



Redbird Basketball

GAME NOTES

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Illinois State Schedule

Date	Opponent (TV)	Time/Result
11/4	SIU-EDWARDSVILLE (Ex.)	W, 89-70
11/14	EA Sports All-Stars (Ex.)	L, 65-66
11/23	UTAH STATE	Tonight

Bird Bit: It is the first time since Jan. 4, 1998 that Illinois State has hosted a team from the Big West Conference.

11/26 @ Central Michigan 6:30 p.m.
11/30 ILLINOIS-CHICAGO 7:05 p.m.

12/2 CHATTANOOGA 7:05 p.m.
12/7 @ Kent State 1:00 p.m.
12/15 @ Western Kentucky 3:00 p.m.
12/18 JACKSONVILLE 7:05 p.m.
12/21 NORTHERN ILLINOIS 2:05 p.m.
12/29 SMS* (Valley-TV) 2:05 p.m.

1/4 @ Southern Illinois* (WMBD) 3:05 p.m.
1/7 @ Northern Iowa* 7:05 p.m.
1/11 CREIGHTON* 7:05 p.m.
1/15 @ SMS* (WMBD) 7:05 p.m.
1/18 WICHITA STATE* 2:05 p.m.
1/20 @ Creighton* 7:05 p.m.
1/25 @ Evansville* 7:05 p.m.
1/29 NORTHERN IOWA* 7:05 p.m.

2/1 BRADLEY* (WMBD) 4:05 p.m.
2/4 @ Wichita State* 7:05 p.m.
2/8 INDIANA STATE* (WMBD) 2:05 p.m.
2/12 @ Bradley* (WEEK) 7:35 p.m.
2/15 DRAKE* 7:05 p.m.
2/19 EVANSVILLE* 7:05 p.m.
2/22 @ Bracket Buster (ESPN) TBA
2/26 @ Drake* 7:05 p.m.

3/1 @ Indiana State* (WMBD) 1:05 p.m.
3/3 S. ILLINOIS* (Valley-TV) 6:05 p.m.
3/7-10 @ Missouri Valley Conference Tournament

All times listed are CT

Home games in CAPS

*=Missouri Valley Conference game

ILLINOIS STATE MEDIA RELATIONS

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REDBIRD ARENA TICKET OFFICE

309/438-8000



ILLINOIS STATE REDBIRDS (0-0)

VS.



1
GAME

UTAH STATE AGGIES (0-0)

Saturday, November 23, 2002 • 7:05 p.m.
Redbird Arena (10,200) • Normal, Ill.

THE GAME

The Probable Starters:

ILLINOIS STATE REDBIRDS (0-0)

					ppg	rpg	apg
F	2	Gregg Alexander	6-4	195	So.-1L	Lincoln, Ill.	10.0
F	23	Baboucarr Bojang	6-9	205	Sr.-1L	Greenville, S.C.	13.2
C	5	Andy Strandmark	6-11	240	Sr.-3L	Geneseo, Ill.	2.9
G	11	Vince Greene	5-9	160	So.-1L	Chicago, Ill.	4.7
G	24	Trey Guidry	6-2	185	So.-TR	Baton Rouge, La.	-
						-	-

UTAH STATE AGGIES (0-0)

					ppg	rpg	apg
F	2	Desmond Penigar	6-7	245	Sr.-1L	Upland, Calif.	17.2
F	5	Toraino Johnson	6-4	215	Sr.-2L	El Paso, Texas	4.3
C	11	Mike Puzy	6-9	240	Sr.-TR	Roy, Utah	-
G	1	Ronnie Ross	6-1	190	Sr.-1L	Jeanerette, La.	7.1
G	20	Mark Brown	5-10	150	Jr.-JC	Tucson, Ariz.	-
						-	-

NOTE – (*) indicates blocks per game.

About The Game: Tonight is the season-opener for both Illinois State and Utah State. The Redbirds were picked fourth in the Missouri Valley Conference preseason poll, while the Aggies were selected second in the Big West Conference with nine first-place votes.

Series History: This is the third meeting between the two programs and the first in Normal, Ill. The 'Birds own a 2-0 advantage with an 80-74 win on Dec. 16, 1983 in the first round of the Indiana Classic and a 93-87 overtime victory at Utah State in the first round of the NIT.

Last Meeting: Maurice Trotter poured in 29 points to lead the Redbirds to a 93-87 overtime win over Utah State in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament on March 16, 1995.

