--- NORTHWESTERN FOOTBALL: POSTGAME NOTES vs. Illinois ---

Saturday, November 29, 2025 • 6:30 p.m. CT • Gies Memorial Stadium • Champaign, Illinois

Scoring Drives

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	FINAL
Northwestern	3	7	0	3	13
Illinois	0	14	3	3	20

1ST QTR: J.Olsen 38-yd field goal (15 plays, 63 yards, 9:18) Northwestern 3, Illinois 0
2ND QTR: C.Valentine 6-yd rush (7 plays, 83 yards, 3:43) Northwestern 3, Illinois 7
2ND QTR: H.Eligon II 13-yd reception from P.Stone (10 plays, 75 yards, 5:37) Northwestern 10, Illinois 7
2ND QTR: K.Feagin 1-ud rush (4 plays, 48 yards, 1:09) Northwestern 10, Illinois 14
3RD QTR: D.Olano 47-yd field goal (9 plays, 41 yards, 6:02) Northwestern 10, Illinois 17
4TH QTR: J.Olsen 26-yd field goal (4 plays, -7 yards, 1:36) Northwestern 13, Illinois 17
4TH QTR: D.Olano 27-yd field goal (4 plays, 9 yards, 2:19) Northwestern 13, Illinois 20

OFFENSIVE STARTERS

POS	No.	Name	Career Start
QB	8	Preston Stone	29
RB	6	Joseph Himon II	3
WR	17	Griffin Wilde	31
TE	84	Hunter Welcing	10
TE	86	Lawson Albright	7
WR	80	Hayden Eligon II	9
OL	72	Caleb Tiernan	42
OL	62	Ezomo Oratokhai	14
OL	65	Jackson Carsello	21
OL	60	Evan Beerntsen	50
OL	75	Martes Lewis	13

DEFENSIVE STARTERS

POS	No.	Name	Career Start
DL	47	Michael Kilbane	3
DL	1	Carmine Bastone	27
DL	15	Brendan Flakes	12
DL	4	Anto Saka	11
LB	37	Mac Uihlein	25
LB	33	Braydon Brus	12
DB	9	Braden Turner	18
DB	13	Josh Fussell	17
DB	7	Ore Adeyi	5
DB	18	Garner Wallace	12
DB	6	Robert Fitgerald	16

NORTHWESTERN TEAM NOTES

- The Fighting Illini entered the game averaging 29.3 points per game. NU has held its opponent to fewer points than its average in 11 of 12 games this season.
- Northwestern's defense recorded at least 5.0 TFL for the third time this season.
    - The Wildcats have tailed at least 3.0 TFL in ten of twelve games this season.
- At least five different 'Cats WRs logged a reception for the 17th consecutive game.
- With Robby Preckel's passing 100 rushing yards on the season Saturday, NU produced six 100-yard rushers in a year for the first time since 2020.
- NU recorded 5 "Big Plays" Saturday.
    - One rushing attempt of 10+ yards for a total of 11 yards.
    - Four passing completions of 15+ yards for a total of 71 yards.
- Northwestern scored on three of four trips to the red zone.
    - This season they are a combined 42 of 45 (93%) in the red zone.
- NU held their opponent to only two 3rd down conversions for the third straight game.
    - In their last four games Northwestern opponents are a combined 10-for-42 (23%) on 3rd down.
- The Wildcats went 2-for-4 on third downs of 9+ yards.
- Northwestern held the Illinois offense to zero touchdowns in the second half.

