

# Turnovers and Penalties Doom Maryland in 34-31 Loss to Nebraska

**COLLEGE PARK, Md.** — Maryland's late heroic efforts came up short as the Terrapins fell to Nebraska 34-31 in a hard-fought Big Ten battle Saturday afternoon.

The Nebraska Cornhuskers led an 84-yard drive that ended with quarterback Dylan Raiola connecting with Dane Key to take the lead in the closing moments of the game. Maryland had a chance to drive down the field, but a costly intentional grounding penalty put the Terps at a disadvantage.

The loss drops Maryland to 4-2 (1-2 Big Ten) and marks back-to-back home defeats. Nebraska improved to 5-1 and remains among the conference's top contenders. The Terrapins now sit 13th in the Big Ten Conference.

"This game comes down to explosive plays and the turnover battle. We have not made enough explosive plays the last two weeks," said coach Mike Locksley.

Nebraska jumped out to an early lead in part due to its diverse offense. The Cornhuskers averaged 7.2 yards per play in the first half, and that balanced attack kept Maryland's defenders at bay.

After going down 10-0, Maryland responded with a Nolan Ray touchdown run. Freshman Messiah Delhomme came up big with an interception, and the Terps capitalized, turning it into points with a Malik Washington-to-Leon Haughton Jr. touchdown to give Maryland its first lead of the game.

Nebraska countered immediately, as Nyziah Hunter scored his second touchdown of the day. Raiola then threw his second interception of the game on the next possession, and Maryland converted it into a field goal to end the half.

Penalties and turnovers told the story for both teams. Maryland had six penalties for 80 yards, which either put the Terps in poor field position or extended Cornhusker drives. Meanwhile, Raiola's two first-half interceptions turned into points for Maryland on ensuing drives.

The Terps trailed 24-17 at halftime but opened the second half with a 75-yard touchdown drive. Their defense then shifted the momentum, as junior defensive back Dontay Joyner intercepted Raiola and returned it 67 yards for a touchdown, giving Maryland its second lead of the night at 31-27 with under four minutes remaining.

Nebraska, however, responded with a seven-play drive that ended with another Key touchdown reception, sealing the 34-31 win for the Cornhuskers.

Maryland quarterback Malik Washington finished 27 of 37 for 249 yards and one touchdown. For Nebraska, Raiola went 20 of 29 for 260 yards, four touchdowns, and three interceptions. Running back Emmett Johnson added 176 rushing yards.

Maryland's youthful inexperience showed throughout the game.

"Missed tackles. A week ago, we had opportunities to finish the quarterback. The missed tackles showed up in critical parts of the game," Locksley said. He followed up by addressing the penalties: "Those after-the-play penalties are critical."

The Terps' defense struggled to tackle, allowing 130 yards after contact, and they were flagged eight times for 73 yards. The costly mistakes either put Maryland in poor field position or extended Nebraska's drives.

This loss echoed the undisciplined play that plagued the Terps in last week's defeat to Washington.

Maryland now faces a quick turnaround as it travels to California to take on the 2-4 UCLA Bruins on Oct. 18. The Bruins are on a two-game winning streak under interim head coach Tim Skipper.