



# Illinois State Basketball 2001-02

Basketball Tickets: Call (309) 438-8000

## Redbird Basketball Results/Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Time
W	N 7	NWBL (Exhibition)	(W 74-63)
Su	N 11	Challengers (Exhibition)	(W 88-74)
M	N 19	at Wisconsin-Milwaukee	(L 63-69)
Su	N 25	Central Michigan	(L 62-72)
Tu	N 27	Louisville	(L 58-72)

Hoosier Classic at Bloomington, Ind.

F	N 30	at Indiana	(L 53-101)
Sa	D 1	vs. Murray State	(L 55-65)
Tu	D 4	Ball State	(L 61-78)
Th	D 6	at Illinois	(L 57-75)
Th	D 20	Northern Illinois	(W 55-52)
Sa	D 22	Western Illinois	(W 53-50)
Sa	D 29	• at Indiana State	(L 51-57)
F	J 4	• at Northern Iowa	7:05 p.m.
Su	J 6	• at Bradley (WTVP-TV)	2:05 p.m.
Th	J 10	• Drake	7:05 p.m.
Sa	J 12	• Creighton (Valley TV)	8:05 p.m.
Th	J 17	• at Evansville	7 p.m.
Su	J 20	• at Southern Illinois	2:05 p.m.
Th	J 24	• Wichita State	7:05 p.m.
Sa	J 26	• SW Missouri State	2:05 p.m.
Th	J 31	• Northern Iowa	7:05 p.m.
Su	F 3	• Bradley (WTVP-TV)	2:05 p.m.
Th	F 7	• at Creighton	7:05 p.m.
Sa	F 9	• at Drake	2:05 p.m.
F	F 15	• Evansville	7:05 p.m.
Su	F 17	• Southern Illinois	2:05 p.m.
F	F 22	• at SW Missouri State	7:05 p.m.
Su	F 24	• at Wichita State	5 p.m.
Th	F 28	• Indiana State	8:05 p.m.

Th-Sa M7-9 State Farm-Missouri Valley Tournament at Springfield, Mo

• Missouri Valley Conference games

## The Coaches

• **Jenny Yopp, Illinois State.** She is 53-89 in her sixth season as a college head coach, 13-50 in her third season at Illinois State.

• **Tony DiCecco, Northern Iowa.** He is 89-88 in his seventh season in Cedar Falls. His teams are 6-6 vs. Illinois State.

• **Paula Buscher, Bradley.** She is 29-19 in her second season in Peoria, 62-57 in her fifth season as a college head coach. Buscher was an Illinois State graduate assistant coach from 1986-88. Her teams are 1-1 vs. the Redbirds.

## Series Stuff

• **Redbirds at Northern Iowa.** Illinois State leads the series 29-9 even though UNI has won the last four in a row. ISU's last win in the series was 74-61 Feb. 28, 1999 in Redbird Arena--Jill Hutchison's final game as Redbird coach.

• **Redbirds at Bradley.** The Redbirds lead the series 26-11. The teams split in 2000-01, with the Redbirds winning 79-60 Dec. 30, 2000 in Redbird Arena and Bradley winning 83-54 March 1, 2001 in Peoria. The Redbirds are 13-5 vs. Bradley in Peoria, 12-5 vs. the Braves in Normal, and 1-0 on a neutral court.

## • Illinois State a (2-8, 0-1) Northern Iowa (6-7, 1-1)

7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 4, 2002, West Gym, Cedar Falls, Iowa

## • Illinois State at Bradley (9-2, 0-2)

2:05 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 6, 2002, Robertson Field House, Peoria, Ill.

