



2019 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Opening Round - Game 1

No. 9 Valparaiso 79, No. 8 Indiana State 77

Thursday, March 14, 2019 *The TaxSlayer Center, Moline, Ill.

SERIES STANDINGS – Indiana State leads the series 9-3 over Valparaiso, including 4-1 since the Crusaders joined the Valley a year ago. The Sycamores had won 5 straight vs. VU, with the last Crusader win 69-65, Dec. 8, 2001, in the Hoosier State Classic.

HEAD TO HEAD IN 2019 – Indiana State swept the 2019 series with Valparaiso. **Ashli O'Neal** scored 10 of her career-high 28 points in overtime to lead the Sycamores past Valparaiso 86-82 Jan. 18 in Valparaiso. O'Neal had 26 in today's game. **Meredith Hamlet** had 26 points, including 3 of VU's 10 3-pointers on Jan. 18. In the rematch, the teams were tied 53-53 in the 4th quarter before O'Neal's 3-pointer with 6:10 left kick-started a 13-0 INSU to a 67-59 Sycamore win Feb. 17 in Terre Haute. Hamlet had 25 today.

TOURNAMENT TYPE – VU leads the tournament series with INSU 1-0 ... Indiana State is 13-26 all-time in the Valley Tournament, including 1-4 as a No. 8 seed. No. 8 seeds are 16-24 all-time in the tournament, with 2 tournament wins—Illinois State (2005) and Drake (2007), both on their home courts ... VU is 2-1 in the Valley Tournament. Last year, as the No. 8 seed, the Crusaders, beat Loyola 63-46 in the opening round, then lost 89-40 to No. 1 seed Drake in the quarterfinals. No. 9 seeds are 11-12 all-time in the Valley Tournament ... No. 9 seeds have an 8-6 winning edge in 8-9 seed games.

SYCAMORE SEEDS – Indiana State keeps it close—the Sycamores are 8-10 in 18 games decided by 10 or fewer points, including 3-4 in 1-possession games... **Ashli O'Neal** is No. 2 in the Valley in steals and has taken 26 charges, producing 26 more opponent turnovers ... Indiana State has lost 5 straight in the Valley Tournament since beating Loyola 62-51, March 14, 2014 ... **Tamara Lee** had made 21 straight free throws before missing in the 2nd quarter vs. Valpo. **Ty Battle** picked up her 5th double-double of the season—3 against Valpo—with 10 points and 11 rebounds. **Tamara Lee** scored a career-high 25 points in today's game.

CRUSADER CITATIONS – Hitting 51.8 percent from the field, it was just the 2nd time this season Valpo has shot over 50 percent—the last 2 games ... Valparaiso made 16 of 22 shots in the second half, including 6-9 from 3-point range ... The Crusaders' 28 third-quarter points were its 2nd highest output of the season ... Valparaiso thrives on scoring balance. VU has had 4 (or more) players score in double figure a school-record 7 times this season ... **Meredith Hamlet**, the No. 5 career scorer in VU history with 1,344 points, ranks No. 4 in 3-pointers made with 207 (8 short of No. 3 **Carrie Myers** with 215) ... The Crusaders were the only Valley team to score more points on 3-point shots (765) than on 2-point shots (760) this season before today. The ratio today was 42 on 2s, 24 on 3s ... VU's 263 3-pointers made are tied for No. 8 in Valley history for a season, with the 2015-16 UNI team. With 800 3-point attempts, VU is No. 6 in Valley history.

FIRST QUARTER RECAP – At 5:12, **Ty Battle** made 1-2 free throws, capping a 10-0 Sycamore run to make the score 17-5 as INSU made 6 of its first 9 shots. The Sycamores ended the quarter missing 6 of 7 field goals, but with a 22-12 lead. **Tamara Lee** had 11 for Indiana State in the first quarter, she scored just 6 in her last game vs. Valpo. INS is 5-3 when leading after 1 quarter ... VU is 6-9 when trailing after 1 quarter.

SECOND QUARTER RECAP – Valpo opened the 2nd quarter with a 9-2 run with **Addison Stoller** scoring 5 of those to close the Sycamore lead to 24-21 with 5:38 left—a Sycamore time out. Valpo's 4 field goals to start the 2nd quarter and 16 of its first 21 points were in the paint ... A **Tierra Webb** 3-point play with 4:05 left got the Sycamores back to a 27-21 lead ... INSU led 35-30 at halftime despite having 12 first-half turnovers. The Sycamores averaged only 9.3 in their last 3 games. Six of the 8 held balls in the 1st half were in the 2nd period ... INS is 5-5 when leading at halftime ... VU is 1-14 when trailing at halftime.

THIRD QUARTER RECAP – Valpo took its first lead of the game, 40-39 at 6:19, with a 10-2 run featuring back-to-back 3s by **Shay Frederick** ... INSU answered 16 seconds later as **Regan Wentland** hit a jumper to start an 8-2 Sycamore run to go up 47-42 ... **Meredith Hamlet's** two 3-pointers and **Ella Ellenson's** trey capped an 11-2 VU run to put the Crusaders back in front 53-49 at 1:52 left ... **Tamara Lee's** 4th 3-pointer of the game sparked an 8-2 Sycamore run to retake the lead, but the teams swapped scores before Valpo took a 58-57 lead on a **Grace Hales** trey with 0:14 left Valpo was 10-14 from the field and 6-8 from 3-point range in the 3rd quarter. INS is 2-15 when trailing after 3 quarters ... VU is 6-0 when leading after 3 quarters.

FOURTH QUARTER RECAP – With the score tied at 71-71 with 3:22 left, Addison Stoller hit a layup to start an 8-2 Valpo run to put the Crusaders ahead 79-73 with 40 seconds left. Buckets by **Ashli O'Neal** and **Regan Wentland** cut the lead to 79-77 with 9.4 left. The Sycamores got possession when **Tamara Lee** forced a held ball. **Shay Frederick** stole the ball from Wentland to secure the VU win.