On the Air: John Fitzgerald, play-by-play; Mike Matthews, color; Bruce Evans, sideline (home only) and Tim Fisher, studio host. Affiliates: WJBC (AM 1230/Bloomington), flagship; WZOE (AM 1490/Princeton); WFMB (AM 1450/Springfield). All Redbird broadcasts can be heard via Internet at either sports.yahoo.com or wjbc.com. WJBC also carries Richardson's weekly call-in show, which generally airs each Thursday from 6:07-7 pm, depending on the schedule.

Tonight's Promotions: Tonight is "Pack the Place" at Redbird Arena. Groups of 10-99 can get tickets for \$2 each, while groups of 100+ can purchase tickets for \$1 a piece. In addition, it is also Family Night – for \$16, a family of four receives tickets to the game along with a coupon to use at the concession stand. Tickets for Illinois State home games can be purchased from the ticket office at Redbird Arena (309/438-8000).

THE COACHES

Tom Richardson (St. Xavier '77) is 48-43 in his fourth season at Illinois State. He is assisted by Chad Altadonna, Lance Irvin and Kirk Sarff. Richardson is 31-28 against Valley opponents, 17-15 vs. non-conference foes, 31-10 at home, 12-27 on the road and 5-6 on neutral floors.

Stew Morrill (Gonzaga '74) is starting his fifth season at Utah State and owns a 94-33 mark. He has a 16-year head coaching career with a 312-171 record.



TALE OF THE TAPE (2001-02)



W-L Record	17-14	23-8
ESPN/USA Today	UR	UR
AP Poll	UR	UR
Points Scored	67.1	67.0
Points Allowed	67.9	58.1
Scoring Margin	-0.8	+8.9
FG Percentage	44.2	47.1
Def. FG Percentage	47.1	39.3
3-pt. Percentage	37.1	34.7
Def. 3-pt. Percentage	34.4	28.6
FT Percentage	77.5	71.8
Offensive Rebounds	9.9	11.5
Total Rebounds	31.3	36.0
Rebounding Margin	-1.5	+6.5
Assists	14.1	14.3
Turnover Average	14.4	13.7
Turnover Margin	+0.9	-0.9
Steal Average	6.7	5.0
Block Average	2.2	3.0
Fouls	17.9	15.5

WEEKLY MEDIA CONFERENCE

All start at 3 p.m. and are located in the Redbird Arena press room off of the southwest loading dock.

- Tuesday, November 19
- Monday, November 25
- Tuesday, December 3
- Tuesday, December 10
- Tuesday, December 17
- Thursday, January 2
- Wednesday, January 8
- Tuesday, January 14
- Tuesday, January 21
- Tuesday, January 28
- Wednesday, February 5
- Tuesday, February 11
- Tuesday, February 18
- Tuesday, February 25
- Tuesday, March 4

WHAT'S BACK

Here's a look at what Illinois State returns heading into the 2002-03 season by percentage in key statistical categories ...

Scoring	.....	49.5%
Three-Point Field Goals	.....	49.4%
Rebounding	.....	63.2%
Assists	.....	42.4%
Steals	.....	56.5%
Blocks	.....	55.2%
Minutes	.....	51.6%

About the Utah State Aggies

- Utah State is located in Logan, Utah and has an enrollment of 21,490. The Aggies are members of the Big West Conference.
- The Aggies have posted three straight 20 win seasons and have two NCAA appearances (2000 & 2001) and one NIT bid (2002) during that time. They have also won two regular season and tournament Big West championships in that span.
- Under head coach Stew Morill, Utah State has had one all-American, six first team All-Big West selections and nine all-conference honorees. Morill, who is the 34th winningest active coach in the country, has also claimed two league coach of the year awards.
- In the last three seasons, the Aggies have totaled 79 wins, which ranks No. 8 in the nation. They have also posted a .798 winning percentage which ranks No. 6 nationally in a tie with Kansas.
- Utah State was picked to finish second in the league by the conference media in the preseason poll, but collected nine first-place votes.
- Senior forward Desmond Penigar leads the Aggies and was a 2001-02 first team All-Big West selection. Penigar led Utah State in scoring last season with 17.2 tallies per game.
- The Aggies return three starters and eight letterwinners.
- *Street & Smith's* rated Utah State's junior college recruiting class as No. 9 in the country, while *Basketball Times* ranked the Aggie bench as No. 10 nationally. *College Hoops Insider* lists Utah State as the No. 13 mid-major program in the nation.

