



Southern Illinois (1-0) 87, Southeast Missouri (1-1) 79 ^{OT}

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 // 6:30 p.m., CT // Show Me Center // Cape Girardeau, Mo.

- Southeast Missouri suffered its first loss of the 2020-21 season in overtime fashion against longtime rival Southern Illinois. It was the first time SEMO went to overtime in a non-conference game at home since Dec. 23, 2013 (vs. IUPUI).
- Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois met for the 118th time on the hardwood. SIU improved to 72-46 in the all-time series. The Salukis won 19 of the last 23 matchups between the teams and four of the last five dating back to 2015-16.
- The Redhawks dropped to 23-7 in home-openers since joining the NCAA Division I ranks in 1991-92. SEMO's streak of home-opening wins ended at four games.
- Tonight's game against Southern Illinois marked SEMO's 304th matchup against a Missouri Valley Conference opponent. The Redhawks dropped to 109-195 all-time against MVC foes.
- Half of SEMO's shortened six-game non-conference slate in 2020-21 is comprised of Missouri Valley Conference schools. The Redhawks also face Evansville (Dec. 18) and Indiana State (Dec. 22) on the road this month.
- For the second-straight game, Southeast Missouri had four players with double figures in the scoring column. Eric Reed, Jr. paved the way with 17 points, Chris Harris added 15, Nolan Taylor had 14 and Jordan Love chipped in 10.
- Chris Harris scored double figures in all four games of his Southeast Missouri career to date. Harris only played in two games last season due to a knee injury.
- Nygal Russell became the first Redhawk to get double-digit rebounds in 2020-21. Russell finished with a career-high 11 boards against the Salukis. He also logged a career-high 38 minutes.
- Southeast Missouri recorded seven blocks against Southern Illinois. Just two games into its 2020-21 campaign, the Redhawks have already surpassed their season-best of six in 31 games a year ago-- at Morehead State (Jan. 30, 2020).
- In only two games in 2020-21, Southeast Missouri has posted a combined 12 blocks. The last time SEMO started a season with 12 blocks in its first two contests was 2007-08 (9 at Xavier, 11/10; 3 at Illinois State, 11/14).
- The Redhawks outrebounded the Salukis, 50-37, for a +13 margin on the boards. Southeast Missouri manhandled Southern Illinois, 18-4, on the offensive glass. The Redhawks last had 50 or more rebounds in a game when they notched 50 vs. Southeastern Louisiana on Dec. 6, 2014. SEMO became the third Ohio Valley Conference team to get a season-high 50 rebounds this year, joining Eastern Kentucky (vs. North Florida, Nov. 25) and SIU Edwardsville (vs. Health Sciences & Pharmacy, Nov. 28).
- Southeast Missouri assisted 21 of its 31 made field goals against Southern Illinois. It was the Redhawks highest number of assists in a game in 35 contests. The last time SEMO had over 20 assists in a game was at Eastern Illinois (23) on Feb. 16, 2019.
- Eric Reed, Jr., Nate Johnson, freshman Dylan Branson each scored their first career points as Redhawks. Reed, Jr. led Southeast Missouri with 17 points, including 13 in the second half. He also drained three 3-pointers and, at one time, scored eight points in a row to give SEMO a six-point lead with a little under 11 minutes to play in regulation. Johnson had six points, two blocks and three rebounds, while Branson had two points, four rebounds and three assists.
- Nolan Taylor had another nice game on the block. Taylor pitched in 14 points and pulled down seven rebounds in 22 minutes. Taylor is Southeast Missouri's third-leading scorer through two games with 12 points per contest.
- Southeast Missouri was outscored at the free throw line by a count of 28-11. Southern Illinois made 9-of-10 free throws in the overtime period to escape with the win. The Redhawks missed 10 free throws (11-of-21) and shot 52.4 percent at the charity stripe.
- First-year head coach Brad Korn, who played at Southern Illinois from 1999-2004, coached against his alma mater for the first time. Korn was part of six NCAA Tournament appearances during his time as a player (3) and assistant coach (3) with the Salukis. SIU went 4-1 against SEMO with Korn on its roster.
- Brendan Mullins, brother of Southern Illinois head coach Bryan Mullins, served as the acting head coach for the Salukis. Bryan was unable to coach against the Redhawks after he tested positive for COVID-19.