Game Notes: Team

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MARYLAND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Maryland brings a balanced offensive attack into tonight's game, blending efficient scoring from multiple levels. The Terrapins are averaging 84.8 points per game, ranking 5th in the Big Ten and 14th nationally, a testament to their ability to generate offense in a variety of ways. Their scoring distribution is remarkably even—49.6% of their points come from two-point range, 29.9% from three-point range, and 20.5% from the free-throw line, making them one of the most versatile offensive teams in the conference. Their 50.5% two-point shooting is 8th in the Big Ten, while their 31.7% three-point shooting ranks 10th, showcasing their ability to adapt to defensive schemes.

The Terrapins excel in transition, where they score 17.3 points per game, 2nd in the Big Ten. Their transition offense is a weapon, with a 52.3% field goal percentage in those situations, including a 46.2% clip from three-point range. They push the ball at every opportunity, with 20.6% of their shot attempts coming in transition, the 4th-highest rate in the conference. Maryland's ability to capitalize on fast breaks is a key part of their offensive identity, and they'll look to exploit any defensive lapses in tonight's game.

Defensively, Maryland is stout inside, holding opponents to just 45.3% shooting on two-point attempts, 3rd-best in the Big Ten. Their defensive rebounding has been a strength, as they pull down 70.3% of available defensive rebounds, ranking 5th in the conference. However, they've struggled to force turnovers, ranking 12th in the Big Ten with just 15.8 turnovers forced per game. Their defensive efficiency improves significantly in half-court situations, where they hold opponents to 43.8% shooting, but they'll need to tighten up in transition to limit easy scoring opportunities.

Maryland's bench has been a significant contributor this season, accounting for 29.5% of the team's total minutes, the 3rd-highest rate in the Big Ten. The bench is averaging 25.0 points per game, 5th in the conference, and their scoring depth has been a key factor in the Terrapins' success. Their bench production has been particularly valuable in close games, where they've outscored opponents by 4.2 points per game in clutch situations (last 5 minutes, score within 6 points).

Key Players to Watch

Oluchi Okananwa has been the engine of Maryland's offense this season, leading the team in scoring with 17.3 points per game, 10th in the Big Ten. She's one of the most efficient scorers in the conference, shooting 58.6% on two-point attempts and 32.7% from three-point range. Okananwa is a dominant force in the paint, where she scores 10.1 points per game, 7th in the Big Ten, and she's also a threat from mid-range, shooting 39.3% on those attempts. Her ability to create her own shot is evident, as just 35.4% of her made baskets have been assisted, the 2nd-lowest rate on the team. Defensively, she's a presence in the paint, averaging 0.7 blocks per game, and her 5.3 rebounds per game rank 3rd on the team.

Yarden Garzon has been Maryland's most consistent three-point threat, shooting 40.1% from beyond the arc, 3rd-best in the Big Ten among players with at least 50 attempts. She's averaging 12.9 points per game and is the team's most efficient scorer, with a 58.1% true shooting percentage. Garzon is particularly dangerous in transition, where she's shooting 47.2% on three-pointers, and she's also a capable playmaker, averaging 3.2 assists per game. Her 1.95 turnovers per game are the fewest among the team's primary scorers, and her 1.64 assist-to-turnover ratio is a key reason Maryland's offense flows so smoothly.

Saylor Poffenbarger has been a spark plug for Maryland, providing instant offense off the bench. She's averaging 10.7 points per game and is one of the team's most versatile scorers, with 46.9% of her points coming from three-point range and 40.6% from two-point

range. Poffenbarger is shooting 36.6% from three-point range, including 44.8% on left-wing threes, and her ability to stretch the floor has been crucial for Maryland's spacing. She's also a capable playmaker, averaging 3.2 assists per game, and her 1.53 assist-to-turnover ratio is the best on the team.

Lea Bartelme has been a steady presence in the backcourt, providing leadership and playmaking for the Terrapins. She's averaging 3.8 assists per game, 2nd on the team, and her 30.2% assist rate is 5th in the Big Ten. Bartelme is also a threat from three-point range, shooting 42.9% on limited attempts, and her ability to create for others has been a key part of Maryland's offensive success. Defensively, she's a pest, averaging 1.9 steals per 40 minutes, and her 2.0% steal rate is among the best on the team.

Kyndal Walker has been a key contributor in the paint, providing rebounding and interior scoring for the Terrapins. She's averaging 5.3 points and 4.3 rebounds per game, and her 13.0% offensive rebounding rate is 8th in the Big Ten. Walker is particularly effective on the offensive glass, where she's averaging 1.5 offensive rebounds per game, and her ability to finish around the rim has been valuable for Maryland's second-chance scoring. She's also a capable shot-blocker, averaging 0.4 blocks per game, and her defensive presence has been a key part of Maryland's interior defense.

Key Storylines

Maryland's ability to control the tempo will be crucial tonight. The Terrapins average 71.4 possessions per game, 7th in the Big Ten, and their pace has been a key factor in their offensive success. They've been most effective when they push the ball, as their offensive efficiency jumps to 105.4 points per 100 possessions in transition, compared to 81.2 in half-court situations. However, they've struggled to defend in transition, allowing 105.4 points per 100 possessions, so limiting fast-break opportunities will be key.

The Terrapins' three-point shooting has been inconsistent this season, and their ability to knock down outside shots will be a major factor tonight. They're shooting 31.7% from three-point range, 10th in the Big Ten, but their percentage drops to 28.8% in half-court situations. Garzon has been their most reliable shooter, but they'll need contributions from others, particularly from the corners, where they're shooting just 32.0% this season. If Maryland can find its rhythm from beyond the arc, it could open up driving lanes and create easier scoring opportunities inside.

Maryland's defense has been stout in the half-court, but they've struggled to force turnovers, ranking 12th in the Big Ten with a 16.9% turnover rate. Their defensive efficiency improves significantly when they're able to disrupt opponents, as they allow just 81.2 points per 100 possessions when they force a turnover, compared to 117.2 when they don't. If they can increase their defensive pressure tonight, it could swing the momentum in their favor.

The Terrapins have been dominant on the glass, outrebounding opponents by 7.4 rebounds per game, 3rd in the Big Ten. Their offensive rebounding has been a key part of their success, as they're averaging 15.9 offensive rebounds per game, 2nd in the conference, and their 36.3% offensive rebounding rate is 4th. Okananwa and Walker have been particularly effective on the offensive glass, and their ability to generate second-chance points will be crucial tonight. Defensively, Maryland ranks 5th in the Big Ten with a 70.3% defensive rebounding rate, and limiting opponents' second-chance opportunities will be a priority.