

## MVC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### MVC TOURNAMENT NOTEBOOK: MARCH 6, 2023

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#### 2022-23 Standings -- As of Monday, Mar. 6

	MISSOURI VALLEY				OVERALL			
	Record	Pct.	PF	PA	Record	Pct.	PF	PA
Illinois State	17-3	.850	71.80	61.35	23-7	.767	69.63	61.70
Belmont	17-3	.850	73.25	63.15	21-10	.677	71.29	65.61
UNI	16-4	.800	75.95	61.90	21-8	.724	75.21	64.86
Drake	14-6	.700	77.45	63.25	19-9	.679	79.14	65.54
Missouri State	14-6	.700	71.05	66.50	19-10	.655	68.07	65.97
UIC	9-11	.450	55.40	59.40	17-14	.548	57.10	58.29
Southern Illinois	8-12	.400	72.45	73.40	11-18	.379	73.45	75.00
Murray State	7-13	.350	67.95	70.05	14-15	.483	68.03	66.28
Evansville	6-14	.300	60.75	71.60	11-18	.379	63.38	72.69
Indiana State	6-14	.300	63.45	68.85	11-18	.379	63.97	66.97
Valparaiso	5-15	.250	58.45	70.15	7-22	.241	60.03	71.41
Bradley	1-19	.050	56.70	75.05	4-27	.129	57.16	73.39

• • MVC Home: 64-56 • • Non-Conference: 58-55 • Home: 33-21 • Away: 17-27 • Neutral: 8-7 • Top-25: 1-9 • •

#### Recent Results/ Upcoming Schedule

##### Thursday, March 2

Bradley at Indiana State ..... INS, 87-71\*  
Southern Illinois at UNI ..... UNI, 85-76\*  
Murray State at Valparaiso ..... MUR, 77-64\*  
Illinois State at Evansville ..... ILS, 73-56\*  
Missouri State at Drake ..... DU, 83-63\*  
Belmont at UIC ..... BEL, 81-56\*

##### Saturday, March 4

Illinois State at Indiana State ..... ILS, 82-71\*  
Bradley at Evansville ..... BU, 61-51\*  
Belmont at Valparaiso ..... BEL, 70-67\*  
Missouri State at UNI ..... UNI, 86-67\*  
Murray State at UIC ..... UIC, 65-58\*  
Southern Illinois at Drake ..... DU, 91-68\*

#### END OF REGULAR SEASON

\*MVC Contest



#### Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

Vibrant Arena • Moline, Ill.  
1st 10 Games on ESPN+

##### Thursday, March 9

No. 8 Murray State vs. No. 9 Evansville ..... 12 PM  
No. 5 Missouri State vs. No. 12 Bradley ..... 2:30 PM  
No. 7 Southern Illinois vs. No. 10 Indiana State ..... 6 PM  
No. 6 UIC vs. No. 11 Valparaiso ..... 8:30 PM

##### Friday, March 10

No. 1 Illinois State vs. Winner 8/9 ..... 12 PM  
No. 4 Drake vs. Winner 5/12 ..... 2:30 PM  
No. 2 Belmont vs. Winner 7/10 ..... 6 PM  
No. 3 UNI vs. Winner 6/11 ..... 8:30 PM

##### Saturday, March 11

Semifinal #1 ..... 1:30 PM  
Semifinal #2 ..... 4 PM

##### Sunday, March 12

Championship Game (ESPNU) ..... 1 PM

ALL TIMES CENTRAL

#### MVC Player of the Week

##### Maggie Bair, Jr., F, Drake

Maggie Bair did Maggie Bair things in Drake's weekend sweep to close the regular season. The senior forward averaged 23.5 points and 7.5 rebounds while shooting at a .586 clip from the field and .556 percentage from behind the three-point arc. Bair opened the Bulldogs' final homestand with 22 points and 12 boards, her 10th double-double of the season, on 9-of-17 shooting in a crucial 83-63 win over Missouri State (3/2). She followed that performance with 25 points including three made triples, in a 91-68 victory over Southern

Illinois on Senior Day (3/4). Bair has made multiple three-pointers in four-straight games, the longest such streak of her career. She leads Drake and ranks in the top of the MVC with 16.6 ppg and 8.3 rpg while topping the league stat sheet with a .616 field goal percentage.

