

## MVC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**MVC NOTEBOOK: FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

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### 2022-23 Standings -- As of Tuesday, Feb. 14

	MISSOURI VALLEY				OVERALL			
	Record	Pct.	PF	PA	Record	Pct.	PF	PA
Illinois State	12-2	.857	71.29	60.21	18-6	.750	68.79	61.13
UNI	12-2	.857	74.93	60.36	17-6	.739	74.39	64.70
Missouri State	11-3	.786	71.50	63.57	16-7	.696	67.57	64.04
Belmont	11-3	.786	71.50	61.29	15-10	.600	69.84	65.16
Drake	9-5	.643	74.07	61.71	14-8	.636	77.45	65.18
UIC	6-8	.429	53.36	59.07	14-11	.560	56.36	57.84
Southern Illinois	6-8	.429	70.14	71.86	9-14	.391	72.30	74.48
Murray State	5-9	.357	67.00	67.00	12-11	.522	67.48	63.43
Evansville	5-9	.357	61.57	70.79	10-13	.435	64.57	72.48
Indiana State	5-9	.357	63.14	68.43	10-13	.435	63.91	66.22
Valparaiso	2-12	.143	56.07	70.79	4-19	.174	59.00	72.13
Bradley	0-14	.000	56.64	76.14	3-22	.120	57.24	73.60

• • MVC Home: 45-39 • • Non-Conference: 58-56 • Home: 33-22 • Away: 17-27 • Neutral: 8-7 • Top-25: 1-9 • •

### Recent Results/ Upcoming Schedule

#### Friday, February 10

Indiana State at Murray State .....INS, 82-71\*  
 Drake at Valparaiso .....DU, 71-54\*  
 Southern Illinois at Illinois State.....ILS, 73-70\*  
 Evansville at Belmont.....BEL, 93-53\*  
 UNI at UIC .....UNI, 55-47\*  
 Missouri State at Bradley .....MOST, 74-64\*

#### Sunday, February 12

UNI at Valparaiso .....UNI, 83-60\*  
 Missouri State at Illinois State .....MOST, 71-66\*  
 Drake at UIC .....UIC, 64-52\*  
 Evansville at Murray State .....MUR, 80-60\*  
 Southern Illinois at Bradley .....SIU, 83-59\*  
 Indiana State at Belmont .....BEL, 81-69\*

#### Thursday, February 16

Illinois State at UNI (ESPN+).....6 PM\*  
 Bradley at Drake (ESPN+).....6 PM\*

#### Friday, February 17

Valparaiso at Indiana State (ESPN3).....5 PM\*  
 Murray State at Missouri State (ESPN+).....6 PM\*  
 UIC at Evansville (ESPN3) .....6 PM\*  
 Belmont at Southern Illinois (ESPN3).....6 PM\*

#### Saturday, February 18

Illinois State at Drake (ESPN3) .....2 PM\*  
 Bradley at UNI (ESPN3) .....2 PM\*

#### Sunday, February 19

UIC at Indiana State (ESPN+) .....12 PM\*  
 Valparaiso at Evansville (ESPN+).....1 PM\*  
 Belmont at Missouri State (ESPN+).....2 PM\*  
 Murray State at Southern Illinois (ESPN+).....5 PM\*

**ALL TIMES CENTRAL**  
**\*MVC Game**



### MVC Player of the Week

#### Destinee Wells, Jr., G, Belmont

Junior guard Destinee Wells had quite the performance Sunday in Belmont's 81-69 win over visiting Indiana State, recording a career-high 35 points on 16-for-27 shooting and distributing a game-high five assists. She became the first Bruin to reach 35 points in a game since 2005 and her 16 made field goals are the most by a Belmont player in over two decades. Wells scored 18 points in the first half, including 11 in the opening quarter alone, and added 17 points in the second half versus the Sycamores. On Friday evening in

the Bruins' 40-point, 93-53 home rout of Evansville, Wells nearly registered a double-double with 11 points and a season-high tying nine assists. Committing just one turnover, Wells went 3-for-4 at the free-throw line and came up with a steal. In the two victories across the weekend, Wells averaged 23 points and seven assists while shooting 52.8 percent (19-of-36) from the field.

**Other Notable Performances:** Maggie Bair (DU); Jaida McCloud (UIC); Paige Robinson (ILS); Aniya Thomas (MOST); Katelyn Young (MUR); Grace Boffeli (UNI)



### MVC Newcomer of the Week

#### Paige Robinson, Gr., G, Illinois State

Robinson averaged 26.5 points per game for Illinois State as the Redbirds went 1-1 at home with a win over Southern Illinois Friday before dropping their matchup with Missouri State Sunday. She made 16-of-35 shots for the week (45.7%), and was 6-of-15 (40.0%) from long range. She averaged five and a half rebounds on the week with four assists, one block, and one steal. Against the Salukis, she would go for a game-high 23 points on 7-of-16

shooting from the field while grabbing eight rebounds, dishing out four assists, and went a perfect 7-of-7 from the free-throw line over her 35 minutes of action. In the finale of the week against Missouri State, she once more would hold the game-high in points, scoring 30 (22 in the second half) off 9-of-19 shooting from the field, 4-of-9 from three-point range, and 8-of-9 from the charity stripe. Against the Lady Bears, she also gathered three rebounds, one block, and one steal.

