



2002-03 DRAKE BASKETBALL

MVC Tournament: Drake vs. Illinois State

Sports Information Office
(515) 271-3012
www.drakebulldogs.org

2002-03 DRAKE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 22	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	W, 74-62
Nov. 26	IOWA	L, 50-49
Nov. 29	@Hawaii-Hilo	W, 70-50
Nov. 30	Utah State*	L, 73-61
Dec. 1	Vermont*	W, 83-78 (2 OT)
Dec. 4	@Northern Illinois	L, 77-62
Dec. 8	@Central Michigan	L, 73-61
Dec. 11	GRINNELL	W, 162-110
Dec. 14	WESTERN ILLINOIS	W, 72-62
Dec. 22	@Iowa State	L, 76-55
Dec. 29	@Denver	L, 87-62
Jan. 2	@Southern Illinois	L, 76-63
Jan. 5	@Creighton	L, 84-63
Jan. 8	SW MISSOURI STATE	L, 74-72 (2 OT)
Jan. 12	NORTHERN IOWA	W, 75-73
Jan. 15	@Bradley	L, 72-57
Jan. 18	INDIANA STATE	W, 68-54
Jan. 21	@Wichita State	L, 69-61
Jan. 28	@Southwest Missouri State	L, 65-45
Feb. 1	CREIGHTON	L, 88-68
Feb. 6	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	L, 65-64
Feb. 8	EVANSVILLE	L, 62-51
Feb. 12	@Indiana State	L, 63-62
Feb. 15	@Illinois State	W, 59-48
Feb. 19	WICHITA STATE	L, 80-70
Feb. 22	@Evansville	W, 81-73
Feb. 26	ILLINOIS STATE	W, 70-63
March 1	@Northern Iowa	L, 59-48
March 3	BRADLEY	L, 77-67
March 7	#Illinois State	6:05 p.m.
March 8	#Southern Illinois	12:05 p.m.
March 9	#MVC Tournament	2:37 p.m.
March 10	#MVC Tournament	8:07 p.m.

*Hilo Shootout, Hilo, Hawaii #St. Louis, Mo.



DRAKE'S MVC TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Record:	9-24	Qualifying Round:	3-3
Neutral:	7-13	Quarterfinal Round:	6-15
Home:	1-1	Semifinal Round:	0-6
Road:	1-10		

MVC TOURNAMENT SERIES RECORD VS. OPPONENTS

Bradley:	3-4	New Mexico State:	0-1
Creighton:	1-3	SW Missouri State:	0-1
Evansville:	0-0	Southern Illinois:	1-2
Illinois State:	1-7	Tulsa:	0-2
Indiana State:	0-0	Wichita State:	1-3
Northern Iowa:	2-1		

Drake Sports Information

Mike Mahon, Men's Basketball Contact
Mary Ann Tierney, Media Assistant
Lauri Pyatt, Media Assistant

SID Office Phone: (515) 271-3012

SID Fax Number: (515) 271-3015

Basketball Office Number: (515) 271-3894

Drake Headquarters in St. Louis

Adam's Mark Hotel Phone: (314) 241-7400
Savvis Center Press Row: (314) 589-5832

#8 SEED DRAKE BULLDOGS (10-19, 5-13 MVC)

vs. #9 SEED ILLINOIS STATE REDBIRDS (7-20, 5-13 MVC)

Play-In Round — State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament
6:05 p.m., Friday, March 7, 2003 — Savvis Center (20,000), St. Louis, Mo.

DRAKE BULLDOGS: (Coach: Kurt Kanaskie, seventh year)

Pos.	Player (Ht., Yr., Hometown)	PPG	RPG	FG%	FT%
G-1	Lonnie Randolph (6-1, So., East Chicago, Ind.)	8.9	2.2	.431	.737
G-25	Luke McDonald (6-5, Jr., Lubbock, Texas)	13.3	2.5	.410	.853
C-40	Greg Danielson (6-9, Sr., Des Moines, Iowa)	13.7	9.0	.551	.637
F-4	J.J. Sola (6-7, Sr., Mission Viejo, Calif.)	14.6	5.3	.530	.791
F-23	Quantel Murphy (6-5, Fr., Denver, Colo.)	3.0	1.4	.583	.750

TOP RESERVES

F-3	T.J. Welton (6-6, Sr., Des Moines, Iowa)	3.7	2.6	.306	.830
G-5	Sean Tracy (6-4, Fr., Silver Spring, Md.)	2.2	1.5	.400	.500
G-10	Josh Robinson (6-3, Fr., Mahwah, N.J.)	4.3	1.7	.414	.593
G-24	David Newman (5-11, Sr., Des Moines, Iowa)	2.5	1.0	.315	.667
F-34	Josh Powell (6-7, Fr., Des Moines, Iowa)	1.3	1.4	.529	.600
F-35	David Bancroft (6-9, So., Marshfield, Mo.)	2.3	1.5	.731	.778

THE SETTING: Two teams who were involved in the most memorable game of the 2002 Missouri Valley Conference Tournament resume their rivalry while looking to parlay the opportunity to extend their seasons in the qualifying play-in round of the 2003 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Tournament.

The winner will face regular-season MVC champion Southern Illinois in the quarterfinal round at 12:05 p.m. Saturday.

The last four Drake-Illinois State games played in the MVC Tournament in St. Louis have been determined by a combined total of eight points, including last year's controversial 64-63 buzzer-beater finish won by Illinois State.

Both teams are looking to redeem themselves from disappointing seasons. Illinois State and Drake were picked to finish fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 2002-03 MVC preseason poll.

CARBON COPIES? Ironically, Drake and Illinois State had to wait until there were 17 days left in the regular season before facing one another for the first time. Now, they will be meeting for the third time in three weeks.

Both teams have played three common nonconference opponents: Utah State, Central Michigan and Northern Illinois.

Both teams feature sophomore starting point guards: Drake's Lonnie Randolph and Illinois State's Vince Greene.

Both teams feature senior starting post players in Drake's Greg Danielson and Illinois State's Andy Strandmark.

DRAKE IN MVC TOURNAMENT: Drake has won three of its six play-in qualifying round games in the MVC Tournament. Drake beat Illinois State, 57-55, in the qualifying play-in game of the 1991 MVC Tournament.

When the tournament field was expanded to allow all 10 league teams to play in 1997, Drake stopped Wichita State, 74-63, in the qualifying play-in round. Bradley beat Drake, 69-62, in the 1998 play-in qualifying round, while Illinois State stopped Drake, 51-47, in the 1999 play-in round. Drake held off Northern Iowa, 58-57, in the 2000 MVC play-in round game before losing to the Panthers, 59-53, in the 2001 MVC play-in round game.

