

2003 GAME RECAPS

† **Missouri 22 Illinois 15** - Edward Jones Dome, St Louis. IL had 23-12 FD and 411-223 yd edges. IL settled for a 44 yd FG then their P was tkl'd at their own 2 setting up MO for a TD drive. IL fmbld at the MO 16 and MO drove 47 yds for a TD, 14-3. IL got a 48 yd FG on the 1H's final play. The Illini settled for a 31 yd FG at the end of a 51 yd drive. IL was then stopped on 4th & inches at the MO 15 early 4Q. IL drove 39 yds for a TD after a 16 yd PR but missed the 2 pt conv and led 15-14. MO had its best drive going 78 yds in 13 plays for a TD with 4:06 left and the 2 pt conv made it 22-15. IL got to the MO 29 but a 4th & 4 pass was in the arms of an open WR at the 5 but he dropped it.

ILLINOIS 49 Illinois St 22-ISU took their opening drive 65 yds but on a QB draw, fmbld in the EZ for a TB. The Illini drove 63, 58 and 41 yds (after fmbld) for TD's, 21-0 after 1Q. ISU settled for a 27 yd FG and UI a 40 yd FG with 1:18 left in half, 24-3. ISU tried a 49 yd FG on the final play of the half, but it was blk'd and ret'd 66 yds for a TD, 31-3 at the half. ISU got a 78 yd 13 play 3Q TD drive. UI rec'd an onside kick and nailed a 28 yd FG, 31-13. UI got a 65 yd 5 play drive but ISU answered with an 80 yd TD pass (2 pt ng), 38-19 after 3Q's. UI drove 59 and 78 yds for a TD and a 28 yd FG to lead 49-19 with 1:58 left. ISU drove 58 yds for a 28 yd FG on the final play of the game.

UCLA 6 Illinois 3-Defensive struggle with UCLA having just 204 yds and UI 283. UI had 4 TO's & UCLA only had 1. In the 1H UCLA drove 58 yds for a 28 yd FG. In the 2Q UI was int'd at the UCLA 18. UI then fmbld a punt and UCLA got a 48 yd FG, 6-0 at the half. In the 3Q the teams exchanged int's and UI drove 45 yds for a 29 yd FG with 4:15 left 3Q, 6-3. UI drove 66 yds in 11 plays for a 38 yd FG but illegal procedure forced a 43 yd FG which was wide, left with :27 left.

California 31 ILLINOIS 24-UI opened with a 68 yd TD drive and Cal had a 61 yd'r. Cal drove 54 yds for a TD mid 2Q, 14-7. Cal ret'd a punt 68 yds for a TD, 21-7. UI got a 72 yd TD pass to open the 3Q and got the ball back but at midfield threw a backward pass which was int'd setting up a 26 yd TD drive by Cal. After UI was SOD at the 15, the Bears added a 32 yd FG, 31-14. UI drove 80 yds for a TD with 7:27 left and 76 yds but settled for a 34 yd FG with 1:44 left. They rec'd the onside kick, had 1st & goal at the 7 with :30 left, but ran out of time.

Wisconsin 38 ILLINOIS 20-Anthony Davis DNP for UW but backup Dwayne Smith had 193 yds rushing. After a 19 yd punt, UW drove 45 yds for a TD and then added 68 and 80 yd drives and led 21-0. UI got a 27 yd FG and a 75 yd 18 play drive for a TD with :32 left pulled them within 21-10. UI got a 47 yd FG and UW hit a 75 yd pass which set up a 5 yd TD run and led 28-13. UI drove 68 yds for a TD. UI got an int return for a TD but a roughing the QB penalty gave UW the FD & UW scored another TD, 35-20. UW went 75 yds in 12 plays settling for an 18 yd FG with 3:54 left to close the scoring.

PURDUE 43 Illinois 10-UI HC Turner said, "We were physically dominated early and never really had a chance to get into the game." PU had 29-11 FD and 533-191 yd edges. PU was SOD at the IL 1 and had a 23 yd FG blk'd but still led 27-3 at the half. IL got a 41 yd PR for their only TD and PU tacked on a TD with :35 left for the final.

Mich St 49 ILLINOIS 14-IL missed a 49 yd FG and then each team put together a long TD drive, 7-7. MSU ret'd an int to the 2 setting up a TD on 4th & 1 to lead 14-7. The Spartans added a 68 yd TD drive, but IL missed a 51 yd FG on the 1H's final play. MSU drove 93 yds for a TD, got a 12 yd TD drive after an int and drove 55 yds for a TD after IL was SOD. The Spartans added a 53 yd fmbld return for a TD. IL drove 89 yds in 16 plays for a TD with 1:05 left.

MICHIGAN 56 Illinois 14-UM dominated the 1H with 291-50 yd and 18-2 FD edges and led 35-0 getting a 74 yd PR TD and a TD on 4th & goal on the 2Q's final play. UI got an 81 yd TD drive and added an 80 yd drive for a TD with 5:33 left. UM drove 76 yds for a TD with 1:47 left.

Minnesota 36 ILLINOIS 10-UM converted a fake punt at its own 36 & drove 89 yds, 7-0. UM settled for a 31 yd FG and got an 80 yd TD pass, 17-0 early 2Q. IL brought in Ward at QB and he drove them 80 yds for a TD. IL drove to the UM 10 but were int'd in the EZ with :20 left, 17-7. UM drove 89 yds for a TD, 23-7 (xpng). IL drove 80 yds for a 28 yd FG. UM drove 80 & 78 yds for TD's to ice it.

IOWA 41 Illinois 10-Iowa drove 77, 75 & 80 yds for a 17-0 1H lead. Iowa hit a 24 yd FG to open the 3Q and IL missed a 43 yd'r. Iowa got a 3 yd fmbld ret TD & drove 57 yds for a TD, 34-0. IL drove 80 yds for a TD & 57 yds for a 24 yd FG. Iowa drove 73 yds for a TD pass with 3:12 left.

INDIANA 17 Illinios 14-Both teams had just 1 win each (vs 1AA). Indy opened with a 76 yd TD drive and IL missed a 39 yd FG. Indy was SOD on 4th & 1 at the 38 w/1:08 left 1H. IL drove 62 yds for a TD with :08 left to tie. IL missed a 36 yd FG but drove 69 yds for a TD to lead 14-7. IL had a 52 yd PR TD called back. Indy drove 56 yds for a 40 yd FG, 14-10. Indy drove 66 yds and Lovecchio's 3rd & goal 8 yd TD run w/:24 left won this.

N'Western 37 ILLINOIS 20-After an int, NW missed a 38 yd FG. IL hit a 37 yd FG and then got a 32 yd int return for a TD. NW went 59 yds for a TD, 10-7. IL drove 56 yds for a 41 yd FG. NW was SOD at the IL 33 and later fmbld at their own 42. IL had a FD at the NW 21 but a sk and pen pushed them back, 13-7 at half. In the 2H NW att'd just 1 pass & RB Wright rushed for 251 yds and 4 TD's. The Cats drove 61 yds for a TD to lead 14-13. IL was int'd at the NW 3 and the Cats drove 97 yds for a TD. IL fmbld at the NW 37. The Cats drove for a 38 yd FG. IL went 65 yds thanks to a fake punt on 4th & 5 at their own 40 and the TD pulled them within 23-20. NW went 80 yds for a TD and added a 68 yd int return for a TD. IL fmbld at the NW 18 and were SOD at the NW 3.