Utah State Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
11/2	EA SPORTS ALL-STARS (Ex.)	W, 106-97
11/15	NEXT LEVEL (Ex.)	W, 83-68
11/23	at Illinois State	Tonight
11/26	WHITMAN COLLEGE	8:05 p.m.
11/29	vs. Vermont^	9:35 p.m.
11/30	vs. Drake^	9:35 p.m.
12/1	at Hawai'i-Hilo	7:05 p.m.
12/7	at Jackson State	7:05 p.m.
12/14	at Brigham Young	8:05 p.m.
12/17	UTAH	8:05 p.m.
12/21	WEBER STATE	8:05 p.m.
12/27	ARKANSAS STATE%	9:05 p.m.
12/28	vs. IDAHO STATE/UMKC%	6:30/9:05 p.m.
1/2	at CS Northridge*	9:05 p.m.
1/4	at Pacific*	9:05 p.m.
1/9	CAL POLY*	8:05 p.m.
1/11	UC SANTA BARBARA*	9:05 p.m.
1/15	at UC Irvine*	9:05 p.m.
1/18	at Long Beach State*	9:35 p.m.
1/23	UC RIVERSIDE*	8:05 p.m.
1/25	CS FULLERTON*	8:05 p.m.
2/1	at Idaho*	9:05 p.m.
2/6	at UC Santa Barbara*	9:05 p.m.
2/8	at Cal Poly*	9:05 p.m.
2/13	UC IRVINE*	7:35 p.m.
2/15	LONG BEACH STATE*	8:05 p.m.
2/20	at CS Fullerton*	9:05 p.m.
2/22	at UC Riverside*	9:05 p.m.
3/1	IDAHO*	8:05 p.m.
3/6	CS NORTHRIDGE*	7:35 p.m.
3/8	PACIFIC*	7:05 p.m.
3/13-15	at Big West Tournament	

All times listed are CST

^Hawai'i-Hilo Tournament

%Gossner Foods Classic

*Big West Conference Game

For Openers

Under head coach **Tom Richardson**, the Redbirds are 2-1 in home openers and 3-0 in season openers. Since Illinois State became a Division I program in 1970, the 'Birds are 19-13 in campaign starters and 24-8 in home debuts.

Greene Means Go

And that is just what sophomore **Vince Greene** did as an offensive weapon in the Redbirds' two exhibition games. Greene averaged 21 points per contest, while pouring in 42 points in 60 minutes of action. He also shot 16-for-22 (.727) from the field, including an impressive 9-of-11 (.818) on treys. Against SIU-Edwardsville, Greene pumped in a game-high 26 points which was the most points by a Redbird since Tarise Bryson equalled the feat against Brazil Select on Nov. 9, 1999.

Big Men Breakout Bids

The Illinois State careers of current big man **Andy Strandmark** and former Redbird center Brian Kern (1991-95) up to this point are extremely similar and head coach **Tom Richardson** hopes that they continue along the same path. Through his first three seasons, Strandmark has averaged 2.5 points and 2.9 rebounds per game. In that same stretch, Kern averaged 2.9 points and 1.7 boards per game, but in his senior season posted 10.1 points and 4.8 rebounds per contest. With Strandmark's play in Australia and in the two exhibition games, the career parallel looks as if it could continue.

One Class Short

These words said by an academic advisor to a student expecting to graduate could force anxiety and stress, but for the Redbirds it's nothing to fret – there just isn't a junior class. With the early retirement of Dirk Williams, due to multiple concussions, the 'Birds are left without a third-year player. The 2002-03 roster consists of four seniors, five sophomores and four freshmen. The last time the Redbirds sent a team out on the floor comprised of just three classes was in 1997-98, when the Redbirds returned everyone from their NCAA qualifying season and didn't have a single freshman on the squad.



The Big West & The Big Top Are Big Time

The last time a team from the Big West Conference played under the circus-tent roof of Redbird Arena was on January 4, 1998 when Pacific and eventual NBA No. 1 draft choice Michael Olowokandi came to Normal, Ill., for a non-conference ESPN matchup. In addition to being televised nationally, *Sports Illustrated* sent a photographer to showcase the No. 1 pick that resulted in a two-page spread. In addition to all the national attention, the game wasn't bad either. Illinois State won 64-63.

Diaper Dandy Debuts

Redshirt freshman **Kevin Troc** and true freshmen **Marcus Arnold, Chris Burras** and **Dana Ford** will all take the Redbird Arena floor for the first official games of their careers. To the right is a list of the top scoring efforts by freshman in their first games.

