

# ILLINOIS STATE REDBIRDS

Normal, Illinois  
Enrollment: 20,856

Brock Spack (Career 6-5)  
2nd Year at Illinois State  
Spack's record at Illinois St (6-5)



### POSITION OUTLOOK FOR 2010

**QUARTERBACKS** - In '08 ISU had to replace 3x all-conf QB Luke Drone (#2 career passer) who threw for 2,222 (60%, 18-17) in '07. His 3Y backup Kevin Brockway won the job in '08 throwing for 1,745 (54%, 10-13) as a senior. LY they ret'd QB Drew Kiel (5 gm) who threw for 149 (64%, 3-2, 51 rush) as a rF. Kiel started the opener vs E.I. hitting 20 of 22 (ISU rec) for 140 but suffered a ssn ending inj. He was replaced by rF Matt Brown, who started the final 10 and set ISU frosh rec's for att, comp & yds. He led the MVFC with 215.4 ypg passing and was the MVFC FROY. Brown threw for 2,369 (64.2%, 11-6) and was the #4 rusher. True frosh QB Matt Lancaster (PS#194) played in 5 gms, throwing for 183 (75.8%, 1-2) and was the #3 rusher. All 3 return and this may be MVFC's deepest QB corps.

**RUNNING BACKS** - ISU ret'd 3 of their top 4 rushers in '08 led by Geno Blow (776, 5.4) and added in Illinois transfer Walter Mendenhall (PS#72). Blow started the L7 but suffered a shoulder inj (out 2 gm) and was #2 (704, 5.1). Mendenhall led with 796 (6.3). Kan St transfer Parrish Fisher added 411 (4.5). LY they lost 3 of their top 5 but welcomed back Blow and Cliffion Gordon (102, 5.1) along with starting FB Garin Harcar who was the #4 rec (152, 7.2). Blow started the first 8 but finished #2 with 440 (3.5) but departs along with Harcar (1 rec). Gordon started the L/3 and led with 542 (3.6) and now returns. They add 2 transfers in Mich St's Ashton Leggett (PS#119) and Wisc's Erik Smith (PS#85).

**RECEIVERS** - In '08 ISU ret'd 8 of their top 9 rec but had to replace a 3Y starting QB and 1st receiver, saw their pass yds drop by 31 ypg. WR Eyad Salem (1st tm MVFC), led with 843 (13.4) and was #2 in the conf in rec (63). Salem's yds were more than the next 5 rec comb. In '09 they lost 5 of their top 7 but Salem ret'd and they added in Middle Tenn transfer WR Ben Graves (MedRS here '08). With the change to a more pass oriented Off their pass ypg increased by 74. Salem led again with 943 (10.2) with a ssn rec 92 rec. Graves added 231 (7.5) but both now depart. They return 5 of the top 7 rec led by Tyrone Walker (485, 13.1) and TE Casey Cline (195, 12.2) but TE Cody White (10 sts, 193, 12.1) moves to the OL. They also add in E Mich transfer Marvon Sanders (7 st, 377 yds 2Y at EM).

**OFFENSIVE LINE** - The OL ret'd just 2 st's in '08 and while the rush ypc dropped from 4.7 to 4.5, ISU still topped 2,000 yds rush for the 4th straight ssn. Last year they ret'd 3 OL who comb for 18 sts in '08 but lost three 11 gm st's incl 1st Tm MVFC C Jonathan St-Pierre. They shifted to a more pass oriented Off (121 fewer rush att) and saw their rush numbers drop to just 99 ypg with just 3.0 ypc but with mobile QB's (#3 & #4 rushers) actually saw the sacks allowed drop from 23 to just 14 (3.4%). They return all 7 OL who comb for all 55 sts LY incl 2nd tm MVFC LG/C Nick Bledsoe and add in starting TE White (10 sts). C Cal McCarthy is still rehabbing from a torn ACL LY vs WIU.

