



## *Illinois State Post-Game Notes*

### Illinois State 81, Eastern Illinois 68

Nov. 11, 2007 • Lantz Arena • Charleston, Ill.

#### ILLINOIS STATE INDIVIDUAL NOTES:

- Junior **Kristi Cirone** finished with a game-high 23 points on 7-for-13 shooting. Cirone also shot 80 percent from beyond the arc (4-for-5).
- Cirone's 23 points marked the 54th game that she has scored double-digits in her ISU career. She has also scored 20-plus points 16 times in her collegiate career.
- Sophomore forward **Ashleen Bracey** recorded her first career start Sunday, scoring six points and grabbing seven rebounds.
- Freshman **Sha'la Jackson** scored her first collegiate points in the first half of Sunday's regular-season opener, swishing two free throws at the 12:57 mark. Jackson finished with 10 points.
- ISU had three players reach double-figures, with Cirone (23 points), **Tiffany Hudson** (18) and Jackson (10) scoring 10-plus points. Hudson's 18 points equalled her career-high.
- Cirone finished with eight assists, her 31st career game with five or more dishes.

#### ILLINOIS STATE TEAM NOTES:

- Today's game was the first time that Illinois State played Eastern Illinois in a regular-season opener.
- Sunday's game at Lantz Arena was the first game that ISU has played at Eastern Illinois since a 70-52 victory Feb. 20, '92.
- ISU trailed the first 10 minutes of the game, until **Kristi Cirone** nailed a three pointer on the left wing to record the Redbirds' first lead of the game at 18-17 with 10:20 remaining.
- Illinois State was able to score 20 second-chance points during Sunday's non-conference contest.
- The Redbirds scored 41 points in the first half, the first time since dropping 40 on in-state rival Bradley Feb. 23, 2007.
- Illinois State opened the second half on a 15-6 run, capped off by a three-pointer from Cirone at 13:40. Cirone paced the 'Birds on the scoring spurt with six points.
- With the win, Illinois State is now 28-8 all-time versus Eastern Illinois.
- The Redbirds are 3-2 in regular season openers under Robin Pingeton, and 2-2 on the road. Pingeton is also 2-0 all-time versus the Panthers.
- Illinois State has beaten EIU in eight of the last nine meetings between the two in-state rivals.
- ISU also improved to 12-4 all-time when playing at Eastern Illinois.
- The Redbirds are the second-straight team from the state of Illinois to defeat EIU. The Panthers lost their season opener at home to Illinois, 86-56, Nov. 9.
- ISU's 81 points was the most points scored by the Redbirds since a 89-81 win at Indiana State Jan. 19, 2007.