The SIU men's basketball team earned a return trip to the NCAA tournament, where it will face Missouri Thursday in Indianapolis.

- Complete NCAA tournament brackets, pages 6-7
- Fan reaction to the Salukis' run through the Missouri Valley Conference tourney, pages 8-9
- A photo gallery from the MVC tournament, page 12

SEE COVER STORY, PAGE 3
New Items Arriving
• Throwbacks • Authentics • Custom Fitted hats
Hey Ladies! Jersey Dresses Arriving Soon.
• Congratulations Dawgs!
Stop in and get your MVC Championship T-Shirt!
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University Mall

Here is a look at the teams in the lower half of the Midwest Region. SIU faces Missouri Thursday in Indianapolis and could face Indiana in the Sweet 16 if both teams make it that far again.

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS salukis**

*24-6, 16-2 MVC*

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Kene Williams (6-2 185 G)
  - 15.3 ppg • 46 FG% • 48 3PFG%
- Jermaine Deasen (6-8 220 F)
  - 14.4 ppg • 63 FG% • 54 FG%
- Darron Brooks (6-3 205 G)
  - 12.9 ppg • 47 FG% • 2.0 3PPG
- Scout Haisman (6-3 200 G)
  - 10.8 ppg • 39 FG% • 3.1 ast
- Sylvester Willis (6-1 722 F)
  - 4.3 ppg • 41 reb • 46 FG%

**Team FG%: 47% - Team 3FG%: 38%**

**TF%: 706 - Rebound Margin: 9**

**Scoring Average: 72.6 - Scoring Defense: 68.1**

**MISSOURI tigers**

*21-10, 9-7 Big Twelve*

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Rickey Paulding (6-5 212 G/F)
  - 17 ppg • 45 FG% • 38 3FG%
- Arthur Johnson (6-9, 263 F)
  - 15.3 ppg • 9.2 reb • 1.9 BPG
- Ricky Clonns (6-11 272 G)
  - 15.2 ppg • 3.8 ast • 35 3FG%
- Travis Bryant (6-9 92 C)
  - 9.2 ppg • 25.5 mpg • 6.1 reb
- Jimmy McKinney (6-3 200 G)
  - 8.8 ppg • 3.5 ast • 31.1 mpg

**Team FG%: 45% - Team 3FG%: 36%**

**TF%: 660 - Rebound Margin: 15**

**Scoring Average: 74.0 - Scoring Defense: 68.1**

**BOTTOM LINE:**
The Tigers have a distinct advantage in overall athleticism and are on a hot streak after their strong second-place performance in the Big Twelve Conference tournament. Watch out for Arthur Johnson.

**MARQUETTE golden eagles**

*23-5, 14-2 Conference USA*

**Coach:** Tim Czan

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Dwayne Wade (6-5 210 G)
  - 21.5 ppg • 46 FG%
- Robert Jackson (6-10 260 F)
  - 15.7 ppg • 55 FG%
- Tarris Dizer (6-1 165 G)
  - 11.0 ppg • 300 FG% • 340 3FG%
- Scott Marin (6-10 245 G)
  - 9.8 ppg • 668
- Todd Townsend (6-7 215 F)
  - 6.6 ppg • 476 FG% • 400 3FG%

**HOLY CROSS crusaders**

*25-4, 14-2 Patriot League*

**Coach:** Ralph Willard

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Patrick Wynn (6-6 245 C)
  - 12.1 ppg • 562 FG%
- Brian Wilson (6-5 235 G)
  - 11.9 ppg • 487 FG% • 442 3FG%
- Tim Stasko (6-8 220 F)
  - 11.4 ppg • 301 FG% • 300 3FG%
- Dave Meade (6-1 180 G)
  - 11.1 ppg • 487
- Steve Luis (6-11 220 C)
  - 5.3 ppg • 630 FG% • 658 3FG%

**INDIANA hoosiers**

*27-12, 8-8 Big Ten*

**Coach:** Mike Davis

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Jeff Wight (7.1 ppg)
- Jeff Newton (16.7 ppg)
- Terrance Combs (16.9 ppg)
- Terrance Cotton (11.3 ppg)

