

**2011 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference
Women's Basketball Championship Tournament
Semifinal Round * Game 8
#3 Missouri State 84 Indiana State 79
March 12, 2010 * Family Arena, St. Charles, Mo.**

2011 REGULAR-SEASON MEETINGS -- Missouri State swept the Sycamores, 65-54 Jan. 16 and 63-50 Feb. 18 in Terre Haute ... Casey Garrison scored 18 points—her season average—in each game to lead MSU, each time overcoming a double-double by ISU's Shannon Thomas.

TOURNAMENT TYPE -- MSU and Sycamores met three times previously in the tournament and MSU won them all: 75-70 in the 2003 title game, 64-55 in the 2006 title game and 92-63 in the 2001 quarterfinals ... Missouri State is looking for its 10th championship ... Missouri State is the No. 3 seed for the second straight year and the sixth time overall, but MSU has not won the tournament as the No. 3 ... MSU is 35-14 all-time in the tourney, 13-3 in semifinals ... Indiana State is 12-18 all-time in the tournament, 3-5 in semifinals.

HEAD-TO-HEAD -- Missouri State leads the series 47-14 and has won 7 straight in the series since 2008.

HOW THEY GOT HERE -- Indiana State downed Southern Illinois 83-68 in the opening round and pounded #2 seed Illinois State 80-51 in the quarterfinals ... Missouri State downed #6 seed Drake 86-77 in the semifinals as Casey Garrison led the MSU with 16 points.

LADY BEAR BULLETS -- During their current six -game winning streak, MSU has averaged 80.6 points per game ... MSU is ninth in the nation with 5.6 blocks per game ... MSU is 12th in the nation limiting its opposition to 34.7 field goal Pct. ... Missouri State has rebounded 38 percent of its own misses – best in the MVC ... Casey Garrison is No. 4 in the nation in free throw percentage; she is now at 90.8 (157-173), second in the Valley, and ahead of the MSU single-season record (Tina Robbins 90.3 in 1993) ... Tia Mays is No. 8 in the nation with 3.2 blocked shots per game, turning back a school-record 103 this season ... with 180 team blocks, MSU is No. 4 on the Valley season list ... With 103 blocks became the second player in Valley history to block 100 shots in a season, joining Northern Iowa's Cassie Hager, who did it twice (135 in 2005, 128 in 2006).

SYCAMORE STUFF -- Indiana State made 10 threes in the second half to tie Illinois State's tournament record with 13 in a game. The Sycamores finish the tournament with a record 31 threes (Creighton had 26 in 2002) ... Taylor Whitley had an impressive 3-game stat line: 66 points, 22 assists, 12 rebounds, 6 steals while shooting 21-37 from the field, 5-10 from the arc and 19-23 from the line ... Shannon Thomas is the Sycamore career shot-block leader with 162 blocks ... the Sycamores are 15-5 when they shoot more free throws than their opponents—1-11 when they don't ... Taylor Whitley leads the Valley in minutes played and played every minute for the 10th time this season ... the Sycamores just missed scoring 80 points in three straight games for the first time in five years. Indiana State scored 84 and 89 in back-to-back wins over Drake (Dec. 29) and Creighton (Dec. 30, 2006), and 91 in a 98-91 loss at Evansville Jan. 4, 2007.

FIRST HALF RECAP -- Each team started 0-4 from the field when Christiana Shorter made the first and last of four straight MSU makes to build an 8-0 MSU lead .. Deja Mattox got INS on the board at 15:41, breaking an 0-7 start with 3 turnovers for INS ... with an 8-2 lead, MSU reeled-off a 19-5 run highlighted by Jaleshia Roberson's 3 threes to take a 27-7 lead. MSU scored on 12 of 13 possessions, hitting 9-12 field goals, after going scoreless on its first four trips ... at 11:11, Casey Garrison left with an injury—she returned to the game at the 3-minute mark ...by 10:40 of the first half, Indiana State had burned three of its allotted five time outs ... MSU led 37-17 when Indiana State made an 11-4 run featuring threes by Kelsie Cooley and Brittany Schoen, to cut the lead to 41-28; Garrison's two free throws put MSU up 43-28 at intermission ... MSU is 21-2 when leading at halftime; INS is 2-13 when trailing at halftime.

SECOND HALF RECAP -- MSU stretched the lead back to 20 at 50-30, but Taylor Whitley and Kelsie Cooley three-pointers fueled a 16-9 INS spurt to get the Sycamores within 13 at 59-46 with 12:38 left ... MSU led 71-55 with 6:09 left when Whitley hit a jumper, to start a 10-2 INS run to cut the lead to 73-65 with 3:54 remaining—the closest INS was since the 15-minute mark of the first half ... at 2:18, Brittany Schoen fouled Jaleshia Roberson, then Roberson was assessed a technical for an elbow above the shoulder. Roberson made two free throws, then Schoen split her throws and Thomas scored on the next possession to make it 77-68 MSU, but INS trimmed it to five points, 82-77 on two threes by Schoen and one by Anna Munn with 26.3 left. Garrison's two free throws were matched by two for Shannon Thomas to finish the scoring.