12/09/2002 - Week #06 – More Bad News

The University of Michigan men's basketball team lost 2 more games this week, dropping their season record to 0-6. This is a new team record for the worst start ever. They desperately need a win. This young season could easily spiral into a real "freefall".

The two losses this week were to Central Michigan (85-78) on Tuesday (12/03/2002) at home, and to (#4) Duke (81-59) on Saturday (12/07/2002) in Durham. The loss to Duke on the road is forgivable, but the loss to CMU was embarassing. Michigan should never lose to a MAC school in basketball. The Wolverines played hard, but not smart, against CMU, and let them dictate the tempo and the style of the game. Central has a talented 7-foot center (Chris Kaman), and he victimized the young UM centers (Graham Brown and Chris Hunter) all night. Brown is the better defender, but he's also a few inches shorter than Hunter. Hunter is just too thin and light to defend against strong "big man", and Kaman pushed him around all night. I mentioned in my pre-season analysis that the center position was going to be a big problem for Michigan, and the CMU game was the best evidence so far of what I was talking about. We're going to see a lot more of that all season. There are bigger and better centers than Kaman in the Big Ten, and they're all going to have big games against Michigan.

As a direct result of the problems at center, UM got out-rebounded badly, 41-29. Kaman was the main reason, as he grabbed 21 rebounds, to go with his 30 points (on 11-for-13 shooting). That was the difference in the game right there: Brown had 2 points (on 1-for-3 shooting), and Hunter had 0 points (on 0-for-2 shooting). Brown had 5 rebounds, and Hunter had 1.

Several players had pretty good games against Central, including Daniel Horton (22 points, on 7-for-19 shooting), LaVell Blanchard (21 points, on 8-for-15 shooting), Bernard Robinson, Jr. (15 points on 4-for-14 shooting), and Lester Abram (14 points on 6-for-12 shooting). Once again, Horton took too many shots for a point guard, and had a pretty poor shooting percentage. B-Rob also shot poorly, which hurts. Due to an unusual starting lineup (Gavin Groninger instead of Lester Abram), there was more bench scoring than in the other games this season. Of course, Groninger had 0 points on 0 shots in 12 minutes, so the extra bench scoring didn't mean much.

Normally, I'm not one for "moral victories", but this is not a normal season. I'm going to have to take encouragement wherever I can find it. The Duke game was the closest thing to a moral victory that UM has experienced so far this year. The margin was a lot closer than it's been the last few years against Duke, and Michigan hung in and kept the game close a lot longer than in the past few years.

The bad news for the week didn't end with the 2 losses. Once again, Michigan lost another player from the team. That's 2 players in 2 weeks. This week it was Dommanic Ingerson, a crowd favorite, and the best 3-point shooter on the team. Ingerson was also one of the few players on the team with any sort of attitude, which is something this team desperately needs. LaVell Blanchard, who should be the team leader, has as much attitude as a cup of lukewarm tea. The team is going to really miss Ingerson, and he won't be easily replaced.

The beat goes on for the Wolverines. They play 2 games in the next week. On Tuesday (12/03/2002), they play at home against Central Michigan (another MAC school), and on Saturday (12/07/2002), they play at #7 Duke. They'll get

slaughtered by Duke, but they should beat CMU. The game on Tuesday is at 7:00 p.m. Come on out and see if Michigan can break into the win column.

Late Rally Not Enough as Michigan Drops Fifth Straight

ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- The University of Michigan men's basketball team dropped its fifth straight game of the season, falling 85-78 to the Central Michigan Chippewas on Tuesday (Dec. 3) in Crisler Arena. The Wolverines rallied late, going on an 8-1 run to pull the score to 81-78 with 22 seconds left, but four straight CMU free throws iced the game. With the loss -- U-M's first to CMU since Dec. 1, 1951 -- the Wolverines (0-5) are off to the worst start in school history.

