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## **WomensLax.com Announces 2009 NCAA Quarterfinal Analysis**

Round one of the NCAA's came and went with an exciting Sunday of women's lacrosse. All the ranked teams prevailed with no upsets but there were a few close calls. Duke and Virginia went into OT, Fairfield gave Penn its scare of the season with a slim two goal win. One other major factor for this week's Duke Team is the possible loss of senior Carolyn Davis who went down in the first 10 minutes of the UVA game with a knee injury.

### **1. Northwestern (20-0) vs. Princeton (14-3)**

Northwestern cruises past UMass in a big first round win, while Princeton is able to handle Georgetown with little trouble. This will mark the third time these teams have met in the second round of the NCAA's in the past 5 years, Northwestern winning both of those previous contests. Despite Princeton's strong leadership from their senior class with Hollie McGarvie, Kristin Schwaab, and Christine Casaceli, I think that history is doomed to repeat itself. The last team to beat Northwestern on their home field was Vanderbilt in 2004, a win streak I don't foresee ending this season. I think it's going to be a very good, competitive, battle, both teams will be well prepared but the Wildcats will eventually wear down the Tigers.

**Prediction: NU 16- Princeton 9.**

### **2. Maryland (20-0) vs. Syracuse (14-4)**

Maryland handed Colgate a sound beating this past weekend with a score of 20-4, while Syracuse was able to double up on BU with a score of 20-10. This will be a very interesting game with College Park welcoming back Gary Gait. Both teams are led by explosive offenses with lots of firepower and several weapons. This game will be very exciting as Syracuse and Maryland meet for the first time since 2005, when Maryland served Syracuse a 20-4 defeat; luckily I have different expectations for this game. I think this will be a very exciting, high scoring match up, but Maryland's offense will overwhelm Syracuse. Look again to Katie Rowan to throw up some impressive numbers, unfortunately I just don't think it will be enough.

**Prediction: Maryland: 18- Syracuse 13.**

### **3. North Carolina (13-4) vs. Notre Dame (16-4)**



UNC's stingy defense allowed Towson only 4 goals, at one point holding them scoreless for over 30 minutes. Led by Corey Donohoe and Kristen Taylor who each contributed 3 g and an assist, UNC played with a balanced attack in which 9 different players contributed points. Notre Dame was able to avenge their regular season loss to Vanderbilt with a score of 19-13. Notre Dame was led by Kailene Abt, Jill Byers, and Gina Scioscia who each contributed 5 points. This will be an exciting first as these two teams have never before met in the regular or post season in team history. I expect these teams to match up very well together and provide spectators with a very close and exciting game. I wouldn't be shocked if this game went into OT and I will not be surprised if either team wins, but I am going with a UNC victory.

**Prediction: North Carolina 15- Notre Dame 12**

**4. Penn (14-2) vs. Duke (15-5)**

Penn is almost upset by unranked Fairfield in a very close game, with a score 10-8. Duke is likewise able to avoid the upset but needed extra time to beat ACC foe Virginia. In a déjà vu moment from the 2007 semis against UVA, Carolyn Davis goes down with a knee injury 10 minutes into the game, not to return. Unlike the two past years when an injured player has disrupted the teams poise and flow, Duke was able to maintain composure to beat UVA in OT with a score of 15-13. This is going to be an interesting game, as the last time these two teams met was in the 2008 NCAA semifinals, with Penn beating Duke by a score of 9-8 in OT. Penn's past two performances have been less than stellar, a loss to Stanford and a very close game with Fairfield. Duke on the other hand just beat a tough Virginia squad, and is hoping to make it to their 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive final four. However, without arguably their best player in Carolyn Davis (who also happened to score 5 goals in last year's loss to Penn) Duke will need other players to step up and lead this team. I think they have these leaders in Cryer and Gilbride and that Duke will be able to pull off the upset in a very tight match up.

**Prediction: Duke 11- Penn 10**

Will these predictions be correct? Come Saturday we will find out! Make sure to check in next week with the breakdown and analysis of the Final Four matchups on the road to crowning the 2009 Women's Division I NCAA Champs!