NORTHWESTERN PLAYER NOTES

- **QB Preston Stone** completed 18 of his 36 passing attempts (tied for his season high) for 136 yards with one touchdown and three interceptions.
    - **Stone** is the first 2,000 passer at NU since Clayton Thorson threw for 3,183 yards in 2018.
- **WR Hayden Eligon II** logged a game-high 99 receiving yards on eight receptions with one touchdown.
    - **Eligon II** is the first NU underclassman with 90+ receiving yards in consecutive games since D'Wayne Bates against Purdue (99) and Tennessee (97) to end the 1996-97 season.
    - He is the first NU player to have consecutive games with 90+ receiving yards since Bryce Kirtz against Indiana (128) and Maryland (123) in September of 2024.
    - He is the first NU player to have consecutive games with 7+ receptions since A.J. Henning against Duke (8) and Eastern Illinois (7) in September of 2024.
    - He is the first NU underclassman with 3+ receiving touchdowns in a year since Marshall Lang logged three in 2021.
    - He is the first NU underclassman wide receiver with 3+ receiving touchdowns in a season since Riley Lees scored three in 2018.
    - He is the first NU underclassmen to have 50+ receiving yards in consecutive games since Jeremy Larkin against Duke (55) and Akron (52) in September of 2018.
    - He is the first NU underclassmen with 30+ receptions in a season since Ben Skworonek had 45 in 2017.
- **RB Robby Preckel** led Northwestern in rushing with career-highs in carries (22) and yards (82).
    - His 22 carries and 82 yards were both the most by a true first-year at NU since Cam Porter ran for 98 yards on 33 carries in the Citrus Bowl against Auburn on Jan. 1, 2021.
    - Preckel's 22 carries marks the second straight week that an NU player recorded at least 20 rushing attempts. This marks the first time that two different players recorded at least 20 rushing attempts in back to back games since Dan Persa (22) and Mike Trumpy (21) in October of 2010.
- **WR Griffin Wilde** eclipsed 60 receptions on the year with five receptions for 28 yards Saturday.
    - His 61 receptions are the most by an NU wideout since Malik Washington (65) in 2022.
- **DB Robert Fitzgerald** led the NU defense with 11 total tackles, six solo tackles and 1.0 tackles for loss.
    - **Fitzgerald** is the first NU defensive back to log 6+ tackles for loss in a season since Godwin Igwebuike logged six in 2016.
    - He is the first NU defensive back with 5+ games in a season with 10+ total tackles since Brian Peters (5) in 2011.
    - He is the first NU player with 100+ total tackles and 6.0+ tackles for loss since Xander Mueller in 2023.
- **LB Braydon Brus** tallied eight total tackles with two forced fumbles and 2.0 tackles for loss.
    - It marked the first time an NU player forced multiple fumbles in a game since Coco Azema (2) against Michigan on Oct. 21, 2021.
    - **Brus** is the first NU player with at least 2.0 tackles for loss and multiple forced fumbles in a game since Ifeadi Odenigbo (2.0 TFL, 3 forced fumbles) against Western Illinois on Sept. 20, 2014.
- **TE Hunter Welcing** recorded his 10th career start.
- **LB Mac Uihlein** recorded his 25th career start.
- **OL Evan Beernsten** recorded his 50th career start.
- **K Jack Olsen** went 2-for-2 on field goals.
    - He improved to 14-for-14 on field goals of 30+ yards this season.
    - He is the first NU kicker to be perfect on field goals of 30-49 yards in a season since Jeff Budzien (12-12) in 2012.
    - His 19 makes on the season are tied for No. 4 on the single-season NU leaderboard.
    - His 90.5% field goal percentage is No. 4 on the single-season NU leaderboard.

Player	New Career Highs
Braydon Brus	Forced Fumbles (2), Tackles for Loss (2.0)
Lawson Albright	T-Receptions (1), Receiving Yards (17), Long Reception (17)
Robby Preckel	Rushing attempts (22), Rushing yards (82), Receptions (1), Receiving yards (4), Longest reception (4), Total Tackles (1), Solo Tackles (1)
Payton Roth	Tackles (2),-Solo Tackles (2)
Callen Campbell	Total Tackles (2)
Ricky Ahumaraeze	T-Tackles (1)
Braden Turner	T-Pass Breakups (1)
Brendan Flakes	T-Solo Tackles (2)