DO THESE NUMBERS MATTER? Drake has won only nine games in the 26-year history of the MVC Tournament but six of those victories have occurred in odd-numbered years: 1997, 1981, 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1997.

Drake has a 2-2 record for qualifying play-in round games which have occurred in odd-numbered years, beating Illinois State, 57-55 in 1991; and Wichita State, 74-63, in 1997. Drake lost to Illinois State, 51-47, in 1999 and Northern Iowa, 59-53, in 2001.

DRAKE, MVC FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

Eight players on Drake's 13-man roster for the MVC Tournament are either freshmen or sophomores following a trend by several league schools which bodes for a bright future. Here is the breakdown of MVC schools ranked by most freshmen.

	Fr.	Soph.	Total
Evansville	5	5	10
Wichita State	5	4	9
Illinois State	4	5	9
Drake	4	4	8
Indiana State	4	2	6
Bradley	4	1	5
Southern Illinois	3	3	6
SW Missouri State	2	4	6
Northern Iowa	2	4	6
Creighton	1	5	6

Totals DO NOT include redshirts

ILLINOIS STATE SERIES NOTES

Overall — Illinois State leads, 37-19

Neutral Site — Illinois State leads, 4-1 (3-1 in St. Louis)

in Des Moines — Series Tied 12-12

in Normal — Illinois State leads, 21-6

Previous MVC Tournament Meetings

March 2, 1982 — Illinois State, 56-43 (Normal, Ill.)
 March 6, 1984 — Illinois State, 91-62 (Normal, Ill.)
 March 5, 1988 — Illinois State, 72-60 (Peoria, Ill.)
 March 3, 1990 — Illinois State, 77-62 (Normal, Ill.)
 March 1, 1991 — Drake, 57-55 (St. Louis, Mo.)
 March 7, 1993 — Illinois State, 60-59 (St. Louis, Mo.)
 Feb. 26, 1999 — Illinois State, 51-47 (St. Louis, Mo.)
 March 2, 2002 — Illinois State, 64-63 (St. Louis, Mo.)

2002-03 Statistical Comparison

Drake		Illinois State
67.4	Scoring	64.7
70.4	Scoring Defense	70.3
.466	FG %	.440
.458	Opp. FG%	.475
.341	3-pt. FG %	.435
.353	Opp. 3-pt. FG%	.400
.736	FT%	.708
32.2	Reb. Avg.	31.1
30.5	Opp. Reb.	32.2
13.6	Assist Avg.	11.5
14.7	TO Avg.	14.9
1.8	Blk. Avg.	2.4
4.0	Steal Avg.	6.3

Drake Home-Road Breakdown

Home Games		Road Games
74.0	Scoring Offense	61.3
70.8	Scoring Defense	69.0
.482	FG Percentage	.445
.450	Opp. FG Percentage	.459
.345	3-PT. FG Percentage	.335
5.8	3-PT. Baskets Made	5.1
34.9	Rebounding Avg.	30.4
12.9	Turnover Avg.	16.1

2002-03 DRAKE HONORS & AWARDS

J.J. Sola

Hawaii-Hilo Shootout All-Tournament Team
 MVC Player of Week Dec. 16

Greg Danielson

Hawaii-Hilo Shootout All-Tournament Team
 MVC Most Improved Team
 Second-Team All-MVC Playing Honors

Luke McDonald

Preseason All-MVC Team
 Honorable Mention All-MVC Playing Honors

T.J. Welton

Honorable Mention MVC Scholar-Athlete Team

SENIOR FAREWELL TOUR: The collegiate careers are nearing the end for Drake seniors **Greg Danielson, David Newman, J.J. Sola** and **T.J. Welton**. The group played their final home game in a Drake uniform last Monday against Bradley.

Danielson will be appearing in his 116th game which will tie the school mark of 116 career games by Bart Friedrich (1986-89). Newman has played in 58 games since transferring from Northwestern University in 2000. Welton, who transferred to Drake from Kirkwood Junior College in 2000, has played in 54 games. Sola, a transfer from Fullerton (Calif.) Junior College, has played in 46 games for Drake.

Danielson, Newman and Welton led Hoover High School in Des Moines to second in the 1998 Iowa Class 4A state tournament. **Newman** made his first start of this season Jan. 2 at Southern Illinois, while joining former prep teammates **Welton** and **Danielson** in the starting lineup. It marked the first time the Hoover trio had been in the starting lineup together during their Drake careers. Danielson, Newman and Welton also were in the starting lineup at Creighton Jan. 5 and against Bradley Monday.

DANIELSON, MCDONALD EARN MVC POST-SEASON HONORS: **Greg Danielson** has earned second-team All-Missouri Valley Conference playing honors, while **Luke McDonald** earned honorable mention all-league honors.

Danielson, a three-year starter, led the MVC in rebounding with a 9.0 average and also earned the most double-doubles with 12. Danielson, who averaged 13.7 points, also ranked fourth in the league in field goal percentage at .551.

McDonald, who led the MVC in scoring as a sophomore, has battled injuries throughout the season yet managed to average 13.3 points. He ranks fourth in the MVC in free throw percentage (.853). He ranks eighth on the MVC career three-point basket list with 239 entering Friday's MVC Tournament.

DUO PLAY BIG IN MVC TOURNAMENTS: Past history has shown that Drake's **Luke McDonald** and **Greg Danielson** have played their best basketball during the MVC Tournament.

At the 2002 MVC Tournament, McDonald scored a tournament-high 29 points, including five three-point baskets, in a quarterfinal round game against Illinois State. Danielson grabbed an MVC tournament high 13 rebounds against the Redbirds.

The point and rebound production were the highest by a player in any of the nine MVC Tournament games.

McDonald is averaging 22.5 points, including four three-point baskets in two career MVC Tournament games. Danielson is averaging 8.0 points and 7.8 rebounds in four career MVC Tournament games. Danielson also had 11 points and 13 rebounds in a play-in round game of the 2001 MVC Tournament.

THE SERIES: Illinois State owns a 37-19 lead in the series but Drake has won six of the last nine games. Drake stopped Illinois State, 59-48, in Normal, Ill., Feb. 15, and claimed a 70-63 home victory Feb. 26.

Two games played in the MVC Tournament in St. Louis, Mo., have been determined by one point with the Redbirds prevailing on both occasions: 60-59 in the 1993 semifinal round and the 64-63 verdict in the 2002 quarterfinal round.

2002 MVC TOURNAMENT RECAP: Illinois State 64, Drake 63 (St. Louis, Mo.), March 2, 2002

— Official proof that it's March in America arrived at about 10:20 p.m. in the quarterfinal round of the MVC Tournament. That's about the time Shawn Jeppson's 3-pointer from 25 feet fell through the basket at the buzzer, giving Illinois State the victory.