**Other Notable Performances:** Kendal Cheesman (BEL); Bella Finnegan (INS); Aniya Thomas (MOST); Ali Saunders (VU)



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### NOTEWORTHY

In addition to the league's Player and Newcomer of the Week selections, several conference players had notable performances, including:

**Maggie Bair (DU)** - Maggie Bair made history for the Bulldogs during their two-game road trip this week. The senior forward became the 36th player in Drake history to score 1,000-career points. Bair reached the milestone on her birthday and in her home state of Illinois in Drake's loss at UIC (2/12) as she led the Bulldogs with 15 points, eight rebounds, four assists, while adding two blocks and a steal on the defensive end. Including the Bulldogs' first matchup of the week, a blowout win at Valpo (2/10), Bair averaged 12 points and seven rebounds while shooting at a .588 field goal percentage.

**Jaida McCloud (UIC)** - Jaida McCloud has hit her offensive stride mid-season, as she was a key contributor in UIC women's basketball team (14-11, 6-8 MVC) two-game homestand over the weekend. In UIC's loss to UNI, 55-47 (17-6, 12-2 MVC), McCloud led the offense with 15 points and eight rebounds. In the Flames victory over Drake (14-8, 9-5 MVC) on Sunday, McCloud secured her first double-double in the season, netting 19 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. The junior has scored double figures in the last six games, averaging 15 points a game.

**Aniya Thomas (MOST)** - Fifth-year senior Aniya Thomas led the way for the Lady Bears as she helped lead them to wins over Bradley and first-place Illinois State last week. Thomas averaged 17 points and 4.5 rebounds across the week, while going a perfect 13-for-13 from the free throw line. She also dished out four assists and collected two steals. In Friday night's 10-point win at Bradley, Thomas tied for a game-high 19 points and grabbed five rebounds, including going 7-for-7 from the charity stripe, in addition to tallying two assists and a steal. On Sunday, Thomas logged all but eight seconds on the floor as MSU took down the first-place Redbirds on the road in a crucial Valley matchup. In the victory, Thomas posted a team-high 15 points, pulled down four boards and went 6-for-6 from the free throw line. Eleven of Thomas' 15 points came in the second half alone as she helped propel the Lady Bears down the stretch to a five-point win. The graduate transfer has reached double figure points in 19 of 23 games this season and is averaging 15.6 points and 4.7 rebounds against Valley opponents, while leading MSU with 99 assists and 49 steals this season.

**Katelyn Young (MUR)** - Katelyn Young averaged 26.5 points and 7.0 rebounds for the Racers over a 1-1 week. On Friday, she notched her ninth double-double of the season with 24 and 10, following that with a 29-point outburst and four rebounds against Evansville. The junior went 18-of-33 (54.5%) from the floor on the week, 5-of-9 (55.55) from 3-point range and 12-of-13 (92.3%) at the free throw line, in addition two two steals and two blocks.

**Grace Boffeli (UNI)** - Boffeli had another stellar week in two big road wins for the Panthers against UIC and Valparaiso. Boffeli averaged 17.5 points, 10 rebounds, and 0.5 blocks for UNI as the team grabbed a hard-fought 55-47 victory over UIC and another offensive explosion at Valparaiso. Boffeli also picked up her 9th double-double of the season against the Beacons to continue leading the Valley in double-doubles. Boffeli also leads the MVC in rebounding with an 8.7 average and free throw attempts with 148 tries.

**Kendal Cheesman (BEL)** - Sophomore forward Kendal Cheesman provided a huge spark for Belmont off the bench in the Bruins' home wins over Evansville and Indiana State. Averaging 14 points and five rebounds in 24.1 minutes of action on the court for the weekend, Cheesman shot 60 percent (9-of-15) from the floor, went 6-for-11 (.545) from beyond the arc and was a perfect 4-for-4 at the foul line. She scored a career-high tying 14 points in both victories, going 4-for-7 from distance Friday evening in Belmont's 40-point drumming of the Purple Aces while dishing out an assist and making a block. In the Bruins' 81-69 win Sunday afternoon, Cheesman went 2-for-4 from deep against the visiting Sycamores and grabbed a game-high tying seven rebounds. Cheesman's 28 minutes of play Sunday versus Indiana State were a season high.

