

2006 GAME RECAPS

ILLINOIS 42 E Illinois 17 - IL topped 300 yds rush for the 1st time since the 1999 bowl (345). IL went [61/3] & [90/12] for TD's. It was 21-7 when IL fmbld & EI got a 33 yd TD pass. IL went [83/11] for a TD, 28-14 at half. EI had a 1st & goal at the 2 but was int'd in the EZ & the Illini drove [80/7] for a TD. EI was int'd at midfield & IL drove [54/9] for a TD, 42-14. IL fmbld on consec poss & EI got a 42 yd FG w/5:31 left.

RUTGERS 33 Illinois 0 - RU got a 78 yd punt to the IL4 & then blk'd a punt for TD. RU added a 38 yd IR for a TD & it was 14-0. RU added [62/6] & [47/7] drives for TD's in the 1H & a 38 yd FG made it 30-0 at the half. RU added a 40 yd FG & then was int'd in the EZ & SOD at the IL3 finishing w/a 311-126 yd edge. In the game IL failed to cross their own 46.

Syracuse 31 ILLINOIS 21 - SU's Patterson fmbld the ball near midfield but WR Smith picked it up & took it 41 yds for a TD. IL went [76/15] for a TD. SU got a 65 yd TD pass to lead 14-7. IL had 3 long runs wiped out by pen's and on a 3rd & 30 were int'd at the 17. SU ret'd a fmbld 15 yds for a TD early 3Q & then drove [52/6] for a TD, 28-7. SU added a 36 yd FG. Juice Williams hit 76 & 69 yd TD passes in the 4Q, the latter w/1:36 left.

Iowa 24 ILLINOIS 7 - Williams started & he drove IL [38/10] but Reda missed a 46 yd FG. Iowa was int'd at the 1. After a 13 yd punt, Iowa drove [31/6] for a TD. Iowa drove [54/7] for a TD (2:57 left 2Q) & Brasic's int set up a 35 yd TD pass from Tate to TE Moeaki, 21-0 at the half. Brasic was int'd at the Iowa 17 on IL's opening 3Q drive. Williams drove the Illini [56/14] but Reda missed a 46 yd FG. After a Williams int, Iowa got a 49 yd FG w/10:45 left, 24-0. Williams was just 2 of 20 when he connected on B2B 39 & 31 yd passes, the latter for a TD w/9:40 left. IL was int'd at the Iowa 15 & gained 79 yds on their final drive to the Hawks 15.

Illinois 23 MICHIGAN ST 20 - MSU started w/a [62/10] drive but on 2nd & goal from the 2 Stanton fmbld. MSU drove [34/9] but they settled for a 31 yd FG. Williams picked up a bobbled snap & threw it up for grabs and WR Willis outjumped the defender & raced 69 yds for a TD. IL added a [66/14] drive for a 27 yd FG & led 10-3 at half. MSU got a 62 yd IR TD, 10-10. IL answered going [72/9] for a TD & then [66/10] for a 34 yd FG, 20-10. After a 16 yd PR of a 24 yd punt, MSU went [27/6] for a TD. After a 34 yd punt & a 15 yd PR, MSU started at IL's 36 but they settled for a 27 yd FG & the tie w/2:46 left. IL went [58/10] & nailed a 39 yd FG w/0:06 left for the upset. IL had a 390-259 yd edge.

Indiana 34 ILLINOIS 32 - IL led 25-7 early 2Q but Zook went for 2 pt conv's 2x & failed both times. IN went [40/5] & [68/8] for a pair of TD's to make it 25-21 at half. IN's Thigpen ret'd the 3Q KO 98 yds for a TD, 28-25. IL pooch punted instead of kicking a 50 yd FG & IN drove [75/11] for a 23 yd FG, 31-25. IL drove [76/3] for a TD, 32-31 after 3Q's. IN rec'd a muffed punt at the IL35 but missed a 33 yd FG. IN took over at their 20 w/2:31 left & drove [65/10] getting the game winning 33 yd FG on the last play.

Ohio 20 ILLINOIS 17 - IL had 21-11 FD & 397-238 yd edges but lost 5 TO's to OU's 1. IL went [73/10] but settled for a 25 yd FG. OU got a 58 yd pass keying a [80/4] TD drive. OU blk'd a punt & went [19/2] for a TD, 14-3. IL went [41/7] & got a TD w/24 left 1H. OU brought in Illini transfer QB Bower after a 13 yd PR to the IL40 & got a 32 yd FG, 17-10. IL went on a [51/8] drive but missed a 41 yd FG. IL got a 39 yd run but fmbld at the OU 31. IL went [70/4] & tied it at 17 w/a 44 yd TD pass. IL took over at their 6 w/1:45 left. They got a FD & then WR Hudson appeared to have his forward progress stopped but fmbld & it was rec'd by OU & ret'd to the 16 w/1:03 left. OU got a 32 yd FG w/0:05 left for the win.

