

# Game Six Quotes



## Northern Iowa

### Head Coach Tony DiCecco

“I know it’s a cliché and I hate using clichés, but it’s very difficult to beat a team three times, it’s extremely difficult, because at this time of the year, you learn so much about each other. They know each other’s characteristics. They have our sets scouted extremely well and I thought we responded extremely well in the second half... I just thought we did a great job of defending and taking away what they wanted to do and force them to work so hard to get their looks.”

“Illinois State came very well prepared and it really showed, and the energy they brought and what they did on the offensive glass in the first half. They had nine offensive rebounds and I thought we made some corrections in the second half and we did a much better job of keeping them off the glass. I thought that was a big reason why many times it was one-and-done, one-and-done, and we responded very well on the offensive end.”

### Cassie Hager, 6-7, Sr., Center

“I demanded the ball inside a lot more (in the second half) and played a lot more physical than I did in the first half. I think the first half I was a little tentative, maybe feeling there’d be double-teams when there wasn’t.”

### Tara King, 6-0, Jr., Forward

(on last year’s loss to Illinois State in the semifinals of the Valley tournament) “I think this year we came out harder. Last year they (Illinois State) came out more aggressive and played a lot harder and wanted it more than us and that’s why they won the tournament. So I think if we learned anything from that it’s that you need to step it up and come out ready to go.”

## Illinois State

### Head Coach Robin Pingeton

“(UNI) is a team that just doesn’t get rattled and plays with a lot of poise. I felt like our effort tonight (was good). We outrebounded them by five, we got 24 more shot attempts than they did, the difference was the free throw line. They scored 21 more points than we did from the free throw line and that’s the ballgame when you lose by eight.”

“I felt like defensively we did a pretty good job in the first half. We knew they’d look to continue to go inside and I thought Cassie (Hager) actually got a little bit more aggressive going to the basket and we just put to the free throw line way too many times. From the field, she went 5-for-11 and that’s really not too bad for a kid that’s 6-7 and we don’t really have an answer for, but for one reason or another, we just continued to put her to the free throw line way too many times.”

### Holly Hallstrom, 6-2, Sr., Center

(on playing against UNI center Cassie Hager) “The game plan was if Cassie’s playing me up top, I need to set screens for everyone else. Obviously, she’s a tremendous post.”