**ALABAMA crimson tide**

*17-11, 7-0 Southeastern*

**Coach:** Mark Gottfried

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Maurice Williams (18.7 ppg)
- Kevin Forte (15.5 ppg)
- Dawaylon Bailey (9.4 ppg)
- Ronnie Shavlik (7.9 ppg)

**PIITTSBURGH panthers**

*26-4, 13-3 Big East*

**Coach:** Ben Howland

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Jarrid Page (15.7 ppg)
- Chadcit Tatum (14.6 ppg)
- Charles Quigg (13.4 ppg)
- Brandon Knight (10.6 ppg)

**WASHINGTON seahawks**

*21-8, 14-6 Northeast*

**Coach:** Derek Whiteburg

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Markie Miller (17.4 ppg)
- D.J. Johnson (19.9 ppg)
- Cheese Turner (13.9 ppg)
- Tony Sears (14.9 ppg)

**WAGNER fightingawks**

*21-8, 14-6 Northeast*

**Coach:** Derek Whiteburg

**TOP PLAYERS:**
- Markie Miller (17.4 ppg)
- D.J. Johnson (19.9 ppg)
- Cheese Turner (13.9 ppg)
- Tony Sears (14.9 ppg)
The wait is over
SIU survives bubble scare, draws Missouri in first round of Big Dance

Michael Brenner
Daily Egyptian

At 5:30 p.m., after Missouri was announced as the No. 6 seed, Willis prophetically screamed out “this is us” before the lodge erupped. For Korn, who spent the entirety of the show bring his lip while arching forward in a zombie-like stare, the announcement could not have come soon enough. “Last year, it popped up quick before the lodge. Weber said, “I know our players will get to play. and he had given a five-minute talk during the off-season. The trio honed their skills against Missouri start five minutes ago to the tournament.”

The effects of a week of angst were instantly wiped away Sunday evening when the team had gathered to watch the NCAA Tournament Selection Show. The Salukis will enter the tournament as a No. 11 seed against No. 6 Missouri. “We’ve been waiting all week,” said Dearman, who will get to play in his hometown of Indianapolis. “I pushed it to the back of my mind, Weber looked at Bleyer’s ream if it did not make it into the 10 is now ancient history. “At 5:30 p.m., after Missouri was announced as the No. 6 seed, Willis prophetically screamed out “this is us” before the lodge erupped. For Korn, who spent the entirety of the show bring his lip while arching forward in a zombie-like stare, the announcement could not have come soon enough. “Last year, it popped up quick before the lodge. Weber said, “I know our players will get to play. and he had given a five-minute talk during the off-season. The trio honed their skills against Missouri start five minutes ago to the tournament.”

But Turner, a St. Louis native, is thrilled at the thought of playing against Missouri, which is the team he grew up rooting for. He also knows the Tigers fairly well because he, along with teammates Darren, Brooks and Stetson Hairston, played on the Athletic Amateur Union in St. Louis during the off-season. The trio know their skills against Missouri and have the Tigers’ skills against Missouri start and are very excited. Weber said, “It’s great for our players.”

Student tickets to Thursday’s NCAA tournament game against Missouri will be sold by a lottery system Tuesday beginning at 4 p.m. at the SIU Ticket Office in Lingle Hall. Only one raffle ticket per student ID will be given and the lottery will begin at 5 p.m. SIU Athletic Director Paul Kowalczyk said, “We want to try and take care of people and do all we can and try and help the students.”

The price for single-game tickets will be $45. If a ticket is purchased at SIU and is deemed no show for the Saturday game, the ticket holder is automatically responsible for purchasing the second ticket. The University has 350 tickets to the game and will likely overwrite another 200 tickets, bringing the total number to about 500 that will go to students, season-ticket holders, and the general public if there is enough demand.

