



# Illinois State Basketball 2001-02

Basketball Tickets: Call (309) 438-8000

## 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)
<i>Hoosier Classic at Bloomington, Ind.</i>			
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	(L 44-53)
Su	J 6	• at Bradley (WTVP-TV)	(L 36-71)
Th	J 10	• Drake	(L 58-70)
Sa	J 12	• Creighton (Valley TV) (W 64-57, ot)	(L 57-70)
Th	J 17	• at Evansville	(L 57-70)
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 54-93 in her sixth season as a college head coach, 14-54 in her third season at Illinois State.

• **Darryl Smith, Wichita State.** He is 54-47 in his fourth season at Wichita, 214-111 in his 12th season as a college head coach. Smith's teams are 5-1 against ISU.

• **Cheryl Burnett, Southwest Missouri State.** She is 311-130 in her 15th season in Springfield. Burnett's teams are 20-9 against Illinois State.

## Series Stuff

• **Redbirds vs. Wichita State.** The Shockers have won the last four meetings, but Illinois State still has a 25-13 series edge.

• **Redbirds vs. SMS.** The Bears have won the last nine meetings to take a 22-15 advantage in the series. The last Redbird win was 61-60 in overtime, Jan. 20, 1997 and that decision ended SMS's record 66-game Valley home court winning streak.

## • Wichita State (8-8, 3-4) at Illinois State (4-12, 2-5)

7:05 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24, 2002, Redbird Arena, Normal, Ill.

WJBC Radio: R.C. McBride and Jill Hutchison

## • SMS (8-7, 5-2) at Illinois State

2:05 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, 2002, Redbird Arena, Normal, Ill.

WJBC Radio: R.C. McBride and Leanna Bordner

KYTV: Ned Reynolds and Tom Mast

## The Redbirds

### "Pacesetters"

Pos.No.	Name	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown	PPG	Reb.	Ast.
F 20	Stacey White *	5-11	So.	West Lebanon, IN	8.4	4.5	0.9
F 22	Steph Reichle **	5-9	Jr.	Lincoln, IL	6.8	5.7	1.5
C 55	Kristi Larson ***	6-4	Sr.	Cashton, WI	8.6	5.1	1.4 blk
G 4	Taren O'Brien *	5-7	So.	Savannah, MO	9.6	2.4	3.0
G 10	Katie Donovan	6-0	Fr.	Kingston, Ontario	7.1	5.7	1.5

### Off the Bench

F 00	Michelle Harakas	6-0	Fr.	Redford, MI	3.6	2.8	0.6
G 12	Beth Huston *	5-8	So.	Port Washington, WI	4.1	2.3	1.5
F 11	Heidi Harnisch	5-10	Fr.	Urbana, IL	0.8	0.7	0.2
F 21	Stacey Nickerson *	6-0	Jr.	Washington, IL	0.9	0.8	0.2
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	6.4	5.4	0.6
G 33	Chris Kutschinski	5-10	Fr.	Ann Arbor, MI	1.2	1.1	0.3

(\* - denotes letters earned)

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

**ASSISTANT COACHES:** Christopher Mennig (Bryant '96), Cherie Swarouth (Michigan State '91),

Christy Thomaskutty (Tulane '96) **ATHLETIC TRAINER:** Yvonne Logan **MANAGERS:** Vance Catlin, Andrew Knarr

## Chris K. Leads Key D.

Southern Illinois guard Holly Teague had 16 first-half points against ISU, but the 'Birds bounced back in the second half thanks to the stellar defense of freshman Chris Kutschinski, who helped hold Teague to one free throw after intermission in a Redbird comeback win.

## Pressure Produces Points

With 10 minutes left at SIU, the Redbirds trailed 50-39. But the 'Birds a defense which forced nine turnovers in 13 SIU possessions produced a 20-3 run over the next seven minutes. The Redbirds generally strangled SIU's offense, which produced only two field goals in the final 10 minutes. Twenty of the Redbirds' 37 second-half points came off turnovers.