**Bella Finnegan (INS)** - Finnegan averaged 19.5 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists, 1.5 blocks and one steal per game across a pair of contests last week for Indiana State. She led all scorers with a career-high 26 points in a win over Murray State, knocking down 11-of-16 shots and all three of her 3-point attempts against the Racers. Finnegan also added seven rebounds and three assists against the Racers. Against Belmont, the freshman had 13 points on 6-for-13 shooting, along with six rebounds, two assists and two blocks. She has scored in double-figures in three of the last four games for Indiana State and is averaging 15.3 points per game in that span.

**Ali Saunders (VU)** - Making the first two starts of her career, Saunders delivered with 17.5 points/game on 61.9% shooting and 4.0 assists/game in Valpo's two games on the weekend. Saunders opened with a game-high 16 points and four assists against Drake, hitting a season-best four 3-pointers. Saunders followed with a perfect shooting performance as she tied for game-high honors with 19 points against UNI, going 7-of-7 from the field - including a 3-pointer - and 4-of-4 from the foul line. She is the first Valpo player to hit at least seven field goals in a game without a miss since 2004.

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

DATE	PLAYER	SCHOOL
N14	Destinee Wells	Belmont
N21	Paige Robinson	Illinois State
N28	Megan Meyer	Drake
D5	Katelyn Young	Murray State
D12	Maggie Bair	Drake
D19	Katelyn Young	Murray State
D27	Sydni Harvey	Belmont
J2	Grace Boffeli	UNI
J9	Katelyn Young	Murray State
J16	Maya McDermott	UNI
J23	Madison Bartley	Belmont
J30	Sydney Wilson	Missouri State
F6	Madison Bartley	Belmont
F13	Destinee Wells	Belmont
F20		
F27		
M6		

### NEWCOMERS OF THE WEEK

DATE	PLAYER	SCHOOL
N14	Josie Filer	UIC
N21	Paige Robinson	Illinois State
N28	Paige Robinson	Illinois State
D5	Ashley Jones	Southern Illinois
D12	Indya Green	Missouri State
D19	Kennedy Taylor	Missouri State
D27	Sydni Harvey	Belmont
J2	Aniya Thomas	Missouri State
J9	Kennedy Taylor	Missouri State
J16	Josie Filer	UIC
J23	Aniya Thomas	Missouri State
J30	Ashley Jones	Southern Illinois
F6	Kennedy Taylor	Missouri State
F13	Paige Robinson	Illinois State
F20		
F27		
M6		

MVC Players and Newcomers of the Week are selected each week during the women's basketball season. The players are announced on Monday afternoon and appear in a weekly press release. Nominees are provided by each school's sports information contact and voted on by a panel appointed by the league office.

## Missouri Valley Conference vs. Non-Conference Opponents (58-56, .509)

Overall: 58-56 (.509)  
Home: 33-22 • Away: 17-27 • Neut: 8-7 • Top-25: 1-9

<b>American Athletic</b> .....	<b>2-1 (H: 0-1; A: 1-0; N: 1-0)</b>
Cincinnati.....	1-0
UIC.....	W, 66-58
Memphis.....	0-1
at Southern Illinois.....	L, 89-76
Tulane.....	1-0
vs. UNI.....	W, 82-60

<b>ACC</b> .....	<b>0-3 (H: 0-2; N: 0-1)</b>
Louisville.....	0-1
at Belmont.....	L, 75-70
Georgia Tech.....	0-2
vs. Belmont.....	L, 58-52
at Belmont.....	L, 59-55

<b>Atlantic Sun</b> .....	<b>3-1 (A: 3-1)</b>
Bellarmine.....	1-1
Evansville.....	L, 60-40
Murray State.....	W, 74-59
Eastern Kentucky.....	1-0
Evansville.....	W, 89-81
Lipscomb.....	1-0
Belmont.....	W, 77-68

<b>Atlantic-10</b> .....	<b>7-4 (H: 4-0; A: 1-3; N: 2-1)</b>
Davidson.....	1-0
vs. UIC.....	W, 63-55
Dayton.....	1-0
Illinois State.....	W, 74-70
Loyola Chicago.....	1-1
Bradley.....	L, 57-54
at UIC.....	W, 45-36
UMass.....	0-1
vs. Drake.....	L, 100-83
Saint Louis.....	4-2
vs. Belmont.....	W, 78-68
Illinois State.....	L, 75-65
at Indiana State.....	W, 64-62
at Missouri State.....	W, 71-55
at UNI.....	W, 84-64
Southern Illinois.....	L, 82-54

<b>Big 12</b> .....	<b>1-2 (H: 0-2; A: 1-0)</b>
Iowa State.....	0-1
at UNI.....	L, 88-85
Oklahoma State.....	0-1
at Missouri State.....	L, 73-54
TCU.....	1-0
Missouri State.....	W, 63-59

<b>Big East</b> .....	<b>0-3 (H: 0-1; A: 0-1; N: 0-1)</b>
Creighton.....	0-2
Drake.....	L, 75-71
at UNI.....	L, 85-66
Villanova.....	0-1
vs. Belmont.....	L, 83-80