Freshman **Lester Abram** *(Pontiac, Mich./Northern HS)* and **Daniel Horton** *(Cedar Hill, Texas/Cedar Hill HS)* both set career highs in points scored. Abram bucketed 14 points and Horton led the team by dropping in 22 points and handing out five assists. **LaVell Blanchard** *(Ann Arbor, Mich./Pioneer HS)* netted 21 points, while **Bernard Robinson Jr.** *(Washington, D.C./New Hampton Prep, N.H.)* pulled down a team-high eight rebounds, set a new career high with five steals and tallied 15 points. CMU's Chris Kaman led all scorers with 30 points and totaled a game-high 21 caroms.

The Chippewas struck first with a jumper, but U-M scored the next five points of the contest thanks to four Robinson points and a Horton free throw. Central Michigan ended that run and took a 7-5 lead with 15:45 left in the first half.

The teams went back and forth for the next four minutes and the Chippewas extended their lead to three, 10-7, after two dunks by Kaman. The Wolverines picked up the defensive intensity with Robinson getting a block and then taking it coast to coast for a layup to get U-M going. Blanchard then kept the Wolverine offense on track by scorching the nets for seven straight points to pull the Maize and Blue ahead by one, 20-19, with 7:44 remaining in the half.

One minute later, the Chippewas answered with a 7-0 run of their own to retake the lead, 25-20, but two Robinson free throws ended that run. After a flagrant foul on the Chippewas, U-M capped a five-point trip down the floor with a Blanchard triple to cut the deficit to one, 28-27.

The Chippewas answered once again, closing the opening stanza on an 11-6 run that gave them a 39-33 halftime advantage, which matched their largest lead of the half. Blanchard paced the Wolverine offense with 15 points, Robinson added nine points and four rebounds, and Horton scored seven points and dished out four assists. CMU's hot field goal shooting was the key to its first-half success, as the Chippewas shot 17-28 (.607) on all attempts and 4-9 (.444) from downtown.

After three minutes of play in the second half the Chippewas extended their lead to seven, 48-41, but the Wolverines mounted a comeback by going on a 12-2 run to take a 53-50 lead with under 13 minutes to play. During that run, Abram led the charge on both ends of the floor, forcing three straight Chippewa turnovers and scoring eight points in that three-minute stretch.

With the score knotted at 59 and 9:26 left to play, the Chippewas used a 7-0 run to swing the momentum back in their favor and push their lead back to seven, 66-59. The CMU defense held the Wolverine offense scoreless for six-plus minutes during that stretch, but Horton put an end to that dry spell by connecting on a three-ball to cut the lead to 72-64.

The Wolverines proved that they were not beaten yet by cutting the CMU lead to three, 81-78, with under one minute remaining. CMU then connected on 4-4 free throws to close the scoring in the contest and put the game out of reach for the Maize and Blue. Abram and Horton both had strong second halves, scoring 12 and 15 points, respectively.

