

NORTHWESTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL

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November 9, 2021 • vs. Eastern Illinois, Game One

Northwestern 80 | Eastern Illinois 56

TEAM NOTES

- Northwestern moves to 8-1 in season openers since Chris Collins took over as head coach before the 2013-2014 season.
 - Northwestern moved to 3-0 against Eastern Illinois all-time.
 - Northwestern last played a home game with fans in attendance against Penn State 612 days ago on Mar. 7, 2020.
- Northwestern finished with 16 steals, the most since Dec. 20, 2007 against Howard when the Wildcats had 18 steals.
 - Two Wildcats had five steals in the same game for the first time since at least 2010. The last time multiple Wildcats had 5+ steals in a game in a season was 2012 (Drew Crawford and JerShon Cobb).
- Northwestern went on four different runs of at least eight unanswered points throughout the game.
- Northwestern connected on three consecutive threes in the middle of the first half.
- The Wildcats scored 40 points in the first half, the most they have scored in a season opener since Nov. 11, 2016.
- The Wildcat defense forced six turnovers in a 5:03 span at the beginning of the second half.
- Northwestern finished with five turnovers in the game, tied for the smallest amount in a season opener since at least 2010.
- The Wildcats finished with 13 offensive rebounds, the most in a season opener since Nov. 8, 2018 against New Orleans.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- Two Wildcats (**Ty Berry** and **Casey Simmons**) made their first career starts ... the last time the Wildcats had multiple players making their first-career starts in a season opener was in 2019 (Pat Spencer and Ryan Young).
 - Simmons is the first true first-year to start an NU season opener since 2018 (Miller Kopp).
- **Boo Buie** led all players with 17 points, led the Wildcats with six assists, and finished with a career-high five steals.
 - Buie has led the Wildcats in scoring 11 times in his career, the most of any active Northwestern player.
 - Buie is averaging 15.4 points in his last five games at Welsh-Ryan Arena.
 - His 17 points were Buie's most since a 25-point night against Minnesota in February 2021.

- Buie led the team with 10 first-half points.
- Buie has now reached double-figure scoring in five-straight regular season games
- **Robbie Beran** finished with a career-high five steals, including four steals in the first half.
- **Julian Roper III** made his first appearance as a Wildcat and scored his first career points on a corner three in the 1st half.
 - Roper finished with six points, four rebounds, and three steals.
- **Elijah Williams** scored his first points as a Wildcat on a layup midway through the first half.
- **Pete Nance** finished with 13 points, five rebounds, and two blocks.
 - Nance scored eight points and blocked two shots in the first half.
- **Casey Simmons** scored his first career points on a pair of free throws in the first half.
- **Ryan Young** finished with seven points and a team-high seven rebounds.
 - Young has led the team in rebounds

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

Boo Buie (1, 31), Ty Berry (1, 1), Casey Simmons (1, 1), Pete Nance (1, 46), Robbie Beran (1, 37)

CAREER HIGHS

- Ty Berry (Assists, 2-tied; Rebounds, 6-tied)
- Julian Roper III (Points, 6; Rebounds, 4; Assists, 1; Steals, 3; Blocks, 1; FGM, 2; Three Pointers, 1; Free Throws, 1)
- Casey Simmons (Points, 6; Rebounds, 3; FGM, 1; Free Throws, 4)
- Robbie Beran (Steals, 5)
- Boo Buie (Steals, 5)

GAME LEADERS

Points: Boo Buie (17)

Rebounds: Ryan Young (7)

Assists: Boo Buie (6)

Steals: Boo Buie and Robbie Beran (5)

Blocks: Pete Nance (2)

Plus/Minus: Boo Buie (+25)

FGM: Pete Nance (6)

3PFGM: Boo Buie and Ty Berry (2)

FTM: Boo Buie (5)

NEXT GAME

The Wildcats return to Welsh-Ryan Arena on Friday at 7 p.m. to face the High Point Panthers (1-0)