PENN ST 26 Illinois 12 - Misleading final as IL had a 358-184 yd edge. PSU's Morelli missed most of the wk's practice (concussion). PSU got a 49 yd FG and IL got a [58/12] drive for a 41 yd FG. A 79 yd run by Mendenhall to the 1 set IL up for a 21 yd FG. After a 19 yd IR to the 15, IL got a 40 yd FG, 9-3. PSU missed a 44 yd FG. IL was int'd at the PSU17 to open the 3Q. After a 17 yd PR, PSU went [34/6] for a TD & then sk'd Williams & got a 3 yd FR TD less than 1:00 later, 17-9. IL was int'd at the PSU25 & then drove [47/8] for a 36 yd FG. IL fmbld but PSU fmbld it back on the return at the IL10 with just 1:56 left. On 4th & 15 Williams was sk'd for a safety and PSU's Scirrotto took the onside kick 29 yds for a TD.

WISCONSIN 30 Illinois 24 - IL got a 41 yd IR TD but then fmbld a punt at their own 12 to set up UW for a 21 yd FG. IL went [80/8] for a TD and then rec'd a fmbld & went [24/8] for a TD to lead 21-3. UW went [76/11] for a TD & IL answered w/a [69/11] drive. On 3rd & goal from the 3, a wide open TD pass was dropped & IL settled for a 20 yd FG, 24-10 at half with a 206-113 yd IL edge. An IL int set UW up for a TD drive [44/6]. On 3rd & 1 Williams missed an open Halsey & UW went [62/9] for a 21 yd FG, 24-20. UW went [51/6] for a TD, 27-24, their first lead of the game (14:50 4Q). UW converted on 4th & 8 at the IL27 w/a 16 yd pass & got a 33 yd FG (4:27). IL was SOD on 4th & 10 at its own 46 (2:26) but got it back at the 18 w/1:28 left. They got to the 44 but had a 33 yd pass called back on penalty & Williams was sk'd on the final play.

Ohio St 17 ILLINOIS 10 - OSU took its opening drive [80/14] for a TD. Two poss later IL fmbld on their own 39 & the Bucks got a TD 8 plays later, 14-0. OSU went [40/11] for a 50 yd FG with :56 left 1H. With QB Brasic in, IL started at OSU's 47 after a 31 yd punt & IL would get a 27 yd FG with 8:54 left, 17-3. OSU was int'd at IL's 35 & IL was int'd at the 45 on the next play (4:38). With QB Williams in, IL went [80/10] for a TD with 1:40 left, 17-10. The onside kick was rec'd by OSU.

Purdue 42 ILLINOIS 31 - Five IL TO's & 25 mph winds were the keys. IL went [80/12] for a TD & after they a got 49 yd IR to the PU29, they settled for a 38 yd FG. PU went [73/11] for a TD & then IL was pinned at its own 6 when QB Williams was sk'd & fmbld into the EZ & PU rec'd it for a TD, 14-10. IL settled for 29 & 30 yd FG's after 2 long drives & only led 16-14 at half. PU went on a [50/8] drive but was SOD at the IL30. IL got 62 yd run by Thomas foll'd by an 8 yd TD run by Mendenhall & led 23-14. PU went [80/8] with QB Painter running untouched for a TD & following an int 36 yds for another TD, 28-23. PU rec'd the KO but missed a 36 yd FG. IL fmbld at their own 32 setting PU up for a TD, 35-23. IL would fmbld on their next 2 drives at their own 32 & 19 & PU capitalized w/a TD to lead 42-23. IL went [66/10] for a TD & rec'd a fmbld at the 42 but were SOD at the 9 w/3:51 left.

NORTHWESTERN 27 Illinois 16 - NU fmbld & IL rec'd at the NU34 but Reda missed a 20 yd FG. NU went [41/7] for a TD. IL got a 75 yd KR but fmbld at the 8 & NU went [92/14] for a TD, 14-0. IL's Mendenhall got an 86 yd TD run. NU was pinned at its 1 & Sutton was tkl'd for a safety on 3rd & 19, 14-9. NU fmbld at the IL44 setting the Illini up for a TD, 16-14. NU went [53/10] for a 36 yd FG on the 1H's final play, 17-16. NU rec'd an onside kick to open the 2H & converted on 4th & 4 for a FD to the 30. Two plays later they got a TD, 24-16. IL went [73/10] but were SOD at the NU16 when a pass was dropped. IL then fmbld a punt at their own 42 & NU went [53/10] for a 22 yd FG, 27-16 (2:17). IL's 4th & 7 pass was dropped w/1:16 left.