Player (Year)	Points
1. Billy Lewis (1974)	25
2. Hank Cornley (1980)	19
Victor Williams (1998)	19
4. Roger Powell (1972)	17
5. Bubbles Hawkins (1972)	16
P.J. Smith (1999)	16
7. Dan Muller (1994)	14
8. Markku Larkio (1993)	11

Bojang One of Valley's Elite

Senior **Baboucarr Bojang** was named to the preseason all-league team at the Missouri Valley Conference's media day. Bojang claimed second-team honors in 2001-02 and joined Creighton's Kyle Korver, Drake's Luke McDonald and Southern Illinois' Kent Williams and Jermaine Dearman on the All-Valley team.

The Power of Three

As voted by the players, **Gregg Alexander, Baboucarr Bojang** and **Vince Greene** will serve as Redbird captains for the 2002-03 season. It is the first time since 1996-97, that Illinois State has had three captains. That year, the 'Birds were led by Dan Muller, Jamar Smiley and Rob Gibbons and went on to earn an NCAA Tournament bid with a 34-6 record.

A League of Their Own

For a second-straight season, Illinois State non-conference slate will be a challenging one from top to bottom. In fact, if ISU's non-league opponents joined together to form a conference it would be The Winner's League. After all, the 11 non-league foes (including all the possible Bracket Buster opponents) combined for 213 wins last season, or 19.4 each. The squads also combined for 5 NCAA appearances and 2 NIT bids.

Times They Are a Changin'

Well, luckily not all of them ... just the game at Kent State. Initially the game against the Golden Flashes was scheduled for 2 p.m. CST, but has since been moved up an hour and will now tip-off at 1 p.m. CST.

Slightly Above Average Valley Year

With 12 league victories last season, it was an "average" year for Illinois State. Since the Redbirds joined the Valley for the 1981-82 season, Illinois State has averaged 10.3 conference wins per year. Five of those 21 campaigns were just 16-game Valley schedules, while four others included only 14 games. On average, Illinois State has finished four games over .500 in league play.

International Flair

The 2002 trip to Australia marked the third international tour for the Redbirds. The team traveled to Europe in both 1992 and 1997, before the Australian tour this year. Overseas, the 'Birds have had their share of success with a 12-8 overall mark, but the real story comes in their record after returning home. ISU has posted a combined 44-16 (.733) record with two Missouri Valley Conference regular-season titles in the seasons immediately following the first two trips.

Mr. Bojang-les

It didn't take **Baboucarr Bojang** long to make an impact with the Redbirds – one game. In his debut, Bojang posted a double-double and left Redbird fans screaming for an encore. Bojang tossed in 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds against Weber State and it was the first time since November 23, 1990, that a Redbird had a double-double performance in an opening game. The late Reggie Wilson poured in 22 points and hauled in 13 rebounds in the season opener at Dayton.

Bojang-les' Curtain Call

Baboucarr Bojang finished the 2001-02 season with nine double-doubles en route to being named the Redbirds' most valuable player. Bojang also earned second team All-Valley honors and was selected to the all-newcomer team.

THE LAST TIME THEY MET

Illinois State, Trotter Dump Utah State

LOGAN, Utah – Maurice Trotter pumped in a career-high 29 points as Illinois State took a 93-87 overtime decision from Utah State in opening round NIT action Thursday night at the Smith Spectrum.

In a tight game characterized by 17 ties and 26 lead changes, the Redbirds, paced by 10 points apiece from Trotter and Brian Kern, opened up a six-point edge with just less than two minutes to play in the first half. A lay-up by Eric Franson capped a five-point spurt for the Aggies, and sliced Illinois State's lead to 40-39 at the intermission.

The second half was much like the first, as the largest lead for either squad was four. A jumper by Trotter with 10 seconds left broke a 78-all tie. The Aggies had the answer, however, as a running jumper by Corwin Woodard seven seconds later tied the game, 80-80, and forced the extra stanza.

Once in overtime, a three-pointer and two free throws by Trotter gave Illinois State an 85-84 lead. After a jumper by Jamar Smiley gave the Redbirds a 87-86 edge, Woodard sank one of two free throws to knot the score at 87. Kenny Wright broke the tie for good with a pair of lay-ups, and Trotter added two charity tosses to seal the win.

After Trotter's 29, Kern finished with 16 points for the Redbirds, while Dan Muller chipped in 11. Woodard led the Aggies with 28 points, while Eric Franson, who netted 12 in the first half, finished with 15.