**DEFENSIVE LINE** - The DL ret 4 st's and added Doni Phelps (PS#263JC) in '08. They allowed "just" 201 ypg rush (5.0) which was an improvement, but their sack tfl fell from 14 to 11 (t-8th fewest in FCS). In '09 the DL only lost DE Adam Blankenship (11 st, 20 tkl, 4 tfl) and returned DE's Phelps (7 st, 32 tkl, 9 tfl) and Brandon Wilson (4 st, 28 tkl, 5 tfl). They also added Kansas St transfer Xavier Stewart (PS#381). They kept the 4-3 defense and improved to allowing 168 ypg rush (4.7) and the D increased their sks to 25. They must replace their sack leader Phelps (30 tkl, 7 sk) and Bert Whigham (32 tkl, 3.5 sk). The return 4 DL who comb for 32 sts LY led by 2nd Tm MVFC DT Eric Brunner (#5 tkl'r, 7 tfl) and DE Nick Broome (28 tkl) and add Purdue transfer DE Nickcaro Golding (PS#129).

**LINEBACKERS** - The LB unit had to replace the team's #1 and #2 tkl'r's in '08 but added in JC Paul Wright. In '09 they ret'd all 3 st's who were the #3, #4 and #5 tkl'r's, led by Wright (62 tkl, 8 tfl) but the 3 comb for just 8 sts LY. The unit returns its top 4 tkl'r's in Austin Davis (#2), Josh Howe (#3), Mike Zimmer (#4) and Wright (#8). They also add in Wisc transfer Leonard Hubbard (PS#43).

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** - The secondary ret'd 3 st's in '08 and added JC Khenon Hall. They dropped 1 spot to #5 in MVFC in pass def (181 ypg) and after allowing a poor 20-6 ratio in '07, they allowed an even worse 23-3 ratio in '08. They returned 3 st's in '09 led by SS Kelvyn Hemphill (9 st, #2 tkl'r) but lost FS Tom Nelson (#1 tkl'r) and NB Hall (#6 tkl'r) despite just 2 starts. They added in Wisc transfer Otis Merrill (PS#246). They allowed 25 ypg more pass but increased their int's to 14, their most since '06 (17) and allowed just 17 pass TD. They must replace CB Chris Garrett (#7 tkl'r, 4 int). They ret 6 DB's, who comb for 37 sts and 9 int incl 2nd tm MVFC SS Kelvyn Hemphill (#1 tkl'r, 7.5 tfl) and former Minn transfer CB E.J. Jones (#6 tkl'r), who led the tm with 6 int.

**SPECIAL TEAMS** - ISU ret'd most of their top ST players in '08 and added in Aub trans Zach Kutch (PS#12). K Steven Fetzer hit 6 of 10 FG and Kutch hit 3 of 4. P Bobby Kelsey avg 41.1 ypg (#8 FCS 35.7 net). RS Tom Nelson was the top PR (15.6, 1 TD) and KR (24.7, 1 TD). They lost both Kelsey and Nelson LY. Kutch (1st tm MVFC) hit 22 of 29 incl 2 from 50+ and P Kevin Mazur avg 37.8 ypg with 34.2 net but both now depart. They also lose their top 2 KR's and LS Joe Doyle but return K Fetzer and top PR E.J. Jones (8.9).

**COACHES** - HC Brock Spack was Purdue's DC for 12 yrs under Joe Tiller. In his 1st yr here ISU finished 3rd in the MVFC and had their 1st winning ssn in 3 yrs. OC Steve Farmer returned to ULM after 1 stn in which his Off led the conf in passing. He was replaced by QB coach Luke Huard. DC Phil Elmiasian enters his 2nd yr here and was previously the DC at ULM, West Virg, LSU, VirgTech and BC.

**FORECAST** - The Redbirds ret'd 5 off st's LY and switched to a spread offense. They moved up from #6 to #5 in the MVFC in scoring and for a 3rd straight year were #4 in tfl off but led the conf in passing.