<b>Big Ten</b> .....	<b>2-13 (H: 2-2; A: 0-11)</b>
Illinois.....	0-1
Evansville.....	L, 93-54
Iowa.....	0-4
Belmont.....	L, 73-62
at Drake.....	L, 92-86
Evansville.....	L, 115-62
UNI.....	L, 88-74
Nebraska.....	1-0
at Drake.....	W, 80-62
Northwestern.....	0-3
at UIC.....	L, 66-62
Southern Illinois.....	L, 84-69
Valparaiso.....	L, 81-47
Purdue.....	0-3
Illinois State.....	L, 64-51
Indiana State.....	L, 77-54
Murray State.....	L, 90-61
Wisconsin.....	1-2
Bradley.....	L, 103-49
at Illinois State.....	W, 62-57
Valparaiso.....	L, 59-44

<b>Big West</b> .....	<b>1-0 (N: 1-0)</b>
UC San Diego.....	1-0
vs. Illinois State.....	W, 79-62

<b>Conference USA</b> .....	<b>2-6 (H: 0-3; A: 0-2; N: 2-1)</b>
UAB.....	0-1
at Valparaiso.....	L, 83-81
Florida International.....	0-1
Bradley.....	L, 65-57
Louisiana Tech.....	1-0
vs. Illinois State.....	W, 70-53
Middle Tennessee.....	0-3
Belmont.....	L, 80-62
vs. Missouri State.....	L, 79-54
at Southern Illinois.....	L, 90-38
UTSA.....	1-0
vs. Missouri State.....	W, 74-51
Western Kentucky.....	0-1
at Indiana State.....	L, 58-51

<b>Horizon</b> .....	<b>5-2 (H: 4-2; A: 1-0)</b>
Detroit Mercy.....	1-0
at Indiana State.....	W, 72-47
Green Bay.....	1-1
at Drake.....	W, 80-67
at Illinois State.....	L, 63-49
IUPUI.....	1-1
UIC.....	W, 52-50
at Southern Illinois.....	L, 80-76

Milwaukee.....	1-0
at UIC.....	W, 44-43
Purdue Fort Wayne.....	1-0
at Indiana State.....	W, 64-56

<b>Independent</b> .....	<b>4-0 (H: 3-0; A: 1-0)</b>
Chicago State.....	4-0
at Evansville.....	W, 82-57
UIC.....	W, 87-62
at Indiana State.....	W, 68-43
at Southern Illinois.....	W, 115-57

<b>MEAC</b> .....	<b>1-0 (N: 1-0)</b>
Howard.....	1-0
vs. Drake.....	W, 97-60

<b>Mid-American</b> .....	<b>3-7 (H: 2-3; A: 1-3; N: 0-1)</b>
Bowling Green.....	0-1
at Valparaiso.....	L, 92-61
Central Michigan.....	2-0
at Indiana State.....	W, 84-71
Valparaiso.....	W, 71-64
Kent State.....	0-1
vs. Southern Illinois.....	L, 72-66
Miami (OH).....	1-1
Bradley.....	L, 82-56
at Evansville.....	W, 97-72
Ohio.....	0-1
at Indiana State.....	L, 74-62
Toledo.....	0-1
Missouri State.....	L, 91-63
Western Michigan.....	0-2
Indiana State.....	L, 77-67
at Valparaiso.....	L, 68-62

<b>Mountain West</b> .....	<b>0-1 (A: 0-1)</b>
UNLV.....	0-1
Illinois State.....	L, 73-66

<b>NEC</b> .....	<b>0-1 (N: 0-1)</b>
Fairleigh Dickinson.....	0-1
vs. UIC.....	L, 63-51

<b>Ohio Valley</b> .....	<b>9-4 (H: 5-3; A: 4-1)</b>
Austin Peay.....	1-1
vs. UIC.....	W, 62-59
at Murray State.....	L, 71-67
Eastern Illinois.....	1-1
Bradley.....	W, 72-61
at Valparaiso.....	L, 73-67
Lindenwood.....	1-0
at Drake.....	W, 87-60
Morehead State.....	1-0
Evansville.....	W, 75-65
SEMO.....	1-1
at Evansville.....	W, 64-53
UIC.....	L, 56-55
Southern Indiana.....	1-0
at Murray State.....	W, 77-59
Tennessee State.....	1-0
at Southern Illinois.....	W, 100-72
UT-Martin.....	2-1
at Missouri State.....	W, 68-59
Murray State.....	W, 71-52
at Evansville.....	L, 80-60

<b>Patriot</b> .....	<b>1-0 (A: 1-0)</b>
Lehigh.....	1-0
Southern Illinois.....	W, 87-81

<b>SoCon</b> .....	<b>2-0 (H: 2-0)</b>
Chattanooga.....	2-0
at Belmont.....	W, 56-54
at Murray State.....	W, 59-56