The Wolverines will next be in action on Saturday (Dec. 7) at 3:30 p.m. when they take on the fourth-ranked Duke Blue Devils in Durham, N.C. CBS Sports will televise the game, which will be the Wolverines' first national broadcast of the season.

```
Official Basketball Box Score -- GAME TOTALS -- FINAL STATISTICS
Central Michigan vs Michigan
12/3/02  7:00 p.m. at Ann Arbor, Mich. (Crisler Arena)
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
VISITORS: Central Michigan (3-1)
                          TOT-FG  3-PT         REBOUNDS
## Player Name            FG-FGA FG-FGA FT-FTA OF DE TOT PF  TP  A TO BLK S MIN
24 Brigitha, Gerrit.... f  1-1    0-0    0-0    0  0  0   1   2  0  0  0  0   6
25 Manciel, Mike....... f 10-18   3-6    5-7    4  5  9   1  28  1  4  0  0  37
```

```
35 Kaman, Chris........ c 11-13   0-0    8-9    4 17 21   2  30  0  5  5  2  38
02 Wallace, J.R........ g  3-5    0-1    0-0    0  0  0   5   6  5  1  0  0  14
15 Meerman, T.J........ g  3-6    1-2    3-4    0  2  2   4  10  3  1  0  1  28
01 Robinson, Whitney...    1-7    1-5    4-5    0  1  1   4   7  3  7  0  2  26
04 Voorhees, Brandon...    0-0    0-0    0-0    0  0  0   0   0  0  0  0  0   1
12 Bowne, Tony.........    0-0    0-0    0-0    0  1  1   5   0  4  0  0  1  18
20 Nelson, Kevin.......    1-2    0-0    0-0    1  0  1   1   2  3  1  0  0  16
23 Carr, Joe...........    0-1    0-1    0-0    0  0  0   1   0  1  4  0  0  12
31 Hallett, Corey......    0-0    0-0    0-0    0  1  1   0   0  0  0  0  0   2
40 Dentlinger, Adam....    0-0    0-0    0-0    0  0  0   0   0  0  1  0  0   2
   TEAM................                        3  2  5
   Totals..............   30-53   5-15  20-25   12 29 41  24  85 20 24  5  6 200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 17-28 60.7%   2nd Half: 13-25 52.0%   Game: 56.6%  DEADB
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half:  4-9  44.4%   2nd Half:  1-6  16.7%   Game: 33.3%   REBS
F Throw % 1st Half:  1-4  25.0%   2nd Half: 19-21 90.5%   Game: 80.0%    4

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
HOME TEAM: Michigan (0-5)
                         TOT-FG  3-PT          REBOUNDS
## Player Name           FG-FGA FG-FGA FT-FTA OF DE TOT PF  TP  A TO BLK S MIN
21 Robinson Jr, Bernard f 4-14   0-2    7-10   4  4  8   0  15  2  3  1  5  36
30 Blanchard, LaVell... f 8-15   2-5    3-3    1  0  1   4  21  1  1  1  0  31
25 Brown, Graham....... c 1-3    0-0    0-2    4  1  5   5   2  0  1  0  1  22
04 Horton, Daniel...... g 7-19   1-5    7-9    2  3  5   1  22  5  3  0  3  36
23 Groninger, Gavin.... g 0-0    0-0    0-0    0  0  0   1   0  1  0  0  0  12
02 Abram, Lester.......   6-12   0-1    2-2    0  1  1   4  14  1  0  0  2  30
22 Harrell, Sherrod....   0-0    0-0    0-0    0  0  0   0   0  0  2  0  0   6
31 Hunter, Chris.......   0-2    0-0    0-0    0  1  1   3   0  2  2  2  0  15
32 Bailey, Chuck.......   2-3    0-0    0-2    2  0  2   2   4  0  0  0  0  12
   TEAM................                        4  2  6
   Totals..............  28-68   3-13  19-28   17 12 29  20  78 12 12  4 11 200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 10-26 38.5%   2nd Half: 18-42 42.9%   Game: 41.2%  DEADB
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half:  2-5  40.0%   2nd Half:  1-8  12.5%   Game: 23.1%   REBS
F Throw % 1st Half: 11-14 78.6%   2nd Half:  8-14 57.1%   Game: 67.9%    3

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Officials: Steve Welmer, Sid Rodeheffer, Tom Clark
Technical fouls: Central Michigan-None. Michigan-None.
Attendance: 8338
Score by Periods               1st  2nd   Total
Central Michigan.............   39   46  -   85
Michigan.....................   33   45  -   78
```

Duke Pressures Michigan Into Sixth Consecutive Loss

DURHAM, N.C. -- The University of Michigan men's basketball team was pressured into committing 25 turnovers, including 19 in the first half, and dropped its sixth straight game of the season, 81-59 to the No. 4-ranked Duke Blue Devils on Saturday (Dec. 7) at Cameron Indoor Stadium. The Wolverines (0-6) held the Duke offense to only 3-18 (.167) shooting behind the arc but did not have an answer for the Blue Devils' defensive intensity.