### 2010 SCHEDULE

9/2	C Missouri (Thurs)
9/11	at Northwestern
9/18	at South Dakota St
9/25	Missouri St
10/2	Southern Illinois
10/9	at Indiana St
10/16	North Dakota St (HC)
10/23	at Northern Iowa
10/30	at Western Illinois
11/6	Youngstown St
11/13	Eastern Illinois
11/20	

**2009 RECORD:**  
(6-5)  
**RETURNING STARTERS:**  
OFFENSE: 8\*  
DEFENSE: 9  
**LETTERMEN:**  
Returning: 40 (21,18,1)  
Lost: 16 (4,9,3)  
**2009 AVG ATTENDANCE:**  
9,573 (#39)

### MISSOURI VALLEY

TY they add in 3 FBS transfers and return 8 off st's including their entire OL but will have their 3rd OC in 3 yrs. On D ISU added 2 FBS transfers LY and ret'd 9 def st's but lost 3 of their top 8 tkl'r's. They remained in a 4-3 defense and while they only allowed 8 fewer ypg they improved their ppg allowed by 5.4. After finishing -15 in TO margin in '08, they increased their int from 3 to 14 for a +6 TO margin. They add 3 FBS transfers and again return 9 def st's but TY they ret 9 of their top 10 tkl'r's including their top 6. They started 1-3 last year but with a last second TD in the ssn finale beat a ranked UNI tm, which knocked the Panthers out of the playoffs and ISU finished with their first winning ssn since '06.



DL Eric Brunner

ISU plays an FBS opp for a 16th straight year. They must face both SDSU and UNI on the road but with 17 st's back should be in the MVFC race and could claim one of the expanded playoff spots.

### STADIUM: HANCOCK STADIUM (15,000) (#51) PLAYING SURFACE: ARTIFICIAL (FieldTurf)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	8Yr Total
Straight Up	6-5	6-6	4-7	7-4	9-4	4-7	3-8	6-5	45-46
Home	4-1	3-4	4-1	4-2	4-1	2-3	1-4	4-1	26-17
Away	2-4	3-2	0-6	3-2	5-3	2-4	2-4	2-4	19-29
Conf	4-3	3-4	2-5	4-3	5-3	2-4	2-6	5-3	27-31
Non-Conf	2-2	3-2	2-2	3-1	4-1	2-3	1-2	1-2	18-15
Playoffs						1-1			1-1

### 2009 STATISTICAL LEADERS

	ATT	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	AVG	PLAYER	TKL	SKS	TFL	PBU	INT
<b>RUSHING</b>												
Cliffion Gordon	150	572	30	542	7	3.6	Kelvyn Hemphill	71	2	5.5	3	1
Geno Blow	125	477	37	440	4	3.5	Austin Davis	60	1	4.5	1	0
Matt Lancaster	11	73	0	73	1	6.6	Josh Howe	51	1	3	1	0
Matt Brown	47	189	132	57	0	1.2	Mike Zimmer	48	1	3	1	1
Drew Kiel	5	18	12	6	0	1.2	Eric Brunner	47	1.5	5.5	2	0
<b>PASSING</b>												
Matt Brown	352	226	64.2	2369	11	6	Chris Garrett	36	0	3.5	6	6
Matt Lancaster	33	25	75.8	183	1	2	Paul Wright	34	0	0.5	2	0
Drew Kiel	22	20	90.9	140	1	0	Jermaine Malcolm	34	0	0	3	1
<b>RECEIVING</b>												
Eyad Salem	92	943	10.2	6	4	1	Casey Kociuba	33	0	1	3	0
Tyrone Walker	37	485	13.1	3	8	1	Bert Whigham	32	3.5	0	3	0
Ben Graves	31	231	7.5	1	36	0	Doni Phelps	30	7	1.5	1	0
Casey Cline	16	195	12.2	0	34	0	Nick Broome	28	0.5	1	1	0
Cody White	16	193	12.1	1	35	0	Tony Trujillo	24	0	1	0	0
Cliffion Gordon	21	169	8.0	1	24	0	Mike Piton	23	2	0	0	0
Brandon Venson	10	148	14.8	1	38	0	Brandon Wilson	22	3	1	0	0
Geno Blow	16	137	8.6	0	11	0	Kyle Siskowic	22	0	0.5	1	0
Marcus King	9	72	8.0	0	48	0	Otis Merrill	22	0	0	2	0
Ben Ericksen	13	65	5.0	0	24	0	Tom Speer	22	0	1.5	0	0
Jake Knecht	4	38	9.5	0	18	0	PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD	
<b>PUNTING</b>												
Kevin Mazur	51	1927	37.8	12	34.2	0	Ed Jones	12	107	8.9	0	
KICKING												
Zach Kutch	25-25	3-4	8-8	9-12	2-5	22-29	52	Bert Whigham	2	56	28.0	0
								NICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
								Chris Garrett	17	359	21.1	0
								Geno Blow	13	255	19.6	0