The shot, which left Jeppson's right hand with 1.7 seconds on the clock, ended the season for sixth-seeded Drake, which led by 15 points in the first half, by 12 points at halftime and by five points with one minute to play.

Jeppson missed a driving layup that would have tied the game, but the rebound went out of bounds off Drake's **Greg Danielson** and gave Illinois State a final chance with 4.9 seconds remaining.

Jeppson threw an inbounds pass to Gregg Alexander, who handed the ball back to him in the corner. After dribbling out to the left wing, Jeppson released the shot.

The following day MVC officials confirmed what television replays had shown that Jeppson had stepped out of bounds after receiving the ball from Alexander.

Drake's Luke McDonald hit five three-pointers and finished with a tournament-high 29 points. Ten of those points came in the game's final six minutes.

Andry Sola scored five points to help Drake open the game with a 7-2 run. The Bulldogs held Illinois State without a basket for 8 minutes 14 seconds midway through the first half (14:27-6:15) and took advantage by reeling off 10 straight points to grab an 18-6 lead.

A three-point basket by McDonald with 1:03 left in the first half gave the Bulldogs their biggest lead at 33-18. Relying on 54.5 percent shooting, Drake enjoyed a 33-21 halftime lead. Illinois State shot 56 percent in the second half to mount a comeback, including a sizzling 80 percent from three-point range by making eight of 10 three-point baskets.

Illinois State went on a 14-1 binge to grab its first lead at 49-47. The game then saw four lead changes and three ties until Drake opened a 60-56 lead following layups by McDonald and Sola. Two free throws by Shedrick Ford pulled the Redbirds within 60-58 with 1:37 left. McDonald countered with a three-point basket to give Drake a 63-58 lead with 1:19 left.

Sola finished with 12 points and four rebounds. Danielson grabbed a tournament-high 13 rebounds, but sat out six minutes midway of the second half when he picked up his fourth foul.

KANASKIE RANKS AMONG NCAA COACHING LEADERS

Drake coach Kurt Kanaskie entered the 2002-03 season, ranking second among all Missouri Valley Conference Coaches in victories by active coaches at 259.

Here are NCAA leaders entering this season.

No.	Coach	Team	Won
1.	Jim Phelan	Mount St. Mary's (Md.)	819
2.	Bob Knight	Texas Tech	787
53.	Royce Waltman	Indiana State	270
54.	Kurt Kanaskie	Drake	259
73.	Dana Altman	Creighton	229

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	League		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Southern Illinois	16	2	22	5
Creighton	14	3	25	4
Wichita State	12	5	17	9
SW Missouri State	12	6	16	11
Evansville	8	10	12	15
Bradley	8	10	12	17
Northern Iowa	7	11	11	16
Drake	5	13	10	19
Illinois State	5	13	7	20
Indiana State	2	16	6	23

Friday, March 7

MVC Tournament—St. Louis, Mo.

Game 1 — #8 Drake vs. #9 Illinois State, 6:05 p.m.

Game 2 — #7 Northern Iowa vs. #10 Indiana State, 8:35 p.m.

Saturday, March 8

MVC Tournament—St. Louis, Mo.

Game 3—#1 Southern Illinois vs. Winner Game 1, 12:05 p.m.

Game 4—#4 SMS vs. #5 Evansville, 2:35 p.m.

Game 5—#2 Creighton vs. Winner Game 2, 6:05 p.m.

Game 6—#3 Wichita State vs. #6 Bradley, 8:35 p.m.

Sunday, March 9

MVC Tournament—St. Louis, Mo.

Game 7— Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4, 2:30 p.m.

Game 8— Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6, 5 p.m.

Monday, March 10

MVC Tournament—St. Louis, Mo.

8:05 p.m. Championship

BREAKDOWN OF MVC STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE

Here's a rundown of the strength of schedule by the schools in the Missouri Valley Conference, according to the Collegiate Basketball News RPI. The schools are listed based on their overall national strength of schedule ranking through games of March 3.

28. Evansville	.5434
29. Illinois State	.5419
96. Indiana State	.5273
107. Bradley	.5188
118. Creighton	.5147
134. Southern Illinois	.5077
152. DRAKE	.4998
184. Southwest Missouri State	.4855
176. Northern Iowa	.4884
220. Wichita State	.4711

EARLIER THIS SEASON: Drake 70, Illinois State 63 (Feb. 26, 2003, Des Moines)—A three-point basket by **Luke McDonald** with 1 minute 35 seconds left triggered an 8-0 run by Drake to close out the game.

Illinois State had a chance to tie the game but Baboucarr Bojang missed two free throws with 1:15 left.

A layup by **J.J. Sola** extended the lead to 67-63 with 46 seconds remaining and the Bulldogs sealed the victory by making three free throws in the final 29 seconds. Meanwhile, the Redbirds missed their last four shot attempts.

The Bulldogs, who entered the game ranked last in the MVC in three-point field goal percentage at .333, tied a season high by shooting 50 percent beyond the arc making eight of 16 shots.

Drake closed out the game by making eight of its last 10 shots from the floor, including its last four three-point attempts.

McDonald, who suffered a sprained ankle in pregame warm-ups, finished with 14 points including four three-point baskets. It marked the third straight game in which McDonald had made three or more three-point baskets and the 49th time in his career that he accomplished that feat.

Sola came off the bench to pace Drake with 16 points, including 10 in the second half.

Greg Danielson added 11 points and collected five rebounds. He moved into No. 4 on the Drake career rebounding charts at 718, surpassing Bob Netolicky who had 717 from 1963-67.

Guards **Josh Robinson** and **David Newman** also provided a spark off the bench for Drake. Robinson scored all seven of his points in the first half. Newman also had seven points and collected a season high six rebounds.

Trailing 46-37, Drake responded with a 13-4 scoring run to tie the contest following an unusual four-point play by Randolph. With 8:00 remaining, Randolph hit a three-point basket from the left baseline to pull Drake within 50-49 and was fouled by Trey Guidry. Randolph hit the free throw to tie the game.

Drake 59, Illinois State 48 (Normal, Ill., Feb. 15, 2003)—Sophomore guard **Lonnie Randolph** scored 13 of his game-high 23 points late in the first half as Drake snapped the Redbirds' three-game home winning streak.

The Bulldogs, who were coming off a last-second 63-62 setback at Indiana State, halted a six-game losing streak.

Trailing 18-11, Drake outscored Illinois State, 20-5, in the last 10:50 of the first half to enjoy a 31-23 intermission lead. The Bulldogs made eight of 12 shots to close out the period.

Randolph ignited the charge by making all five shots, including a pair of three-point baskets. He closed out the first half by stealing a pass and converting it into a layup with 17 seconds left.

