



POSTGAME NOTES

Feb. 20, 2021

Williams Arena (Minneapolis, Minn.)

No. 5 Illinois 94, Minnesota 63

SERIES, ETC.

Today's 94-63 loss was the 183rd all-time game between Minnesota and Illinois (not counting vacated games), and the Illini lead the series, 117-66 (series tied 45-45 in Minneapolis). Today's game was the second meeting between the teams this season. Illinois posted a 92-65 win in Champaign way back on Dec. 15. Minnesota (13-10, 6-10 B1G) fell to 13-2 at Williams Arena, while fifth-ranked Illinois improved to 16-5 overall and 12-3 in the Big Ten. Minnesota's all-time record now stands at 1,515-1,139 overall (not counting vacated games). Coach Pitino's eighth-year record at Minnesota is 140-118 and his nine-year career mark is 158-132. Pitino is 4-7 all-time versus Illinois.

STARTING FIVE

Coach Pitino utilized a starting lineup of redshirt senior forward Brandon Johnson (18th start at Minnesota, 109th career start), junior center Liam Robbins (23rd start at Minnesota, 59th career start), redshirt junior guard Marcus Carr (23rd start this season, 54th start at Minnesota, 81st career start), sophomore guard Tre' Williams (seventh start this season, 12th career start), and freshman guard Jamal Mashburn Jr. (second start this season, second career start). This afternoon's starting five is 0-2 this season.

GAME RECAP

Minnesota grabbed an early 16-11 lead on an 8-2 run, keyed by back-to-back three-pointers from Marcus Carr, before Illinois heated up and responded with a 12-3 run to pull ahead 23-19 midway through the half. Trailing 30-23, a three-pointer from Both Gach cut it to 30-26, and Tre' Williams later pulled the Gophers within 34-29 with a three of his own. But Illinois closed the half on a 14-4 run, including a buzzer-beating half court heave, for a 48-33 lead at the break. Carr and Williams each had eight points, while Brandon Johnson had six, and Liam Robbins added four blocked shots and four assists.

The Illini started the second half just like they ended the first, and quickly stretched the lead to as many as 26 points in the first four minutes. Minnesota briefly got back to within 21, but the Illini pulled away and led by as many as 36 in the 94-63 win.

MASHBURN LEADS GOPHERS

Jamal Mashburn Jr. finished with a team-high 16 points, while also leading the Gophers with a career-best six rebounds. Mashburn made 6-of-14 field goals, including 2-of-3 from beyond the arc, and was 2-of-2 at the free throw line. He added three assists in 35 minutes for the Gophers. It was his seventh double-figure scoring game this season, including his third-straight and fifth in the past six games. Over his past three games, Mashburn is averaging 16.3 points per game.

WILLIAMS TIES CAREER-HIGH

Tre' Williams made his eventh start of the season, and tied his career-high with 11 points for the second game in a row. It's the third-straight career-best effort for Williams, who had previously tied his career-high with 10 points at Rutgers.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND NOTES

The teams combined to make 9-of-13 three-pointers in the first half, with Minnesota at 4-of-6 and Illinois 5-of-7 including the half-court shot at the buzzer ... for the game, each team shot 50 percent from three-point range, as the Gophers were 8-of-16 and the Illini were 7-of-14 ... Minnesota is 5-5 this season versus AP Top 25 teams ... Marcus Carr finished with 12 points, two rebounds, two assists, one blocked shot and a steal ... Minnesota is 7-2 when wearing its White uniforms this season ... Brandon Johnson had 12 points and a pair of rebounds for the Gophers ... Illinois made 37-of-66 (.563) field goals, dropping the Gophers to 0-8 when allowing an opponent to shoot 50 percent or better this season ... the Gophers remain home to play host to Northwestern on Thursday (Feb. 25) at 8:00 p.m. on BTN.