



Saturday, March 2, 2024

IOWA AT NORTHWESTERN

Game Time: 5:30pm ET
TV: BTN Network
Selection: Iowa + 3.5

The current version of this Northwestern team is not as good as it looks on paper, especially with recent injuries. They had to play a walk on in their victory over Maryland this week. They could have easily lost that game if Maryland had not stunk up the joint at their place with one of the worst shooting nights I've ever witnessed, including a ton of fouls which slowed down the game to a crawl.

Since losing one of their key players Ty Berry, Northwestern has won four of its last five, but those victories came over Penn State, Indiana and Michigan, which were all missing key players.

The Northwestern defense is still extremely vulnerable when it doesn't turn opponents over, ranking 245th nationally in effective field-goal percentage defense. Fortunately for the Hawkeyes, they turn it over at the eighth-lowest rate in the country.

They also thrive at the charity stripe (78.5%), which should come in handy against a Northwestern defense that ranks dead last in the Big Ten and 331st nationally in foul rate. Northwestern also won't exploit Iowa's weakness on the defensive glass.

Lastly, I worry about fatigue for Northwestern as the season winds down. The Wildcats, who rank 335th in bench minutes for the entire season, are even thinner due to the injuries in the backcourt, which have forced several starters to play more minutes than they are used to.

Iowa has won five of its last eight last month (despite opponents shooting with wins over Wisconsin and at Michigan State. The Hawkeyes still have an outside shot at an at-large bid, but it really needs this road win, while Northwestern is comfortably in the field.

Even though Northwestern is very difficult to beat at home, Iowa is a more desperate team and are much deeper. I'll gladly take the 3.5 points the books are offering.

If a single game you purchased does not win based on the point spread, you will receive the next equivalent game FREE OF CHARGE.

Any questions or comments can be sent to: wiz@wizardraceandsports.com

Follow me on Twitter at: [The Wizard@WizardPicks](https://twitter.com/TheWizard@WizardPicks)

THE WIZARD® and THE WIZARD Design are registered service marks of Wizard Race and Sports, INC. © 2024 Wizard Race and Sports, INC.
Republication, retransmission or dissemination of the contents