**Other Notable Performances:** Destinee Wells (BEL); Anna Miller (DU); Abby Feit (UE); Jaida McCloud (UIC); DeAnna Wilson (ILS); Del'Janae Williams (INS); Aniya Thomas (MOST); Emerson Green (UNI); Oliva Brown (VU)

#### MVC Newcomer of the Week

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

Robinson averaged 23.0 points per game for Illinois State as the Redbirds went 2-0 on the road to finish the regular season against Evansville and Indiana State ... She made 14-of-23 shots for the week (60.9%), and was 14-of-19 (73.7%) from the free-throw line ... She averaged four rebounds on the week with six assists, three blocks, and four steals ... Against the Purple Aces, the Bethany native went for a game-high 26 points on 8-of-14 shooting from the field, while grabbing five rebounds, dishing out four assists and chipping in one steal. She would also go 9-of-14 from the free-throw line over her 33 minutes of action ... In the finale of the week against Indiana State, she would finish with 20 points off 6-of-9 shooting from the field, a perfect 5-of-5 from the charity stripe, and 3-of-4 from three-point range ... Against the Sycamores, Robinson gathered three rebounds, three blocks, three steals, and two assists.

**Other Notable Performances:** Josie Filer (UIC); Aniya Thomas (MOST); Rachael Heittola (UNI); 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:

**Destinee Wells (BEL)** - Junior guard Destinee Wells, the reigning MVC and Tennessee Sports Writers Association (TSWA) Player of the Week, topped her sensational play last week by averaging 23.5 points, 5.5 assists, 2.0 steals and 2.0 rebounds in leading Belmont to a pair of road victories to close out the regular season. Shooting 66.7 percent (18-of-27) from the field, going 3-for-6 from beyond the arc and hitting all eight of her free throws, Wells had one of her finest weeks of the season. In the Bruins' dominant 81-56 win at UIC Thursday night, Wells went 7-for-8 from the floor en route to scoring 16 points and distributed a game-high six assists. On Saturday at Valparaiso, Wells nearly single-handedly willed Belmont to victory. She scored 26 of her game-best 31 points in the second half and 20 of the Bruins' 24 points in the fourth quarter. Accounting for Belmont's first 10 points of the deciding fourth quarter, Wells helped the Bruins overcome an eight-point third-quarter deficit. Wells' layup with 1:24 to go put Belmont up for good at 66-64 before she knocked down a pair of clutch foul shots in the final 30 seconds. Going 8-for-13 in the fourth quarter and 5-for-5 at the free-throw line, Wells finished 11-for-19 from the field and 7-for-7 at the charity stripe. She also dished out a team-high five assists, came up with a trio of steals, grabbed three rebounds and made a block.

**Anna Miller (DU)** - Anna Miller has made a major impact on the Bulldogs' success since being entered into the starting lineup. The sophomore forward showed out in Drake's final homestand, scoring 19.5 points and grabbing 9.5 rebounds across two games. She started the weekend with 18 points and eight boards while shooting a perfect 7-of-7 from the field and 4-of-4 from the free throw line in a dominant 83-63 win over Missouri State (3/2). The Rochester, Minn. native also dished out four assists, blocked four shots, and tied a career high with three steals vs. the Lady Bears. Miller one-upped herself with her third double-double of the year in Drake's regular season finale, pouring in a career-high 21 points and corralling 11 rebounds.

**Abby Feit (UE)** - In the final weekend of the regular season, senior guard/forward Abby Feit continued another strong campaign. In a pair of conference games, Feit averaged 17 points and eight boards, including a 20-point, 13-board performance against Bradley on Saturday for her seventh double-double of the season.

**Jaida McCloud (UIC)** - Jaida McCloud finished conference play on a high note with a 22-point, 13 rebound performance in a 65-58 victory over Murray State to secure the No. 6 seed in Hoops in the Heartland next week. She finished the week averaging 16.5 points and 9.5 rebounds and the Flames finished their best start in over nine years.