WJBC Radio: R.C. McBride and Jill Hutchison

WTVP-TV: Kurt Pegler and Ed Hammond

## The Redbirds

### “Pacesetters”

Pos.No.	Name	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown	PPG	Reb.	Ast.
F 20	Stacey White *	5-11	So.	West Lebanon, IN	8.2	5.5	1.0
F 22	Steph Reichle **	5-9	Jr.	Lincoln, IL	7.5	4.8	1.6
C 55	Kristi Larson ***	6-4	Sr.	Cashton, WI	7.6	4.5	1.3 blk
G 4	Taren O'Brien *	5-7	So.	Savannah, MO	9.1	2.9	3.4
G 10	Katie Donovan	6-0	Fr.	Kingston, Ontario	7.2	6.7	1.4

### Off the Bench

F 00	Michelle Harakas	6-0	Fr.	Redford, MI	3.3	2.4	0.6
G 12	Beth Huston *	5-8	So.	Port Washington, WI	5.3	2.3	1.3
F 11	Heidi Harnisch	5-10	Fr.	Urbana, IL	0.0	1.0	0.0
F 21	Stacey Nickerson *	6-0	Jr.	Washington, IL	1.4	0.9	0.3
G 23	Jaci McCormack *	5-10	So.	Lake Oswego, OR	--	--	--
F 30	Sophie Tirtiaux	6-1	Fr.	Andenne, Belgium	2.0	1.0	0.0
C 31	Sharon Blade *	6-2	So.	Peoria, IL	6.1	4.8	0.6
G 33	Chris Kutschinski	5-10	Fr.	Ann Arbor, MI	1.3	1.2	0.3

(\* - denotes letters earned)

**HEAD COACH:** Jenny Yopp (North Carolina '89)

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Christopher Mennig (Bryant '96), Cherie Swarthout (Michigan State '91), Christy Thomaskutty (Tulane '96)

**ATHLETIC TRAINER:** Yvonne Logan     **STUDENT MANAGERS:** Vance Catlin, Nikki Jones

## Signs of Much Better Times

The Redbirds are 2-1 after an 0-7 start, and the statistics bear out that Jenny Yopp's team has improved dramatically since the end of a 6-games-in-12-days run into mid-December. The biggest turnarounds have come in the areas of defense and ballhandling (see box at right).

### Turnover Low

Illinois State's 14 turnovers at Indiana State (12/29) were the fewest by a Redbird team in 32 games dating back to last season. The 'Birds gave up just 13 turnovers vs. Gonzaga (11/25/00).

### White Makes Right at the End

In the Redbirds' back-to-back wins over Northern Illinois and Western Illinois, Stacey White had just two provided the space the Redbirds needed for a pair of three-point wins. ISU led 53-52 with

## Much Better Birds

(team statistics)

Category	1st 7 games	Last 3
Record	0-7	2-1
Opponent points per game	76.0	53.0
Opponents field goal pct.	.429	.356
Opponents 3-point FG pct.	.343	.292
Opponents FG made/game	27.1	19.0
ISU turnover margin	-7.2	-1.0
ISU steal margin	-2.4	+0.6
ISU turnovers per game	21.7	17.0

[www.redbirds.org](http://www.redbirds.org)



# Illinois State Women's Basketball

## Redbird Basketball Access Guide

• **Interviews/Credentials.** Contact Tom Lamonica, sports information director, at (309) 438-5746/ talamon@ilstu.edu or Erica Fricke (309) 438-3802/ebfrick@ilstu.edu to make arrangements.

• **Weekly Media Conference.** Jenny Yopp follows Tom Richardson into the Redbird Arena press room weekly on the following dates, with all conferences beginning at 3 p.m.: Nov. 7, 14, 20, 27. Dec. 4, 11. Jan. 8, 14, 22. Feb. 4, 12, 19, 27.

• **The Jenny Yopp Show.** Jenny Yopp, R.C. McBride and Tim Fisher talk basketball with guests and callers at 7:06 p.m. Mondays on WJBC AM 1230 (except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.)

• **Post-Game at Redbird Arena.** Head coaches and requested players will be brought to the interview room. Locker rooms are closed.

• **Redbird Radio.** Award-winning sportscaster R.C. McBride is joined by Redbird coaching legend Jill Hutchison for the play-by-play of Redbird basketball on WJBC AM 1230 and on the web at www.wjbc.com.

• **Web Birds.** The Redbird athletics home page is www.redbirds.org.

• **Missouri Valley Scoreboard Phone.** Scores and highlights at (314) 997-9877.

