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Missouri-Notre Dame notes

First half

•**Key play:** Notre Dame had closed a 13-point deficit to eight when Steve Moore blocked a shot, and Marcus Denmon finished the transition with a three-point play for a 40-29 lead.

•**Key stat:** The Tigers shot a sizzling 63.3 percent in the first half.

Second half

•**Key play:** The Missouri lead was 15 at halftime, and Notre Dame needed to come out focused to have any chance. Instead, Missouri scored the first six points, taking a 21-point lead.

•**Key stat:** Mizzou held Notre Dame's top player, forward Tim Abromaitis, to four second-half points.

Notes

•Missouri won the inaugural CBE Classic in 2001, then known as the Guardians Classic. Tigers coach Frank Haith sees winning this championship as a major step in his program.

"You look around the country, and a lot of champions are going to be named this week," Haith said. "When you want to have a championship program, winning a championship like (this) is important. We want to have that mentality of winning championships."

•Notre Dame coach Mike Brey was surprised to see Marcus Denmon score 26, but Denmon, who led the Tigers in three-pointers and attempts last season, didn't scorch the Irish from the outside.

"It was an easy 26," Brey said. "He has great strength going to the basket. He takes a hit and finishes."

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