



2011 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Championship Tournament

Quarterfinals - Game 6

No. 3 Missouri State 86, No. 6 Drake 77

*Friday, March 11, 2011 * Family Arena, St. Charles, Mo.*

ST CHARLES, MO – The Missouri State Lady Bears shot their way to a 22-point lead in their State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament quarterfinal match-up with Drake then withstood a late Bulldog charge to post an 86-77 victory. With their first win in the tournament since 2006, the Lady Bears advance to Saturday's semifinal round, where they will take on Indiana State at 4:05 p.m.

The Lady Bears came out firing on all cylinders in the first half, hitting on 54.3 percent (19-of-35) of their field goal attempts to take a 47-30 lead into intermission.

The MSU bench played a starring role in helping Missouri State lead from start to finish. MSU led just 8-6 when Jaleshia Roberson sparked an 8-0 spurt with back-to-back three-pointers to give the Lady Bears their first double-digit lead of the night. They would stretch the gap to 24-12 with just under 10 minutes left in the half when Jasmine Malone's jumper capped a 16-6 scoring run.

Roberson scored all eight of her points in the first half, and fellow reserves Kendra Roberts and Lacey Boshe each chipped in six points in the opening stanza to help MSU take control.

The Lady Bears pushed their lead to as many as 18 when Casey Garrison tallied two of her 10 first-half points with 5:44 to play.

Missouri State dominated the interior over the game's first 20 minutes, out-scoring the Bulldogs 22-10 in the paint and turning nine offensive boards into 12 second-chance points.

The Missouri State attack continued early in the second stanza, as the Lady Bears scored 11 of the first 17 points of the period to build their largest lead of the night at 58-36.

But Drake heated things up from long range, getting an Amber Wollschlager three to start a 16-6 run that would ultimately cut the MSU lead to 12 with just under 13 minutes to play. Kristin Turk would lead the DU charge, going 8-of-13 from the field, including a 4-of-7 showing from three-point range, to total 20 second-half points.

The Bulldogs would slice the deficit down to six points on Turk's third triple of the period with 4:32 to play. But MSU would respond with a Garrison jumper and back-to-back buckets from Boshe to extend the lead back to nine, and DU would get no closer than seven the rest of the way.

Garrison led four MSU players in double figures with 16 points and five assists, while Christiana Shorter totaled 15 points and a game-high nine rebounds. The Lady Bears got 34 points from its bench, including 11 from Roberts and 10 from Boshe, as the duo went a combined 9-of-12 from the floor.

Rachael Hackbarth turned in a dominant performance for DU, leading all scorers with 26 points, while Turk added 25 on 5-of-12 shooting from beyond the arc. Wollschlager also had a big night from long range, hitting 4-of-7 tries to pile up 17 points.

DU would shoot .529 (27-of-51) for the game, but was hampered by 20 turnovers, which the Lady Bears converted into 20 points.

The Lady Bears (22-9) finished 33-of-64 (.516) from the field and 14-of-17 (.824) from the charity stripe.

Courtesy: MSU Athletics Communications