With the win, Illinois State improved to 20-12, the Redbirds' first 20-win season in 10 years. The victory also marked ISU's first post-season triumph in eight seasons. Utah State finished the season at 21-8.

ILLINOIS STATE 93, Utah State 87

March 16, 1995 • Dee Glen Smith Spectrum • First Round NIT

ILLINOIS ST.	Min.	FG-A	FT-A	O-REB	A	PF	TP
Wright, f	16	3-5	0-0	2-3	0	3	6
Muller, f	35	4-9	0-0	0-5	3	1	11
Kern, c	35	8-11	0-0	0-6	3	1	16
Trotter, g	33	7-15	11-11	2-4	0	2	29
Cason, g	28	3-8	0-0	0-1	7	1	6
Franklin	29	2-9	2-2	1-5	1	3	6
Smiley	14	4-6	2-2	1-2	8	4	10
Altadonna	17	3-5	1-1	0-3	3	1	7
Cooper	3	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Gibbons	15	1-2	0-0	0-2	0	1	2
Totals	200	35-71	16-16	10-39	25	17	93

Team Pct.: FG – .493; FT – 1.000

3-Pt.: 7-24, .342 (Trotter 4-10, Cason 0-1, Smiley 0-2, Altadonna 0-2, Cooper 0-1, Kern 0-1, Muller 3-7)

Blocks: 3 (Gibbons 1, Kern 1, Muller 1)

Turnovers: 11 (Trotter 2, Franklin 2, Cason 1, Smiley 1, Cooper 1, Muller 1)

Steals: 4 (Cason 1, Wright 1, Smiley 1, Kern 1)

Utah State	Min.	FG-A	FT-A	O-REB	A	PF	TP
Spillers, f	26	6-8	0-0	3-8	4	2	12
Mills, f	29	5-10	5-6	2-6	2	1	15
Franson, c	39	5-15	5-6	6-9	1	1	15
Woodard, g	43	10-24	3-4	1-6	3	4	28
Anderson, g	38	2-9	1-6	1-3	4	4	5
Simms	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Womack	4	1-2	1-2	0-1	0	0	3
Cormier	10	2-3	0-1	2-3	3	3	4
Totals	200	33-74	16-27	18-44	17	18	87

Team Pct.: FG – .446; FT – .592

3-Pt.: 5-16, .312 (Woodard 5-13, Anderson 0-1, Mills 0-1, Womack 0-1)

Blocks: 3 (Anderson 1, Mills 1, Franson 1)

Turnovers: 11 (Woodard 1, Anderson 1, Spillers 1, Mills 4, Wickizer 1, Womack 2, Cormier 1)

Steals: 5 (Woodard 2, Mills 2, Cormier 1)

Officials: Jerry White, Terry Christman, Donald McAllister

Attendance: 10,205

Halftime Score: ILLINOIS STATE 40, Utah State 39



CHART CLIMBERS

Career 3-Point FG Leaders

1. Tarise Bryson (1999-02)	214
10. Antonio Cooper (1992-96)	93
- Gregg Alexander (2001-)	58

Career Double-Digit Rebounding Games

1. Ron DeVries	60
5. Joe Galvin	23
- Baboucarr Bojang	9

Career Blocked Shots Leaders

1. LeRoy Watkins (1996-99)	143
8. Dan Muller (1994-98)	57
Hank Cornley (1980-84)	57
- Andy Strandmark (1999-)	41

Career Minutes Averaged Leader

1. Tarise Bryson (1998-02)	34.1
2. Dan Muller (1994-98)	32.6
3. Gregg Alexander (2001-)	32.4
4. Michael McKenny (1981-85)	31.8

CAREER STARTS/GAMES

No.	Player	Illinois St.		GP	GS
		1	2		
1	Chris Burras	0	0		
2	Gregg Alexander	31	30		
3	Dana Ford	0	0		
5	Andy Strandmark	86	22		
10	Kevin Troc	0	0		
11	Vince Greene	31	2		
21	Marcus Arnold	0	0		
23	Baboucarr Bojang	31	29		
24	Trey Guidry	0	0		
34	Kenneth Hill	0	0		
40	Casey Reid	31	3		
44	Brett Gillan	30	0		