## League Leaders

(Illinois State players ranked among Valley best)

Name (Category)	Rank	Avg.
Kristi Larson (blocked shots) .....	3	1.3
Taren O'Brien (assists) .....	9	3.4
Katie Donovan (rebounds) .....	11	6.7

## Coming Attractions

Point guard Desiree Gutierrez has joined high-scoring guard Sara Stevenson have signed national letters of intent for basketball at Illinois State. The 5-6 Gutierrez, from Thornton, Colo., led her 2001 Western Nebraska Community College team to the NJCAA finals last year. She was an honorable mention all-stater at Thornton High School, where she was a four-year starter before graduating in 2000. Entering her senior season at East Richland High School in Olney, Ill., the 5-8 Stevenson had scored 1,674 points and has 495 career steals. A long-range shooting threat, Stevenson had 156 three-pointers during her sophomore and junior seasons.

20 seconds left vs. NIU when White rebounded a teammate's missed free throw, got fouled and made both free throws to ice ISU's first win of the season. Against WIU, she grabbed a Westerwind miss with four seconds left and got fouled, making two free throws in the final second to ice the 53-50 win.

## 'Youngbirds'

Last year, the Redbird freshmen played a larger percentage of minutes (44 percent) than any previous Illinois State freshmen class. With one senior, two juniors, four sophomores and five freshmen, the 2001-02 Redbird team is actually younger than its 2000-01 counterpart--and the youngest team in the Valley (see chart at right).

## At Crunch Time, Reichle's Tough

Both Northern Illinois and Western Illinois ran into Steph Reichle's tough man-to-man defense while trying for game-winning shots in the final seconds. Reichle blocked a three-point effort by Kristan Knake with 20 seconds left against NIU and she pressured Western Illinois guard Tugba Palazoglu into an off-balance shot with 4 seconds left.

## Young Leaders

Three players currently on the Redbird roster are among the team's all-time three-point field goal percentage leaders. Taren O'Brien is No. 6, followed by Jaci McCormack (sidelined after ankle surgery) and Beth Huston (No. 9). All three are just sophomores.

## 3 For the Road

Although this is Illinois State's 19th year of regular-season conference play, it is the first time the 'Birds have opened a schedule with three straight road games.

## Birds vs. League

With an all-time conference record of 187-134, the Redbirds have winning records against five of its nine current league foes (see list at right).

## Gettin' Good Grades

Led by junior Steph Reichle and freshman Chris Kutschinski with straight A's, five Redbird players reached the AFNI Athletics Honor Roll with a 3.0 or higher GPA for the Fall, 2001 semester: Reichle, Kutschinski, Beth Huston, Taren O'Brien and Sophie Tirtiaux.

## The Valley Experience

(Valley rosters ranked by class avg./player)

(Fr.-So.-Jr.-Sr.) Rank, Team	No. on Roster	Exp. Avg.
1. Illinois State (5-5-2-1)	13	1.92
2. Bradley (7-2-3-3)	15	2.13
3. Creighton (6-3-2-3)	14	2.14
4. Wichita State (4-4-2-3)	13	2.31
5. Indiana State (2-2-5-1)	10	2.40
6. Southern Illinois (3-3-5-2)	13	2.46
7. Northern Iowa (3-4-4-3)	14	2.50
8. Drake (4-3-2-5)	14	2.57
9. SMS (4-2-1-5)	12	2.58
10. Evansville (4-1-2-7)	14	2.86
League Avg. (42-29-28-33)	132	2.39

## ISU Career 3-Pt. FG Pct.

Rank No.	Name (Years)
1. .437 (205-469) .....	Jenny Schmidt (1995-99)
2. .423 (129-305) ...	Cindy Kaufmann (1987-91)
3. .379 (31-82) .....	Tami Baalke (1989-93)
4. .378 (14-37) .....	Ellen McGrew (1984-89)
5. .378 (17-45) .....	Pam Tanner (1985-89)
6. <b>.354 (29-82) .....</b>	<b>Taren O'Brien (2000- )</b>
7. <b>.348 (16-46) .....</b>	<b>Jaci McCormack (2000- )</b>
8. .345 (91-264) .....	Shandeen Hunt (1997-01)
9. .344 (11-32) .....	Char Govan (1985-90)
10. <b>.315 (12-38) .....</b>	<b>Beth Huston (2000- )</b>

## Birds vs. Conference

(all-time regular-season standings vs. league foes)