<b>Southland</b> .....	<b>1-0 (H: 1-0)</b>
McNeese.....	1-0
at Bradley.....	W, 77-58

<b>SEC</b> .....	<b>2-3 (H: 0-1; A: 1-2; N: 1-0)</b>
Georgia.....	0-1
Belmont.....	L, 66-55
Kentucky.....	1-0
Murray State.....	W, 51-44
Missouri.....	0-2
Bradley.....	L, 83-38
at Missouri State.....	L, 68-51
Vanderbilt.....	1-0
vs. UNI.....	W, 65-62

<b>Summit</b> .....	<b>5-4 (H: 4-2; A: 1-2)</b>
Kansas City.....	0-1
at Bradley.....	L, 71-68
North Dakota State.....	1-0
at UNI.....	W, 79-70
South Dakota.....	1-1
at Bradley.....	L, 71-53
Drake.....	W, 83-54
South Dakota State.....	0-1
UNI.....	L, 80-69
Saint Thomas (MN).....	3-0
at UIC.....	W, 75-71
at Illinois State.....	W, 71-56
at UNI.....	W, 58-46
Western Illinois.....	0-1
Valparaiso.....	L, 83-67

<b>Sun Belt</b> .....	<b>3-0 (H: 3-0)</b>
Little Rock.....	1-0
at Missouri State.....	W, 55-48
Southern Miss.....	1-0
at Valparaiso.....	W, 72-65
Troy.....	1-0
at Belmont.....	W, 98-87

<b>SWAC</b> .....	<b>1-0 (A: 1-0)</b>
Alabama A&M.....	1-0
Murray State.....	W, 57-36

<b>WAC</b> .....	<b>0-1 (N: 0-1)</b>
Stephen F. Austin.....	0-1
vs. Bradley.....	L, 77-48

<b>Non-Division I</b> .....	<b>3-0 (H: 3-0)</b>
Christian Brothers.....	1-0
at Murray State.....	W, 97-54
Missouri Baptist.....	1-0
at Bradley.....	W, 66-46
UMSL.....	1-0
at Illinois State.....	W, 66-51

<b>AP Top 25</b> .....	<b>1-9 (H: 1-4; A: 0-4; N: 0-1)</b>
#7 Louisville.....	0-1
at Belmont.....	L, 75-70
#4/12 Iowa.....	0-4
Belmont.....	L, 73-62
at Drake.....	L, 92-86
Evansville.....	L, 115-62
UNI.....	L, 88-74
#7 Iowa State.....	0-1
at UNI.....	L, 88-85
#18/20 Creighton.....	0-2
Drake.....	L, 75-71
at UNI.....	L, 85-66
#22 Nebraska.....	1-0
at Drake.....	W, 80-62
#23 Villanova.....	0-1
vs. Belmont.....	L, 83-80

<b>2022 NCAA Teams</b> .....	<b>5-14 (H: 1-7; A: 4-5; N: 0-2)</b>
Creighton.....	0-2
Drake.....	L, 75-71
at UNI.....	L, 85-66
Dayton.....	1-0
Illinois State.....	W, 74-70
Georgia.....	0-1
Belmont.....	L, 66-55
Georgia Tech.....	0-2
vs. Belmont.....	L, 58-52
at Belmont.....	L, 59-55
IUPUI.....	1-1
UIC.....	W, 52-50
at Southern Illinois.....	L, 80-76
Iowa.....	0-4
Belmont.....	L, 73-62
at Drake.....	L, 92-86
Evansville.....	L, 115-62
UNI.....	L, 88-74
Iowa State.....	0-1
at UNI.....	L, 88-85
Kentucky.....	1-0
Murray State.....	W, 51-44
Louisville.....	0-1
at Belmont.....	L, 75-70
Nebraska.....	1-0
at Drake.....	W, 80-62
South Dakota.....	1-1
at Bradley.....	L, 71-53
Drake.....	W, 83-54
Villanova.....	0-1
vs. Belmont.....	L, 83-80





## Tight at the Top

Four of the MVC's 12 teams are within one game of first place entering this week's schedule. UNI and Illinois State are tied for first, while Belmont and Missouri State are tied for third one game back. Only the Ivy League, Southern Conference and Sun Belt have four teams within a game of the league lead entering play Tuesday.

## Streaks-a-Plenty

Belmont, Missouri State and UNI each enter the week riding winning streaks of five or better. The first place Panthers have won five-straight, while Belmont has won eight-straight and Missouri State seven in a row.

The Valley is one of just three leagues nationally to have three teams riding winning streaks of 5+ entering this week, joining the Atlantic 10 (Rhode Island 12, UMass 10, Saint Louis 5) and Mid-American Conference (Bowling Green 11, Ball State 9, Toledo 7).

