

# 2018 State Farm MVC Tournament – Game Notes

Game 6 ... 8:30 p.m., Friday, March 2 ... St. Louis, Mo. (Scottrade Center) ... #3 Illinois State (77), #6 Indiana State (70)

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**Illinois State** moves into the MVC tourney semifinals for the second year in a row, third time in four years, fourth time in Dan Muller's six years as head coach and fifth time in seven years for the program. The Redbirds took two of three from Indiana State during the season. Keyshawn Evans has moved into third on the Illinois State career three-point list with 88. Malik Yarbrough had 24 points, including 17 in the second half for his 12<sup>th</sup> game of 20 or more points of his career. Keyshawn Evans with 17 and Phil Fayne with 16 were also in double figures for the Redbirds. Fayne was the game's top rebounder with 10.

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**Indiana State** fell to 13-18 for the season and had a two-game win streak snapped. The Sycamores are 3-5 vs. Illinois State in the MVC Tourney and have an overall tourney record of 26-35. Senior guard Brenton Scott, the team's second leading scorer on the season, missed all 14 shots he took from the field, including 0/12 from behind the three-point arc.

**First Half:** Illinois State pushed ahead 11-4 early and expanded its edge to 17-8 midway in the half. Indiana State hit just 2 of its first 11 field goal tries, and started 0/4 from three-point range. After hitting 4 of its first 18 shots, Indiana State got two stops and a steal and surged back within a point at 20-19 with seven minutes to play. Indiana State got its first leads of the game at 28-27 and 31-30 before Illinois State grabbed a 34-31 halftime margin. The Redbirds shots .464 (13/28) in the first half and Indiana State was at .313 (10/32). Jordan Barnes led all scorers with 14 points for the Sycamores with the highest first-half point total thus far in this year's MVC tourney. Barnes had a trey for the 28<sup>th</sup> game in a row and scored in double figures for the 29<sup>th</sup> time in 31 games. Keyshawn Evans had 8 for the Redbirds. After averaging 19 in two previous games vs. Illinois State, Brenton Scott was scoreless in the first half tonight. Illinois State is 13-2 when leading at halftime. Indiana State is 2-13 when trailing at halftime. The score was tied twice in the first half and the lead changed four times.

**Second Half:** The half stayed close in the early going before Illinois State moved ahead 47-40 with 14 minutes to play. It was their biggest edge since the 11-4 start. The Redbirds grabbed leads of 10 points at 57-47, 59-49 and 61-51 before stretching their margin to 12 at 63-51 with 7:10 to play. Barnes started bringing Indiana State back and the Sycamores closed the gap to 67-65 with 2:44 to play before the Redbirds used late free throws to pull out to their final margin. Indiana State shot .367 for the second half and 339 for the game while Illinois State hit 50 percent the second half and .482 for the game. The game included 44 fouls and the teams shot 51 free throws with the Sycamores hitting 20 of 29 and Illinois State connecting on 15 of 22.

**Indiana State:** Jordan Barnes comes in with an MVC leading 3.7 treys per game and connected on five tonight. He scored 25 tonight, his 29<sup>th</sup> double figure point game and ninth 20-point game. Brenton Scott had hit double figures in 24 of 30 games this season, and 20+ in eight games but tonight was 0/14 from the floor and 0/12 from three. Qiydar Davis finished with 15 points, his 19<sup>th</sup> double figure point game.

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**Tournament Records and Notes:** This is the first time in the history of the MVC tournament all four semifinal teams are from the state of Illinois. Today's four quarterfinal round games were decided by a total of just 17 points, making it the closest quarterfinal round in tourney history. Only one previous MVC tourney out of 41 meets --- the 1999 tourney --- had all games decided by 10 or fewer points and the average margin of victory that year was 4.56. The average margin of victory in 2016 was 7.67 points with 8 of 9 games decided by fewer than 10 points. Through six games in 2018, the average margin of victory is 5.2 points with all six games decided by 10 or fewer points. This is also the first time since 2012 the top three seeds have all advanced to the semifinals and the 30<sup>th</sup> time in tournament history it has happened. **Tonight's evening session attendance is 7,077.**

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