Non-student tickets will be distributed based on a lottery system in which donors who have given at least $1,000 to the Saluki Athletic Scholarship Fund will get the first crack at tickets. The travel party, which includes tickets for the team and coaches, families, will also dip into the Salukis’ available tickets.

General public ticket requests can be made starting Monday at 8 a.m. by calling or visiting the Ticket Office. Request for all-session tickets, which are $135 or $125, can also be made at the SIU Ticket Office or purchased through TicketMaster. The time for the Thursday game will be announced today.

Molly Parker
Daily Egyptian

Tickets on sale Tuesday

Molly Parker
Daily Egyptian

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Molly Parker
Salukis overcome losses by higher seeds in other conferences

Jesse Deje Daily Egyptian

The SIU men’s basketball team sat around the television set Sunday and stared for a team tryout that had actually been scheduled for Illinois was playing Ohio State in the championship game of the Big Ten tournament and the Illinois loss of the Badgers, who were victorious in the tournament with just 13 wins, defeated the Fighting Illini, SIU chances of receiving an at-large bid into the NCAA tourney were lost.

The Illinois victory, the Salukis were able to breathe easier knowing Ohio State would not lock SIU out of the NCAA tournament.

They would later learn that they had received their second straight at-large berth into the Big Ten as a No. 11 seed against No. 6 seeded Minnesota in Minneapolis Tuesday.

Ohio State was one of several teams across the country pulling off upsets in the conference tournament that spelled danger for the Salukis.

The reason for this is that every top 10 team is highly ranked and facing the sixth-seeded Tigers, who had three players average over 15 points per game, including first team All-Big 12 selection Jimmy McKinney, who is regarded as a dynamic athlete and combo guard.

The Missouri Valley Conference tournament was not one that will cause an opponent to cower in fear and hop into bed with the mercy of the NCAA selection show.

The Missouri men's basketball team's 21-14 record is not one that will cause an opponent to cower in fear and hop into bed with the mercy of the NCAA selection show.

The Salukis lost to Creighton, the team they are not accustomed to, and impasse Bill Laimbeer.

And they did not just lose, lose badly or lose in an embarrassing and embarrassing fashion — Monday's wound were there to see in the loss to Creighton.

The conference tournament is not a time to be happy.

Weber had worn the championship championship to the last few minutes, of "I'm sorry," Weber told Williams, "I'm sorry I had a few words to say."

"Weber put his arms around his senior forward as Dearman attempted to will right through his pain and accept what had happened.

The first excerpt to get the message across.

But making this team just a perimeter "Weber told Dearman, attempting to make him think of positive successes instead of the bad things that had just taken place.

That was all it was at that point.

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The Missouri Valley Conference tournament was a 6-foot-9, 265-pound big man Arthur "Biggie" Kenenkee with 3.3 point per game average.

The next highest is the 2.3 points per game mark that, Weber told him to smile, and Dearman replied by asking what he did to smile about.

"We've done some pretty good things," Weber told Dearman, attempting to make him think of positive successes instead of the bad things that had just taken place.

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That was all it was at that point.
After losing the Missouri Valley Conference tournament championship game by 24 points to Creighton, SIU junior guard Bryan Turner listens to his headphones and waits in the Saluki locker room for other team members to get dressed and make the long trip back to Carbondale. The Dawgs fretted all week about earning a bid to the NCAA tournament, but their worries were relieved Sunday evening when it was announced that SIU would play Missouri in the first round of the tourney Thursday in Indianapolis.
2003 Men's Basketball Tournament

**First Round**

- #1 Arizona
- #16 Vermont
- #8 Cincinnati
- #9 Gonzaga
- #4 Illinois
- #13 W. Kentucky
- #5 Notre Dame
- #12 UW-Milw.

**Second Round Regionals**

- #1 Arizona
- #16 Vermont
- #8 Cincinnati
- #9 Gonzaga
- #4 Illinois
- #13 W. Kentucky
- #5 Notre Dame
- #12 UW-Milw.

**Regional Semifinals**

- **West Region**
  - #3 Duke
  - #14 Colo. St.
  - #6 Creighton
  - #11 C. Mich.
  - #7 Memphis
  - #10 Arizona St.
  - #2 Kansas
  - #15 Utah St.