## Homecourt Advantage

While the league's overall homecourt record is a pedestrian 45-39 (53.6 percent), notably the five teams with winning records in league play have combined for a 28-6 record at home (82.4 percent). Three of the five (Drake, UNI, Missouri State) sit 5-1, Belmont is 7-1 and Illinois State is 6-2.

## Nothing But NET

The NCAA NET Report (Feb. 12) has four Valley teams that rank in the top-100, including six of the 12 sitting in the top 130. Drake leads the way at No. 60 with UNI (64), Belmont (87) and Illinois State (89), rounding out the schools in the Top 100. Missouri State (106) and Murray State (130) rank in the top 130.

Only eight leagues have six or more teams in the Top 130 of the NET (ACC, American, Big 12, Big East, Big Ten, MVC, Pac-12 and SEC.)

## Record Turnaround

UIC head coach Ashleen Bracey's current 14-11 overall record represents a 12-win improvement from UIC's previous season under Tasha Pointer (2-25). Bracey now holds The Valley record for the best win-based turnaround by a new coach in MVC Women's Basketball history.

## Warren's Climb to the Top

UNI Head Coach Tanya Warren finished her pursuit of becoming the MVC's all-time leader in games coached Sunday at Valpo. Warren coached her record-setting 507th game, passing SIU's Cindy Scott.

Warren also became the third coach in Valley history to join the 300-win club along with Cindy Scott of Southern Illinois and Cheryl Burnett of Missouri State.

### MOST GAMES COACHED

Name, School	(Years)	Games
Tanya Warren, UNI	(2008-present)	507
Cindy Scott, Southern Illinois	(1983-98)	506

### MOST COACHING WINS (ALL GAMES)

(Since 1982-83)

Name, School (Years)	No.
Cindy Scott, Southern Illinois (1983-98)	353
Cheryl Burnett, Missouri State (1988-02)	319
Tanya Warren, UNI (2008- present)	300

## Sharpshooter

Illinois State's Mary Crompton continues her move up The Valley career three-point field goal list. The graduate student moved into 3rd on The Valley's all-time list Friday. Crompton passed Rishonda Napier of SIU and is 13 triples shy of second place.

### 3-Point Field Goals Made (Career)

1.	314 - Gabi Haack, Bradley.....	2017-22
2.	294 - Dayna Finch, Creighton.....	2001-04
3.	281 - Mary Crompton, Illinois State .....	2018-pres.

## BEL: Bruins Heating Up

Belmont is on a season-best eight-game winning streak. The Bruins' average margin of victory over their last eight games is 21.6 points. Junior guard Destinee Wells has reached double figures in nine-straight games. Her 35-point performance Sunday versus the visiting Sycamores is Wells' second 30-point outing of her career after scoring 32 in the 2021 Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title game against UT Martin. Wells owns 11 career 25-point games and has reached 20 points on nine occasions this season.

## BU: Career Highs

Bradley had two career highs set in its game against Southern Illinois. Isis Fitch pulled down a career-high 15 rebounds and scored 9 points. Freshman Reagan Barkema scored a career-high 10 points while going 2-2 from three.

## DU: Milestone Reached

In their penultimate road trip of the 2022-23 regular season, the Drake Bulldogs split a pair of MVC contests to move to 14-8 overall and 9-5 in league play. The Bulldogs began the weekend with a convincing 71-54 win at Valpo (2/10). Drake finished the road swing with a physical loss at UIC (2/10) in which Maggie Bair reached a massive career milestone. On her birthday, and in her home state of Illinois, Bair scored 15 points to lead the Bulldogs and become the 36th player in Drake history to record 1,000-career points.

## UE: Excels at the Line

Getting to the free-throw line at a high-rate and converting those trips have gone hand-in-hand for fifth-year guard Myia Clark. The Schaumburg, Ill. native has attempted over 100 free throws this season, a team-high, and has hit 83.3% of her attempts from the charity stripe, putting her inside the top 100 in the nation in free-throw percentage.

## UIC: Journey to 1,000

The Flames frontcourt duo of Josie Filer and Jaida McCloud are each within reach of scoring 1,000 career points in their collegiate career. Filer, a graduate transfers, is 58 points away and is the leading scorer for UIC at 12.2 points per game. In her third season with the Flames, McCloud is 77 points away from the milestone and has led the team in scoring in 10 games this season.

## ILS: Quest for 20

With 12 MVC wins thus far, Illinois State has matched their highest conference win total under Kristen Gillespie as the program continues their search to win 20 games in a season for the first time in her tenure as well. This week, Illinois State hits the road to Iowa for a two-game tilt, beginning with a battle against UNI on Thursday in Cedar Falls before they head to Des Moines to face the Drake Bulldogs Saturday.

## INS: Sharp Shooting

Indiana State shot a season-best 63.5 percent from the field against Murray State, knocking down 33 of their 52 shots in the game. The Sycamores also connected on eight of their 13 3-point attempts. Indiana State shot better than 60 percent from the field in three of the four quarters, shooting better than 70 percent in both the first and fourth. The 63.5 percent clip from the field was Indiana State's best in a game since Nov. 18, 2006 against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and it was the Sycamores' first game over 60 percent from the field since Nov. 28, 2016 at Eastern Illinois.

