



## *Illinois State Post-Game Notes*

### **Illinois State 90, SEMO 71**

Nov. 14, 2007 • Doug Collins Court at Redbird Arena • Normal, Ill.

#### **ILLINOIS STATE INDIVIDUAL NOTES:**

- Sophomore **Osiris Eldridge** scored nine of Illinois State's first 13 points.
- **Emmanuel Holloway** sank his first three-pointer as a Redbird at the 12:13 mark in the first half. His triple was part of a 9-0 Redbird run that gave ISU its first lead of the game at 22-16, with 11:46 left in the half.
- **Brandon Holtz** set career-high with 15 points, thanks to a 5-for-7 effort on three-pointers. He is now 7-for-9 on the season from beyond the arc. His five made treys are a single-game best.
- SEMO regained the lead at the 6:58 mark thanks to an 8-0 run, but **Mike Vandello's** first points of the season on a three-pointer with 6:34 left put the Redbirds back on top, 31-29.
- Eldridge's made free throw on the front end of three free throws at 5:28 in the first half put him in double-figure scoring for the 13th time in his ISU career. He finished the first half with 16 points, which is the most points he has scored in a game's first 20 minutes in his career.
- Eldridge finished the game with 27 points on 10-for-15 shooting, which was the second time he has scored 20 or more points in his career. He scored a career-high 28 points at Creighton Jan. 1, 2007.
- ISU's **Anthony Slack** opened the second half with seven of the Redbirds' first 10 points. His final three tallies to open the second half kick-started an 18-2 spurt to give ISU a 69-56 lead with 10:02 left in the game.
- Slack set his career-high with 13 rebounds, which marks his fifth game with double-digit boards.
- Slack also equalled his career-high for blocked shots in a game with three. It is the fourth time in his career he has posted three blocked shots in a single game.
- Holloway finished with 10 points on 3-for-8 shooting, giving him his first double-digit scoring game as a Redbird and a new career-high for points at ISU.
- **Boo Richardson** was held scoreless, but dished out a season-high six assists. It was the 18th game in his career with five or more assists.
- Slack also finished with 15 points, on 7-for-7 shooting, to go along with his 13 boards, for his third career double-double.
- **Tim Jankovich** joins **Gene Smithson** as the only two Illinois State coaches in the Division I era to begin their tenure with 2-0 records.
- Eldridge finished with a career-high six steals as the Redbirds collected 13 as a team. It was the second-straight game ISU posted double-digit steals.

#### **ILLINOIS STATE TEAM NOTES:**

- SEMO's Calvin Williams converted a three-pointer at the 18:18 mark in the first half. It was the first three-point basket scored against ISU this season, ending a string of nearly 42-consecutive minutes without allowing a trey.
- Illinois State trailed for the first time during the 2007-08 season, as SEMO rattled off six-straight points to open the game. Six points is still the largest deficit the Redbirds have faced this season.
- The Redbirds' 44 first-half points were the most first-half points scored by ISU since leading Lewis 47-36, at halftime Dec. 19, 2006.
- ISU's 90 points were the most scored by a Redbird team since a 94-87 double-overtime win at Evansville Feb. 12, 2001. The 90 points are also the most by ISU in a regulation game since defeating Texas-San Antonio 95-87, Dec. 17, 2000.
- The last time Illinois State opened the season with a pair of double-digit wins was during the 1996-97 season. That Redbird team went on to participate in the NCAA Tournament later that season after downing Pittsburgh (69-50) and Eastern Kentucky (87-64).
- The Redbirds 26-point average margin of victory over the first two games is the highest for ISU since the 1980-81 season. That team opened the season with an average margin of victory of 39 points for the first two games of the season.
- Illinois State is off to its first 2-0 start since 2001-02, when the Redbirds opened the season with back-to-back victories over Weber State (74-70) and UC-Irvine (58-52).
- The Redbirds have won four-straight games on Doug Collins Court at Redbird Arena and own a 186-76 (.710) all-time mark.
- Illinois State improves to 6-1 all-time against Southeast Missouri State and have won five-straight games in the series. ISU is 84-53 all-time against the current members of the Ohio Valley Conference.
- With the victory, ISU improves to 48-35 overall in regular-season tournaments during the Division I era.