

November 21, 2015 8:30 p.m.

**ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI (1 - 2) Lost 1**

**Headlines:**

\*Preliminary round games for Emerald Coast Classic

\*Battling injuries and different lineups

Tate (injured finger...day to day)

Nunn (thumb...still out)

Abrams (out for season...achilles...missed last year too (knee))

Jalen Coleman-Lands (returning from leg injury)

**Prairie Capital Convention Center (7,700) Springfield, Ill.**

**CHATTANOOGA MOCS (2-0) Won 1**

**Headlines:**

\*Seeking 3-0 start for first time since '97-'98 and 13<sup>th</sup> time in history.

\*Seeking 2<sup>nd</sup> win over "Power 5" school. Last time that happened: '91-'92 (Miss. St. and Auburn)

\*Opener of 5 straight games away in 10 days from Chattanooga and McKenzie arena.

\*Start of Emerald Coast Classic...2 games at Illinois and Iowa State and 2 in Destin, Fla.

\*Casey Jones is 16 points shy of 1,000... is on watch list for Lou Henson Award and playing on Lou Henson Court.

**Head Coach: John Groce:** @ Illinois, 4<sup>th</sup> season, 63-44, 148-100 overall (8<sup>th</sup>)...previously HC at Ohio Univ...

**TEAM INFO**

'14-'15: 19-14...lost in 1<sup>st</sup> round of NIT to Alabama.

3 starters returning (Hill, Nunn, Tate)

5 newcomers (JCL, Jordan, Lewis, Thorne, Williams)

Picked middle of Big Ten.

Assistants: Jesse Bopp, Peter Gash, Reggie Witherspoon

**TEAM INFORMATION**

2014-15 Overall record: 22-10, 15-3 (2<sup>nd</sup>)

4 Returning starters (Jones, Pryor, Tuoyo, McLean)

6 Newcomers (Burroughs-Cook, Kalina, Matthews, Oldham, White, Woods)

\*#19 ranking in CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25.

**LAST TIME OUT:** Lost to Providence on road, 59-60, on Wednesday...11 lead changes...held national POY candidate Kris Dunn to 10 pts and no FG in first 31 minutes...breakout game for Michael Finke with 12 points, including 10 straight...Malcolm Hill 15 p, 11 r for 2<sup>nd</sup> double-double.

**NEXT:** vs. Chicago State on Monday night.

**LAST TIME OUT:** Mocs rolled to 94-55 win over visiting Hiwasee Monday night...forced 25 turnovers...Justin Tuoyo led all scorers with 16...Peyton Woods was 4-7 from 3 pt. with season-high 14 points.

**NEXT UP:** at #7 Iowa State Monday night, 8 p.m.

**LAST (ONLY) MEETING:** March 16, 1997 in Charlotte, N.C. UTC 75, ILL 63 in 2<sup>nd</sup> round of NCAA Tourney....Willie Young led with 15 pts...beat Georgia in 1<sup>st</sup> round which was last time UTC beat GA.