## MOST: Streaking

Missouri State is currently on a seven-game win streak, and in that span the Lady Bears have held their opponents to an average of 62.4 points per game, 29.3 rebounds per game and a .245 (25-102) three-point field goal percentage. Missouri State is 9-0 this season when holding opponents to 60 points or less and 11-0 when scoring 70+ points. They also own a 16-2 record when collecting more assists than their opponent, meanwhile that record falls to 0-5 when their opponent has more assists.

## MUR: All-Time Assist Leader

With her third assist of the game against Evansville, Macey Turley became the program's new all-time leader in assists and currently sits at 515. The Murray native passed current Racer assistant coach and Murray State Hall of Famer Amber Guffey who set the previous record of 512.

## UNI: Defensive Effort

UNI's defense had another big game against the Flames. The Panthers kept UIC scoreless for over 10 minutes on Friday including over eight minutes in the fourth quarter. UNI put up double-digit steals on Friday night and kept the Flames under their shooting averages, particularly behind the three-point line at -11.5.

## SIU: Block Party

It was another strong week for Promise Taylor and the Salukis in terms of blocks. Taylor started the week with a three-block effort on Friday night against Illinois State, and followed that up with a four-block performance in Sunday's win at Bradley. The center's 63 blocks are the most in a single season in program history, while her 2.7 blocks-per-game lead the Valley and are seventh in the nation. As a team, SIU is second in the MVC and 34th in the country in blocks-per-game (4.48).

## VU: A Rare Performance

When you combine Valpo freshman Ali Saunders' perfect shooting in Sunday's game against UNI with her distribution of the basketball, you get a feat rarely matched this season in D-I women's basketball. Per HerHoopStats.com, Saunders is one of just four D-I players this year who has shot 100% from the field with at least seven made shots while also handing out at least four assists.

### HerHoopStatsStat of the Week

UIC draws fouls on 27.6% of plays, the highest rate of any Division I team in the country. That is the highest rate since the 2014-15 season.

### Mid-Major Top-25 Poll

Illinois State and UNI appear in this week's CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 (Feb. 7). Illinois State is at No. 9 in the poll, while UNI comes in at No. 12. Drake, Missouri State and Belmont are receiving votes this week.

### 1,000 Point Club

The Valley has 14 active players in the 1,000 point club.

### Current MVC Players in 1,000 Point Club

1,954 - Macey Turley, Murray State  
1,520 - Abby Feit, Evansville  
1,509 - Katelyn Young, Murray State  
1,389 - Destinee Wells, Belmont  
1,357 - Sydney Harvey, Belmont  
1,306 - Aniya Thomas, Missouri State  
1,183 - Grace Berg, Drake  
1,181 - Myia Clark, Evansville  
1,156 - Mary Crompton, Illinois State  
1,129 - Kam Finley, UNI  
1,129 - Chelsea Cain, Indiana State  
1,085 - Sydney Wilson, Missouri State  
1,008 - Del'Janae Williams, Indiana State  
1,006 - Maggie Bair, Drake

### Double Trouble

Entering this week, UNI's Grace Boffeli and Murray State's Katelyn Young lead The Valley in double-doubles with nine each. Boffeli ranks fifth in The Valley in scoring at 16.0 ppg, while leading the league in rebounds per game (8.7). Young leads the league in scoring (21.0 ppg) and ranks second in rebounds (8.1 rpg).

### Number of Double-Double games

9 Young, Katelyn - Murray St.  
9 Boffeli, Grace - UNI  
8 Earnest, Leah - Valparaiso  
7 Bair, Maggie - Drake  
7 Taylor, Kennedy - Missouri St.  
7 Wilson, DeAnna - Illinois St.  
6 Green, Indya - Missouri St.  
5 Tomancova, Barbora - Evansville  
5 Feit, Abby - Evansville

### 30 Something

Murray State's Katelyn Young leads The Valley with four 30+ point performances this season. Young has accounted for four of the league's 10 30 point games this season, while also leading the way with 10 20-point outings this season.

### Number of 30-Point games

4 Young, Katelyn - Murray St.  
2 Robinson, Paige - Illinois St.  
1 Harvey, Sydney - Belmont  
1 Jones, Ashley - Southern Ill.  
1 Saunders, Ali - Valparaiso  
1 Wells, Destinee - Belmont

### Number of 20-Point games

12 Young, Katelyn - Murray St.  
12 Robinson, Paige - Illinois St.  
9 Wells, Destinee - Belmont  
9 Jones, Ashley - Southern Ill.  
7 Bartley, Madison - Belmont  
6 Feit, Abby - Evansville  
6 Boffeli, Grace - UNI  
4 Thomas, Aniya - Missouri St.  
4 McDermott, Maya - UNI  
4 Filer, Josie - UIC  
4 Bair, Maggie - Drake  
4 Crompton, Mary - Illinois St.  
4 Clark, Myia - Evansville



### Valley X United Ticket Drive

Debbie Antonelli, alongside the Missouri Valley Conference and United Way, has issued a challenge for the 2023 MVC Women's Basketball Tournament – Hoops In The Heartland! The goal of the ticket drive is to underwrite the cost of 500 single session tickets to the tournament that will be donated to Quad Cities students, families and volunteers who have participated in United Way Quad Cities' Read United program.