2002-03 VALLEY PRESEASON POLL

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
1. Creighton	25	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	290
2. S. Illinois	5	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	274
3. Wichita St.	—	—	9	15	2	3	1	—	—	—	208
4. Illinois State	—	1	11	7	7	1	3	—	—	—	205
5. Drake	—	—	8	3	9	4	3	1	2	—	178
6. Bradley	—	—	—	4	3	8	5	7	2	1	132
7. N. Iowa	—	—	—	—	3	9	8	5	3	2	118
8. SMS	—	—	1	1	3	2	8	11	4	—	116
9. Indiana St.	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	17	6	—	71
10. Evansville	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	2	21	53

2001-02 FINAL VALLEY STANDINGS

	MVC			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
1. S. Illinois	14	4	.778	26	7	.788
Creighton	14	4	.778	22	8	.733
3. Illinois State	12	6	.667	17	14	.548
4. SMS	11	7	.611	17	15	.531
5. Wichita State	9	9	.500	15	15	.500
Drake	9	9	.500	14	15	.483
7. Northern Iowa	8	10	.444	14	15	.483
8. Bradley	5	13	.278	9	20	.310
9. Indiana State	4	14	.222	6	22	.214
Evansville	4	14	.222	7	21	.250

Sensational From the Stripe

The 2001-02 free throw shooting of the Redbirds can be summed up in one word – sensational. The 'Birds set the school standard from the charity stripe with a league-leading 77.5% shooting. The mark bettered the 1983-84 team, which shot 77.4% from the line.

FT Five-Peat?

With the 77.5% effort from the line last season, the Redbirds eclipsed the 70% shooting mark for a fourth-straight season. ISU shot 72.8% from the free throw line in 2000-01, 74% in 1999-2000 and 73.5% in 1998-99. The Redbirds have not had a stretch of five-straight seasons since it bettered 70% from 1975-1979.

Put Me in Coach, I'm Ready to Play

Trey Guidry, a 6-2 guard, sat out the entire 2001-02 season to meet NCAA transfer rules. The North Carolina State transfer was a spot starter for the Wolfpack in 2000-01 as a freshman and recorded a scoring best of 15 points against Wake Forest.

One Newcomer Not So New

Former all-conference and all-area selection at Lockport High School, Kevin Troc sat out last season as a redshirt. Troc averaged 14.0 points, seven rebounds and six assists per game as a senior prep. He was able to practice with the 'Birds for the majority of the season, but missed a couple of months after developing a staph infection during the trip to Pittsburgh.

No Thanks, I'm Just Watching

Neil Plank, a 6-5 swing player, has transferred to Illinois State from Wisconsin, but cannot play for the Redbirds until the 2003-04 season. NCAA rules require that he sit out one season. Plank played in 27 games for the Badgers as a freshman, scoring 25 points in 173 minutes of action.

Freshmen Trey-ning

Gregg Alexander didn't have any problem adjusting to the next level as a true freshman. The Lincoln, Ill., native finished the season with a team-high 58 made 3-pointers. The 58 threes set the standard for freshman treys by a Redbird eclipsing Dan Muller's 50 during the 1994-95 season. Alexander also shot 39.2% from behind the arc, which topped the previous Redbird freshman best of 37.7% by Markku Larkio.

We Have a Winner

With a 17-14 record last season, the Redbirds finished above .500 for the 29th time in 32 seasons at the Division I level. It was also the 'Birds' tenth winning season in the last 11 years.

Missed It By That Much

The Redbirds nearly claimed the national title last season. In fact, they only missed the title by less than a percentage point – the national free throw title. The 'Birds 77.5% accuracy from the line trailed only Morehead State (78.4%) and Loyola Marymount (77.7%).

The Minuteman

As a freshman, Gregg Alexander surpassed former Redbird great Dan Muller's first-year minute record of 953. Alexander compiled a team-high 1,004 minutes in his debut season, logging 32.4 per contest.

The Addition of Size, Size and More Size

On November 13, 2002, the Illinois State basketball team added 241 inches and 670 pounds to the program next season with the inking of **Ronnie Carlwell** (6-10, 250, Maywood, Ill. • Proviso East), **Greg Dilligard** (6-8, 215, LaBelle, Mo. • Highland) and **Michael Sams** (6-7, 205, Mt. Zion, Ill. • Mt. Zion) on the first day of the early signing period. The Redbirds have one scholarship left to fill.

