NORTHWESTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL

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November 4, 2024 • vs. Lehigh • Game 1

Northwestern 90 | Lehigh 46

TEAM NOTES

- Northwestern has never lost a game against Lehigh, having previously defeated the Mountainhawks in 1993 and 2005.
- The Wildcats improved to 11-1 in season openers under Chris Collins and have won 16 of their last 17 openers.
- At halftime, Northwestern led 51-15.
    - The Wildcats last held a team to under 20 points in the first half when Arizona State sufficed just 12 points on Dec. 20, 2023.
- Northwestern forced Lehigh to score just 15 points and convert 5-of-26 field goals (19%) in the first half.
- Northwestern's 44-point victory was its largest win in a season opener since the 1993-94 season when the Wildcats defeated UChicago, 94-43 (51). It is the program's largest margin of victory against a Division I team in a season -opener.
- The last time that the Mountainhawks scored fewer than 50 points was Feb. 20, 2022 against Loyola (MD) when they scored 42.
- Northwestern last beat a team by 40+ points on Dec. 20, 2021, when it beat Illinois-Springfield, 90-50.
- The last time Northwestern held a team under 50 points was Dec. 20, 2023 vs. Arizona State, which scored 46.
- Northwestern knocked down 36-of-66 (54.5%) of its field goals and 9-of-20 (45.0%) of its threes.
    - It marked the 12th time since the 2004-05 season that the Wildcats had at least 35+ field goals made.
- Northwestern scored 90+ points five times last season.
- The Wildcats totaled 22 assists on 36 made shots.
- The Wildcats jumped out to a 9-0 start and did not allow Lehigh to score for the opening 4:09 of the game.
- Northwestern went on a 17-3 run from 13:57 to 7:24 in the first half to extend the lead to over 20.
- The Wildcats did not allow a field goal from 12:14 to 6:18.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- **Nick Martinelli** tallied game-highs 26 points and 10 rebounds while converting 9-of-12 field goals and 2-of-2 threes and posting a game-high +43 +/-.
    - Martinelli scored seven of NU's first 13 points.
    - Martinelli's 17 first-half points were the most he scored in a half in his career.
    - His 17 first half points outscored Lehigh in the first half (15).

    - Martinelli fell just one point and one field goal short of tying his career-highs.
    - Martinelli recorded his second career double-double. It marked Northwestern's second consecutive season with a player having a double-double in the season opener after Brooks Barnhizer posted 18 points and 13 rebounds against Binghamton last season.
- **K.J. Windham** had 10 points, three rebounds and six assists in 28 minutes during his first collegiate game.
    - Windham became the first first-year to start his first career game at Northwestern since Casey Simmons in 2021.
    - Windham became the first Wildcat first-year to score 10+ points in a game since Boo Buie did so on March 7, 2020 with 13 points against Penn State.
    - He and Angelo Ciaravino became the first Wildcat first-years to record 5+ assists in a game since Julian Roper II had five against Rutgers on February 1, 2022.
- **Luke Hunger** scored a career-high 15 points while converting 7-of-10 field goals.
- **Jalen Leach** notched 12 points, five rebounds and six assists in his first collegiate action since transferring to Northwestern from Fairfield.
    - Leach became the first Wildcat to post 10+ points, 5+ rebounds and 5+ assists in a season opener since Boo Buie on Nov. 7, 2022.
- **Angelo Ciaravino** played 17 minutes and tallied seven points, four rebounds and five assists in his collegiate debut.
    - He and K.J. Windham became the first Wildcat first-years to record 5+ assists in a game since Julian Roper II had five against Rutgers on February 1, 2022.

NORTHWESTERN'S STARTERS (# of starts this season, # of career starts)

Jalen Leach (1, 57), Nick Martinelli (1, 12), Ty Berry (1, 75), K.J. Windham (1, 1), Matthew Nicholson (1, 50)

GAME LEADERS

Points: Nick Martinelli (26)
Rebounds: Nick Martinelli (10)
Assists: Jalen Leach, K.J. Windham (6)
Steals: Nick Martinelli, Ty Berry, K.J. Windham, Justin Mullins (2)
Blocks: Matthew Nicholson, Keenan Fitzmorris, Justin Mullins (1)
FGM: Nick Martinelli (9)
3PFGM: Nick Martinelli, Ty Berry, K.J. Windham (2)
FTM: Nick Martinelli (6)

CAREER HIGHS

- Nick Martinelli: T-3PM (2)
- K.J. Windham: Minutes (28), Points (10), Rebounds (3), Assists (6), Steals (2) FGM (4), 3PFGM (2)
- Luke Hunger: Points (15), FGM (7)
- Blake Barkley: Minutes (7), Rebounds (4), Points (2)
- Angelo Ciaravino: Minutes (17), Points (7), Rebounds (4), Assists (5), Steals (1), FGM (3), 3PFGM (1)
- Justin Mullins: T-Rebounds (9)