09/06/2000 – More Bad News For The Basketball Team

The University of Michigan Basketball Team got more bad news yesterday, when Kevin Gaines was dismissed from the team. Not only is it bad news from a public relations standpoint, but it leaves the Wolverines in very bad shape on the court. Gaines was one of the best freshmen in the country last year, and the team was counting on him to be one of the leaders. He's a very talented basketball player, and his talents will be sorely missed. It's a shame that he had trouble off the court.

The official word on what happened is: "a serious violation of team policies", in other words, "no comment". The unofficial word is: "Police reports say the three were arrested early Monday on suspicion of disorderly intoxication. Police said Tuesday that the three stopped their car on U.S. 24 and, despite traffic, started wrestling outside the car. A breath test showed Gaines, the driver, had a .17 percent blood-alcohol level."

The other two players arrested were incoming freshmen Bernard Robinson Jr. and Avery Queen. They have been "placed on probation".

The team has been hit hard by player departures in the off-season. First Jamal Crawford left (very) early for the NBA, then Leland Anderson and Brandon Smith transferred, and now Kevin Gaines has been dismissed. It's sad to think about how good the team could have been if everyone that could have played next year had managed to stick around. There are still several talented players on the team, like LaVell Blanchard, Gavin Groninger, and Josh Asselin, but the departures have been significant. Michigan has gone from a potential contender for the Big Ten title to an almost-certain lower division team. It's a real shame.