



2018 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Semifinal Round – Game 8

No. 3 Northern Iowa 70, No. 2 Missouri State 58

Saturday, March 10, 2018 * TaxSlayer Center, Moline, Ill.



HEAD TO HEAD – Missouri State leads the all-time series with UNI 51-28, although the Panthers have won 9 of the past 15 confrontations. **Kellie Harper** is 3-7 vs. UNI. **Tanya Warren** is 15-10 vs. Missouri State. In Valley Tournament meetings, MSU is 6-2 vs. UNI, most-recently a 71-58 win by the No. 3-seed Lady Bears over the No. 1 seed Panthers in Moline in the 2016 title game.

TOURNAMENT TYPE – Missouri State is first in wins (46-21), first in championships (10) and first in championship game appearances (15) ... The Lady Bears are 6-3 in 3 times as a No. 2 seed, winning the title in 2001 as a No. 2 ... MSU is 16-8 in quarterfinal games ... UNI is 5-5 as a No. 3 seed ... UNI's only 2 tournament titles were back-to-back in 2010-11 ... UNI is 22-21 all-time in the Valley Tournament ... UNI advances to its 5th Valley title game, its second straight against Drake.

2017-18 REGULAR-SEASON MEETINGS – Missouri State swept the season series from UNI. **Aubrey Buckley** scored 13 points to lead MSU to a 62-52 win Jan. 7 in Cedar Falls. The Lady Bears held UNI to just 15 first-half points in a 57-52 win Feb. 2 in Springfield. UNI led 50-49 with 4:55 remaining, but scored just 3 points the rest of the way.

LADY BEAR TRACKS MEETINGS – **Danielle Gitzen** scored a season-high 18 points vs. UNI ... With 141 points (14.1) and 78 rebounds (7.8) in her last 10 games, **Aubrey Buckley** is well-ahead of her prior season averages of 9.0 ppg and 5.3 rebounds per game ... **Liza Fruendt** is No. 8 on the MSU career scoring list with 1647 points, behind **Kenzie Williams'** 1645 ... Fruendt's 547 points this season are No. 14 at MSU ... Fruendt has 76 3-pointers this season, No. 6 in MSU history.

PANTHER POINTS – **Ellie Howell** scored 18 of her season-high 20 in the second half ... UNI is 12-2 this season when shooting a better FG Pct. than the opponent ... During UNI's current 6-game win streak, opponents are averaging just 47.5 points per game ... The Panthers have held 17 opponents under 60 points ... During the **Tanya Warren** era, the Panthers are 75-0 when holding opponents to 60 points or less ... During its current 5-game winning streak, UNI has held opponents to a .312 Field Goal Pct. (99-317) ... UNI held Illinois State to 36 points, the 2nd-lowest in Valley Tournament history, in a 56-36 quarterfinal win.

FIRST QUARTER RECAP – **Mikaela Morgan's** 10 points helped UNI take an early lead. Morgan had a 2 and a 3-pointer within 90 seconds early in the quarter and a 2 and a 3-pointer within 40 seconds late in the period ...

SECOND QUARTER RECAP – UNI got 2 free throws from **Nicole Kroeger** and a bucket from **Karli Rucker**—UNI's first bench points of the game—plus a 3-pointer from **Rose Simon-Ressler** to stretch the lead to 21-14 in the first 90 seconds of the quarter ... at 7:48, **Aubrey Buckley** left with her 2nd foul, but MSU went on a 6-0 to get as close as 21-20 with 6:00 left ... MSU chased UNI to the end, with **Liza Fruendt** hitting a 22-foot 3-pointer as the horn sounded to bring MSU within 33-32. UNI's bench scored 10 of its 18 points ... **Mikaela Morgan** tied a season-high with 3 treys in the first half ... UNI is 16-1 when leading at halftime. MSU is 1-9 when trailing at halftime.

THIRD QUARTER RECAP – **Aubrey Buckley**, who played just 6 minutes in the first half because of foul trouble, got the ball on the low block the first four MSU possessions and produced 6 points to give MSU a 41-36 lead with 5:42 left, and forcing UNI to go to a zone defense MSU stretched that lead to 45-39 on a **Danielle Gitzen** steal and layup with 2:01 left ... But **Ellie Howell** got UNI back even with 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions. After a Buckley free throw, **Taylor Hagen** scored inside to give UNI a 47-46 lead. Howell, who had 10 points in the 3rd quarter, stretched that to 49-46 with a pull-up jumper before **Brice Calip** hit a driving bank shot to make it 49-48 UNI at the end of 3.

FOURTH QUARTER RECAP – **Ellie Howell** continued her 2nd-half spurt with a bucket and 4 free throws in the first 4 minutes of the 4th quarter to stretch UNI's lead to 58-50 with 6:17 left ... MSU mustered just one basket by **Brice Calip** in the next 5 minutes as UNI converted free throws by **Megan Maahs** and **Heidi Hillyard** (2 each) into a 10-point lead in the final 90 seconds ... **Danielle Gitzen** broke the MSU drought at 1:17, but UNI salted the game away with more free throws by **Karli Rucker**, **Mikaela Morgan**, Hillyard and Howell.