**DeAnna Wilson (ILS)** - Wilson averaged 24.5 points per game for Illinois State as the Redbirds finished the regular season with a 2-0 road trip over Evansville and Indiana State ... She made 18-of-33 shots for the week (54.5%), and was 13-of-16 (81.3%) from the free-throw line ... She averaged three and a half rebounds on the week with three blocks and a steal ... Against the Purple Aces, she would go for 23 points on 8-of-17 shooting from the field while grabbing one rebound and a block along with going 7-of-9 from the free-throw line over 35 minutes on the court ... In the finale of the week against Indiana State, Wilson stepped up her game as she went for a career-high 26 point off 10-of-16 shooting from the field and 6-of-7 from the charity stripe ... The St. Louis native also grabbed eight rebounds, bringing her ISU total to 601 (15th in program history) along with two blocks and a steal.

**Del'Janae Williams (INS)** - Williams had a career week-end to close out the regular season, averaging 23 points, five rebounds, four assists and 2.5 steals per game in a pair of contests for the Sycamores while shooting 51.5 percent from the field and 45 percent from 3-point range. She scored a career-high 30 points against Bradley, going 11-of-18 from the field and 7-of-13 from 3-point range against the Braves. Williams also added eight rebounds and five assists against Bradley, becoming the first player in the MVC since 2014 with at least 30 points, 10 field goals, five 3-pointers, five rebounds and five assists while shooting at least 50 percent both overall and from 3-point range. She also had 16 points, four steals, three assists and two rebounds against Illinois State, knocking down a pair of 3-pointers against the Redbirds.

**Aniya Thomas (MOST)** - Fifth-year senior Aniya Thomas led the way for the Lady Bears last week, averaging a team-high 17.0 points and 5.5 rebounds per game in losses at Drake and UNI. Thomas shot 44 percent (14-32) from the field and 83 percent (5-6) from the charity stripe, while dishing out six assists and collecting four steals and a block on the week. She also led MSU with nearly 73 total minutes on the floor. In Thursday night's game at Drake, Thomas tied for the game high with 22 points, while pulling down four rebounds and leading the team with three assists. She also had a block, a steal and went 3-for-3 from the free throw line against the Bulldogs. The outing marked her seventh 20-point performance of the season. In Saturday's game at UNI, Thomas tallied 12 points in addition to leading the team with seven rebounds and three steals. She shot 50 percent (5-10) from the field, went 2-for-3 at the line and dished out three assists in 38 minutes played. Thomas now owns 24 double figure scoring performances and has led the Lady Bears in steals 15 times this season. She also ranks second in the Valley in steals per game (2.1) and third in assists per game (4.2).

**Emerson Green (UNI)** - Green had the best all-around game of her career in the final week of the regular season against the Missouri State Lady Bears. Green couldn't be stopped behind the arc, sinking five treys, and going over 66% from three-point range across two games. Green propelled the Panthers to their final win of the regular season over Missouri State, leading in every statistical category but blocked shots. In 34 minutes against the Lady Bears, Green made 24 points, 9 rebounds, 3 assist, and 2 steals with no turnovers. The performance tied to career highs for Green in rebounds (9) and field goals made (8). For the week, Green averaged 19.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, and 2 assists.

**Olivia Brown (VU)** - Brown averaged 20.5 points/game on 65.2% (15-of-23) shooting from the floor in Valpo's two games last week, including 7-of-13 from behind the arc. After being held scoreless in the first half against Murray State, she exploded for 22 second-half points to end up leading all scorers for the game. Brown followed with a team-best 19 points against Belmont, including five 3-pointers. The senior hit a triple with 3:34 to play which gave Valpo the lead against the Bruins, hit another 3-pointer with 1:46 to go which tied the game and another with 16 seconds remaining which brought Valpo within one point.

**Josie Filer (UIC)** - A model of consistency for the Flames this past week, Filer averaged 16.5 PPG and 5.5 RPG with the Flames going 1-1 to end out Missouri Valley Conference play. Filer scored 18 points on Thursday in a loss to Belmont, and 15 points in the win against Murray State Saturday. Filer finished the season as the Flames leading scorer (12.4 PPG) and rebounder (6.8 RPG).

