



POSTGAME NOTES

Dec. 15, 2020

State Farm Center (Champaign, Ill.)

No. 13 Illinois 92, Minnesota 65

SERIES, ETC.

Tonight's 92-65 loss was the 182nd all-time meeting between Minnesota and Illinois (not counting vacated games), and the Gophers trail in the series, 66-116 (20-68 in Champaign). Minnesota dropped its first game of the season to fall to 6-1 overall and 0-1 in the Big Ten, while 13th-ranked Illinois improved to 5-2 overall and 1-0 in the B1G. Minnesota's all-time record now stands at 1,508-1,130 overall (not counting vacated games). Coach Pitino's eighth-year record at Minnesota is 133-109 and his nine-year career mark is 151-123. Pitino is 4-6 all-time versus the Illini.

STARTING FIVE

Coach Pitino utilized a starting lineup of junior center Liam Robbins (seventh start at Minnesota, 43rd career start), redshirt junior guard Marcus Carr (seventh start this season, 38th start at Minnesota, 65th career start), junior guard Gabe Kalscheur (seventh start this season, 74th career start), junior guard Both Gach (seventh start at Minnesota, 46th career start) and sophomore forward Isaiah Ihnen (second start this season, second career start).

QUICK GAME RECAP

Minnesota led 13-8 at the first media timeout, as Liam Robbins connected on a pair of three-pointers and Marcus Carr added another. Carr then pushed it to 18-10, but the Illini answered with a 14-0 run to retake the lead, before Eric Curry drained a three to cut it to 24-21. Illinois' run reached 22-3 for a 32-21 advantage and the teams were even the rest of the half as the Illini led, 40-29. Carr paced the Gophers with 12 points, four assists and four rebounds at the break, but Minnesota was just 4-of-28 (1-of-11 3FG) after starting the game by making 4-of-7 (3-of-3).

The second half saw Illinois continue to stretch the lead to as many as 36 points as it coasted to the victory. The Illini dominated the game in the paint, outscoring Minnesota 48-14 in the lane and holding a 53-35 advantage in total rebounds.

CARR PACES GOPHERS

Marcus Carr had a tough night getting his shots to fall, connecting on 3-of-13 field goals, but still led the Gophers with 16 points by connecting on 9-of-10 free throws. Carr, who entered the game ranked third in the Big Ten (11th nationally) with an average of 23.8 ppg, added six rebounds, four assists and a blocked shot to his point total. He has scored in double-figures 31 times, including in 16 of his past 17 games. He has four games this season with 22 or more points.

ROBBINS REACHES DOUBLE-FIGURES

Liam Robbins made 4-of-8 field goals, including a pair of early three-pointers, to finish the game with 10 points, but his time on the court was limited to 16 minutes before fouling out late in the game. Robbins has reached double-digits for points five times this season, including his past three games.

JOHNSON RETURNS FROM INJURY

Brandon Johnson, who missed the win against Kansas City due to an ankle injury sustained last Tuesday versus Boston College, came off the bench tonight to give the Gophers some productive minutes. Johnson struggled from the field by going 1-of-8, but he was 6-of-7 at the free throw line to finish with eight points and lead the Gophers with a season-high eight rebounds in 19 minutes. Four of Johnson's rebounds came at the offensive end of the floor and he also blocked two shots.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND NOTES

The Gophers wore Maroon uniforms ... Eric Curry had a season-high seven points on 3-of-4 shooting in 16 minutes ... Gabe Kalscheur finished with nine points and made a second-half three-pointer, giving him 158 for his career and moving him past Lawrence McKenzie (2006-08) for seventh-most at Minnesota ... Isaiah Ihnen grabbed seven rebounds and added two blocked shots and is averaging 9.0 rpg in his first two collegiate starts ... Tre' Williams had six points and three steals ... Minnesota held a 26-23 edge in bench points ... The Gophers return to Williams Arena this Sunday, when they play host to Saint Louis on FS1 at 7:30 p.m. CT.