen Bracey (19 points, 10 rebounds) and Nicolle Lewis (16 points, 10 rebounds) both registered double-doubles as the 'Birds took a 70-64 win Jan. 28 at Cedar Falls ... In Normal, one month later, Erin Brocka (21 points-career high, 15 rebounds) and Lizzie Boeck (21 points, 10 rebounds) both double-doubled for the Panthers, but Alexis Jenkins scored a career-high 21 points to help the 'Birds hold-off a second-half UNI charge and win 69-66.

**TOURNAMENT TYPE** -- UNI reaches the championship game of the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament for the first time after six previous semifinal losses ... the Panthers improve to 9-14 all-time in the tournament ... The Redbirds fall to 18-16 in the tournament ... they had won eight of their last 11 games in the tournament ... Illinois State, semifinalists for the fourth time in six seasons, are now 7-5 at this stage of the competition.

**HEAD-TO-HEAD** -- Illinois State still leads the series 36-23, but UNI, having thwarted ISU's attempt at a 3-0 season series, holds a 20-8 edge since 1998 ... The Redbirds were trying to complete a season treble over the Panthers – home, road and tournament – for the first time ... Tonya Warren's UNI teams are 3-4 against Illinois State while Robin Pingeton's teams are 7-10 against the Panthers ... The teams had met just twice previously in the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament ... Illinois State won 58-48 in the 2005 semifinals in Normal (ISU went on to win the title) ... UNI won 70-62 in the quarterfinals the following year in Springfield, Mo., reaching their last semifinal prior to this year.

**BIRD BANTER** -- Illinois State has won 20 or more games each of the past four years—the first time in the 40-year history of the program that has happened ... with 99 wins over four years, Redbird seniors Ashleen Bracey, Maggie Krick and Nicolle Lewis are the winningest class in Redbird history ... Lewis, who played in her school-record 140<sup>th</sup> career game, finished on 20 points, the third time this season, and the ninth in her career, she reached that plateau ... Lewis, ISU's career block leader, and second in MVC history, has 249 (337, Cassie Hager, UNI, 2003-06) after adding one today ... Bracey recorded her 24<sup>th</sup> double-digit scoring output of the season, and 57<sup>th</sup> of her career, with 14 points, while Krick had her 23<sup>rd</sup> of the season and 74<sup>th</sup> of her career, finishing with 11 points ... Amanda Clifton matched her career high with 10 points (1-18-10 at Wichita State) ... Since Robin Pingeton has been in the Valley, her 80-46 conference record matches Jim Flanery of Creighton for No. 1 in the league over the past seven years.

**PANTHER POINTS** -- Nicolle Clausen, on a baseline drive at the 16:07 mark of the first half, claimed her 1000<sup>th</sup> and 1001<sup>st</sup> career points ... with nine today, she has 1,008 for her career ... Clausen's three-pointer at the 14:31 mark of the second half was her 203<sup>rd</sup> as a Panther, breaking her tie with Nadine Brandt (202) for most career treys at UNI ... Jacqui Kalin, who streak of 22 consecutive double-figure scoring efforts ended with her 8 Friday vs. Bradley, went 32 minutes today without scoring and ended up with just two points (1-7 FG) ... Lizzie Boeck drilled a career-high three three-pointers, including the go-ahead and eventual game-winner, and wound up with 16 points ... K.K. Armstrong, with 10 points, scored in double-figures for the 15<sup>th</sup> time this season (14 off the bench) and the 27<sup>th</sup> time in her career ... behind her, UNI outscored the ISU bench 16-0 ... The Panthers committed a season-low five turnovers – their first single-digit game in that category since 3-3-07 at Bradley (9).

**FIRST HALF RECAP** –After Illinois State took a 4-2 lead at the 18:04 mark on a Bracey jumper, UNI scored six unanswered points – Clausen's baseline drive for the middle bucket putting Northern Iowa back in front at 16:07 and pushing per through the career 1,000-point barrier – before Bracey converted a three-point play on both sides of the 14:55 media timeout ... The Panthers extended the run to 14-3 over 4:43, making five straight shots from the field, the last a Brocka three-pointer at 13:21 ... The Redbirds struggled from the floor, making just two of their first 11 shots before Clifton's right-wing trey at 10:33 ... UNI forged its largest lead, 22-11, on a Clausen goal at the 9:32 mark ... the Panthers would reacquire that margin on four later occasions, last 32-21 at 3:56, before missing their next four shots ... Krick and Bracey then hit treys to pull the ISU to within five ... Boeck then halted the slide with a three from the right side four seconds before the buzzer ... Northern Iowa, which averages 16.8 turnovers per game, had just two shotless possessions in the first 20 minutes, all the while hitting 50 percent (16-32) from field ... ISU, meanwhile, did not have a turnover over the first 12 minutes of play but coughed up the ball six times in the last eight minutes before the break ... The UNI reserves outscored the Redbird bench 11-0 in the opening period while the Panthers, as a whole, outscored Illinois State 14-4 in the paint ... Armstrong, who played just 2:15 before her ejection Friday, collected seven points and four rebounds over 10 minutes of action in the first half.

**SECOND HALF RECAP** – The teams started the second half much as each had ended the first, the Panthers missing their first six shots and committing a turnover ... the Redbirds, while guilty of three turnovers in their first seven trips, also got triples from Clifton (19:07) and Bracey (17:50) to close to 35-33 ... Brocka sank two free throws at 15:15 ... UNI's first basket of the second half was Clausen's three-pointer at 14:31, re-upping the lead to five (40-35) and, as the 203<sup>rd</sup> of her career, breaking her tie for the school career record ... Lewis scored to make it 42-42, the first tie since 4-4 (16:41, first), and was fouled 11:49 ... out of the media timeout, she made the free throw, giving ISU its first lead since 4-2 (18:04, first) ... The Panthers made two of their first 14 shots after halftime, then, hit five straight beginning with Boeck's trey at 9:29 that made it 45-45 ... Kalin, who has scored in every game this season for Northern Iowa, netted her first points of this contest (after 0-5 FG) on a driving layup at 7:57, putting UNI back in front, 49-47 ... That bucket came either side of two more tying scores, one by teammate Oney to even things (47-47) at 8:36, and another by Lewis to square things (49-49) at 7:37 ... Boeck tallied six consecutive points in the final four minutes, including a triple at 1:10 to give UNI a 60-59 lead it would not relinquish ... Jackson's drive attempt to take the lead with 10 seconds left was blocked by Brocka, who then was fouled and made one free throw to set the final score.