**Rachael Heittola (UNI)** - Heittola continues to step up for the Panthers as their starting center, getting her first start in the position against Southern Illinois on Thursday. Along with starting her first game at UNI, Heittola had her second double-digit game of the season, scoring 10 points against Missouri State. The highlight of Heittola's play over the final week of the regular season, was a step-back three in the final seconds of the third quarter while facing the Lady Bears, putting the Panthers up by 17 going into the fourth quarter. For the week, Heittola averaged 8.5 points, 3 rebounds, and 2 assists.

**Ali Saunders (VU)** - Saunders averaged 16.5 points/game on 54.5% shooting, hit 6-of-10 from 3-point range and dished out 4 assists/game last week in Valpo's pair of games. She started with a 20-point effort - her second 20-plus scoring output of the season - on 8-of-12 shooting against Murray State. Against Belmont on Saturday, Saunders scored 13 points, including three 3-pointers, and matched her season best with a game-high six assists. Saunders led all Valley freshmen within MVC play in both scoring and assists.

## 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	Katelyn Young	Murray State
F27	Destinee Wells	Belmont
M6	Maggie Bair	Drake

## 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	Jade Masogayo	Missouri State
F27	Kennedy Taylor	Missouri State
M6	Paige Robinson	Illinois State

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





## Co-Champs

For the first time since the 2013-14 season and for only the eighth time in 40 seasons, the MVC women's basketball race finished with co-champs. Illinois State won the program's eighth regular season title and first since 2009-10, while Belmont won the title in its first year as a league member. Both teams finished The Valley season 17-3 in league play.

## Multi-Champs

This is the 40th season of Valley women's basketball with only eight of those seasons having a co-champion. There have been four seasons with co-champs and three seasons with tri-champs.

### MVC Seasons With Multi-Champions

2022-23 Illinois State/Belmont (17-3)  
2013-14 Wichita State/Indiana State (14-4)  
2012-13 Creighton/Wichita State (15-3)  
2002-03 Creighton/Indiana State (13-5)  
2000-01 Missouri State/Drake (16-2)

### MVC Seasons With Tri-Champions

1987-88 Eastern Ill./Illinois St./Indiana St. (14-4)  
1989-90 Southern Ill./Illinois St./Missouri St. (14-4)  
2007-08 Illinois St./Evansville/Drake (13-5)

## Homecourt Advantage

While the league's overall homecourt record is a pedestrian 64-56 (53.3 percent), notably the five teams with winning records in league play have combined for a 42-8 record at home (84.0 percent). Belmont and Drake finished 9-1 at home in league play, while Illinois State, UNI and Missouri State each went 8-2.

## Nothing But NET

The NCAA NET Report (Mar. 5) has four Valley teams that rank in the top-100, including six of the 12 sitting in the top 140. Drake leads the way at No. 53 with UNI (64), Belmont (79) and Illinois State (86), rounding out the schools in the Top 100. Missouri State (112) and Murray State (140) rank in the top 140.

## 20 Wins

Since the start of the 1992-93 season only three 20-win MVC teams have been left out of the post-season. Last season, Southern Illinois, Missouri State, UNI and Drake all reached 20 wins, with all four teams reaching the NCAA or WNIT field. Illinois State, Belmont and UNI each have over 20 wins this season, while Drake and Missouri State are one win away from 20 victories entering Hoops in the Heartland.

## Sharpshooter

Illinois State's Mary Crompton continues her move up The Valley career three-point field goal list. The graduate student sits tied for second on The Valley's all-time list with Creighton's Dayna Finch. Crompton is 20 triples shy of first place.

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

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

## BEL: Championship Season

Belmont won its sixth conference regular season championship in seven seasons with its 70-67 come-from-behind victory at Valparaiso. The Bruins have won nine total regular season conference crowns - five in the Ohio Valley Conference (2021-22, 2019-20, 2018-19, 2017-18, 2016-17) and three in the ASUN Conference (2006-07, 2005-06, 2003-04). Belmont has won a combined 16 conference championships, including regular season and tournament titles, in its NCAA era.

