



## 2009 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Championship Tournament

Quarterfinal - Game 3

**#9 Evansville 73, #1 Illinois State 60**

*Friday, March 13, 2009 \* Family Arena, St. Charles, Mo.*



**TOURNAMENT TYPE** -- Evansville becomes the lowest-seeded team to ever reach the semifinal round of the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament...the only eighth seeds to make it to the last four were 2005 champions Illinois State and 2007 titlists Drake...Evansville, with its third win in four games, improves to 13-19 on the season while Illinois State, after its third loss in four games, falls to 24-7...the Aces close the Redbirds' lead in the all-time series to 19-12, as well as snapping a four-game losing streak, winning for the first time since Feb. 2, 2007 at Normal, 70-65...Evansville improves to 11-7 in MVC Tournament play -- including two wins over the number-one seed (59-55 over Jackie Stiles and Missouri State in the 1999 semifinals) - while ISU falls to 17-15, losing for just the third time in 10 games...the Purple Aces win for the eighth time in nine quarterfinal-round contests, including the last four straight, while the Redbirds are now 6-8 in the quarterfinals after losing for just the second time in their last six games at this stage.

**2008-09 REGULAR-SEASON MEETINGS** -- The teams' first-ever meeting in the MVC tournament follows Illinois State winning both conference meetings this season, 75-62, Jan. 22 in Normal, and 67-54, Feb. 21 in Evansville.

**REDBIRD REPORT** -- Illinois State has lost back-to-back games for the first time since losing to Tulane and Cleveland State to open the 2008-09 season...the Redbirds shot a season-low 32.9 percent (23-70) from the field...ISU falls to 6-5 when trailing at halftime...Maggie Krick's basket at the 7:39 mark of the second half raised her career total to 1,001, making here the 23<sup>rd</sup> member of ISU's 1,000-point club...Krick made just four of 18 shots from the field before fouling out with 1:08 left, her second disqualification in 96 career games...three-time Jackie Stiles-MVC Most Valuable Player Kristi Cirone, with 16 points, but on five-for-14 shooting from the field...Cirone now has 2,060 career points, fourth in Valley history and 13 behind No. 3 Kari Koch (Missouri State 2003-06)... Illinois State, which entered with a school-record 135 blocked, second-most in the MVC this season, turned away two UE shots...Nicolle Lewis blocked a shot on the game's opening possession to tie the ISU single-season record with Leslie Ferrell, who had 72 in 1987-88...her 183 career blocks, already a school record and fifth-most in MVC annals, are 14 behind Dena Williams (Bradley, 2002-05) for fourth.

**ACES ANECDOTES** -- Evansville improves to 9-0 when shooting a higher field goal percentage than its opponents...the Aces made eight of 19 three-point field goals attempted...Ashley Austin, who led UE with 22 points, reached the 20 mark for the fourth time this season...Austin has scored in double figures in six of the last seven games...UE is now 10-3 when leading at the half...UE hit 23 of 30 free throws, led by Shannon Novosel who made 10 of 12 free throws on a day she finished with 13 points...the Aces blocked a season-high nine shots, the most recorded by any Illinois State opponent this season...Novosel established a career high, and a team season-best, with five blocks.

**FIRST HALF RECAP** -- After five early lead changes, Evansville broke the game's second tie with an 11-1 run over a 5:45 stretch, through five different players, capped by Kate Baley's three-pointer, to take a 22-12 lead at the 6:09 mark...the Aces, after making just one of their first seven shots of the game, shot 50 percent (11-22) the rest of the half...Illinois State, meanwhile, made just five of its first 21 shots from the field, including six in a row over six minutes, before Emily Hanley hit a jumper at 5:54... Hanley, Maggie Krick (on a second chance) and Ashleen Bracey scored on consecutive trips in a 80-second span to cut the lead to 28-25 at the 1:42 mark...the Redbirds hit seven of their last 11 tries from the floor before the break.

**SECOND HALF RECAP** -- ISU tied the game twice in the first four minutes after the intermission before UE went on a 16-6 run, behind seven points from Austin, over 6:03 to take a 49-39 lead at the 10:08 mark...the Aces hit nine of their first 16 shots after the break, the last being Eva Benson's three-pointer at the 7:23 mark...Krick continued to struggle from the field, hitting just two of 10 shots after halftime before fouling out...Novosel (8-10) and Austin (8-12) made a combined 16 of 22 free throws in the final period to help the Aces maintain a lead of no less than five points while not making a field goal over the last 7:23, eventually opening a 14-point lead in the final minute.