- **Midwest Region**
  - #1 Kentucky
  - #16 IUPUI
  - #8 Oregon
  - #9 Utah
  - #4 Dayton
  - #13 Tulsa
  - #5 Wisconsin
  - #12 Weber St.

- **Southeast Region**
  - #3 Marquette
  - #14 Holy Cross
  - #11 S. Illinois
  - #11 S. Illinois

- **West Coast Region**
  - #1 California
  - #8 Kansas State
  - #9 Iowa State
  - #4 Texas A&M
  - #13 Nebraska
  - #5 Oregon State
  - #12 Nevada

- **Northeast Region**
  - #3 Louisville
  - #14 Cornell
  - #6 UCLA
  - #13 Temple
  - #5 Virginia Tech
  - #12 Ohio State

- **Mid-South Region**
  - #1 Kentucky
  - #8 Oklahoma State
  - #9 Illinois
  - #4 Texas A&M
  - #13 Mississippi State
  - #5 Virginia
  - #12 Oklahoma

- **Southwest Region**
  - #3 Arizona St.
  - #14 New Mexico State
  - #6 UCLA
  - #13 Mississippi State
  - #5 Duke
  - #12 Oklahoma State

- **Southeast Regional Semifinals**
  - Salt Lake City, March 30, 31

- **West Regional Semifinals**
  - Salt Lake City, March 30, 31

- **Midwest Regional Semifinals**
  - Indianapolis, March 30, 31

- **Northeast Regional Semifinals**
  - Boston, March 31, 31

- **Mid-South Regional Semifinals**
  - Salt Lake City, March 30, 31

- **Southwest Regional Semifinals**
  - Salt Lake City, March 30, 31

- **National Semifinals**
  - Indianapolis, March 30, 31

- **Final Four**
  - New Orleans, April 5

---

**Stix Bar & Billiards**

- **Monday, March 17**
  - $2 Long Islands & Red Royal Shots
  - $1 Bud & Bud Light Drafts
  - $2 Red Dog Bottles
  - $2 High Life & Keystone Light Pitchers

**Ping Pong & Garden**

- **Monday, March 17**
  - St. Patrick's Day Bash!
  - Live music with The Dorianis
  - $2 Killian's 25oz Drafts
  - $2 Jameson & Bushmills
  - $2 Irish Car Bombs & Irish Coffee
  - $2 Guinness, Bass & Harp Pints

**Good Luck SIU in the NCAA Tournament!**

**SAHKS**

700 East Grand Ave, Carbondale • 549-3346
2003 NCAA Basketball Tournament

Finals

- Oklahoma City (March 20, 22)
- New Orleans (April 5)

East
- March 28, 30
- Albany, N.Y.
- Boston (March 21, 23)
- New Orleans (April 7)

SOUTH
- March 28, 30
- San Antonio

First Round
- #1 Oklahoma
- #3 Syracuse
- #11 UNC-Wilmi
- #14 Manhattan
- #16 NCAA

Second Round
- #2 Wake Forest
- #6 Oklahoma City
- #5 Miss. St.
- #13 Austin Peay
- #12 Butler

Regional Second Round
- #1 Oklahoma City
- #16 NCAA
- #3 Syracuse
- #14 Manhattan
- #16 NCAA

Regional First Round
- #1 Oklahoma
- #4 Louisville
- #9 NC State
- #13 Austin Peay
- #12 Butler

Regional Semifinals
- #1 Oklahoma
- #2 Oklahoma City
- #6 Oklahoma
- #11 Penn
- #11 UNC-Wilmi

Regional Finals
- #3 Syracuse
- #4 Louisville
- #6 Oklahoma
- #11 UNC-Wilmi
- #16 NCAA

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- Network with SIU Alumni
- High School 2023

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Thousands of Saluki fans converged on the Sawis Center in St. Louis dressed up and painted to cheer on SIU for the duration of the Missouri Valley Conference tournament. Many fans brought foam bones, mini Salukis and dressed in anything maroon to show their team spirit.