## Signs of Much Better Times

The Redbirds are 4-5 after an 0-7 start, and the statistics bear out that Jenny Yopp's team has improved dramatically in their last seven games 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 above right).

## Much Better Birds

(team statistics)

Category	1st 7 games	Last 9
Record	0-7	4-5
Opponent points per game	76.0	60.8
Opponents field goal pct.	.429	.370
Opponents 3-point FG pct.	.343	.258
Opponents FG made/game	27.1	22.4
ISU turnovers per game	21.7	18.7

[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	1.38
Steph Reichle (defensive rebounds) ..	6	4.56
Katie Donovan (offensive rebounds) .	7	2.81
Sharon Blade (defensive rebounds) ..	10	4.38
Katie Donovan (all rebounds) .....	15	5.68

(Illinois State team rankings among Valley's top 3)

Name (Category)	Rank	Avg.
3-Point FG Percentage Defense .....	1	.297
Field Goal Percentage Defense .....	2	.386

## 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.

## First, Most

Illinois State forced Southern Illinois into 24 turnovers and committed just 20 of its own, marking the first time this season the 'Birds had fewer turnovers than their foes. Also, the Redbirds scored a season-high 69 points against the Salukis (1/20).

## Top Treys

Taren O'Brien's career three-point field goal percentage ranks No. 9 all-time at ISU, just three notches behind Jaci McCormack (injured this season). O'Brien's 36 career made rank No. 9 all-time at Illinois State (see box above right).

## Larson on Target

The Redbirds have shot better in recent games, hitting 78-163 (.479) over their last three games. Kristi Larson has been the leader, sinking 26-46 (.565) in her last five games.

## Easing the Curse of Carbondale

Illinois State's 69-67 win Jan. 20 at Southern Illinois was just the second since 1990 at the home of the Salukis. Ironically, the other win was a close one, too--Jenny Schmidt's reverse layup with less than a second left in 1997 and Sunday's triumph are all the 'Birds have to show for 16 trips to Carbondale.

## The Best Defense ...

The Redbirds are limiting opponents to just 39.6 percent field goal shooting, the second-lowest rate in the 25 years for which Illinois State has full statistics. Opponents' 29.7 percent from three-point range is the lowest in Redbird history.

## League Advantage: Illinois State

With a 189-138 all-time regular-season conference record (.577), th Redbirds have winning records against five of nine current league foes. (see box at right).

## Reichle Rebounds

Steph Reichle's career best 17 rebounds in a 64-57 overtime win over Creighton (1/12) were the second-best total by an Illinois State player in Redbird Arena. The arena record is 21 by Caryn Brune 10 years ago. Reichle had 5 of those rebounds in overtime.

## Harakas Steps Up

With Sharon Blade sidelined by a foot injury, freshman post player Michelle Harakas stepped up her performance on the Evansville-Southern Illinois road trip by averaging 7.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 1.0 blocks. The consistent Harakas has played short stints in most games, but has scored in 15 of ISU's 16 contests, hitting 17 of her last 31 field goal attempts in the process.

## ISU Career 3-Pl. 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>.348 (16-46) .....</b>	<b>Jaci McCormack (2000- )</b>
7. .345 (91-264) .....	Shandeen Hunt (1997-01)
8. .344 (11-32) .....	Char Govan (1985-90)
9. <b>.330 (36-109) .....</b>	<b>Taren O'Brien (2000- )</b>
10. .308 (44-143) .....	Kellie Johnson (1997-01)
10. <b>.308 (14-47) .....</b>	<b>Beth Huston (2000- )</b>

## Birds vs. Conference

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

Opponent	W-L	Pct.
Bradley .....	26-11	.702
Creighton * .....	7-12	.369
Drake .....	15-22	.405
Evansville ** .....	10-5	.667
Indiana State .....	21-16	.567
Northern Iowa .....	28-9	.757
Southern Illinois .....	12-25	.324
Southwest Missouri State .....	15-21	.417
Wichita State .....	25-11	.694
Eastern Illinois # .....	12-6	.667
Western Illinois # .....	18-0	1.000
Total .....	189-138	.577

\* 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 (4-12, 2-5)

• Evansville 70, Illinois State 57

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2002, Roberts Stadium, Evansville, Ind.