The Bruins have won 20 or more games for eight-straight seasons. Belmont is one of only three non-power conference programs (Florida Gulf Coast and South Dakota State) to post eight consecutive 20-win campaigns.

## BRAD: Road Win

For the first time since February 2021, the Bradley Braves have won an MVC game on the road. Bradley defeated Evansville 61-51, also giving the Braves their first MVC win of the season. Alex Rouse stepped up to lead the team with 16 points, six rebounds, one assist and two steals. Caroline Waite once again had a double digit scoring game with 12 points, and Isis Fitch claimed another double-double on the season with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

## DU: Fiery Finish

The Drake University women's hoops team came through in the clutch during their final homestand of the 2022-23 regular season. The Bulldogs took care of business in their first game of the weekend, an 83-63 rout of Missouri State (3/2). Drake then throttled Southern Illinois 91-68 to secure the no. 4 seed and a first round bye in next week's Hoops in the Heartland MVC Women's Basketball Tournament. The Bulldogs finish the regular season with records of 19-9 overall and 14-6 in MVC play. All 14 of their league wins have come by at least 12 points. Drake will start their run at a postseason championship next Friday, Mar. 9 against the winner of the Missouri State/Bradley first round matchup.

## UE: Nine Seed for Aces

Evansville heads into Hoops in the Heartland following a resurgent 11-win campaign for the Aces. With the 11 wins, Evansville earned the No. 9 seed in the 12-team tournament, matching its highest seed since the 2016-17 season, albeit more impressively with the extended field.

## UIC: On McCloud Nine

As Conference Play comes to a close, the Flames finish their first season under head coach Ashleen Bracey with their best season in over nine seasons. The Flames finish 17-14 and 9-11 in Missouri Valley Conference Play and a No. 6 seed in Hoops in the Heartland. Bracey and her coaching staff secured the biggest win based turnaround by a first-year coach in MVC league history with 15 wins.

## ILS: Special Season

Illinois State has won 20+ games in a season for the first time under Kristen Gillespie, and first time as a program since the 2012-13 season which saw ILS finish 24-11.

Illinois State won their first regular season championship as a program since 2009-10. The Redbirds hold the no. 1 seed heading into Hoops in the Heartland next weekend.

The Redbirds also have 17 conference wins in the regular season. The last time ILS held 17 or more conference wins in a season came during the 1984-85, as ILS finished 17-1 in GC play that year.

## INS: Williams' Career Night

Indiana State senior guard Del'Janee Williams had a game to remember against Bradley, as she set career-best marks in multiple offensive statistics. Williams had a career-high 30 points, the first 30-point game for a Sycamore since 2014, while also setting career-best marks with 11 field goals and seven 3-pointers. She shot better than 50 percent both overall and from 3-point range. In addition, she led Indiana State with eight rebounds and five assists against Bradley, becoming the first Sycamore to lead the team in points, rebounds and assists in a game this season.

## MOST: Postseason Time

Missouri State heads into Hoops in the Heartland as the No. 5 seed. The Lady Bears own a 48-22 overall record in the conference tournament between the Gateway/Missouri Valley Conference, beginning in 1982-83. MSU is 62-20 in its last 82 games away from home.

## MUR: All-Time Leader

With three three-pointers Thursday at Valpo, Macey Turley is now the program's all-time leader in career made 3-pointers. The senior now has 265 for her career, passing the previous record of 264 set by Mariah Robinson.

## UNI: Three Seed is Familiar

For the second year in a row, the Panthers enter Hoops in the Heartland as the number 3 seed in the tournament. Last year as the three seed, UNI made it all the way to the Championship Game after wins over Valparaiso and Missouri State. The Panthers would end up falling in the championship game to Illinois State, making it their first appearance in the final day of Hoops in the Heartland since 2018. This is the fifth year UNI comes into Hoops in the Heartland as the number 3 seed over the past decade. As the three seed, UNI has made it to the final day of the tournament twice and into the semifinal round all but one year.