Opponent	W-L	Pct.
Bradley .....	26-10	.722
Creighton * .....	6-12	.333
Drake .....	15-21	.417
Evansville ** .....	10-4	.714
Indiana State .....	21-16	.567
Northern Iowa .....	28-8	.778
Southern Illinois .....	11-25	.306
Southwest Missouri State .....	15-21	.417
Wichita State .....	25-11	.694
Eastern Illinois # .....	12-6	.667
Western Illinois # .....	18-0	1.000
Total .....	187-134	.583

\* joined the Valley in 1992-93  
\*\* joined the Valley in 1994-95  
# Gateway members through 1991-92

# Get Your Game Face On!



# Illinois State Women's Basketball

## Redbird Review (2-8, 0-1)

• Illinois State 53, Western Illinois 50  
Saturday, Dec. 22, 2001, Redbird Arena, Normal, Ill. Taren O'Brien's 18 points helped the Redbirds overcome an 11-point deficit and Stacey White's two free throws in the final second cemented the Redbirds' 39th victory in 41 meetings with Western Illinois. White had 12 points as the Redbirds had a 21-31 to 13-17 edge at the free throw line and limited the Westerwinds to just 5 field goals in 29 attempts in the final 28 minutes of the game to capture their second straight win.

• Indiana State 57, Illinois State 51  
Saturday, Dec. 29, 2001, Hulman Center, Terre Haute, Ind.  
Indiana State scored the first 13 points and the last nine to offset Illinois State's 51-35 advantage in the middle. With Stacey White and Sharon Blade scoring 13 points each, the 'Birds led 51-48 with two minutes left, but couldn't score again. The 'Birds broke a school record by attempting 30 three-point field goals, but the Sycamores attempted 19 free throws to just two by the Redbirds.

## Records When ...

When the Redbirds ...	... their record is:
Play at Home .....	2-3
Play Away .....	0-4
Play Neutral .....	0-1
Play a Daytime Game .....	1-4
Play at Night .....	1-4
Play on Monday .....	0-0
Play on Tuesday .....	0-3
Play on Wednesday .....	0-0
Play on Thursday .....	1-1
Play on Friday .....	0-1
Play on Saturday .....	1-2
Play on Sunday .....	0-1
Lead at halftime .....	1-0
Trail at halftime .....	1-8
Shoot better FG Pct. ....	2-4
Shoot worse FG Pct. ....	0-4
Make more 3-pointers .....	0-1
Make the same No. of 3-pointers .....	1-0
Make fewer 3-pointers .....	1-7
Out-rebound opponent .....	1-6
Opponent out-rebounds 'Birds .....	1-2
Commit more turnovers .....	1-8
Commit same turnovers .....	1-0
Commit fewer turnovers .....	0-0
Shoot more free throws .....	2-2
Shoot fewer free throws .....	0-6
Score 59 or less .....	2-5
Score in the 60s .....	0-3
Score in the 70s .....	0-0
Score in the 80s or more .....	0-0
Bench out-scores opponent subs .....	0-3
Game goes to overtime .....	0-0

## Great In the State

Including their back-to-back wins over Northern Illinois and Western Illinois, the Redbirds have played 252 games against Illinois' 11 other Division I teams and the 'Birds have an overwhelming lead against in-state foes with a 170-82 record (.675) and .500 or better marks against every team but Northwestern (see list at right).

## K-K-Katie, D-D-Double-Double

Freshman Katie Donovan's two double-doubles (15 pts., 14 reb. vs. Louisville; 11 pts., 12 reb. vs. NIU) make her the first Redbird freshman in 15 years with more than one double-double. The last with two or more was Leslie Ferrell, who had three in 1986-87.

## Larson For the Block

Senior Kristi Larson is one of only five players in Redbird history with 50 or more career blocked shots (see box above right).

## From Beyond the Arc

The Redbirds' 30 three-point field goal attempts at Indiana State (12/29) were a school single-game record; the 7 made a season high. With the 'Birds averaging 15.2 tries per game this season, they are on a pace which would break the school record for three-point tries. The current pace of 3.9 made would put the team over 100 three-pointers made for only the sixth time in the 15 years since the three-point shot was introduced.