Despite career highs of 13 points and 9 rebounds by Michelle Harakas, the Redbirds fell to Evansville. The Aces shot 50 percent in the second half and made eight three-pointers for the game while out-rebounding the Redbirds, who were playing without sophomore center Sharon Blade.

• Illinois State 69, Southern Illinois 67

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2002, SIU Arena, Carbondale, Ill.

Freshman Chris Kutschinski came off the bench to spark a 20-3 run which resulted from defensive pressure which forced nine SIU turnovers in seven minutes as the 'Birds came back from 11 down in the final 10 minutes to break a 14-game losing streak away from Redbird Arena. Kristi Larson matched Stacey White's career-high 16 points and Taren O'Brien had 15 as ISU scored its season-high point total.

## Records When ...

<i>When the Redbirds ...</i>	<i>... their record is:</i>
Play at Home .....	3-4
Play Away .....	1-7
Play Neutral .....	0-1
Play a Daytime Game .....	2-4
Play at Night .....	2-8
Play on Monday .....	0-0
Play on Tuesday .....	0-3
Play on Wednesday .....	0-0
Play on Thursday .....	1-3
Play on Friday .....	0-2
Play on Saturday .....	2-2
Play on Sunday .....	1-2
Lead at halftime .....	1-0
Trail at halftime .....	3-12
Shoot better FG Pct. ....	3-5
Shoot worse FG Pct. ....	1-7
Make more 3-pointers .....	1-2
Make the same No. of 3-pointers .....	1-1
Make fewer 3-pointers .....	2-9
Out-rebound opponent .....	1-7
Opponent out-rebounds 'Birds .....	3-5
Commit more turnovers .....	2-12
Commit same turnovers .....	1-0
Commit fewer turnovers .....	1-0
Shoot more free throws .....	3-2
Shoot fewer free throws .....	1-10
Score 59 or less .....	2-9
Score in the 60s .....	2-3
Score in the 70s .....	0-0
Score in the 80s or more .....	0-0
Bench out-scores opponent subs .....	1-4
Game goes to overtime .....	1-0

### Donovan Twice As Good

At the start of 2002, freshman Katie Donovan's field goal percentage stood at just .267. In six games since the calendar turned, she has poured in 18 of 33 shots for a .545 percentage--more than double her efficiency for the first 10 games.

### Birds Lag in Free Throw Tries

Through the first four weeks of league games, Illinois State ranked dead last in getting to the free throw line. Next-lowest Bradley averages more than 33 percent more league game attempts than the 'Birds. Ironically, Illinois State and Bradley are the only two Valley teams to only play two league home games thus far. Wichita State, averaging 25.0 attempts per game, has played five home games, matching SIU for the league lead in home conference games so far. (see box above right).

### The 'Rollover' Homestand

This year, Illinois State and Indiana State both play four straight home games at the end of the first round and the start of the second round of the Valley's double round-robin schedule. The 'Birds have played four or more straight league home games five times before: 4-0 in 1997, 2-2 in 1998, 2-3 in 1993, 4-0 in 1991 and 3-1 in 1986.

### Larson For the Block

Senior Kristi Larson is one of only five players in Redbird history with 60 or more career blocked shots. She needs just three to surpass Marla Maupin for fourth place. (see box above right).

### Blade Sidelined

Redbird post player Sharon Blade has a stress-related foot injury which will likely keep her on the sidelines until near the end of January, pending the results of a bone scan prior to the Evansville game. She joins sophomore Jaci McCormack and freshman Sophie Tirtiaux on the sidelines for the Redbirds. McCormack and Tirtiaux are both out for the season.