## SIU: Block Party

The Salukis are 16 blocks away from setting a single-season program record. SIU currently has 139 blocks on the year. The record was set in 2010-11, when Southern posted 155 total blocks. Individually, Promise Taylor has set a new program record with over 83 blocks this season. Taylor surpassed CiCi Shannon, who had 82 blocks in 2011. Taylor currently sits fifth on The Valley all-time single season list.

## VU: Improving 2nd Time Around

Looking at the nine opponents Valpo faced twice within MVC play, the Beacons averaged an improvement of 8.1 points/game in scoring margin from the first matchup to the second matchup. The Beacons fared better the second time around against seven of those nine foes, including four double-digit improvements.

## Neutral Colors

For the 16th-straight season, the Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament will be played at a neutral site after using institutional home arenas as hosts for the first 22 league tournaments.

## Valley Postseason History

The MVC has seen an average of four league teams participate in postseason play in the last 23 seasons where postseason action took place, including five teams reaching postseason play in 2021-22. Illinois State and Missouri State represented The Valley in the NCAA field a year ago, while Drake, UNI and Southern Illinois made the WNIT. The Valley has earned multiple NCAA Tournament bids in 14 different seasons, including four out of the last five seasons.

## Best Spot

The top seed has won the conference tournament in 19 of 35 seasons and a team that has won or shared the regular-season title has gone on to win the tournament title 22 times. Top seeds have six runner-up finishes.

Teams seeded No. 2 have won the tournament six times and finished as the runner-up 13 times.

Missouri State was the first No. 3 seed to win the tournament title in 2016. The No. 3 seed has been a runner-up 10 times (including UNI in 2022).

Last year, Illinois State became the fourth No. 4 seed to win the title, while the No. 5 seed and No. 8 seed has won twice. Seeds No. 7 (Missouri State, 2006) and No. 9 (Evansville, 2009) have won the tournament just once.

## Worst Spot

Seeds No. 6 and No. 10 have yet to win an MVC Tournament. Teams seeded sixth have just one runner-up finish. The No. 10 seed has won just three MVC Tournament games in league history (No. 10 Wichita State defeated No. 7 Missouri State in 2009, 52-51; No. 10 Southern Illinois defeated No. 7 Evansville in 2013, 83-74 in overtime; No. 10 Evansville defeated No. 7 Illinois State in 2016, 61-59 ot).

This year's field will feature a 12 team field for the first time with the No. 11 and No. 12 seeds making a first appearance.

## Chalk It Up

Since the league moved to a neutral-site tournament in St. Charles in 2007-08, five times the top-four seeds in the bracket advanced to semifinal Saturday of the championship – in 2013, the bracket produced chalk with top-four seeds Wichita State, Creighton, Illinois State and UNI – in 2008 (Illinois State, Evansville, Drake and Creighton) - 2016 (UNI, Drake, Missouri State and Southern Illinois) - 2018 (Drake, Missouri State, UNI and Southern Illinois) and 2022 (Southern Illinois, Missouri State, UNI and Illinois State).

Three of the top-four seeds advanced to Saturday in 2009, 2015 and 2019, while only two of the top-four seeds advanced in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2021).

## When They're All Here

Here's a look at how teams have fared, by seed, since the tournament expanded to include all 10 teams in 2006:

Seed	W	L	Best Result
No. 1	29	9	08, 11, 13, 15, 17 & 18 Champion
No. 2	19	14	2014 and 2019 Champion
No. 3	19	15	2016 Champion
No. 4	14	14	2012 and 2022 Champion
No. 5	11	14	2010 and 2021 Champion
No. 6	6	16	2007 Final
No. 7	20	15	2006 Champion
No. 8	11	16	2007 Champion
No. 9	11	15	2009 Champion
No. 10	3	16	2009 & 2013 Quarterfinal
No. 11	0	0	??
No. 12	0	0	??

## Unlikely Repeat

Just seven times in conference history has there been a repeat winner of the MVC Tournament. Missouri State won four-straight titles from 1991 through 1994, while Wichita State won three consecutive titles from 2013-15. Drake won back-to-back championships in 1997 and 1998 and 2017 and 2018, Missouri State repeated in 2003 and 2004 and UNI accomplished the feat in 2010 and 2011.