FANS, FRENZY & FAITH

SIUC fans travel to St. Louis to support the Salukis through the trials and tribulations of the MVC tournament

Jessica Yorama
Daily Egyptian

SIUC fans travel to St. Louis to support the Salukis through the trials and tribulations of the MVC tournament.

SIUC fans traveled to St. Louis to support the Salukis in person. The SIU and ISU matchup provided the highest attendance for a Missouri Valley Conference tournament game that day. Maroon was the predominant color in the fairly packed audience with chants of "SIU! SIU!" and the occasional sound of the clock ticking away on the season.

The Salukis were responsible for causing South Missouri State and Illinois State to experience the agony of defeat. And Monday night, they felt it themselves. But before the pounding that left the Dawgs' NCAA future uncertain, fans left home before the game ended and an all-but-drowned and stunned Dawg Pound, the Salukis had a few days to revel in the sweet taste of victory.

Elvis showed up to cheer the Dawgs in the final game of the MVC Championship game March 10 in St. Louis. Even with the king in attendance it just was not enough to overtake Creighton.

See FANS, page 9
The game against South Missouri State provided a sense of déjà vu. A different team, sporting the same school colors as SIU, demonstrated essentially the same scenario for fans.

The initial fear, as the Bears, a squad the Dawgs beat with ease last season, entered the arena, was a worthy opponent of the Salukis. Missouri into the fourth quarter, fans swayed and danced in the same relief as the Dawgs released themselves from the grip the Bears held them in for most of the game.

The trumpets and trombones of the new band played once again, fans, watching the game from their seats, took their seats realizing once and for all there was nothing to cheer about.

Wearing identical colors, but no longer the same degree of spirit, they sat, arms folded, as Saluki fans swayed and danced to the SIU school song. Messages of “I bleed Saluki maroon,” “Go Salukis,” and most popularly, “I H.I. Carney,” traveled across the bleachers where fans swarmed together to discuss the past, present, and mostly, the future of their team.

Everyone seemed to agree, in spite of several close points in both games, that ISU and SMS presented no contest for the Dawgs.

The common consensus seemed to be that Creighton Bluejays would not be so easily shot down.

But fans had a variety of theories as to how to ensure victory.

“You can’t think about it,” said Tim Egan, a senior in plant and soil science from Libertyville. “If you think about it you can’t think about it the possibility of losing.”

Lynne Miller felt attendance was the key to victory.

“I think it will be pretty tight between Creighton and us,” said Miller, a senior in radio and television from Springfield. “We’ll probably win it in the last few minutes of the game so many people show up and how pissed off they are.”

Aaron Loese did not have any special strategies to guarantee victory.

“We killed Creighton the other night,” said Loese a sophomore in criminal justice from Alton. “We’re going to win. And I’m not guessing, I know that.”

In addition to all of the various rituals and theories fans performed before the game, some wore lucky socks, some only prayed, but a great deal seemed to agree with Miller’s idea that attendance would play a role in the potential victory.

Creighton fans appeared to feel the same way.

An hour and a half before the game, fans poured into the Savvis Center. The arena was packed with the usual blues and maroons of fans, bellowing chants of “Go Salukis!” resonating throughout the voices of the victory.

Mr. Jefferson and his friends Nikki Hickman and Biana Tines were not clad in the Saluki jerseys they were during previous game, but they had taken the time to design a sign with the words, “Fast 23, Jefferson, Saluki Showtime.”

“I spilled maroon paint in my friends new 2003 car,” said Jefferson, a senior in radio and television from Springfield. “I also think we may have broke some

Maggie Uhrig of Carterville was all painted up in a mask, a part of the MVC tournament. Uhrig showed her SIU spirit and wore #23 on her cheek in support of Jermaine Deeran.

David Carney was holding a slice, and he may have been the only Saluki who made the trek to Carbondale on a full stomach.

Carney’s eyes were sunken and his face was bright red.

