

2005 GAME RECAPS

ILLINOIS 33 Rutgers 30 (OT) - RU went on a 53 yd drive but missed a 34 yd FG then after a 45 yd drive settled for a 22 yd FG. After an int the Knights missed a 43 yd FG and IL drove 74 yds for a TD to lead 7-3. RU got a 55 yd TD pass then drove 59 yds for a 25 yd FG, 13-7. Late 1H IL fmbld at their own 19 and RU got a TD pass to lead 20-7 with a huge 285-103 yd edge at the half. RU RB Leonard hurdled a defender and raced 83 yds for a TD. IL drove 69 yds for a 28 yd FG and RU missed a 47 yd FG. IL went 56 & 54 yds for a 32 yd FG and a TD to pull within 27-20. RU had a 43 yd FG blk'd with 3:54 left. IL drove 65 yds and got a 13 yd TD pass with 1:13 left. RU punted with :28 left and IL missed a 52 yd FG. In OT RU settled for a 42 yd FG and the Illini's Thomas got a 2 yd TD run for the win.

ILLINOIS 40 San Jose St 19 - IL dominated finishing with 26-8 FD and 492-231 yd edges. SJS however rec'd a blk'd punt at the 19 which set up a TD. IL then went 76 yds for a TD. IL ret'd an int 27 yds to the 2 setting up a TD, 14-7. SJS had a 71 yd KR called back. IL went 58 yds for a TD and 56 yds for a 26 yd FG, 24-7. IL was int'd and ret'd to the 29. After a 1st & goal at the 2, SJS had 5 cracks at the EZ but came up short when Davis' sweep was tkl'd back at the 6. IL nailed a 33 yd FG on the 1H's last play. IL went 54 yds for a 21 yd FG and 68 yds with Brasic's 25 yd TD run making it 37-7. Both backup QB's came in and Pazan led IL 64 yds for a 45 yd FG. SJS got a 96 yd KR TD, 40-13 (xpng). Later SJS went 76 yds for a 22 yd FG with 4:28 left. Greco came in at QB for SJS and they went 40 yds for a 36 yd FG on the game's final play.

CALIFORNIA 35 Illinois 20 - Cal was without star RB Lynch & 2 starting OL's but backup Forsett rushed for 187 yds. Cal drove 80 yds for a TD on its opening poss but the Illini had 80, 77 and 56 yd drives for 2 TD's and a FG and led 17-7 at the half. IL had 17-4 FD and 229-124 yd 1H edges and Cal QB Ayoub hit just 1 for 9. Cal drove 81 yds for a TD to pull within 17-14. A 17 yd PR set Cal up for a 38 yd TD drive with 13:14 left and the lead, 21-17. Cal tacked on a 79 yd PR for a TD. The Illini went on a drive for a 31 yd FG, 28-20, but Cal drove 80 yds for a TD with 5:55 left to ice it.

Michigan St 61 ILLINOIS 14 -MSU simply set a Memorial Stadium record for most yds by an opponent (705) and QB Stanton set a school record with 5 TD passes. MSU had 75, 52, 92, 49 and 29 (after fmbld) yd TD drives and led 38-7 at the half. They drove 80, 84 and 80 yds on the 3Q's 1st 3 poss for TD's extending it to 59-7 with 11:01 left.

IOWA 35 Illinois 7 -Closer than the final would indicate as at the half IL had a 229-220 yd edge. Iowa opened with 80 & 67 yd TD drives but blown opportunities cost the Illini as they were int'd at the Iowa 1, had a 44 yd FG blk'd, missed a 20 yd FG after a 90 yd drive and had a 31 yd FG blk'd on the 2Q's last play and trailed 14-0. Iowa went 65 yds for a TD. The teams traded 80 yd TD drive before Iowa got a 66 yd TD run by Sims with 13:05 left to clinch it.