Redbird Flashback

Since becoming an NCAA Division I program in 1970, the Redbirds have posted a 2-2 record when playing on November 23, one of Illinois State's two victories occurred last season and it is today's Redbird

Flashback: Nov. 23, 2001 • Moon Township, Pa. – Illinois State tops UC Irvine 58-52 in the first round of the University Hoops Classic. Baboucarr Bojang paced the 'Birds with 13 points and eight boards, while the Redbird defense held eventual Big West Player of the Year, Jerry Green, to 13 points on 5-for-13 shooting. In addition to Bojang's 13 points, Shawn Jeppson added 12 and Vince Greene chipped in 11. The win helped the Redbirds to improve to 2-0 on the season.



EXHIBITION 1

Greene Leads 'Birds in Exhibition Win

NORMAL, III. – Sophomore point guard Vince Greene scored a game-high 26 points, including six three-pointers, as Illinois State won its first exhibition of the season, 89-70, over SIU-Edwardsville at Redbird Arena.

Baboucar Bojang finished with 14 points and six rebounds for the 'Birds, while true freshman Chris Burras came off the bench to score 12.

SIU-Edwardsville was led by Ron Jones with 19 points, 17 of which came in the second half. Rob Baumgardner and Ben Garwitz each contributed 13 points and Baumgardner also led the Cougars in rebounding with six boards. The Cougars never led in the entire game and after the initial 12-point deficit never got closer than seven points.

Illinois State opened up the game with a 12-0 run, highlighted by two three-pointers and a cross-over lay-up by Greene. The 'Birds defense forced eight Cougar turnovers in the first 12 minutes of the game, including the team's first two possessions.

Greene led all scorers in the first half with 10 points, while Gregg Alexander chipped in eight first half points on 3-for-4 shooting. ISU shot 61 percent from the field in the first half, including 5-for-8 from beyond the arc.

Down 45-24 at halftime, the Cougars came out firing in the second half and outscored the 'Birds 26-15 over the first 8:30 minutes led by nine points apiece by junior Ron Jones and freshman Logan Glosser narrowing the Redbird lead to 10. Following a timeout with 11:05 remaining in the game, the 'Birds went on a 13-0 run to extend their lead back to 23, which tied their largest lead of the night.

ILLINOIS STATE 89, SIU-Edwardsville 70

November 4, 2002 • Redbird Arena

SIU-E	Min.	FG-A	FT-A	O-REB	A	PF	TP
Bauersachs, f	24	2-3	0-0	0-3	0	1	4
Mueller, c	8	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Bradford, g	30	0-2	1-2	1-3	2	2	1
Jones, g	33	7-13	2-2	0-0	2	1	19
Baumgardner, g	30	4-10	3-4	1-6	9	2	13
Gajewski	5	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Zick	2	0-0	0-1	0-1	0	0	0
Garwitz	12	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Heflin	20	6-10	0-0	1-3	1	5	13
Glosser	21	4-6	1-1	0-3	1	1	12
Ward	10	3-4	0-0	0-2	2	2	6
Salak	5	0-2	0-0	1-1	0	1	0
Totals	200	27-51	7-10	5-27	20	15	70

Team Pct.: FG – .529; FT – .700

3-Pt.: 9-15, .600 (Bradford 0-1, Jones 3-4, Baumgardner 2-4, Heflin 1-1, Glosser 3-5)

Blocks: 1 (Ward 1)

Turnovers: 19 (Bauersachs 1, Bradford 3, Jones 4, Baumgardner 3, Gajewski 2, Heflin 1, Glosser 2, Ward 1, Team 2)

Steals: 3 (Bradford 2, Heflin 1)

ILLINOIS ST.	Min.	FG-A	FT-A	O-REB	A	PF	TP
Bojang, f	20	6-8	2-4	3-6	0	2	14
Strandmark, c	18	4-6	0-0	1-3	1	3	8
Alexander, g	26	3-6	0-0	0-3	2	0	8
Ford, g	21	2-8	0-0	1-6	5	0	4
Greene, g	27	10-14	0-1	1-1	4	0	26
Burras	20	4-10	4-6	0-1	2	2	12
Troc	20	2-3	0-0	0-2	3	3	5
Arnold	19	3-5	0-0	0-1	0	1	6
Hill	3	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Reid	21	2-3	2-3	1-3	3	1	6
Gillan	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Totals	200	36-64	8-14	9-30	21	12	89

Team Pct.: FG – .563; FT – .571

3-Pt.: 9-13, .692 (Alexander 2-3, Greene 6-7, Burras 0-2, Troc 1-1)

Blocks: 4 (Strandmark 2, Ford 1, Arnold 1)

Turnovers: 8 (Bojang 1, Strandmark 4, Burras 1, Troc 2)

Steals: 7 (Alexander 4, Ford 1, Burras 2)

Officials: Jerry Seibert, Frank Spencer, Mike Litzelfelner

Attendance: 4,049

Halftime Score: ILLINOIS STATE 45, SIU-Edwardsville 24

EXHIBITION 2

ISU Drops Second Exhibition to EA Sports

NORMAL, III. – Vince Greene led all scorers with 16 points, but Illinois State could not pick up the victory dropping its second and final exhibition game of the season, 66-65, to the EA Sports All-Stars Thursday night at Redbird Arena.