### Defense Rules

The Redbird defense limited Creighton to just 22.9 percent field goal shooting (1/12) in a 64-57 overtime win. That was the fourth lowest mark by a Redbird team in 25 years for which Illinois State has complete statistics.

### Free Throws in Valley Games

(through games of 1/20/02)

Rank, Team (home games)	G	FT	FT/G
1. Wichita State (5) .....	7	175	25.0
2. SMS (4) .....	7	163	23.3
3. Drake (4) .....	8	183	22.9
4. Northern Iowa (3) .....	7	160	22.9
5. Creighton (4) .....	8	172	21.5
6. Evansville (3) .....	6	127	21.2
7. Southern Illinois (5) .....	7	147	21.0
8. Indiana State (3) .....	6	124	20.7
9. Bradley (2) .....	7	135	19.3
10. Illinois State (2) .....	7	100	14.3

### 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. 67 .....	<b>Kristi Larson (1998- )</b>
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 1/21/02)

Rank, Team	Valley	All
1. Creighton	7-1	12-5
2. Drake	6-2	12-5
3. Northern Iowa	5-2	10-8
Southwest Missouri State	5-2	8-7
5. Evansville	4-3	9-8
6. Wichita State	3-4	8-8
7. Bradley	2-5	11-5
Indiana State	2-5	6-10
Illinois State	2-5	4-12
10. Southern Illinois	0-7	4-12



# Illinois State Women's Basketball

## 00 Michelle Harakas **Last Game:** at SIU 2 pts., 4 reb. 1 block

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

Increased time merited higher numbers starting with 13 pts., 9 reb. at Evansville (1/16) ... hit 17 of last 32 field goals after 6 of first 22 this season ... twin sister Melissa plays at Detroit-Mercy ... prep coach, Andrea Gorski, played at Bradley ... from same high school as 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	13 at Evansville (1/17/02)
Rebounds	9 at Evansville (1/17/02)
Assists	2 (twice)
Steals	1 (twice)
Blocks	1 (four times)
Minutes	27 at Evansville (1/17/02)

## 4 Taren O'Brien **Last Game:** at SIU, 15 pts., 2 asst., 3 steals

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

Redbird leader in points, assists and 3-point field goals ... 2000-01 team leader in steals ... No. 9 in both career 3-point field goal pct. and 3-pointers made at ISU ... has hit 15 of her last 17 free throws and 9 straight ... had arthroscopic knee surgery in Jan., 2001, but missed just 3 games ... 1999 National Finalist for Teen Magazine Athlete of the Year ... first 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 (four times)
Blocks	1 at Indiana (11/30/01)
Minutes	37 vs. Western Illinois (12/22/01)

## 10 Katie Donovan **Last Game:** at SIU 11 pts., 8 reb., 3 asst.

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

ISU's leading rebounder ... after a .267 shooting start (23-76), hit 18 of last 33 (.545) ... her 2 double-doubles are the most by a Redbird freshman since 1986-87 ... in her first career start, had 15 points and 14 rebounds vs. Louisville ... 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 **Last Game:** at SIU, dnp/cd

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

2000 Special Mention Illinois All-Stater by Illinois Basketball Coaches Association ... first 5 career pts. vs. Drake (1/10) ... made college debut in her hometown (at Illinois) ... her longest stint of the season (8 minutes at Bradley) netted her first assist and first steal of her career ... prep classmate of Redbird freshman Sophie Tirtiaux ... name pronounced HAIR-ah-kas.