## Title Town

The league has had 10 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; ILS/BEL-2023). 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.

Here's a look at titles by current MVC members (most recent in parentheses):

	Regular-Season*	Tournament
Belmont	1 (2023)	N/A
Bradley	N/A	1 (2021)
Drake	9 (2019)	7 (2018)
Evansville	1 (2008)	2 (2009)
UIC	N/A	N/A
Illinois State	7 (2023)	5 (2022)
Indiana State	3 (2014)	N/A
Missouri State	14 (2021)	11 (2019)
Murray State	N/A	N/A
UNI	2 (2016)	2 (2011)
Southern Illinois	5 (2022)	2 (1990)
Valparaiso	N/A	N/A

\*Includes outright and shared championships

## Top Five Finishes

UNI and Drake are the only Valley teams to have finished in the top-five of the league standings for the past 10 seasons. Below is a list of top-five finishes over the last 10 seasons.

UNI finished .500 or better for a 15th season in a row to extend the best active streak by any MVC basketball program (women's & men's).

### Top-Five MVC Finishes, Last 10 Seasons

UNI - 10 (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23)  
 Drake - 10 (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23)  
 Missouri State - 9 (15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23)  
 Illinois State - 5 (19, 20, 21, 22, 23)  
 Southern Illinois - 5 (15, 16, 17, 18, 22)  
 Bradley - 3 (19, 20, 21)  
 Indiana State - 2 (14, 18)  
 Evansville - 1 (14)  
 Belmont - 1 (23)

## Top of the Heap

Missouri State has won the most MVC Tournament titles (11) of any Valley school, claiming their last title in 2019. Drake has claimed seven tournament titles and Illinois State has five tournament championships, including the league's first tournament in 1983 and last year (2022).

Evansville, UNI and Southern Illinois each have two MVC Tournament titles in program history, while Bradley won its first in 2021.

Indiana State and Valparaiso, along with new members Belmont, UIC and Murray State, are the only Valley schools not to have earned a tournament championship.

## There's Always a Chance

The lowest-seeded team to ever win the MVC Tournament was the No. 9 Evansville Purple Aces squad in 2009. Previously, there were a pair of No. 8 seeds – Illinois State in 2005 and Drake in 2007 – to claim MVC Tournament titles. Just one No. 7 seed (Missouri State in 2006) has ever won the MVC Tournament title.

## Separation Factor

Since the start of the 1992-93 season when the Gateway Conference merged with the Missouri Valley Conference, the regular-season title has been decided by just one game on 14 occasions (including this season). In 2011, when UNI won the league with a 17-1 record, the Panthers became the first MVC team to win the regular-season title by five games, as their closest opponents (Illinois State, Missouri State and Creighton) all featured league records of 12-6.

Six times the league title has been won by a three-game margin, four times by two games, 14 times by one game and five times by identical winning records. This season, Illinois State (17-3) and Belmont (17-3) each secured the regular-season league title by one game over second-place UNI (16-4).

## Mid-Major Top-25 Poll

UNI, Illinois State and Belmont appear in this week's CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 (Feb.28). Illinois State is at No. 13 in the poll, while UNI comes in at No. 15 and Belmont No. 17. Drake and Missouri State are receiving votes this week.

## 1,000 Point Club

The Valley has 19 active players in the 1,000 point club.

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

2,038 - Macey Turley, Murray State  
1,643 - Katelyn Young, Murray State  
1,600 - Abby Feit, Evansville  
1,517 - Destinee Wells, Belmont  
1,417 - Aniya Thomas, Missouri State  
1,393 - Sydney Harvey, Belmont  
1,248 - Grace Berg, Drake  
1,221 - Myia Clark, Evansville  
1,211 - Mary Crompton, Illinois State  
1,190 - Chelsea Cain, Indiana State  
1,181 - Kam Finley, UNI  
1,134 - Sydney Wilson, Missouri State  
1,125 - Maggie Bair, Drake  
1,094 - Ashley Jones, Southern Illinois  
1,085 - Del'Janee Williams, Indiana State  
1,024 - Josie Filer, UIC  
1,016 - Jaide McCloud, UIC  
1,014 - Alexis Burpo, Murray State  
1,008 - DeAnna Wilson, Illinois State

## Double Trouble

Entering Hoops in the Heartland, UNI's Grace Boffeli leads The Valley in double-doubles with 13, while Murray State's Katelyn Young has 11.