## Taren Passes for Points

Taren O'Brien had her season-best 7 assists in ISU's win vs. Northern Illinois (12/20). O'Brien is bidding to become the second player in Redbird history (Jenny Schmidt is the other) to lead ISU in both points and assists for a season.

## Schedule Helps League

Through games of Dec. 30, Illinois State's nine non-conference opponents had an aggregate record of 63-39 (.617). Despite the Redbird record, this factor has helped the Missouri Valley rank No. 8 among the nation's 30 Division I conferences.

## Tirtiaux, McCormack Sidelined

Freshman Sophie Tirtiaux and sophomore Jaci McCormack both are out for the season recovering from their injuries. McCormack had surgery on her ankle in October, while Tirtiaux has a stress fracture in her leg.

## Birds vs. The State

(all-time standings vs. Illinois Division I foes)

Team	W-L	Pct.
Bradley	26-11	.703
Chicago State	0-0	.000
DePaul	3-3	.500
Eastern Illinois	25-8	.758
Illinois-Chicago	11-1	.917
Illinois	17-15	.531
Loyola of Chicago	1-0	1.000
Southern Illinois	34-31	.523
Northern Illinois	9-3	.750
Northwestern	5-8	.385
Western Illinois	39-2	.951
Total	170-82	.675

## ISU Career Blocked Shots

Rank	Total	Name (Years)
1.	177	Leslie Ferrell (1986-89)
2.	95	Cathy Boswell (1979-83)
3.	90	Caryn Brune (1989-93)
4.	68	Marla Maupin (1981-85)
5.	58	Kristi Larson (1998- )
6.	41	Valarie Trame (1994-98)
7.	40	Melanie Ward (1991-96)
8.	39	LuAnn Robinson (1987-91)
9.	39	Juli Stiles (1983-87)
10.	32	Tammy Kocher (1989-93)

## Missouri Valley Standings

(thru games of 1/1/02)

Rank, Team	Valley	All
1. Drake	2-0	8-3
Creighton	2-0	7-4
Southwest Missouri State	2-0	5-5
4. Indiana State	1-0	5-5
5. Wichita State	1-1	6-5
Northern Iowa	1-1	6-7
7. Illinois State	0-1	2-8
8. Bradley	0-2	9-2
Evansville	0-2	5-7
Southern Illinois	0-2	4-7



## 00 Michelle Harakas

6-0 • Fr. • F • Redford, Mich. (Ladywood H.S.)

Scored in all of 1st six games ... hit 7 of last 11 field goals after 6 of first 22 this season. ... twin sister Melissa plays at Detroit-Mercy ... prep coach, Andrea Gorski, played against the Redbirds at Bradley ... from same high school as former Redbird star Char Govan, ISU's No. 3 all-time scorer and No. 4 all-time rebounder ... name pronounced HAIR-ah-kas.

### Michelle's Career Bests

Points ..... 7 at Wisconsin-Milwaukee (11/19/01)  
Rebounds ..... 6 at Wisconsin-Milwaukee (11/19/01)  
Assists ..... 2 vs. Murray State (12/1/01)  
Steals ..... 1 (twice)  
Blocks ..... 1 (twice)  
Minutes ..... 24 vs. Central Michigan (11/25/01)

## 4 Taren O'Brien

5-7 • So. • G • Savannah, Mo. (Savannah H.S.)

Redbird leader in points, assists and 3-point field goals ... No. 9 in the Valley in assists ... 2000-01 team leader in steals ... among Top 10 in ISU career 3-point field goal percentage ... had arthroscopic knee surgery in Jan., 2001, but missed just 3 games ... 1999 National Finalist for Teen Magazine Athlete of the Year ... last name rhymes with "Karen."

### Taren's Career Bests

Points ..... 18 vs. Western Illinois (12/22/01)  
Rebounds ..... 7 vs. Western Illinois (12/22/01)  
Assists ..... 8 vs. Indiana State (2/16/01)  
Steals ..... 3 (three times)  
Blocks ..... 1 at Indiana (11/30/01)  
Minutes ..... 37 vs. Western Illinois (12/22/01)

## 10 Katie Donovan

6-0 • Fr. • G • Kingston, Ontario (St. Thomas Aquinas H.S.)