What made the victory all the more impressive was that Drake senior center **Greg Danielson**, the team's second leading scorer with a 14.8 average, spent the last 17 minutes 2 seconds of the first half on the bench after collecting his second foul.

Freshman redshirt forward **Quantel Murphy** gave Drake a big lift when Danielson got in foul trouble. Murphy hit four of five shots from the floor, scoring nine straight points in a 3:13 span midway through the first half that cut an 8-2 deficit to 13-11.

Danielson, playing a season low 22 minutes, only attempted one shot from the floor. But he still managed to grab a game-high seven rebounds which moved him into No. 8 on the Drake career rebounding list with 694 rebounds, surpassing Red Murrell who collected 692 from 1955-58.

David Newman hit three of four free throws in the final minute. Earlier, Newman hit a key three-point basket with 7:45 remaining after Illinois State had pulled within 42-38. **J.J. Sola** added 12 points, while **Luke McDonald** had eight points including a pair of three-point baskets.

Randolph's 23-point outburst was his second highest of the season, surpassing his combined total of 22 points in his three previous games. He also had two assists and two steals. Drake finished the game, hitting 51.2 percent from the floor.

THE COACH: Drake's **Kurt Kanaskie**, who coached his 500th game as a collegiate head coach at Wichita State Jan. 21, ranks second among all active Missouri Valley Conference Coaches with 265 victories trailing Indiana State's Royce Waltman who has 270. (see chart in left column)

Kanaskie entered the 2002-03 season, ranking 54th among active NCAA Division I coaches in terms of victories, while Waltman ranked No. 53.

The 44-year-old native of Enola, Pa., is in his 17th year as a collegiate head coach, owning a 269-242 record (.537), including a 62-135 record in seven years at Drake. Kanaskie posted a 55-32 record at Lock Haven from 1985-88 and a 152-75 record during eight seasons at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (1988-96).

Kanaskie was named Drake's 22nd head coach April 8, 1996. He was runner-up for 2001 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year. Drake has improved its victory total from the previous season under Kanaskie for five straight years, becoming the only coach in the history of Drake basketball to accomplish that feat.

Kanaskie, a 1980 graduate of LaSalle, was named *Basketball Times* NCAA Division II Co-Coach of the Year in 1993-94 and 1994-95. He was selected as the *National Association of Basketball Coaches* Division II East Region Coach of the Year the last three seasons at IUP. He was named the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1986-87 and the PSAC West Division Coach of the Year four times (1986-87, 1987-88, 1993-94, 1994-95).

DECEPTIVE RECORD: Drake's 10-19 record is a bit deceiving when you consider that four losses have been by a combined total of five points (including three one-point setbacks), while three other losses were to nonconference opponents on the road who currently lead their respective leagues: Utah State is in first place in the Big West Conference, while Northern Illinois and Central Michigan are tied for first place in the Mid-American Conference.

THE LUKE MCDONALD LEDGER

- Named to preseason 2002-03 All-MVC team
- Honorable Mention All-MVC Honors in 2002-03
- Played on prestigious 2002 National Invitation Tournament touring All-Star team
- On pace to become most prolific three-point shooter in MVC history, ranking eighth on MVC career three-point basket list
- Enjoyed longest consecutive game streak among active players in NCAA in having made at least one three-point basket in 67 contests
- Fourth in MVC in free throw percentage (.853)
- Became first sophomore to lead MVC in scoring since 1999 when he won title last year with 17.9 average
- Set MVC single-season freshman record with 91 treys in 2000-01
- Has made Drake school record 239 treys
- Has made three or more three-point baskets in 49 games
- Has scored in double figures in 68 career games
- Has scored 20 or more points in 28 career games

MVC CAREER THREE-POINT LEADERS

1. Kyle Korver, Creighton (1999-present)	355
7. Ryan Sears, Creighton (1997-2001)	245
8. Luke McDonald, Drake (2000-present)	239
9. Kent Williams, S. Illinois (1999-2002)	237

MVC ACTIVE SCORING LEADERS

1. Kent Williams, Southern Illinois	1,962
2. Kyle Korver, Creighton	1,734
3. Jermaine Dearman, Southern Illinois	1,376
4. Phillip Gilbert, Bradley	1,337
5. Luke McDonald, Drake	1,316
6. Greg Danielson, Drake	1,067

DRAKE CAREER SCORING LEADERS

1. Red Murrell (1955-58)	1,657
6. Wayne Kreklow (1975-79)	1,471
7. Luke McDonald (1999-present)	1,316
12. John Rennie (1947-51)	1,076
13. Napoleon Gaither (1975-78)	1,071
14. Greg Danielson (1998-present)	1,067

ANALYZING DRAKE'S RETURNING VETERANS

	Career Games Played	Games Started
Greg Danielson	115	82
Luke McDonald	86	79
Lonnie Randolph	58	35
David Newman	58	24
T.J. Welton	54	16
David Bancroft	46	1
J.J. Sola	46	38

The MVC schedule makers weren't too kind to the Bulldogs, either. Drake opened the MVC season with back-to-back road games at defending co-league champions Southern Illinois and Creighton.

The heartbreaks...

- 50-49 home loss to Iowa
- 74-72 double overtime loss to Southwest Missouri State
- 65-64 home loss to co-league leader Southern Illinois
- 63-62 loss at Indiana State

Nonconference road losses to teams leading their respective leagues...

- 73-61 loss to Utah State which leads Big West Conference
- 77-62 loss to Northern Illinois which is tied for first in Mid American Conference
- 73-61 loss to Central Michigan which is tied for first in Mid American Conference
- Drake does own victories against Florida Atlantic, which advanced to the first round of the 2002 NCAA Tournament; and Vermont, which won the 2002 American East Conference championship.

PUTTING THE CLAMP DOWN: Drake has picked it up a notch defensively. In their last eight games (including three on the road) the Bulldogs have held opponents to just 43.7 percent shooting (183-418) from the floor, including a paltry 32.1 percent from three-point range (42-131), while only allowing 65.6 points per game.

Drake held Illinois State to 48 points Feb. 15, which were the fewest the Bulldogs had allowed in a game since claiming a 69-46 home victory against Illinois State Jan. 17, 2000.

Drake held Illinois State to just 37 percent shooting from the floor. In fact, the Redbirds, who entered the game leading the nation in three-point field goal percentage at 43.2 percent, made just three of 14 shots from beyond the three-point arc for 21.4 percent accuracy. Illinois State missed all nine three-point shots in the second half.

Drake ranks second in the MVC in three-point field goal percentage defense (.352).

