

Top-Ranked Northwestern Dominates No. 7 Maryland to Secure Big Ten Regular Season Field Hockey Title

By: Caleb Evans October 27, 2023

No. 1 Northwestern Field Hockey defeated No. 7 Maryland, 5-1, on Thursday, October 26.

Even on a rainy and dreary day, the Wildcats shined with five different goal scorers. The scoring started around the nine-minute mark when Lindsey Frank buried a shot into the back of the net for her first goal of the season. The goal reinforced the saying “third time’s a charm,” as the ‘Cats had two early shots go awry before the Lauren Wadas assisted goal. Throughout the first period, Northwestern kept the pressure on, allowing no shots while adding two more of their own including another goal. With less than three minutes to go in the period, Alia Marshall scored her second goal of the season to make the score 2-0 going into the second period.

The second period proved to be more of the matchup that would be expected from two top-ten-ranked teams in the country. The period was littered with penalty corners as Maryland was awarded five to the Wildcats’ four. Along with nine total penalty corners, both teams were subjected to a yellow card, and three green cards were issued, two to the Terps and one to the ‘Cats. Northwestern continued their shot barrage with two shots on goal within the first minute of the second period. The second was a goal by Peyton Halsey with an assist from Alia Marshall. However, even when facing an early 3-0 deficit, Maryland showed some fight with three shots on goal before finally putting one past the Northwestern goalie. Maryland’s goal was the result of one of the many penalty corners, as Maci Bradford scored after getting the ball back after initiating the corner from some great passing between her, Josie Hollamon, and Hope Rose. Even though this period provided the most shots by both teams, there was only one goal for each squad, putting the score to 3-1 at the halfway mark of the game.

The game slowed down in the second half with only two goals total. Both goals, courtesy of the Wildcats, came early in the third and fourth periods, respectively. The first came off a beautifully drawn-up play off a Northwestern corner where Alia Marshall passed the ball in, and Lauren Hunter placed a perfect ball for Ilise Tromp to score Northwestern’s fourth goal of the game. The fourth-period goal came as both teams started to make substitutions. One of those substitutions for the ‘Cats was Regan Cornelius who scored her first goal of the season to put Northwestern up for good, 5-1.

With this win, Northwestern Field Hockey secured the Big Ten regular season title which gives them the number one seed and a bye in the Big Ten Tournament, which is being held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Wildcats will await the victor of No. 11 Ohio State versus No. 15 Penn State. Whoever the ‘Cats next opponent is, the game will be on Friday, November 3 at noon as the Wildcats look to extend their 16-game winning streak.