Top freshman rebounder in the Valley ... her 2 double-doubles are the most by a Redbird freshman since Leslie Ferrell had 3 in 1986-87 ... in her first career start, had 15 points and 14 rebounds vs. Louisville ... has 3 double-digit rebounding efforts in her first 8 games ... bidding to join Steph Reichle and Cathy Boswell as the only freshmen to lead the Redbirds in rebounding for a season.

### Katie's Career Bests

Points ..... 15 vs. Louisville (11/27/01)  
Rebounds ..... 14 vs. Louisville (11/27/01)  
Assists ..... 4 (twice)  
Steals ..... 3 (twice)  
Blocks ..... 1 vs. Louisville (11/27/01)  
Minutes ..... 37 vs. Northern Illinois (12/20/01)

## 11 Heidi Harnisch

5-10 • Fr. • F • Urbana, Ill. (Urbana H.S.)

2000 Special Mention Illinois All-Stater by Illinois Basketball Coaches Association ... made college debut in her hometown (at Illinois) ... played 5 key minutes at Indiana State (12/30) ... prep classmate of Redbird freshman Sophie Tirtiaux ... name pronounced HAIR-ah-kas.

### Heidi's Career Bests

Points ..... none  
Rebounds ..... 1 at Illinois (12/6/01)  
Assists ..... none  
Steals ..... none  
Blocks ..... none  
Minutes ..... 5 at Indiana State (12/29/01)

## 12 Beth Huston

5-8 • So. • G • Port Washington, Wis. (Port Washington H.S.)

After scoring just 11 points and playing just 66 minutes as a freshman, she has joined the regular rotation ... has more three-pointers than two-point field goals in her career ... made college starting debut with 10 points at Wisconsin-Milwaukee, just minutes away from her hometown.

### Beth's Career Bests

Points ..... 12 vs. Louisville (11/27/01)  
Rebounds ..... 4 (twice)  
Assists ..... 4 vs. Ball St. (12/4/01), at Ind. St. (12/30/01)  
Steals ..... 2 (twice)  
Blocks ..... none  
Minutes ..... 33 vs. Murray State (12/1/01)

## 20 Stacey White

5-11 • So. • F • West Lebanon, Ind. (Seeger Memorial H.S.)

Only Redbird to start every game this season ... 2 free throws with 0:00.9 left cemented 53-50 win over WIU (12/22) ... only 2 points of the game were 2 FT with 0:18 left vs. NIU to lock-in a 55-52 Redbird win (12/20)... Redbird leader in free throw percentage ... came within a rebound of a double-double twice, vs. Central Michigan (11 pts., 9 reb.) and at Indiana (12 pts., 9 reb.) ... younger sister of former Purdue star Stephanie White-McCarty.

### Stacey's Career Bests

Points ... 13 at Illinois (12/6/01), at Ind. St. (12/29/01)  
Rebounds ..... 9 (twice)  
Assists ..... 3 vs. Illinois (12/7/00)  
Steals ..... 3 vs. Murray State (12/1/01)  
Blocks ..... 1 (five times)  
Minutes ..... 35 at Indiana State (12/29/01)



## 21 Stacey Nickerson

6-0 • **Jr.** • **F** • Washington, Ill. (Washington H.S./Illinois Central CC)

Scored 4 points and grabbed 3 rebounds in 16 minutes at Indiana ... all-around athlete who was offered a college scholarship for rowing out of high school ... played on Illinois Central College team which finished No. 3 at 2000 NJCAA Tournament ... junior college coach was Lorene Ramsey, an Illinois State alum and Hall of Famer.

### Stacey's Career Bests

Points	5 at Louisville (12/2/00)
Rebounds	3 at Indiana (11/30/01)
Assists	1 (four times)
Steals	none
Blocks	none
Minutes	16 at Indiana (11/30/01)

## 22 Steph Reichle

5-9 • **Jr.** • **G** • Lincoln, Ill. (Lincoln H.S.)

