Written by Tawni Ricketts, Sports Editor
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Throughout the course of this season, the Illinois State men's basketball team has struggled to put together two winning halves, as it has commonly displayed first-half victories and second-half defeats.

But in Wednesday night's game against the Drake Bulldogs, that precedential outcome was reversed as the Redbirds trailed throughout, only to take the lead with under a minute left and grab the 94-86, come-from-behind Missouri Valley Conference victory in Des Moines, Iowa at the Knapp Center.

With the win, ISU improved its record to 14-10 overall and a 5-7 mark in the MVC.

The Redbirds took their first lead of the game with just under two minutes to go on a Jon Ekey three, which would put ISU in the lead for the remainder of the game. With just 20 seconds left in the contest, Bryant Allen added on a layup to put ISU up by seven.

"[This win is] huge. It just kind of shows how much we've been growing over the past couple of weeks. We've come a long way," Ekey told WJBC radio.

Tyler Brown headed the Redbirds on offense with 25 points and a career-best nine assists while also tallying four steals. Jackie Carmichael followed with 23 points, while John Wilkins contributed a season-best 18 points. Allen also contributed double-digit figures with 12 points, including a 2-for-3-effort beyond the arc.

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