Will Farlow – website article for the ISU men’s basketball home opener vs. Fort Wayne

**Redbirds Win Home Opener**

NORMAL- The Illinois State Redbird Men’s basketball team cruised to a 75-57 victory in their home opener against the Fort Wayne Mastodons Wednesday night. Illinois State (1-1) opened the first half by scoring the first 10 points of the contest en route to 19-2 lead and an eventual 41-24 halftime advantage.

A John Konchar layup brought Fort Wayne (1-2) within 9 points at the 12:39 mark of the second half. That would be the closest the Mastodons would get as an MiKyle McIntosh layup extended the lead back to double digits for good. Deontae Hawkins lead the way for ISU as he recorded a career high in points with 24. MiKyle McIntosh added 13.

“I think our ball care needs to improve dramatically. I like where we can be offensively, but defense is more clearly important on a nightly basis”, said Dan Muller.

Illinois State will head to Fort Worth Texas for a matchup with the TCU Monday. The Horned Frogs defeated the Redbirds 71-60 a year ago.