2001 2nd Team Missouri Valley Scholar-Athlete ... 2000 Missouri Valley All-Freshman Team ... blocked a 3-point shot which could have given NIU a win over the 'Birds (12/20) and came back 2 days later to deny WIU a last-ditch winning shot (12/22) ... regaining form following major knee surgery early in 2000 and arthroscopic surgery in Oct., 2001 ... 17 points in 13 minutes vs. Central Michigan (11/25) ... team leader in steals ... name pronounced RIKE-lee.

### Steph's Career Bests

Points	24 vs. Western Illinois (11/30/99)
Rebounds	15 vs. Southern Illinois (1/2/00)
Assists	8 vs. Wichita State (1/4/01)
Steals	6 (twice)
Blocks	2 vs. Northern Illinois (12/20/01)
Minutes	36 vs. Western Illinois (11/30/99)

## 31 Sharon Blade

6-2 • **So.** • **C** • Peoria, Ill. (Peoria Central H.S.)

In 2001, she joined Steph Reichle and Cathy Boswell as the only three freshmen in Illinois State history to lead their teams in scoring ... also led 2001 team in blocked shots ... her 17 blocked shots rank No. 3 all-time for Redbird freshmen ... redshirted in 1999-2000 ... her 22 points in her first collegiate game (at Northern Illinois, 11/17/00) are a Redbird freshman first-game record.

### Sharon's Career Bests

Points	25 vs. Bradley (12-30-00)
Rebounds	9 at Western Illinois (11/29/00)
Assists	2 (twice)
Steals	2 (six times)
Blocks	2 (four times)
Minutes	37 at Northern Illinois (11/17/00)

## 33 Chris Kutschinski

5-10 • **Fr.** • **G** • Ann Arbor, Mich. (Pioneer H.S.)

Excellent on-ball defender who sees spot duty in the Redbird perimeter rotation ... had 2 key second-half baskets in win over Western Illinois (12/22) ... also a member of the Redbird track team, she will run middle distances for coach Jeff Pigg's team after the basketball season ends ... AAU teammate of Redbird teammate Michelle Harakas ... name pronounced koo-SCHIN-skee.

### Chris' Career Bests

Points	4 (twice)
Rebounds	3 vs. Central Michigan (11/25/01)
Assists	2 at Indiana (11/30/01)
Steals	1 at Indiana (11/30/01)
Blocks	1 vs. Ball State (12/4/01)
Minutes	15 at Indiana (11/30/01)

## 55 Kristi Larson

6-4 • **Sr.** • **C** • Cashton, Wis. (Cashton H.S.)

No. 3 in Valley in blocked shots ... 16 points, 7 rebounds, 2 blocks in 1st Redbird win of the season over NIU (12/20) ... career-high 13 rebounds with 18 points vs. Ball State (12/4) ... ranks No. 5 in career blocked shots at Illinois State ... slowed by bruised ribs and bronchitis in late November, but bounced back to hit 19 of 37 shots, good for 45 points in three games in mid-December.

### Kristi's Career Bests

Points	22 vs. Northern Illinois (11/23/99)
Rebounds	13 at Ball State (12/4/01)
Assists	2 at Evansville (1/28/99)
Steals	2 (three times)
Blocks	3 (four times)
Minutes	31 vs. Western Illinois (11/30/99)

## 30 Sophie Tirtiaux

6-1 • **Jr.** • **F** • Andenne, Belgium (Urbana H.S.)

Recovering from a stress fracture in her leg and likely won't play until at least January ... prep teammate of Heidi Harnisch ... part of Belgian Club Team Championship in 2000 and played for Belgian Junior National Team ... name pronounced TICT-tyew.

## 23 Jaci McCormack

5-10 • **So.** • **G** • Lake Oswego, Ore. (Lake Oswego H.S.)

Recovering ankle surgery in November; could miss the entire season ... Native American of Nez Perce Tribe was ISU's No. 2 scorer in 2001-02 ... 1997 & 1998 Idaho Prep Player of the Year at Lapwai H.S. ... first name pronounced JACK-ee.

### Jaci's Career Bests

Points	18 vs. Bradley (12/30/00)
Rebounds	6 (three times)
Assists	5 vs. Drake (1/14/01)
Steals	3 at Valparaiso (12/22/00)
Blocks	1 vs. Bradley (12/30/00)
Minutes	33 vs. Missouri (12/17/00)