### Number of Double-Double games

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

## 30 Something

Murray State's Katelyn Young leads The Valley with six 30+ point performances this season. Young has accounted for six of the league's 15 30 point games this season, while also leading the way with 16 20-point outings this season.

### Number of 30-Point games

6 Young, Katelyn - Murray St.  
2 Robinson, Paige - Illinois St.  
2 Wells, Destinee - Belmont  
1 Bartley, Madison - Belmont  
1 Harvey, Sydney - Belmont  
1 Jones, Ashley - Southern Ill.  
1 Saunders, Ali - Valparaiso  
1 Williams, Del'Janee - Indiana St.

### Number of 20-Point games

16 Robinson, Paige - Illinois St.  
15 Young, Katelyn - Murray St.  
13 Jones, Ashley - Southern Ill.  
11 Wells, Destinee - Belmont  
9 Feit, Abby - Evansville  
8 Bartley, Madison - Belmont  
7 Thomas, Aniya - Missouri St.  
7 Bair, Maggie - Drake  
7 Boffeli, Grace - UNI  
5 Wilson, DeAnna - Illinois St.

## 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.

## Warren's Climb to the Top

UNI Head Coach Tanya Warren became the MVC's all-time leader in games coached this season. Warren passed SIU's Cindy Scott when she coached her 507th game vs. Valpo.

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.

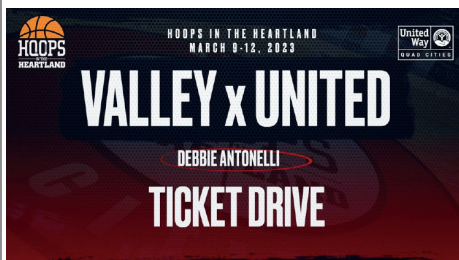
### MOST GAMES COACHED

Name, School	(Years)	Games
Tanya Warren, UNI	(2008-present)	513
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)	304



## Valley X United Ticket Drive

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

The pledge raised \$3,694 thanks to 32 different donors. Thank you to those that pledged!



## 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.

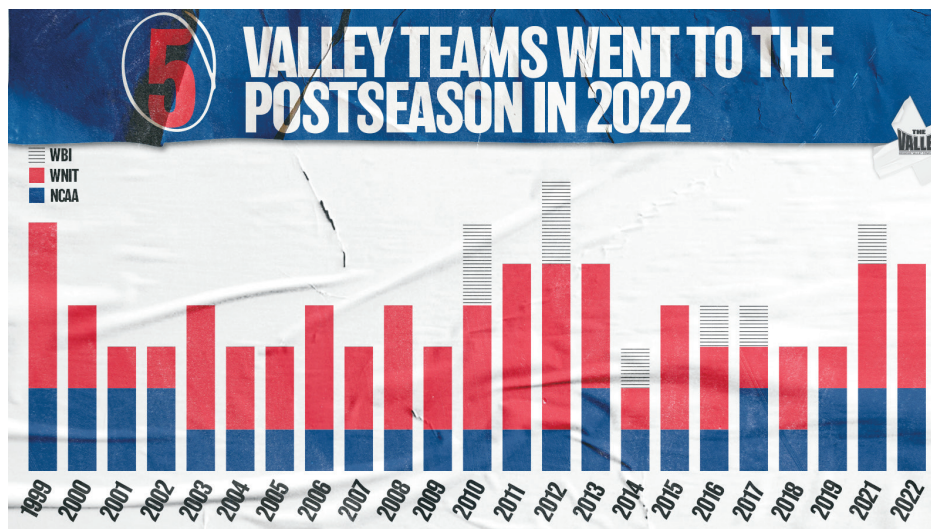
### 2022-23 MVC WBB Preseason Poll

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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