### OFFENSE - LAST 6 YEARS - DEFENSE

RET	PTS	TOTAL	OFF	OFF	OFF	PASS	OFF	SKS	TOTAL	RET	PTS	TOTAL	DEF	DEF	DEF	PASS	DEF	SKS	
STS	OFF	OFF	RUSH	YPC	YAC	%	YPP	VS	TURN	STS	DEF	DEF	RUSH	YPC	YAC	%	YPP	BY	
5	23.2	345	99	3.0	24.6	63.3	14.9	14	+6	2009	9	25.5	374	168	4.7	206	56.4	14.7	25
5	28.4	369	197	4.5	172	53.9	13.0	23	-15	2008	8	30.9	382	201	5.0	181	56.1	12.4	11
7	29.5	403	200	4.7	203	59.9	13.7	20	-6	2007	5	30.7	428	230	5.3	198	60.1	13.9	14
8	29.0	398	170	4.2	228	57.8	13.7	18	+5	2006	8	20.2	337	149	4.3	188	56.8	16.7	19
6	39.2	478	209	4.6	269	64.2	12.2	18	+6	2005	7	21.3	343	148	3.8	195	58.7	16.1	30
7	25.6	381	154	4.2	227	50.1	14.9	18	-21	2004	8	32.0	368	139	3.3	230	55.7	11.5	22

### OFFENSE

### 2009 STATS BY GAME

### DEFENSE

ATT	OPPONENT	FD	Rush-YDS	AVG	CO-ATT	YDS	VS	FD	Rush-YDS	AVG	CO-ATT	YDS	SBS	BY	TURN
10,013	at E Illinois	14	26-20	0.8	25-30	166	4	24	41-217	5.3	14-23	167	1	+1	
62,347	at Illinois	21	20-44	2.2	31-52	354	2	24	46-384	8.3	13-17	164	2	-1	
10,158	Austin Peay	21	44-153	3.5	25-34	214	0	9	32-14	0.4	8-20	95	4	+5	
7,833	South Dakota St	18	35-58	1.7	23-38	221	3	19	30-176	5.9	17-28	197	2	-1	
18,608	at North Dakota St	24	30-116	3.9	30-43	320	0	16	34-218	6.4	11-21	207	1	0	
11,153	at Southern Illinois	20	22-107	4.9	28-44	321	1	27	44-339	7.7	15-26	274	1	-2	
11,514	Indiana St	21	39-122	3.1	19-26	243	2	16	43-218	5.1	10-16	136	2	0	
12,115	at Missouri St	19	49-178	3.6	18-27	133	0	14	28-31	1.1	19-32	248	4	-1	
12,074	Western Illinois	22	39-164	4.2	19-39	241	1	14	28-22	0.8	19-36	188	6	+3	
12,493	at Youngstown St	19	23-65	2.8	32-49	328	0	19	39-126	3.2	25-39	346	1	-1	
6,287	Northern Iowa	13	34-77	2.3	22-28	169	1	21	30-98	3.3	20-45	248	1	+3	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>212</b>	<b>361-1104</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>272-410</b>	<b>2710</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>395-1843</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>171-303</b>	<b>2270</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>+6</b>	
<b>AVERAGES</b>		<b>19.3</b>	<b>33-100</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>25-37</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>36-168</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>16-28</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>+0.5</b>	

OPPONENT	SCORE	OPPONENT	SCORE
St. Xavier	44-14	at Iowa St	21-32
at Minnesota	21-37	Drake	56-19
Eastern Illinois	35-31	at Eastern Illinois	27-6
at Indiana St (OT)	38-41	Murray St	42-0
Missouri St	34-31	at Youngstown St	17-20
at Western Illinois	31-40	WKU (OT)	34-37
Youngstown St	30-24	at Southern Illinois	61-35
at WKU	21-24	Northern Iowa	38-3
Southern Illinois	14-41	Western Illinois	17-31
at Northern Iowa	14-41	at Missouri St	48-23
at Florida Atlantic	0-28	Indiana St	70-28

OPPONENT	SCORE	OPPONENT	SCORE
----------	-------	----------	-------