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WomensLax.com Announces 2009 NCAA Final Four Analysis

And then there were four... The selection committee did a pretty good job seeding teams for this NCAA tournament. Not been one upset has occurred so far, and all top 4 ranked teams have made the final four.

Semi-Final Games:

1. Northwestern (21-0) vs. Penn (15-2)

Northwestern proves third time is not a charm for Princeton as the Wildcats end the Tigers Final Four hopes for the third time in five years. Likewise Penn defeats Duke for the second year in a row in the NCAA tournament, needing two overtimes to do so. Northwestern and Penn are very familiar foes in the regular season and post season, in recent years the two programs have developed something of a rivalry. The Wildcats have ended the Quakers seasons in the last two Final Fours, 07' in the semis and 08' in the Finals. Penn was the last team to beat Northwestern, as they defeated them during the 08' regular with a score of 11-7 at Franklin Field. These two teams met up earlier this season at Lakeside Field, in a battle of the undefeated Northwestern claimed victory, only by a margin of 2 goals. This upcoming game will certainly be a thriller as most of NU & Penn match ups are. I predict Penn to run a very controlled, calculated, and settled attack. Northwestern will look to run a poised attack and high pressure defense. Expect an intense battle on the field as these teams will definitely be gunning for one another. I think much of this game will come down to draw controls and judging on this weekend's performance of Danielle Spencer I have to give Northwestern the edge. It's going to be close one...

Prediction: NU 13- Penn 9.

2. Maryland (20-0) vs. North Carolina (14-4)

Maryland received quite a scare from Syracuse in the first half of their game, as Syracuse took a 4-0 lead on the Terp's in the beginning of the first half. Maryland was able to battle back and regain the lead. Syracuse didn't relinquish and fought hard; they managed to tie the score up 5 times, but couldn't get the go ahead goal. North Carolina was able to fend off a hot Notre Dame squad by a score of 16-10. The first half was very close, with the exception of the first goal Notre Dame continually played catch up. It wasn't until the second half when UNC scored 5 straight goals that it was pretty clear the Heel's would seal this one up. Maryland



and North Carolina are certainly no strangers, as ACC foe's they have already battled this season, Maryland winning by a score of 13-8. Despite critics all season this Carolina team has earned their right to the Final Four, soundly beating two good teams with lots of momentum coming into the tournament. I think this will be a good game but Maryland's offense will be too much for the Heel's defense.

Prediction: Maryland: 14- North Carolina 10.

Championship Game:

Northwestern vs. Maryland

If these two teams meet up in the Championship game this may be one of the greatest finals of all time. A battle of the undefeateds, new school champs vs. old school champs, former teammates Hiller vs. Nelson. It definitely has the makings of a very exciting game where we would get to see the two best teams face each other in a game that I'm sure will be remembered for the ages. While I know this will be a tight game, I think I have to give the edge to New School in an over time thriller.

Champion Prediction: Northwestern 13- Maryland 12 OT