NEW LINEUP AGAIN: Drake coach Kurt Kanaskie has utilized nine different starting lineups this season, including a different lineup in five of the last seven games. The latest change occurred in the home finale Monday with seniors **T.J. Welton**, **David Newman** and **J.J. Sola** joining sophomore point guard **Lonnie Randolph** and senior center **Greg Danielson** in the starting lineup against Bradley.

Danielson is the only player who has started all 29 games for Drake. Drake played against Wichita State Feb. 19 without the services of freshman swingmen **Josh Robinson** and **Sean Tracy** who were both sidelined. Freshman forward **Quantel Murphy** made his first collegiate start against the Shockers, responding with eight points, including a career-high two three-point baskets.

DANIELSON JOINS ELITE CLUB: Drake senior center **Greg Danielson** has become just the third player in Drake history to score over 1,000 points and grab over 700 rebounds.

The other two Drake players to accomplish that feat are **Melvin Mathis** (1982-86) who ranks No. 2 on the career scoring charts (1,651) and No. 1 on the career rebounding list (854); and **Sam Roark** (1986-90) who ranks No. 10 on the career scoring charts (1,257) and No. 2 on the career rebounding list (792).

Danielson ranks No. 14 on the Drake career scoring list (1,067 points) and No. 4 on the career rebounding list (728). He is the second active 1,000-point scorer at Drake, joining junior teammate **Luke McDonald** who ranks seventh on the school career scoring list with 1,316 points.

Drake Team Quick Facts

- Achieved 1,000th victory in school history when it defeated Western Illinois, 72-62, Dec. 14
- Drake is the only team in the MVC which has had five players score 25 or more points in games

2002-03 Drake Numerical Roster

No.	Name	P	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown/High School
1	Lonnie Randolph*	G	6-1	162	So.	East Chicago, Ind./Merrillville HS
3	T.J. Welton*	G-F	6-6	215	Sr.	Des Moines, Iowa/Hoover HS
4	J.J. Sola*	F	6-7	230	Sr.	Mission Viejo, Calif./Capistrano HS
5	Sean Tracy	G	6-4	180	Fr.	Silver Spring, Md./Bullis Prep
10	Josh Robinson	G	6-3	185	Fr.	Mahwah, N.J./River Dell HS
15	Brian Hogan	G	6-1	171	So.	Fort Madison, Iowa/Fort Madison HS
22	Nate Richie	G	6-2	179	So.	Decatur, Ind./Lake Central HS
23	Quantel Murphy	F	6-5	205	Fr.	Denver, Colo./George Washington HS
24	David Newman*	G	5-11	183	Sr.	Des Moines, Iowa/Hoover HS
25	Luke McDonald**	G	6-5	215	Jr.	Lubbock, Texas/Frenship HS
34	Josh Powell	F	6-6	210	Fr.	Des Moines, Iowa/Lincoln HS
35	David Bancroft*	F	6-9	223	So.	Marshfield, Mo./Marshfield HS
40	Greg Danielson***	C	6-9	267	Sr.	Des Moines, Iowa/Hoover HS

* denotes letters earned

Head Coach: Kurt Kanaskie

Assistant Coaches: Chris Davis, Kevin Reynolds

Kanaskie's Drake Record: 62-135/seven years Kanaskie's Overall Record: 269-242/17 years

Associate Head Coach: Marty Bell

Student Assistant: Justin Ohl

DANIELSON: ALL-MVC NUMBERS

Drake senior center **Greg Danielson** is enjoying an All-Missouri Valley Conference season.

Consider:

- He is one of two players to rank in the top 10 in the MVC in rebounding, scoring and field goal percentage.
- He leads the MVC in rebounding (9.0)
- He ranks 20th nationally in rebounding (9.0)
- He has the most double-doubles in the MVC (12)
- He ranks fourth in the MVC in field goal percentage (.551)
- He has 15 double-figure rebounding games — the most in the MVC
- He collected a 2002-03 MVC single-game high five blocked shots against Indiana State
- He was named to MVC Most Improved Team

Remember he grabbed the most rebounds in a single game in the 2002 MVC Tournament with 13 in an opening round game against Illinois State.

DANIELSON DOUBLE-DOUBLES IN 2002-03

Drake's Greg Danielson leads the MVC in double-doubles this winter with 12. He has 15 in his career.

2002-03 Double-Doubles for Danielson

- 20 points, 15 rebounds vs. Vermont
- 14 points, 12 rebounds at Northern Illinois
- 23 points, 15 rebounds vs. Grinnell
- 14 points, 11 rebounds at Creighton
- 18 points, 13 rebounds vs. SMS
- 15 points, 11 rebounds vs. Northern Iowa
- 12 points, 10 rebounds at Bradley
- 22 points, 14 rebounds at Wichita State
- 18 points, 11 rebounds vs. Creighton
- 20 points, 10 rebounds vs. Southern Illinois
- 12 points, 12 rebounds vs. Evansville
- 17 points, 10 rebounds at Evansville

DRAKE CAREER REBOUNDING LEADERS

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Melvin Mathis (1982-86) | 854 |
| 2. Sam Roark (1986-90) | 792 |
| 3. Al Williams (1967-70) | 731 |
| 4. Greg Danielson (1998-present) | 728 |

MVC ACTIVE CAREER REBOUNDING LEADERS

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Jermaine Dearman, Southern Illinois | 766 |
| 2. Greg Danielson, Drake | 728 |

DRAKE MVC RECORDS SET IN 2002-03

- Points, game** – 162, Drake vs. Grinnell (old mark 141 Tulsa vs. Prairie View, Dec. 17, 1995)
- Points, both teams, game**– 272: Drake 162, Grinnell 110 (old mark 258 Bradley (139) vs. Cal-Irvine (119), 1988)
- Field Goals, Made**– 60, Drake vs. Grinnell (old mark 54 by Drake vs. Wisconsin-Platteville, 12-1-71; and 54 by Tulsa vs. Christian Brothers, 1965)
- Individual Field goal percentage, game** — TIED 1.000 (10-10) Quantel Murphy vs. Grinnell

- this season: (Greg Danielson, Luke McDonald, Quantel Murphy, Lonnie Randolph, J.J. Sola)
- Encountered stretch in which it played nine of 12 games on road, including opening MVC play with back-to-back games at defending co-league champions Southern Illinois and Creighton
 - Held 10 opponents to under 30 points in the first half this season, including five MVC opponents (Indiana State, 25; Wichita State, 28; Southwest Missouri State, 29, Evansville 22, Illinois State 23).
 - Drake is 8-2 when ahead at half and 1-14 when trailing at half
 - Drake also has shoot over 50 percent three of its last four road games — at Indiana State (55.8%), at Illinois State (51.2%) and at Evansville (54.8%).
 - Drake has been outrebounded only 10 times
 - Drake outrebounded current MVC rebounding leader Wichita State, 34-30, on its homecourt
 - Drake is shooting 76.2 percent from the free throw line in the last two minutes of games
 - Drake leads the MVC in rebounding defense, averaging 30.5 boards; and ranks second in free throw percentage (.736) and second in three-point field goal percentage defense (.353).
 - Has had five players reach double figures in scoring in two games (Grinnell, Northern Iowa)