It was not crying, but there is just something about a man missing a slice of pizza while looking at his pet had just died.

As the player began to talk to the media, who at that point was myself and the guy from NTV, they seemed to shower a little bit.

Haisont cracked a smile toward the end of our interview and Willis laughed softly, but the overall mood was still desolate.

It was as odd mix between dependent and content, and I stuck it helped the beleaguered players to talk to someone who was trying to figure out what was the same thing the man - how a team known for its shooting could churn up enough bricks to build another Savvis Center.

“It happens,” Haisont said, shifting his head and soon likely trying to figure out what happened to his team’s accuracy as he simultaneously answered our question. “It happens like this sometimes. It’s basketball.”

Every player I talked to said he had played terribably, but no one could understand why.

Haisont was able to explain SIU’s defensive breakdown at length, but like the others, had no clue why his team had missed 17 of its first 18 shots.

And neither did I, a thought that stayed with me as I left the Savvis Center and walked through the unseasonably cold streets of downtown St. Louis.

“Will they shoot like this in their next game?” I thought. “Oh, even worse, will their next game be in the NIT?”

I received what would turn out to be the question of the day on question Tuesday when I logged onto ESPN.com to meet the damage of the previous night.

Andy Katz took the first chance he could to defend the Salukis.

“Use talk to write Gonzaga and Southern Illinois into your bracket if you’re comfortable. Katz wrote.

I hope the Saluki players saw the two games go news like that goes a long way in helping them regain their appetite for basketball, as well as in pizza.
Deja vu for SIU in St. Louis

Jens Deja

Creighton topples Salukis in MVC title game once again

MVC All-Tournament Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Korver  - MVP</td>
<td>Creighton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LarryഷHoune</td>
<td>Creighton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Brenner</td>
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<td>Brennigemberg</td>
<td>Creighton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrence McGee</td>
<td>Missouri State</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Jens Deja

Daily Egyptian

Creighton hands SIU worst defeat since 2000

Michael treneer

Daily Egyptian

Deja vu for SIU in St. Louis

Creighton topples Salukis in MVC title game once again

Jens Deja

S T. LOUIS — For the second straight year the SIU men's basketball team had to look at that sign. The sign read "Missouri Valley Champions" and was held high in the air over screaming fans by a player wearing a MVC Championship hat and t-shirt.

The problem for the Salukis was that the sign was being held by a Creighton player again. SIU head coach Bruce Weber said he wanted his players to remember the Bluejays euphoria when they won the game last season and use it as motivation.

The Bluejays remembered the feeling, but could not do anything to change it. It was deja vu all over again for SIU.

Last year, the Salukis were the No. 3 seed in the tournament while Creighton was No. 2. The two teams were exactly the same this year.

Last year SIU had to go through Southwest Missouri State in the semifinals to get to the championship game. Once again, SIU stood at the half, in fact having to overcome a three-point lead they were being shellacked and trailed by 26.

Weber said it was a shame the Salukis could not play better since the championship game is a chance for the conference to be showcased across the country on ESPN.

"They played a lot like they did last year in the tournament in the second straight year. They played a lot like they did last year in the tournament in the second straight year." Weber said.

"I wanted to play Creighton and I think our kids wanted to play Creighton. We felt to get the top two teams in the championship game is what it's all about." - Bruce Weber

Today this time around it was the Salukis who were down at the half, but instead of having to overcome a three-point lead they were being shellacked and trailed by 26.

Weber said it was a shame the Salukis could not play better since the championship game is a chance for the conference to be showcased across the country on ESPN.

"It's going to be a tough week again, but we hope that we've done enough," Williams said.

The championship game is a chance for the Bluejays to show the MVC their stuff and to feel like they have a real shot at winning the Big Dance.

The Salukis get their chance to show the Creighton game was a fluke when they face their first round opponent the Missouri Valley Conference.

The remaining question is how far can SIU go in the tournament this time around.

