



2019 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament

Semifinal Round - Game 8

No. 2 Missouri State 89, No. 3 Northern Iowa 64

Saturday, March 16, 2019 *The TaxSlayer Center, Moline, Ill.

THE FINAL – Missouri State and Drake will meet in the final for the first time since 2004, but the 6th overall. Drake won 3 of 5.

SERIES STANDINGS – Missouri State has a 54-28 edge in the series with UNI, but all of the Lady Bear advantage can be found in a 25-game MSU win streak over the Panthers from 1989 to 2000 ... Over the past 9 seasons, UNI has won 13 of 22 match-ups.

HEAD TO HEAD IN 2019 – A 16-2 run over the mid-section of the second half helped Missouri State stay unbeaten and on top of the Valley standings with a 63-58 win over Northern Iowa, Feb. 3 in Cedar Falls. UNI led 47-41 with 3:24 left in the 3rd quarter, but MSU's run gave the Lady Bears the lead for good. March 1 in Springfield, **Danielle Gitzen's** 13 points led all scorers in Missouri State's 58-48 win over Northern Iowa.

TOURNAMENT TYPE – In MVC Tournament meetings, MSU has a 6-2 edge vs UNI. UNI won last year in the semifinals, 70-58, but MSU beat the Panthers 71-58 in the 2016 title game, both in Moline ... MSU is in the championship game for the 16th time. MSU is 45-21 all-time in Valley Tournament games, winning 10 titles and finishing 2nd 5 times. MSU is 16-5 in semifinal games and 8-3 as a No. 2 seed, winning the 2000 title as a No. 2. In tournament history, No. 2 seeds are 37-28 with 3 total championships ... No. 2 seeds are 18-7 in games with No. 7 seeds ... UNI is 22-22 all-time in Valley Tournament games with 2 titles (2010 & 2011). The Panthers are 6-7 as a No. 3 seed and 5-9 in semifinal games. No. 3 seeds are 30-34 in the Valley Tournament with 1 title (MSU, 2016).

LADY BEAR LINES – MSU broke the MVC Tournament single-quarter record with 35 points in the 2nd quarter vs. UNI and the 89 points tied for 6th in MVC Tournament history. The 35 2nd-quarter points are a Lady Bear record for points in a quarter in any game ... freshman **Jasmine Franklin**, who matched her career-high with 14 rebounds vs. UNI, is the first Lady Bear in history with 40 blocks and 40 steals in the same season. She has 42 blocks and 43 steals. ...MSU is 61-2 under **Kellie Harper** when holding opponents below 60 points ... **Danielle Gitzen** has made 18 straight free throws twice in her career, and has made 24 of her last 28 ... **Jasmine Franklin** had 3 consecutive double-doubles in early January, the first MSU player to do that since **Whitney Edie** in 2012 ... at least 8 MSU players have scored in all but 3 games this season ... **Elle Ruffridge** scored 12 points in the 1st half to surpass her career high.

PANTHER PICKS – **Abby Gerrits** scored 15 of her 17 points in the 1st half of Friday's quarterfinal win over SIU... The UNI quarterfinal victory gives the MVC four 20-win teams for the first time since 2015-16 and for the 4th time in league history ... UNI is the only Valley team to win at least one game in each of the past 5 Valley Tournaments ... MSU's 35 2nd-quarter points were the most ever surrendered in a quarter by UNI ... **Karli Rucker** was 9-14 from the field. Her teammates were 13-44 (29.5 percent).

FIRST QUARTER RECAP – MSU took a 4-2 lead before UNI called time out with 7:24 left. The Lady Bears had 4 offensive rebounds, 4 2nd-chance points. The Lady Bears had 7 offensive rebounds in the first 6:20 and a 7-5 lead. Neither team scored from 5:44 to 1:23, when **Abby Gerrits** hit a runner to tie the score at 7-7 ... MSU was 4-16 and UNI 4-12 from the field in the first period. **Karli Rucker** had 2-2 on 3-pointers to help UNI lead 11-10 at the quarter break ... MSU is 6-8 when trailing after the 1st quarter. UNI is 15-6 when leading after the 1st quarter.

SECOND QUARTER RECAP – **Elle Ruffridge** made a 3-pointer ahead of the first-quarter buzzer and hit one 15 seconds into the second to give MSU a 13-11 lead. She added another 3 at 7:39 to put the Lady Bears ahead 20-15 ... MSU used an 20-7 run to stretch their lead to 33-15 with 5:04 left. The Lady Bears scored on 8 straight possessions and 15-19 for the quarter ... MSU's Valley Tournament record 35 points for a quarter brought the Lady Bears a 45-30 halftime lead ... MSU is 18-1 when leading at halftime. UNI is 1-8 when trailing at halftime.

THIRD QUARTER RECAP – **Karli Rucker** and **Taylor Hagen** each scored 2 baskets and **Nicole Kroeger** added a 3-pointer to help UNI whittle the MSU lead to 47-41 in the first 4 minutes of the quarter ... But **Danielle Gitzen** scored 7 points of a 15-6 MSU spurt to finish the quarter with MSU up 64-49. MSU is 21-2 when leading after the 3rd quarter. UNI is 0-9 when trailing after the 3rd quarter.

FOURTH QUARTER RECAP – The Lady Bears started the quarter on an 11-0 run in the first 4:52 to take a 75-49 lead before **Cynthia Wolf** hit 2 free throws to stop the spurt with 5:08 left. Missouri State made 10-20 from the field in the 4th, UNI just 4-13.