Drake Player Quickies

Greg Danielson

- Named to MVC Most Improved Team
- Earned second team All-MVC playing honors
- Leads Missouri Valley Conference in rebounding (9.0 avg.)
- Ranks 20th nationally in rebounding (9.0 avg.)
- Has most double doubles of any player in MVC (12)
- Has most double figure rebounding games of any player in MVC (15)
- Has 2002-03 MVC single-game high five blocked shots vs. Indiana State
- Ranks fourth in MVC in field goal percentage (.551)
- Ranks 12th in MVC in blocked shots (0.62)
- Ranks 12th in MVC in scoring (13.7)
- Has six 20-plus scoring games this season
- Only Bulldog to score in double figures in 15 conference games
- Ranks No. 14 on Drake scoring list with 1,067 points
- Ranks No. 4 on Drake career rebounding charts (728)
- Has led team in rebounding in 23 games this season
- Named to Hawaii-Hilo Shootout All-Tournament Team

Luke McDonald

- Ranks fifth among active NCAA players in career three-point field goal percentage (.421)
- Has made more three point baskets in career than any active freshman, sophomore or junior in NCAA (239)
- Earned honorable mention All-MVC playing honors
- Ranks fourth in MVC in free throw percentage (.853)
- Ranks seventh in MVC in three-point baskets made (3.2 avg.)
- Ranks eighth in Missouri Valley Conference career three-point charts (239)
- Ranks No. 7 on Drake career scoring list (1,316 points)
- Has four 20-plus scoring games this season, including high of 28 at Evansville
- Has already surpassed entire 2001-02 season output of 22 assists
- Has made three or more three-point baskets in 13 games this season

David Newman

- Has started three games (Southern Illinois, Creighton, Bradley)
- Had season-high seven rebounds in home game vs. Illinois State
- Had season-high nine-points in home game vs. Wichita State in which he made three treys
- Had season-high five assists at Bradley

Lonnie Randolph

- Has started last 16 games at point guard
- Had career-high 29 points vs. Florida Atlantic, setting Knapp Center record by making 15 of 19 free throws
- Has led team in scoring with 23 points at Illinois State, hitting seven of eight shots, including two treys; and 17 vs. Wichita State Feb. 1
- Had 26 points at Evansville, drilling seven of nine shots and 10 of 11 free throws
- Leads team with 99 assists, while ranking sixth in MVC (3.4 avg.). That assist figure doubles his entire output of 46 as freshman last year
- Has collected five or more assists in eight games, including career-high eight in home games vs. Northern Iowa and Evansville.
- Has led team in assists in 17 games this winter

Josh Robinson

- Has started 10 of last 15 games at guard
- Ranks second on team with 24 three-point baskets
- Had career-high six rebounds at Northern Iowa
- In starting debut vs. Northern Iowa, he had career-high 11 points and career-high four assists
- Equalled career high with four assists in home game vs. Southern Illinois

J.J. Sola

- Leads team in scoring (14.6), reaching double figures in 21 games
- Has scored 20 or more points in six games, including 36 vs. Grinnell
- Ranks second on team with 71 assists
- Ranks eighth in MVC in field goal percentage (.530)
- Ranks eighth in MVC in free throw percentage (.791)
- Ranks ninth in MVC in scoring (14.6)
- Named MVC Player of Week Dec. 16 after averaging 27.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, while shooting

DRAKE SCHOOL RECORDS SET IN 2002-03

- Points, Game** — 162 Drake vs. Grinnell (old mark: 130 vs. Missouri-Kansas City, 1-20-71)
- Points, One Half** — 89 (2nd half) vs. Grinnell (old mark 71 in first half of 130-73 victory vs. Missouri-Kansas City, 1-20-71)
- Two-team scoring** — 272: Drake 162, Grinnell 110 (old mark: Iowa State 117, Drake 114, OT, 12-12-89)
- Assists** — 35 vs. Grinnell (old mark was 34, Drake vs. Southern Illinois, 1-10-80 in Des Moines)
- 3-pt shooting attempts, both teams** — 77 vs. Drake (4), Grinnell (73) (old mark was 70 by Drake (9-45) vs. Iowa (14-25) at Knapp Center, 11-29-94)
- Field goals made in a game** — 60 vs. Grinnell (old mark 54 vs. Wisconsin-Platteville, 12-1-71)
- Free Throws made in a game** — 41 vs. Grinnell (old mark 37, against Illinois State, 1-17-01)
- Individual Field Goal percentage, game TIED** — 1.000 (10-10) Quantel Murphy vs. Grinnell
- 3-Point Shooting, Attempts by opponent** — 73 by Grinnell (old mark 35 by Texas-San Antonio (12-35) 12-10-94 at Drake Knapp Center)

3 PLAYERS SIGN

DURING FALL RECRUITING PERIOD

Thomas Diezi, a 6-9 center from Zurich, Switzerland; 6-7 forward **Klayton Korver**, an all-state selection from Pella; and **Nick Grant**, a 6-3 guard from Fairfax, Va., have signed national letters of intent at Drake during the fall signing period, indicating they will join the Bulldog basketball program.

Diezi will have three years of eligibility after enrolling at Fullerton (Calif.) College this season. He is a graduate of Ramibuhl High School in Zurich and averaged 12.3 points and 8.5 rebounds while playing for the Zurich Blue Wings Club last season.

Grant was ranked among the top 50 shooting guards in the United States by InsidersHoop.com. He also was listed as an honorable mention All-American by Street & Smith's Magazine. He averaged 12 points, 4.1 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 3.2 steals as a junior at Paul VI High School. He scored 14 points, including two dunks, in a victory past powerhouse DeMatha last year as Paul VI became the first Northern Virginia team to beat DeMatha. He also was named the most valuable player of the Eastern Invitation Team Camp this past summer.

Korver, the brother of Creighton's Kyle Korver, who was named the most valuable player of the MVC last season, earned Iowa Class 3A second-team all-state honors last year after averaging 14.2 points, 7.7 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.4 steals per game. He scored 20 points to lead Pella to the 2002 Iowa Class 3A state championship over Sioux City Heelan. Pella has posted a 48-6 record during Korver's career at the school.

BIRTHDAY NO. 10 FOR DRAKE KNAPP CENTER

Drake, which is the only private school in the Missouri Valley Conference to play its home games in an on-campus facility, already has enjoyed two sellout crowds at home this season. There were standing room only crowds of 7,146 against Iowa and 7,152 against Creighton.