INDIANA 36 Illinois 13 -Indy went 82 yds for a TD & later was int'd at the IL 18 which set up a 68 yd IL FG drive. IL was called for illegal touching after rec an onside kick and Indy drove 40 yds for a TD, 14-3. IL rec'd a fmbld at the Indy 6 and got a TD 2 plays later. IL was int'd at its own 36 and Indy added a TD with :25 left 1H, 21-10. IL was SOD on 4th & 1 at the Indy 13 then drove for a 52 yd FG which banged over the crossbar. IL fmbld at the Indy 43 which set up a Hoosiers TD. Indy added a 52 yd TD drive with 4:05 left. Indy ret'd an int to the 3 but fmbld on 3rd & goal from the 2 with 3:02 left. IL was called for holding in the EZ for a safety and Indy ran out the clock.

Penn St 63 ILLINOIS 10 - IL actually went 56 yds for a 42 yd FG before the onslaught began and PSU led 56-3 at the half even bringing in backup QB Morelli for the 2Q's final series. PSU had a 378-98 yd edge & set a school record for pts in 1 half. The Lions added a 77 yd IR for a 3Q TD and even used 3rd string QB Cianciolo in the 4Q. IL got the bulk of their yds when they went 92 yds for a TD with 2:19 left.

Wisconsin 41 ILLINOIS 24 -UW went 80 (all rushing) and 83 yds (62 yd pass) for TD's, 13-0. IL drove 68 yds for a TD. UW threw incomplete on a bad snap on a 47 yd FG attempt and IL drove 64 yds for a 23 yd FG, 13-10. After a short KO & 25 yd ret, UW went 51 yds for a TD. The Illini were int'd at the UW 10 with :09 left 2Q, 20-10. At the half UW had a 291-249 yd edge. UW blk'd a punt and drove 8 yds for a TD. IL missed a 34 yd FG but drove 73 yds in 5 plays for a 3Q TD, 27-17. UW went 68 yds for a TD. IL drove to the Badger 2 but after a penalty & a sack they missed a 39 yd FG. UW was SOD on 4th & 1 at the IL 26 with 5:16 left. The Illini went 74 yds in 5 plays with a 32 yd TD pass with 4:07 left. UW rec'd the onside kick and got a 46 yd TD run by Calhoun with 3:54 left. IL had a season high 538 yds.

OHIO ST 40 Illinois 2 - OSU took their 3rd poss 31 yds for a 30 yd FG. The Bucks had an 85 yd drive but settled for a 23 yd FG. OSU went 80 yds with a 41 yd TD pass to Holmes, 13-0 at half with a 218-64 yd edge. OSU opened the 3Q with a 64 yd KR and went 35 yds for a TD but IL picked up a botched xp and ret'd it for 2, 19-2. IL faked a punt on 4th & 5 from its own 25 and was SOD. OSU went 28 yds for a TD and then got a 73 yd TD pass to Ginn, 33-3. OSU added an 80 yd TD drive and went on a 16 play, 70 yd drive ending the game at the IL 10.

PURDUE 37 Illinois 3 - Windy. PU was going into the wind in the 1Q and missed a 38 yd FG. IL was int'd at their 44 and 48 in the 1Q and PU managed a 30 yd 2Q FG. PU drove 94 yds for a TD and led 10-0 at the half. PU had the wind at their back in the 3Q and after 22 & 34 yd IL punts into the wind, PU went 36 & 58 yds in for TD's, 24-0. On 4th & 3 PU got a 45 yd IR down to the 13 and 3 plays later a TD. IL avoided the shutout with a 30 yd FG with 7:37 left. PU went 80 yds and got a TD run by Painter with 1:57 left.

Northwestern 38 ILLINOIS 21 - Both moved at will in the 1H as they exchanged TD's and IL missed a 47 yd FG and each team punted once. NU got a 19 yd FG with :09 left 2Q, 24-21. NU went on an 80 yd TD drive to open the 3Q scoring on a 28 yd run on a fake FG. IL was int'd at the 16 and NU was SOD on 4th & 1 at the IL 5. NU missed a 41 yd FG early 4Q but got an 80 yd TD drive with 6:50 left. IL was SOD on 4th & 6 at the NU 22 with 2:47 left.