Illinois State also got 15 points and 10 rebounds from Baboucar Bojang, while Andy Strandmark, Gregg Alexander and Trey Guidry each contributed seven points. The 'Birds shot 54 percent from the field in the first half, but managed only 41 percent in the second half on 10-for-24 shooting.

EA Sports, 1-9, only shot only 7-for-20 from the charity stripe, including 4-for-15 in the second half. EA Sports was led by former Fighting Illini player Sergio McClain with 13 points, while Doc Taylor, who played at Cleveland State chipped in 12.

Bojang showed his offensive skills early in the game by scoring nine of the Redbirds' first 11 points, but hot three-point shooting (3-for-3) from McClain kept the game tight midway through the first half. Back-to-back jumpers from Greene helped ignite a 13-5 run to take the lead at 24-20 with just over seven minutes remaining.

Marcus Arnold hit two low-post jumpers late in the first half and the Redbirds went into the half with a one-point lead, 36-35. Bojang and McClain led each of their respective teams in first-half scoring with 11 points.

EA Sports scored 14 points of its first 19 points in the second half off lay-ups or dunks and were able to take a 54-47 lead, the largest of the night for either team, with just under nine minutes left in the game. However, the 'Birds went on an 11-2 run over the next 3:37 led by four points from Gregg Alexander to take the lead at 58-56 with five minutes remaining.

EA Sports 66, ILLINOIS STATE 65

November 14, 2002 • Redbird Arena

EA Sports	Min.	FG-A	FT-A	O-REB	A	PF	TP
McClain, f	30	5-12	0-2	0-2	4	2	13
Johnson, f	24	3-6	0-4	0-5	2	3	6
Turner, c	36	5-7	1-4	2-10	3	2	11
Dobbs, g	25	5-7	0-1	1-3	1	1	11
Taylor, g	32	5-6	2-3	0-1	4	3	12
Jones	20	1-6	0-2	2-2	0	1	3
Brownlee	13	2-7	0-0	0-0	1	0	6
Vaughn	20	1-1	2-2	0-1	2	2	4
Totals	200	27-52	5-18	6-27	17	14	66

Team Pct.: FG – .519; FT – .278

3-Pt.: 7-20, .350 (McClain 3-7, Johnson 0-3, Dobbs 1-1, Jones 1-4, Brownlee 2-5)

Blocks: 1 (Taylor 1)

Turnovers: 9 (Johnson 2, Taylor 4, Jones 2, Brownlee 1)

Steals: 8 (Johnson 1, Turner 1, Dobbs 1, Taylor 1, Jones 2, Vaughn 2)

ILLINOIS ST.	Min.	FG-A	FT-A	O-REB	A	PF	TP
Bojang, f	30	6-13	3-4	2-10	1	2	15
Reid, f	15	0-0	2-2	0-1	2	4	2
Strandmark, c	26	3-6	1-1	1-3	1	3	7
Alexander, g	27	2-6	2-3	0-3	2	1	7
Greene, g	33	6-8	1-2	0-3	4	1	16
Burras	8	2-3	1-2	0-5	0	0	5
Ford	8	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	2	0
Troc	19	1-4	0-0	0-2	4	1	2
Arnold	15	2-6	0-0	1-2	0	3	4
Guidry	19	3-6	0-0	0-2	0	2	7
Totals	200	25-52	10-14	7-35	15	19	65

Team Pct.: FG – .481; FT – .714

3-Pt.: 5-15, .333 (Alexander 1-4, Greene 3-4, Burras 0-1, Troc 0-2, Guidry 1-4)

Blocks: 3 (Bojang 1, Strandmark 2)

Turnovers: 12 (Bojang 1, Reid 1, Strandmark 3, Alexander 1, Ford 1, Troc 3, Guidry 2)

Steals: 2 (Ford 1, Arnold 1)

Officials: Ed Hightower, Rob Kruger, Mark Mayhood

Attendance: 4,656

Halftime Score: ILLINOIS STATE 36, EA Sports 35