Michigan received a strong effort off the bench from sophomore **Chuck Bailey** *(Detroit, Mich./Martin Luther King HS)*, who netted a season-high 11 points and pulled down three rebounds. Freshman **Lester Abram** *(Pontiac, Mich./Northern HS)* contributed 14 points, and fellow freshman **Graham Brown** *(Mio, Mich./Mio-AuSable HS)* played strong inside by scoring eight points and grabbing seven boards. Senior **LaVell Blanchard** *(Ann Arbor, Mich./Pioneer HS)* chipped in nine points and four caroms. Dahntay Jones and Daniel Ewing of Duke shared game-high scoring honors with 17 points apiece.

The Wolverines fell behind 3-0 in the opening minutes of the contest but answered with a 7-0 run to take a 7-3 lead after three and a half minutes of play. Duke battled back to take the lead, 8-7, with 15:30 left in the half. A Blanchard dunk and Bailey free throw pulled U-M ahead again, 11-10, but the Blue Devils scored eight straight points to open up a seven-point lead, 16-11, with 11:35 remaining in the half.

A **Bernard Robinson Jr.** *(Washington, D.C./New Hampton Prep, N.H.)* hoop and Blanchard layin cut the Blue Devils' lead to three, 18-15. But Duke then proceeded to go on a 10-4 run to take its largest lead of the game to that point, 28-19, after the game's first 12 minutes. U-M could not take advantage of its opportunities at the free throw line, as it missed two front ends of one-and-ones late in the first half, which

helped the Blue Devils extend their lead to 12 points, 35-23 with less than four minutes remaining. The home team went on an 11-2 run to close the half and took a 44-25 lead into the locker room.

The Wolverines were hampered by some early foul trouble to key players, which was a major factor in their 19 first-half turnovers which led to 20 Blue Devil points. U-M did not take advantage of its opportunities from the charity stripe, hitting only two of eight attempts (.250) and missing their last six of the half.

Leading scorers at the break for the Wolverines were Brown and Bailey, who put in six points apiece.

The Blue Devils (5-0) quickly put an end to any hope for a Wolverine comeback in the second half by going on a 9-3 run to take a 53-28 lead with 17:18 left to play. Duke then went on cruise control, keeping its lead around 25 points for the majority of the second half. U-M scored the game's last five points to make the final score 81-59.

Abram had a strong second half, scoring 12 points. **Daniel Horton** *(Cedar Hill, Texas/Cedar Hill HS)* connected on two triples, and Blanchard tallied five points in the game's final 20 minutes.

The Maize and Blue will next be in action on Wednesday (Dec. 11), hosting Bowling Green in a 7 p.m. contest at Crisler Arena.

Official Basketball Box Score -- GAME TOTALS -- FINAL STATISTICS
Michigan vs Duke
12/7/02 3:40 p.m. at Durham, N.C. (Cameron Indoor Stadium)

VISITORS: Michigan (0-6)