Scan to Pledge:



### Title Town

The league has had nine different regular-season champions in the past 16 seasons (SIU-2007; DU/UE/ILS-2008; ILS-2009; ILS-2010; UNI-2011; MSU-2012; WSU/CU-2013; INS/WSU-2014; WSU-2015; UNI-2016; DU-2017; DU-2018; DU-2019; MSU-2020; MSU-2021; SIU-2022). Bradley and Valparaiso, along with new members Belmont, UIC and Murray State, are the only league teams not to have won a regular-season MVC championship.

### Non-Con Recap

The Valley finished the non-conference portion of the schedule 58-55 (.513) this season.

The MVC secured five wins over Power Five programs during the non-conference schedule. The Valley registered a 5-21 record vs. Power Five teams. The Valley went 2-3 vs. the SEC, 2-13 vs. the Big Ten, 1-2 vs. the Big 12 and 0-3 vs. the ACC. Five different Valley teams registered a Power Five win as Drake beat Nebraska, Illinois State beat Wisconsin, Missouri State won at TCU, UNI beat Vanderbilt and Murray State won at Kentucky.



## Rise of The Valley

The 2021-22 season saw The Valley record a Top 10 NET conference ranking for the third-straight season. The league also saw four teams in the NET Top 100 for the third-straight season. Just five seasons ago, the league posted its worst conference RPI, sitting 24th nationally.

Year	MVC RPI	Top 100 RPI Teams
2021-22	10 (NET)	4 (NET)
2020-21	7 (NET)	5 (NET)
2019-20	8	5
2018-19	14	3
2017-18	24	2

## Bruins Favored

Belmont was tabbed as the preseason favorite in the MVC Women's Basketball race in the annual survey of the league's coaches, SIDs and media.

### 2022-23 MVC WBB Preseason Poll

Rank	Team (1st-place votes)	Points
1.	Belmont (32)	508
2.	Illinois State (7)	444
3.	Drake (6)	438
4.	Murray State (2)	397
5.	UNI	393
6.	Missouri State (1)	388
7.	Southern Illinois	270
8.	Indiana State	257
9.	Evansville	207
10.	Valparaiso	197
11.	Bradley	133
12.	UIC	112

### MVC WBB Preseason All-Conference

PLAYER, TEAM	POS.	CL.
Grace Berg, Drake	F	RSr.
Abby Feit, Evansville	G/F	Sr.
Megan Meyer, Drake	G	Sr.
*Destinee Wells, Belmont	G	Jr.
DeAnna Wilson, Illinois State	F	Sr.
Katelyn Young, Murray State	F	Jr.

\*Preseason Player of the Year



## Postseason League

Valley women's basketball sent a total of five teams to the postseason in 2022 as Drake, UNI and Southern Illinois participated in the WNIT, joining Illinois State and Missouri State who earned bids to the NCAA tourney. The MVC has seen an average of four league teams participate in postseason play in the last 23 seasons. The Valley has earned multiple NCAA Tournament bids in 14 different seasons, including four out of the last five seasons.

Valley newcomers Belmont and Murray State also appeared in the postseason last year. Belmont narrowly missed a trip to the Sweet 16, falling to Tennessee in the round of 32, while Murray State made an appearance in the WNIT.

## 50 Years of Title IX

The Missouri Valley Conference will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX legislation (June 1972) throughout the 2022-23 season as it honors pioneers from league institutions who paved the way for current and future women's student-athletes.



## Hoops In the Heartland

The 2023 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament will return to Vibrant Arena in Moline, Ill., for the eighth-straight year. The Valley becomes the only Division I stand-alone women's basketball event to be held in the same city eight or more consecutive years.

In fact, Hoops in the Heartland 2023 will match the ACC, SEC, Big Ten and Big 12 Conference Tournaments, as the only Division I stand-alone women's basketball championships to be held at a neutral site for more than 15 consecutive years.

Affectionately coined "Hoops in the Heartland," the four-day event (Mar. 9-12) will showcase all 12 Missouri Valley Conference schools as they compete for the Valley's automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament.

The 2023 MVC Women's Basketball Tournament title game on Sunday, March 12, will be aired on ESPNU at 1PM CT for the second consecutive season. The first 10 tournament contests will be shown exclusively on ESPN+.



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