### Heidi's Career Bests

Points	5 vs. Drake (1/10/02)
Rebounds	1 at Illinois (12/6/01), vs. Drake (1/10/02)
Assists	1 at Bradley (2/6/02)
Steals	none
Blocks	1 at Bradley (2/6/02)
Minutes	8 at Bradley (1/6/02)

## 12 Beth Huston **Last Game:** at SIU 1 reb., 2 asst., 1 steal

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

In four games in mid-January, had more assists (6) and steals (6) than turnovers (3) ... has 15 three-pointers and 12 two-point field goals in her career ... made college starting debut with 10 points at Wisconsin-Milwaukee, just minutes away from her hometown ... part of twins (brother, Brandon).

### Beth's Career Bests

Points	12 vs. Louisville (11/27/01)
Rebounds	6 at Bradley (1/6/02)
Assists	4 vs. Ball St. (12/4/01), at Ind. St. (12/30/01)
Steals	3 at Evansville (1/17/02)
Blocks	1 at Evansville (1/17/02)
Minutes	33 vs. Murray State (12/1/01)

## 20 Stacey White **Last Game:** at SIU 16 pts., 1 reb., 1 asst., 1 stl.

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

Only Redbird to start every game this season ... 2 FT 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, a string of 13 straight made ended at Bradley ... came within a rebound of a double-double twice, vs. Central Michigan (11 pts., 9 reb.) and at Indiana (12 pts., 9 reb.) ... older sister is ex-Purdue star Stephanie White-McCarty.

### Stacey's Career Bests

Points	16 at Southern Illinois (1/20/02)
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)



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## 21 Stacey Nickerson

**Last Game:** at SIU, 0 pts., 0 reb.

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

**Last Game:** at SIU 9 pts., 5 reb., 3 ast., 4 stl.

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) ... 17 reb. vs. Creighton (1/12) is No. 2 by an ISU player in Redbird Arena history ... 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 ..... 17 vs. Creighton (1/12/02)  
Assists ..... 8 vs. Wichita State (1/4/01)  
Steals ..... 6 (twice)  
Blocks ..... 2 vs. Northern Illinois (12/20/01)  
Minutes ..... 38 vs. Creighton (1/12/02)

## 31 Sharon Blade

**Last Game:** at SIU, dnp/injured

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

Sidelined until late January with foot injury ... matched career high with 9 rebounds at UNI (1/4) ... 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 with 17, 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 WIU (11/29/00), at UNI (1/2/02)  
Assists ..... 2 (twice)  
Steals ..... 2 (seven times)  
Blocks ..... 2 (four times)  
Minutes ..... 37 at Northern Illinois (11/17/00)

## 33 Chris Kutschinski

**Last Game:** at SIU, 0 pts., 1 reb., 1 steal

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

Her entry into game at SIU began a 7-minute stretch which produced a 20-3 Redbird run fueled by nine Saluki turnovers ... 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 after the basketball season ends ... AAU teammate of Redbird Michelle Harakas ... name pronounced koo-SCHIN-see.

### 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), at SIU (1/20/02)  
Blocks ..... 1 vs. Ball State (12/4/01)  
Minutes ..... 15 at Indiana (11/30/01)

## 55 Kristi Larson

**Last Game:** at SIU 15 pts., 5 reb., 1 steal

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

20-31 (.645) from the field in her last 3 games, averaging 14.0 ppg. during that run ... announcers selected her 'Player of the Game' for her 14 pts., 6 reb. in ISU upset of previously undefeated conference leader Creighton (1/12) ... No. 3 in Valley in blocked shots ... 16 points, 7 rebounds, 2 blocks in 1st Redbird win of the season over NIU (12/20) ... ranks No. 5 in career blocked shots at Illinois State.

### Kristi's Career Bests

Points ..... 22 vs. Northern Illinois (11/23/99)  
Rebounds ..... 13 at Ball St. (12/4/01), at UNI (1/4/02)  
Assists ..... 2 at Evansville (1/28/99)  
Steals ..... 2 (three times)  
Blocks ..... 3 (six times)  
Minutes ..... 37 at Southern Illinois (1/20/02)

## 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)