

2002 GAME RECAPS

† **Missouri 33 Illinois 20**-St Louis. MO dominated the 1H w/ a 222-88 yd edge but only led 14-7. IL tied it on the 3Q's 1st drive. MO ret'd a fmb'l 46 yds for a TD and got 85 and 54 yd TD drives to blow it open, 33-14. IL drove 67 yds for a TD. MU QB Smith, making his 1st start, rushed for 138 yds and passed for 152.

S MISS 23 Illinois 20-IL led 14-2 w/ 70 yd PR TD and a 76 yd fmb'l ret TD despite having 0 FD's. IL actually spiked the ball on the FR thinking it was an incomplection but the refs let it stand. SM RB Nix rushed for 201 yds despite not playing 2Q. SM pulled within 17-15 but missed the 2 pt try. IL had a 32 yd FG blk'd and Nix got a 50 yd TD run to make it 23-17 (2 pt good). IL got a FG and SM missed a 47 yd FG. SM was SOD on 4th & 2 at the IL 6 w/1:31 left. They later took over at the 16 but took a knee.

ILLINOIS 59 Arkansas St 7-ASU was SOD after a 51 yd drive and they missed a 31 yd FG after a 67 yd drive. IL built a 24-0 lead but ASU went 74 yds for a TD w/:11 left. IL opened it up in the 3Q w/TD drives of 73, 85, 70, 59 and 80 yds on their 1st 5 poss.

San Jose St 38 ILLINOIS 35-IL took a 14-7 lead w/71 and 64 yd TD drives and SJS drove 27 yds for a TD after a 60 yd KR to tie it. SJS got a 61 yd TD drive w/1:48 left 2Q but the Illini got a TD w/:05 left, 21-21. SJS went 71 yds for a TD to take the lead. IL went 80 yds for a TD but SJS answered w/a 76 yd drive. IL got a 32 yd TD pass w/1:21 left, 35-35 but SJS got a 37 yd FG on the final play for the upset.

Michigan 45 ILLINOIS 28-At the half IL had a 315-234 yd edge but trailed 28-13. They settled for 44 and 39 yd FG's and UM had 15 & 24 yd TD drives after int's. UI also had a FG blk'd just before half. UM added an 88 yd TD drive and got a 10 yd TD drive after an int and a 21 yd FG to lead 45-13 and the Illini got 2 4Q TD's incl one w/:11 left.

MINNESOTA 31 Illinois 10-UM dropped a punt snap for an IL safety but UM drove 84 yds for a TD and 50 yds for a FG. IL got a 30 yd Lloyd TD recp, 10-10. After an int IL drove to the UM 2 but fmb'l'd w/ 2:10 left and UM went 86 yds and got a TD run on the 1H's final play. UM got a 73 yd TD drive and added a blk'd punt TD. IL fmb'l'd at the UM 7 but UM was SOD at the IL 1.

ILLINOIS 38 Purdue 31 (OT) -IL ret'd the opening KO for a TD and led 24-0 when PU got an int ret for a TD and a FG, 24-10. PU drove 76 & 55 yds for TD's to tie. PU fmb'l'd a punt on the 43. IL missed a FG and PU drove 80 yds for a TD w/5:27 left. IL went 80 yds in 19 plays converting on 4th down twice and getting a TD w/:03 left to tie. PU got a Hail Mary pass in the EZ but it was ruled down at the 1. In OT IL got a TD and PU was SOD.

ILLINOIS 45 Indiana 14-IL took their 1st 4 poss 67, 64, 80 and 57 (after fmb'l) yds for TD's, 28-0. They added a 55 yd TD drive after Indy was SOD and led 35-0 at the half. IL drove 65 yds for a TD on the 1st poss of the 3Q and benched the starters. It was 45-0 when Indy drove 63 & 74 yds for garbage TD's including one w/:05 left.

PENN ST 18 Illinois 7-PSU opened w/a 68 yd FG drive and added an 84 yd TD run, 10-0. PSU added a FG and a 68 yd TD drive w/:28 left 1H, 18-0 (xp ng). PSU had a FD at the IL 23 but was SOD. They later missed a 52 yd FG. Bkup QB Beutjer led IL 60 yds in 17 plays for a TD w/5:22 left. Beutjer was int'd at the 1 and PSU ran out the clock. Larry Johnson set a PSU record w/279 yds rushing.

Illinois 37 WISCONSIN 20 - UW was w/out QB Bollinger & RB Davis due to inj's. IL suffered 5 TO's but had a 26-13 FD edge. IL opened w/a 45 yd FG but UW went 77 yds to tie it. IL went 61 and 36 yds (after fmb'l) for TD's, 17-3. UW got a 6 yd TD drive after a 52 yd fmb'l return and got a 44 yd FG after an int, 17-13. IL was int'd in the EZ but UW was SOD. IL got a 22 yd TD pass w/:28 left 1H to lead 24-13. UW got a 56 yd int return setting up a 10 yd TD drive, 24-20 but IL went 68 & 32 yds for FG's and 56 yds for a TD, 37-20. UW's last threat ended in an int in the EZ.

Ohio St 23 ILLINOIS 16 (OT) - OSU hit 2 FG's but IL drove 72 yds for a FG w/:31 left 1H, 6-3. IL got a 51 yd PR setting up a 19 yd TD pass for a 10-6 3Q lead. OSU quickly answered w/a 50 yd TD pass, 13-10. IL fmb'l'd at the OSU 18. The Illini went 44 yds for a FG to tie. OSU drove 43 yds for a FG to lead 16-13. OSU drove 66 yds but missed a 41 yd FG w/2:17 left. IL nailed a 48 yd FG on the final play. In OT OSU got a TD but the Illini had 2 close incomplections in the EZ ruled OOB.

N'WSTRN 31 Illinois 24 -After the teams traded TD's, IL drove 57 & 68 yds for TD's and added a 35 yd FG, 24-7. NW was int'd in the EZ with :43 left 1H. NW hit a 31 yd FG and then on 4th & goal threw a lateral to OL Essex but he was tkl'd 3 yds short. IL drove 96 yds for a TD. NW answered with a 66 yd TD drive and then had a TD called back on holding before being int'd in the EZ. NW went 75 yds for a TD with 2:12 left for the win.