The Bulldogs own a 78-67 record in the Drake Knapp Center, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this season. That includes a 32-12 nonconference record. The Bulldogs have won 22 of their last 27 nonconference home games.

74 percent in two games

- Had career high 10 rebounds vs. Grinnell
- Named to Hawaii-Hilo Shootout All-Tournament team

T.J. Welton

- Started first 14 games of season as well as home finale vs. Bradley
- Had career high 18 points in MVC opener at Southern Illinois

DANIELSON NAMED TO MOST IMPROVED TEAM: Drake senior center **Greg Danielson** headlines the list of selections for the 2003 Missouri Valley Conference Most Improved Team.

Danielson, in his third year as a starter, averages 13.7 points and leads the league in rebounding with a 9.0 average, while ranking fourth in the MVC in field goal percentage (.551). He has recorded an MVC season-high 12 double-doubles.

The 2002-03 season marks the ninth consecutive campaign the Missouri Valley Conference has recognized an All-Bench Team and Most Improved Team. The teams, which were selected by the league's newspaper beatwriters, are comprised of a minimum of five student-athletes on each squad and feature an interesting mix of underclassmen and upperclassmen.

Danielson blocked an MVC high five shots against Indiana State Jan. 18. He has collected 10 or more rebounds in 15 games and nine or more boards in 17 games.

SOLID INSIDE GAME: How effective have Drake center **Greg Danielson** and forward **J.J. Sola** been this season? The duo have provided the Bulldogs with the best one-two inside punch in the Missouri Valley Conference.

No other center and forward in the MVC have combined to average 28.4 points, 14.3 rebounds or shoot the combined 54.1 percent from the field like Drake's duo.

Consider that outside of Creighton's Kyle Korver, who leads the MVC in scoring, Danielson has attempted the second highest number of shots of any player in the league (301). Korver has taken 347 shots, mostly from the perimeter.

The next highest number of shots taken by an inside post player is Sola who has taken 279 shots. Southern Illinois' Jermaine Dearman follows at 273 shots. Danielson ranks fourth in the MVC in field goal percentage (.551). He enjoyed his MVC high 12th double-double of the season with 17 points and 10 rebounds at Evansville Feb. 22.

HOW DOMINANT IS DANIELSON: Creighton's Kyle Korver is deserving of All-American accolades, but there isn't another player in the MVC who has dominated opponents in the MVC like Drake center **Greg Danielson** has.

Korver has encountered two league games in which he has scored six or less points.

- In MVC league stats only, Danielson leads the conference in rebounding (9.0), while ranking sixth in blocked shots (0.83 avg.), fifth in field goal percentage (.555) and 11th in scoring (14.0).
- He has the most double-doubles of any player in the MVC at 12 (nine in league play) and he has achieved those against the top teams in the league:

<i>14 pts., 11 rebounds at Creighton</i>	<i>18 pts., 11 rebounds vs. Creighton</i>
<i>18 pts., 13 rebounds vs. SMS</i>	<i>20 pts., 10 rebounds vs. Southern Illinois</i>
<i>22 pts., 14 rebounds at Wichita State</i>	<i>12 pts., 12 rebounds vs. Evansville</i>
<i>17 pts., 10 rebounds at Evansville</i>	

- He blocked an MVC high five shots against Indiana State Jan. 18.
- He has collected 10 or more rebounds in 14 games and nine or more boards in 16 games.
- Danielson was at his best in Drake's game against Southern Illinois Feb. 6 with 20 points (8 of 12 shooting), 10 rebounds, four assists, two blocked shots, zero turnovers in 38 minutes.
- Danielson, double-teamed by Iowa State's 6-10 duo of Jared Homan and Jackson Vroman, still managed to collect a game-high 18 points and nine rebounds against the Cyclones Dec. 22.
- Danielson averaged 10.5 rebounds in the last two games of the 2001-02 campaign, pulling down a MVC Tournament high 13 rebounds against Illinois State.

THE WORD IS OUT ON J.J.: Does Drake senior forward **J.J. Sola** qualify as a candidate for the MVC All-Newcomer Team?

Sola ranks eighth in field goal percentage (.530), ninth in the MVC in the scoring (team-high 14.6 ppg), eighth in free throw percentage (.791), and 12th in rebounding (5.3 avg.).

If that is not enough, he ranks second on Drake's team with 71 assists after equaling a career high with five assists against Indiana State Jan. 18.

He has scored in double figures in 20 games including a season-high 36 points against Grinnell.

Sola played in only 17 games last year, including seven MVC games, before he was declared ineligible for the second semester for failing to meet Drake's minimum academic standards of maintaining a 2.0 cumulative grade-point average. Sola started as a freshman at Loyola Marymount in 1999-2000 where he averaged 6.9 points and 4.0 rebounds before transferring to Fullerton (Calif.) Community College.

RANDOLPH CONTINUES TO DELIVER: Drake sophomore point guard **Lonnie Randolph** is averaging 16.5 points, while shooting 58 percent from the floor in his last six games. He also is shooting 84.3 percent from the free throw line, making 27 of 32 attempts during that stretch, and 56 percent from three-point range (14-25). Randolph enjoyed his second straight 20-plus scoring game on the road by tallying 26 points at Evansville Feb. 22. The previous Saturday he had 23 points to key a victory at Illinois State.

Randolph scored all nine of his points in the last 7:42 of the game to key the victory against Illinois State Feb. 26. He also tied a career high with eight assists, while collecting five rebounds.

MCDONALD ON THE MOVE: Despite nagging injuries which have taken their toll on him this season, **Luke McDonald** is considered one of the best pure shooters in the country, ranking fourth in three-point field goal percentage among active players in the NCAA who have made 200 career three-point field goals. He had the highest three-point field goal percentage (.460) of any freshman in the NCAA in 2000-01. He had owned the longest active string in the NCAA by making at least one three-point basket in 67 straight games before having the streak snapped at Denver Dec. 29.

He made three three-point baskets against Florida Atlantic to become Drake's career leader with 180, bettering the previous mark of 178 held by Armand LeVasseur from 1997-2000.

McDonald is Drake's career leader in three-point baskets (239) as well as the single-season leader (91). He ranks No. 8 on the MVC career three-point basket list. He has made three or more three-point baskets in 49 games. He set the Missouri Valley Conference single-season freshman record for three-point baskets with 86.

He is on pace to become the most prolific three-point shooter in MVC history, while also being on target to become the Bulldogs' all-time scoring leader. He ranks No. 7 on the Drake career scoring list and became the 17th player in Drake history to join the 1,000-point scoring club when he exploded for 25 points against Vermont.

