Written by Tawni Ricketts, Daily Vidette Sports Editor
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Illinois State's contest against Wyoming on Tuesday proved that a first period triumph is not enough to take the game, as the ISU men's basketball team suffered an 81-67 home loss to the Cowboys after leading by as much as 19 points in the first half.

The Redbirds are now perched on a 5-3 record, while Wyoming continues its undefeated season to 9-0.

"I'm very disappointed in our team … We lost confidence in our ability to do anything offensively, [and] our defensive intensity was not where it need[ed] to be the entire game," ISU head coach Dan Muller said. "I've got to do a better job of [maintaining] their mental focus in this situation. For that to happen — to give up 52 points in a half, to let [Wyoming] shoot 64 percent, to turn the ball over 14 times in a half — that's just embarrassingly bad basketball."

Despite the shower of three-pointers ISU poured on Wyoming in the first half, including senior Tyler Brown's 5-for-7 first-half effort beyond the arc and Jon Ekey's 2-for-2 first-half effort, the Redbirds were unable to maintain their groove in the second half. ISU's 20 turnovers produced 29 Cowboy points, 23 of which came in the second half, ultimately leading to ISU's demise.

"How we played tonight is definitely not how we play. It's very disappointing but it's just something that we have to go back to the drawing board and work on and practice on. We just have to get better," Brown said.

Brown totaled 22 points on the night, while Ekey contributed 13. John Wilkins added 12 points, including two three-point buckets in the second half.

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