



## 2018 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Opening Round - Game 1

**No. 8 Valparaiso 63, No. 9 Loyola 46**

**Thursday, March 8, 2018 \* TaxSlayer Center, Moline, Ill.**



**HEAD TO HEAD** – Valparaiso leads the all-time series with Loyola 21-5. This is LUC coach **Kate Achter** is 0-5 vs. Valparaiso, while VU's **Tracey Dorow** is 6-5 vs. Loyola. (NOTE: Dorow is on medical leave and Justin Rees is acting head coach for the Valley Tourney.)

**TOURNAMENT TYPE** – The teams had never met in a post-season game—not even during the six years they spent together as members of the Horizon League. Loyola is 1-2 as a No. 9 seed and 2-2 in opening round MVC Tournament games. LUC is 2-5 in Valley Tournament play, with both wins over Bradley. This is Valpo's first MVC Tournament game.

**2017-18 REGULAR-SEASON MEETINGS** – Valparaiso swept Loyola during the regular season, winning 76-60 Jan. 12 in Valparaiso as **Grace Hales** led 5 Crusaders in double figures with 15 points. Loyola led 33-32 at halftime, but VU scored 44 second-half points to sprint away ... At Loyola, **Meredith Hamlet** scored all of her 19 points in a 30-point VU 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as the Crusaders overcame a 12-point, 3<sup>rd</sup>-quarter deficit to win 63-53.

**CRUSADER QUIPS** – This is the first time Valpo has notched 3 wins against the same team in a single season since beating IUPUI three times in 2004. That 3<sup>rd</sup> win over IUPUI marked the first step toward an eventual Mid-Con crown and trip to the NCAA Tournament ... **Dani Franklin** ranks No. 1 in career free throw percentage at Valpo at .869, ahead of **Launa Hochstetler** at .838. With this game, Franklin ties 3 previous Crusaders with 120 career games played ... Among her many top 10 Valpo accomplishments, **Dani Franklin** can add No. 1 in career 3-point field goal percentage. She currently trails **Katie Boone**, .365 to .373 ... VU is 8-0 when holding an opponent below 60.

**RAMBLER RAMBLINGS** – Loyola is 1-22 when allowing 60+points ... In LUC's 7 wins, the Ramblers average 28.7 points in the paint; in 23 losses, just 20.0 in the paint ... **Jessica Cerda** was averaging 16.2 ppg in LUC's last 5 games—her average was 8.6 ppg previously. She had 11 vs. Valpo ... 52.3 percent (838 of 1602) of LUC's points this season have come from its 5 freshmen ... In the 5 LUC conference wins, opponents averaged 56.6 ppg; in the 13 losses, LUC allowed 70.1 ppg ... Loyola is 46-18 in the past 64 games in which the Ramblers out-rebounded their opponents. **Abby O'Connor** and Cerda average 20 points per game to lead LUC, but hit just 4-25 vs. Valpo.

**FIRST QUARTER RECAP** – Valpo took a 5-0 lead as LU started 0-5 with 3 turnovers before **Katie Salmon's** 5-footer got the Ramblers on the board at 5:56 ... at the under-5:00 time out (4:42), VU led 5-2 as the Ramblers were 1-7 with 3 turnovers and VU was 2-4 with 4 turnovers in the first 5:18 ... The shooting improved as VU hit 4-8 to finish the quarter ahead 14-7. LUC made 2-4 in the final 4 minutes, but had 8 1st-quarter turnovers. LU's **Abby O'Connor** had 5 1<sup>st</sup>-quarter rebounds. LU's Tiara Wallace picked up 3 fouls in the quarter.

**SECOND QUARTER RECAP** – The Ramblers scored the first 5 points of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, including a bucket by **Ellie Rice**. VU opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 0-4 with a turnover ... at the 6:29 mark, **Dani Franklin** scored inside to start a 9-2 run to put VU ahead 23-14 with 4:12 left ... After combining for 14 turnovers in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, they combined for just 3 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ... LUC's top scorers **Abby O'Connor** and **Jessica Cerda** average 20 ppg, but had just 5 combined in the first half ... VU is 11-1 when leading at halftime. LUC is 1-21 when trailing at halftime

**THIRD QUARTER RECAP** – VU hit 5-9 including 3-3 from distance to start the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. **Meredith Hamlet** hit treys on back-to-back possessions to give the Crusaders a 41-29 lead with 4:47 left as LUC called time out. **Jessica Cerda** made 2 of 3 from behind the arc after going 0-5 in the first half ... **Abby O'Connor** hit 2 free throws to cut the VU lead to 41-31, but **Dani Franklin** scored inside on back-to-back possessions and VU had a 45-31 lead with 3:14 left ... LUC went on a 6-1 run to end the quarter within 46-37.

**FOURTH QUARTER RECAP** – **Dani Franklin** hit 2 free throws, a post basket and a steal-and-score in the first 90 seconds to give Valpo a 54-37 lead ... VU extended its lead to 21 at 58-37 thanks to a 12-0 run to start the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as the Crusader defense limited LUC to 0-6 with 4 turnovers before the first Rambler score ... **Tiara Wallace** hit her first shot of the game with 4:21 left to stop the VU run ...