

**2011 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference
Women's Basketball Championship Tournament
First Round * Game 2
#7 Indiana State 83 vs. #10 Southern Illinois 68
March 10, 2011 * Family Arena, St. Charles, Mo.**

2011 REGULAR-SEASON MEETINGS -- The Sycamores swept the Salukis this season. Shannon Thomas had 10 points, 12 rebounds and 3 blocks in a 48-42 ISU victory Jan. 29 in Carbondale. On Feb. 25 in Terre Haute, Thomas improved to 26 points and Indiana State made 38-52 free throws in a 93-57 win. The 52 FTAs for Indiana State matched the fourth-best in league history ... Teri Oliver had 42 points in the two games for SIU... In the two games, Indiana State attempted 78 free throws to just 16 for Southern Illinois.

TOURNAMENT TYPE -- This was a rematch of Game 1 of the 2010 tournament ... Last year, #8 Indiana State beat #9 SIU 73-57 as Kelsey Luna paced the Sycamores with 20 points. Indiana State was eliminated the next day, 76-39 by Illinois State (who is the quarterfinal opponent for tonight's winners, too) ... Indiana State is 11-17 all-time in the tournament and has never won the tourney even though the Sycamores advanced to the final game three times from 2003-06 ... SIU is 15-18 all-time in the tourney, including titles in 1987 and 1990, and second place in 1983, 1989, 1991, 1992 and 1993 ... Indiana State and SIU have split four meetings in the tournament. ... It's Indiana State's second time playing on Thursday of the tournament since it expanded to 10 teams in 2006 ... SIU is the No. 10 seed for the first time, but the Salukis have played in the opening round five times in the six years of 10-team tournaments (all but 2007). SIU is 1-4 in opening-round games, defeating Bradley in 2008.

HEAD-TO-HEAD -- SIU leads the all-time series 40-37. The Salukis once led the series 37-15, but Indiana State has won 22 of the last 25 meetings since 2000.

SYCAMORE STUFF -- The Sycamores have not lost more than two in a row, nor won more than two in a row, all season. Tonight's win keeps that streak intact, because Indiana State breaking a 2-game losing streak ... Shannon Thomas had two blocks against SIU, tying Laura Rudolphi (2004-08) for No. 1 in career blocks at Indiana State. Both have 154 ... ISU is 7s-3 when Shannon Thomas gets a double-double, including tonight.

SALUKI SHOTS -- Freshman CiCi Shannon's 82 blocks are 39 more than any previous Saluki in one season and 14th in the nation this year ... With seven freshman at the start of the season, SIU has one of the youngest teams in Valley history ... The Salukis joined the 1998-99 Bradley Braves as the only two teams in Valley history to have a winless conference season. But the Salukis are also only team in Valley history to go undefeated in league play in a season (18-0 in both 1986 and 1987). ...

FIRST HALF RECAP -- ISU jumped out to a 4-0 lead on a jumper by Kelsie Cooley and two free throws by Taylor Whitley in the first 65 seconds ... At 18:29, Brooke Lemar's layup put SIU on the board ... Kelsie Cooley hit back-to-back 3s and ISU led 10-2 Andrea Rademacher drained a 3 with 12:07 left to put INS ahead 22-12. ... Teri Oliver scored 12 of the first 15 Saluki points in the first 9 minutes ... Indiana State hit 5 of its first 8 3-pointers ... Southern Illinois went on a 20-10 run to tie with 5:17 left in the half, but Indiana State scored 5 straight points to retain the lead, 47-40 at the half

SECOND HALF RECAP -- Taylor Whitley got the ball out of a scrum and scored the first basket of the second half .. SIU went from 2:56 left in the first half to 15:02 left in the game without a field goal, going 0-7 with 5 turnovers before Teri Oliver hit a 3-pointer ... at 16:00 Missy Tiber was assessed a technical foul by referee Amy Bonner. Brittany Schoen hit both free throws and ISU led 53-40 ... In the first 8 minutes of the second half, Indiana State shot 3-14 and Southern Illinois 3-12 ... Shannon Thomas had her 7th 20-point game of the season, her second against SIU-- her 10th double-double of the season and 17th of her career ... Southern Illinois' 12 turnovers were a season low (15 previously vs. Indiana State). ... SIU is 1-26 trailing at halftime; ISU 13-3 when leading at intermission ... SIU's 40 points were a first-half season high.