##	Player Name	TOT-FG FG-FGA	3-PT FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REBOUNDS OF	DE	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BLK	S	MIN
02	Abram, Lester..... *	5-7	1-1	3-3	1	2	3	4	14	0	3	1	0	28
04	Horton, Daniel..... *	3-8	3-6	0-0	0	3	3	4	9	3	3	0	0	28
21	Robinson Jr, Bernard *	2-9	0-2	0-0	1	4	5	2	4	3	4	1	2	30
25	Brown, Graham..... *	2-2	0-0	4-7	2	5	7	4	8	2	2	0	0	26
30	Blanchard, LaVell... *	4-10	1-3	0-1	1	3	4	2	9	2	7	0	0	27
22	Harrell, Sherrod....	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
23	Groninger, Gavin....	0-4	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
31	Hunter, Chris.....	1-4	0-0	2-3	4	1	5	3	4	0	2	1	1	14
32	Bailey, Chuck.....	5-6	0-0	1-4	1	2	3	5	11	1	2	0	0	20
52	Adebiyi, Rotolu.....	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
	TEAM.....					1	1				1			
	Totals.....	22-51	5-14	10-18	10	22	32	27	59	11	25	3	3	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 11-20	55.0%	2nd Half: 11-31	35.5%	Game: 43.1%	DEADB
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 1-2	50.0%	2nd Half: 4-12	33.3%	Game: 35.7%	REBS
F Throw % 1st Half: 2-7	28.6%	2nd Half: 8-11	72.7%	Game: 55.6%	3

HOME TEAM: Duke (5-0)

##	Player Name	TOT-FG FG-FGA	3-PT FG-FGA	FT-FTA	REBOUNDS OF	DE	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BLK	S	MIN
04	Redick, J.J..... *	1-6	1-5	0-0	2	5	7	3	3	1	1	0	1	27
05	Ewing, Daniel..... *	6-15	1-5	4-5	4	4	8	0	17	0	3	0	4	33
20	Sanders, Casey..... *	2-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	3	2	4	0	1	0	0	11
21	Duhon, Chris..... *	5-10	1-5	4-6	1	2	3	0	15	5	2	0	6	33
30	Jones, Dahntay..... *	6-11	0-3	5-8	1	2	3	2	17	2	0	1	0	25
02	Buckner, Andre.....	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
03	Horvath, Nick.....	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	5
13	Melchionni, Lee.....	0-1	0-0	0-1	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
15	Dockery, Sean.....	2-5	0-0	1-2	1	0	1	4	5	2	1	0	1	17
23	Williams, Shelden...	2-3	0-0	1-2	2	1	3	4	5	0	3	4	0	17
42	Randolph, Shavlik...	4-6	0-0	3-4	1	4	5	4	11	2	1	0	1	17
50	Thompson, Michael...	0-0	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	4
51	Johnson, Patrick....	0-0	0-0	0-2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
53	Means, Andy.....	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	TEAM.....				1	1	2							
	Totals.....	29-61	3-18	20-32	16	24	40	23	81	12	13	5	14	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-36	44.4%	2nd Half: 13-25	52.0%	Game: 47.5%	DEADB
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 2-13	15.4%	2nd Half: 1-5	20.0%	Game: 16.7%	REBS
F Throw % 1st Half: 10-15	66.7%	2nd Half: 10-17	58.8%	Game: 62.5%	6

Officials: Ed Hightower, Mike Sanzere, Randy Drury
Technical fouls: Michigan-None. Duke-None.
Attendance: 9314