Last season he became the first sophomore to lead the MVC in scoring since 1999. He also became the first Drake player to lead the MVC in scoring since Curt Smith in 1992-93. McDonald has scored in double figures in 67 games — 23 in 2000-01, 24 in 2001-02 and 19 this season. He led Drake in scoring in 17 games last year. He has scored 20 or more points in 28 games in his career.

MCDONALD ALL-TIME IOWA LEADER: Drake junior guard **Luke McDonald** has become Iowa's all-time Division I three-point basket leader with 239, surpassing Iowa's Chris Kingsbury who had 226 from 1994-96.

SHOOTER TURNED PLAYMAKER: Drake's **Luke McDonald** sacrificed his role as shooter at Iowa State by collecting a career-high five assists against the Cyclones. He matched a career high with three steals at Southern Illinois Jan. 2 and at Creighton Jan. 5. He has 36 assists this year, surpassing his entire output of 22 from last year.

FRESHMAN AGES: Drake freshman **Josh Robinson** guarded Creighton's Kyle Korver, the leading scorer in the MVC, and held him to just one basket Feb. 1. Robinson has made at least one three-point basket in seven of the eight games he has started, while shooting 45.5 percent from the floor. He equalled a career high with four assists against Southern Illinois Feb. 6.

MR. CLUTCH: His scoring average might be lower than a year ago, but **Luke McDonald** continues to deliver in key situations for Drake.

McDonald made two straight three-point baskets in a three-minute span late in a Feb. 26 home game against Illinois State to turn a 58-55 deficit into a 65-63 lead in which Drake eventually won 70-63. McDonald scored six of Drake's last 12 points in an 81-73 victory at Evansville Feb. 22.

McDonald scored eight of his 10 points in the final 7:01 of the game to rally Drake to a 75-73 victory against Northern Iowa Jan. 12.

A three-point basket by McDonald pulled Drake to within 65-64. A 5-foot jumper and a free throw by McDonald with 3:14 left gave Drake a 69-68 lead. He added a basket with 45 seconds left that allowed the Bulldogs to enjoy a 73-71 edge.

In a Jan. 8 home game with Southwest Missouri State, McDonald hit two three-point baskets within a 39-second span in the last minute of the second overtime allowing Drake to tie the game at 72-72 before the Bulldogs lost on a last-second shot. McDonald finished with a season-high 27 points against the Bears, hitting five three-point baskets.

BIG THINGS COME IN LITTLE PACKAGES: Drake's backcourt of David Newman and Lonnie Randolph combined to grab 11 rebounds in the 70-63 victory past Illinois State Feb. 26. Newman had a season-high six rebounds, while Randolph tied a season high with five rebounds.

FINALLY, FREE THROWS INSTRUMENTAL IN VICTORIES: Poor free throw shooting in the last two minutes proved costly in Drake suffering recent one-point setbacks to Southern Illinois (65-64) Feb. 6 and at Indiana State (63-62) Feb. 12.

Drake made just one of six free throws in the last 1:54 against the Salukis and then missed the front end of a bonus free throw situation with 23 seconds left when owning a 62-61 lead at Indiana State. The Sycamores capitalized by hitting the winning basket with 3.1 seconds left.

But in each of Drake's last three victories — including two on the road — the Bulldogs have secured victories by shooting a combined 76 percent in the final two minutes, making a total of 19 of 25 free throws. Drake sealed a 59-48 win at Illinois State Feb. 15 by hitting nine of 12 free throws in the final 1:17. Drake made seven of nine free throws in the last 1:47 to hold off Evansville, 81-73, Feb. 22 and hit three of four free throws in the last two minutes of a 70-63 home victory past Illinois State Feb. 26.

BETTER OFF ON THE ROAD? Drake has shot over 50 percent in three of its last four road games, while posting a 2-2 record with one loss occurring on a basket with 2.9 seconds at Indiana State (63-62) Feb. 12. The Bulldogs hit 54.8 percent from the floor en route to an 81-73 victory at Evansville Feb. 22. Drake also shot 51.2 percent in a 59-48 victory at Illinois State Feb. 15 and 55.8 percent in the loss at Indiana State Feb. 12.

PERIMETER SLUMP: Drake ranks ninth in the MVC this winter in three-point field goal percentage, shooting 34.1 percent. The Bulldogs, who have led the MVC in three-point baskets each of the last two years, averaged 8.0 three-point baskets per game last season en route to making a school record 232 treys! That figure was the eighth-best single season effort by a team in MVC history. Drake is averaging only 5.3 treys this winter.

REBOUNDING IS A DIFFERENT STORY: Drake leads the MVC in rebounding defense (30.5 avg.) and is third in rebounding margin (+1.9 margin). The Bulldogs have outrebounded opponents in 17 of 29 games this season, including impressive 9.0 and 6.0 margins on the road against Northern Illinois (36-27) and Central Michigan (31-25). The Bulldogs are averaging 32.2 rebounds, compared to opponents averaging 30.5 rebounds.

THOSE OTHER BAD BOUNCES: Just how bad was the basketball bouncing during Drake's recent six-game losing streak? Consider that Drake shot a sizzling 54.9 percent from the floor, while holding Kyle Korver, the leading scorer in the MVC to just six points, but still fell to No. 15 ranked Creighton, 88-68, Feb. 1. Drake also shot a season-low 33.3 percent, while dropping a 62-51 home game to Evansville Feb. 8.

The Bulldogs shoot just 61.7 percent from the free throw line during their losing streak. Drake was leading the Missouri Valley Conference in free throw shooting at 74.3 percent before encountering a slump which saw the Bulldogs shoot just 53.1 percent during a recent three-game homestand, making just 25 of 47 free throws. Drake shot 50 percent (7-14) from the free throw line against Creighton; 62.5 percent (15-24) against Southern Illinois and 33.3 percent (3-9) against Evansville. Drake also hit 27.5 percent from the three-point line in the losing skid.

BRADLEY SPOILS HOME FINALE: Phillip Gilbert scored 20 of his game-high 27 points in the second half to rally Bradley to a 77-67 victory past Drake Monday, spoiling the Bulldogs' home finale.

After a rebound layup by **Greg Danielson** gave Drake a 42-40 lead with 15:58 left, the Bulldogs would make just two of their next 10 shots from the floor in an 11 minute 31 second span. Bradley, behind Gilbert, took advantage with a 24-9 scoring outburst to mount a 64-53 lead. Gilbert scored 14 points to fuel the Bradley comeback, including two straight baskets to give the Braves a 44-42 lead it never relinquished.

J.J. Sola tallied 27 points including 17 in the first half. He hit seven of eight shots from the floor in the opening half and scored 10 of Drake's first 13 points. Danielson finished with 14 points — all in the second half. He picked up his second foul with 15:59 left in the first half and did not return to the lineup.