12/12/2000 – Week #05 - The Tough Non-Conference Games (Cont'd)

This could definitely be a long season.

The Michigan Wolverines went to Durham N.C. on Saturday (12/09/2000), and were thoroughly embarrassed on national TV, losing to #1 Duke 104-61. It wasn't really that close. Duke coasted the whole second half, and UM made the score look (relatively) close. The real story was the first 12 minutes of the game, when Duke raced to a 34-2 lead. You read that right: 34-2 after 12 minutes. It doesn't get much worse than that.

It was ugly. Not quite as bad as the pounding last year in East Lansing, but in some ways worse. 34-2? What's with that? They can't score more than 2 points in the first 12 minutes of the game? Check out the 3-point shooting: 2-for-7. Check out the scoring:

Josh Moore	2 points
Avery Queen	2 points
Gavin Groninger	2 points
Leon Jones	1 points
Maurice Searight	2 points
Josh Asselin	4 points

That just sucks. Sure, they were nervous. Sure, Duke is great this year. But they should be able to do better than that. At least they played OK in the second half, when the game was already decided. I guess the other good news is that it's still only one loss, and that no one got hurt.

The schedule gets a lot easier now. That four game stretch against four Top 25 teams resulted in four straight losses, dropping UM's season record to 2-5. The only game in the next week is on Wednesday (12/13/2000) in Crisler Arena, vs. Bowling Green. That's certainly winnable. Actually, the next four games are all at home, and all against teams UM should be able to beat:

Wed	12/13	Bowling Green	7:00 PM
Sat	12/23	Morris Brown	Noon
Wed	12/27	Towson	7:00 PM
Sat	12/30	Eastern Michigan	7:00 PM

Try to make it to one (or more) of them. Once the Big Ten season starts, the wins will be a lot harder to come by. Enjoy them now.

I'll be back next week, to comment on the Bowling Green game, and the season in general.