01/04/2000 – Michigan Beats Colorado State Impressively

The young Wolverines grew up a little on Sunday afternoon, beating a tough Colorado State basketball team 87-80 in Crisler Arena. Josh Asselin lead the way with 19 points, and the Fab Three Freshmen played well again, with Kevin Gaines scoring 17 points, Jamal Crawford scoring 14 points, and LaVell Blanchard scoring 11. Leon Jones continued his recent hot play, scoring 15 points. This was the first time this year that all five starters scored double figures.

CSU was a quality opponent, with a couple of impressive wins on their record this year (UCLA and Gonzaga, both on the road). They were riding an eight-game winning streak, and had good 3-point shooters and a good inside game. In fact, Aki Palmer for Colorado State set a new Crisler Arena record for 3-pointers, going 9-for-10. The other CSU guard, John Sivesind, was right behind him, going 7-for-11. Between the two of them, they scored 52 of CSU's 80 points.

Michigan lead most of the way, although CSU did hang close, and managed to tie the game up at one point in the second half. With the 3-point shooters they had, they were always a threat to come back. The Wolverines did a good job of countering every CSU threat.

So, now the non-conference portion of the schedule is over. Michigan did quite well, with a 9-2 record. We had a couple of quality wins, against Georgia Tech and Colorado State, a "quality loss" to Duke, and one poor game, against Boston College. All in all, a very successful non-conference season. If Michigan can win at least half of their 16 Big Ten games, they stand a good chance of getting invited to the NCAA Tournament with a 17-9 record.

Now, the "real" season begins: The Big Ten. The conference is especially deep and talented this year, and every game will be a battle. Unfortunately for Michigan, the first two games are on the road, in tough places to play: Williams Arena in Minneapolis on Wednesday (01/05/2000), and Mackey Arena in West Lafayette on Saturday (01/08/2000). Winning either of these games will be an accomplishment.