

NORTHWESTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL

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December 6, 2024 • vs. No. 19 Illinois • Game 10

Northwestern 70 | No. 19 Illinois 66 (OT)

TEAM NOTES

- Northwestern recorded its seventh win over a ranked Big Ten opponent over the last three seasons, the most in the Big Ten.
 - The Wildcats have registered ranked wins in consecutive conference home openers after defeating No. 1 Purdue last year.
- Northwestern last defeated Illinois in consecutive games in the 2017 and 2019 seasons.
- The Wildcats has won three straight home games against Illinois for the first time since 1966-68.
- Northwestern held the Fighting Illini to 66 points, tied for their lowest output of the season.
- Northwestern scored over 70 points in the two opening Big Ten games for the first time since the 2020-21 season.
- The Wildcats are 2-0 in overtime games this season.
- Northwestern only turned the ball over four times, tied for its fewest this season and the fewest by an Illinois opponent this season.
- Northwestern held Illinois to 27 points in the first half, its lowest output this season.
- The Wildcats forced four Fighting Illini turnovers in the game's first six minutes.
- Northwestern held Illinois scoreless from 16:49 to 11:35 in the first half.
- The Wildcats held the Fighting Illini scoreless from 10:11 to 5:47 in the second half.
- Northwestern went on an 8-0 run from 9:15 to 5:47 in the second half.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

- **Nick Martinelli** recorded a conference career-high 27 points, six rebounds and two blocks.
 - Martinelli became the first Wildcat to score 25+ points, grab 5+ rebounds, and block 2+ shots since John Shurna on Feb. 12, 2012.
 - Martinelli scored 16 points in the second half and seven in overtime.
 - Martinelli scored his fourth 25-point game of the season, becoming the eleventh Northwestern player since 2005-06 season to score 25 points in at least four games.
 - Martinelli led the Wildcats in scoring for the fifth time this season.
- **Brooks Barnhizer** logged 17 points, 10 rebounds, three steals, and two blocks.
 - Barnhizer became the first Northwestern player since at least 2005-06 to record three consecutive double-doubles.
 - Barnhizer recorded the fourth game by a Wildcat with least these numbers in a game since 2005-06, joining himself (2023, 2024) and John Shurna (2010).
 - Barnhizer registered his fifth career 3-steal, 2-block performance of his career, the 12th such performance by any Wildcat since 2005-06.
- **Jalen Leach** logged 16 points and five assists.

- Leach scored his 1,000th career point on a free throw to put the Wildcats up 68-66 in overtime.
- Leach had a team-high eight first-half points.
- **Matthew Nicholson** became the seventh Northwestern player with 100 career blocks, while he pulled down nine rebounds.
- **Justin Mullins** tied his career-high in assists with four, while adding six points and six rebounds.

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

Jalen Leach (10, 66), Nick Martinelli (10, 21), Ty Berry (10, 84), Brooks Barnhizer (6, 40) Matthew Nicholson (10, 59)

GAME LEADERS

Points: Nick Martinelli (27)

Rebounds: Brooks Barnhizer (10)

Assists: Jalen Leach (5)

Steals: Brooks Barnhizer (3)

Blocks: Nick Martinelli, Brooks Barnhizer (2)

FGM: Nick Martinelli (11)

3PFGM: Nick Martinelli (2)

FTM: Jalen Leach (4)

CAREER HIGHS

- Justin Mullins: T-Assists (4)