Score by Periods	1st	2nd		Total
Michigan.....	25	34	-	59

Duke..... 44 37 - 81

2002-03 Bowl Schedule

All times Eastern

Bowl	Date/Time/TV	Conference Affiliation
New Orleans Bowl New Orleans	Tuesday, Dec. 17 7 p.m. (ESPN2)	**Cincinnati** (7-6) vs. **North Texas** (7-5)
GMAC Bowl Mobile, Ala.	Wednesday, Dec. 18 8 p.m. (ESPN2)	**Marshall** (10-2) vs. **Louisville** (7-5)
Mazda Tangerine Bowl Orlando	Monday, Dec. 23 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)	**Clemson** (7-5) vs. **Texas Tech** (8-5)
Sega Sports Las Vegas Bowl Las Vegas	Wednesday, Dec. 25 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)	**UCLA** (7-5) vs. **New Mexico** (7-6)
ConAgra Foods Hawaii Bowl Honolulu	Wednesday, Dec. 25 8 p.m. (ESPN)	**Hawaii** (10-3) vs. **Tulane** (7-5)
Motor City Bowl Detroit	Thursday, Dec. 26 5 p.m. (ESPN)	**Boston College** (8-4) vs. **Toledo** (9-4)
Insight Bowl Phoenix	Thursday, Dec. 26 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)	**Pittsburgh** (8-4) vs. **Oregon State** (8-4)
Houston Bowl Houston	Friday, Dec. 27 1 p.m. (ESPN)	**Southern Miss** (7-5) vs. **Oklahoma State** (7-5)
MainStay Independence Bowl Shreveport, La.	Friday, Dec. 27 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)	**Nebraska** (7-6) vs. **Mississippi** (6-6)
Pacific Life Holiday Bowl San Diego	Friday, Dec. 27 8 p.m. (ESPN)	**Kansas State** (10-2) vs. **Arizona State** (8-5)
Continental Tire Bowl Charlotte, N.C.	Saturday, Dec. 28 11 a.m. (ESPN2)	**West Virginia** (9-3) vs. **Virginia** (8-5)
2002 Alamo Bowl Presented by MasterCard San Antonio	Saturday, Dec. 28 8 p.m. (ESPN)	**Colorado** (9-4) vs. **Wisconsin** (7-6)
Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl Nashville, Tenn.	Monday, Dec. 30 2 p.m. (ESPN)	**Arkansas** (9-4) vs. **Minnesota** (7-5)
Seattle Bowl Seattle	Monday, Dec. 30 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)	**Oregon** (7-5) vs. **Wake Forest** (6-6)
Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl Boise, Idaho	Tuesday, Dec. 31 Noon (ESPN)	**Iowa State** (7-6) vs. **Boise State** (11-1)
Wells Fargo Sun Bowl El Paso, Texas	Tuesday, Dec. 31 2 p.m. (CBS)	**Purdue** (6-6) vs. **Washington** (7-5)
AXA Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tenn.	Tuesday, Dec. 31 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)	**Colorado State** (10-3) vs. **TCU** (9-2)
Silicon Valley Football Classic San Jose, Calif.	Tuesday, Dec. 31 3:30 p.m. (ESPN2)	**Georgia Tech** (7-5) vs. **Fresno State** (8-5)
Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Atlanta	Tuesday, Dec. 31 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)	**Tennessee** (8-4) vs. **Maryland** (10-3)
Diamond Walnut San Francisco Bowl San Francisco	Tuesday, Dec. 31 10:30 p.m. (ESPN2)	**Air Force** (8-4) vs. **Virginia Tech** (9-4)
Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla.	Wednesday, Jan. 1 11 a.m. (ESPN)	**Florida** (8-4) vs. **Michigan** (9-3)
SBC Cotton Bowl Dallas	Wednesday, Jan.1 11 a.m. (FOX)	**Texas** (10-2) vs. **LSU** (8-4)

Toyota Gator Bowl Jacksonville, Fla.	Wednesday, Jan. 1 12:30 p.m. (NBC)	**NC State** (10-3) vs. **Notre Dame** (10-2)
Capital One Bowl Orlando, Fla.	Wednesday, Jan. 1 1 p.m. (ABC)	**Penn State** (9-3) vs. **Auburn** (8-4)
Rose Bowl Presented by Sony Playstation 2 Pasadena, Calif.	Wednesday, Jan. 1 5 p.m. (ABC)	**Oklahoma** (11-2) vs. **Washington State** (10-2)
Nokia Sugar Bowl New Orleans	Wednesday, Jan. 1 8:30 p.m. (ABC)	**Georgia** (12-1) vs. **Florida State** (9-4)
FedEx Orange Bowl Miami	Thursday, Jan. 2 8 p.m. (ABC)	**Iowa** (11-1) vs. **USC** (10-2)
Tostitos Fiesta Bowl Tempe, Ariz.	Friday, Jan. 3 8 p.m. (ABC)	**Ohio State** (13-0) vs. **Miami** (12-0)