Repoter Jim Deja

jdj65@dalyegyptian.com

Page 10 • MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2003 • DAILY & EVENING SPORTS EXTRA
Senior’s farewell less than stellar

Jens Deju
Daily Egyptian

ST. LOUIS — With just two more regular-season games before the start of the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament, SIU head coach Jeff Dutrow took his team to the Loyola Center to have a look at the arena and get a feel for the building. Dutrow said his team was leaning against the wall.

As the players tore off the court, Dutrow hugged both players and whispered a few words into each of their ears, as if trying to come up with something that would help them get focused for the game.

The problem, however, was Dutrow’s team. They had been out of the game for more than a week, and it was hard to say that they were in any kind of rhythm. They were coming out of a 24-point loss to Creighton in a game that was played in the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament.

At the time, it was a game that would turn out to be a disaster. The Salukis were struggling to find the rhythm that had carried them through much of the season. They were looking for a way to get their confidence back.

Going into the MVC Tournament, the lone thing the seniors had yet to accomplish was victory over Illinois State. The Salukis had been hitting a few shots, and they were looking for a way to win.

The senior class seemed to be falling, with the team looking for a win in the Missouri Valley Tournament. The seniors had been hitting a few shots, and they were looking for a way to win.

The second half was much better, with Dutrow putting the finishing touches on the game. The SIU had double-double numbers in the game, but the Salukis were still struggling.

After the game Dutrow said, "I was happy. I was happy with the fact that we were able to get a win in the Missouri Valley Tournament."

The Salukis second all-time leading score was 34 points in the game. The seniors had been looking for a win, and they were happy to get one.

The SIU seniors were out for one last game, and they were happy to end their season on a high note.

The All-MVC First Team was up in the stands, cheering on the SIU seniors. They were happy to see the team end the season with a win.

The SIU head coach Bruce Weber was happy with the seniors and their performance. "I think the seniors have been a huge asset to us," Weber said. "They have been a huge part of the team this season, and I am happy to see them go out on a high note.

ST. LOUIS — Kent State and Creighton finished the season on a high note, with the Huskies winning 75-63 in the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament.

Creighton strikes back

Weekend of bad shooting culminates in massacre, second straight MVC tourney loss to Bluejays

Michael Brenner
Daily Egyptian

Creighton head coach Bruce Weber said that before the Creighton game, he was unsure if he had done all he had to do to reach the NCAA tournament. Weber said he did not tell the team, but he cannot prevent his players from watching his team on television and finding out for themselves.

"I think the whole thing is going to turn around now," Weber said. "I am not going to say anything now, but when you win seven in a row, and every game is the biggest game, it just got to the point where you just took it all on.

"It’s our fault," Weber said.

The inside of the arena was empty when the Salukis took the court. The cheerleaders were not there, and there was no crowd.

"If you can’t get used to that now, you’re not going to get used to it later," SIU senior guard Kent Williams said.

The Salukis finished the Missouri Valley Conference season with a record of 4-2-1, and they were not able to get going.

"We were ripe to kind of get beat," SIU junior Bryan Turner said. "We were going to kind of lose against Creighton."
Emotions took many forms during the Salukis’ trek through the conference tournament last weekend.

SIU sophomore guard Darren Brooks and senior forward Jermaine Dearman congratulate each other during an Illinois State free-throw attempt in the waning moments of the Salukis’ first-round 75-63 victory over the Redbirds. Dearman set the pace of the game early with a monster dunk and finished strong with a total of 26 points to give the Salukis their first win of the tournament.

SIU head coach Bruce Weber stares down an official during the March 9 game against Southwest Missouri State. The Salukis won 64-55 despite a controversial call that resulted in Kent Williams spending the majority of the first half on the bench.

(Above) SIU senior guard Kent Williams shows the look of determination he had throughout the MVC tournament. Williams will get one last chance in the NCAA tournament when the Salukis face Missouri Thursday in Indianapolis.

(Right) SIU senior forward Jermaine Dearman reaches out for a defensive rebound during the second half of the Dawgs’ game against Illinois State. He finished the game with 12 rebounds and was a member of the all-tournament team.

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