11/14/2005 – Week #02 – Let The (Real) Games Begin

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played their 2nd and final exhibition game on Friday (11/11/2005), and beat Northern Michigan 101-56. Unlike their mistake-filled opening exhibition win last week against Grand Valley State, the Wolverines looked sharp and powerful against NMU this week. As the lead got bigger and bigger, Coach Amaker sent in more and more of the subs, and lots of players got some good game experience. That's what these exhibition games are supposed to be all about: getting a lot of players in for significant playing time. Michigan got a lot of good practice time in against GVSU and NMU, but now it's time for the real games to begin. The only bad news was that both Courtney Sims and Chris Hunter got injured during the game. It appears that they will both be OK by the regular season opener, but it was still scary to see them both go out in the same game.

Game Statistics

Let's look at the shooting statistics from the Northern Michigan game:

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	39-67 (58.2%)	7-21 (33.3%)	16-22 (72.7%)
NMU	23-60 (38.3%)	6-24 (25.0%)	4-13 (30.8%)
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan

Right here, you can see why Michigan won this game: they not only shot very well (58.2%), but they held NMU to under 40% shooting. That was the difference in the game right there.

Now, let's look at the non-shooting statistics from the game:

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	41	22	11	2	14
NMU	34	13	21	1	6
Advantage	Mich	Mich	Mich	Mich	Mich

The game was a blowout, and the proof of it is in these stats. UM won the rebounding battle handily, and they cut way down on their turnovers from the 1st exhibition game (25). The assist and steal totals are both very impressive.

Individual Statistics

Coach Amaker used the "regular" starting lineup again: Lester Abram, Graham Brown, Dion Harris, Daniel Horton, and Sims. Here's how they did:

Player	Field Goals	3-Pointers	Free Throws	Points
Lester Abram	5-8	0-1	1-2	11
Graham Brown	5-8	0-0	2-2	12
Dion Harris	5-12	3-7	1-2	14
Daniel Horton	5-9	2-5	0-0	12
Courtney Sims	4-6	0-0	4-4	12
Totals	24-32 55.8%	5-13 38.5%	8-10 80.0%	61

As a group, the starters did fine. The 3-point shooting isn't great, but other than that, they did OK.

Individually, all 5 starters had a great game. Horton did his scoring early, but it was his defense and his steals that really helped the Wolverines pull away early. Harris finally scored some points, after going scoreless against GVSU last week. We'll just have to accept that he's going to have to take a lot of shots to get his points, since he seldom shoots a very high percentage. Besides their 12 points each, Brown and Sims both had 7 rebounds each.

Here's how the bench players did in this game:

Player	Field Goals	3-Pointers	Free Throws	Points
Amadou Ba	0-1	0-0	3-4	3
Ron Coleman	8-10	1-2	0-0	17
Hayes Grooms	0-0	0-0	0-0	0
Chris Hunter	2-4	0-1	3-5	7
Kendric Price	1-2	0-1	0-0	2
Jevohn Shepherd	1-3	0-2	1-2	3
Jerret Smith	3-4	1-2	1-1	8
Totals	15-24 62.5%	2-8 25.0%	7-8 87.5%	25

Coleman had a great game coming off the bench. Horton did the early scoring, but it was Coleman who was on fire in the 2nd half. The rest of the subs did OK, although Grooms didn't do much while he was out there. For the freshmen, Smith played a good game, and Shepherd and Price looked OK out there. The big story was Amadou ("Do The 'Dou") Ba: he played the last 6 minutes of the game, and he got 3 points and 5 rebounds. He's a crowd favorite, and it was very fitting that his free throws pushed Michigan over the 100-point mark.

The Big Picture

The exhibition portion of the schedule is over, and the non-conference portion of the regular season starts this Friday (11/18/2005) against Central Michigan. In the past few years, UM has had more trouble with Mid American Conference teams than they should, so it will be interesting to see how they handle CMU.

Here's Michigan's schedule for this season:

Date	Opponent	Site
11/18/2005 (Fri)	Central Michigan	Ann Arbor
11/22/2005 (Tue)	Boston University	Boston, MA
11/26/2005 (Sat)	Butler	Ann Arbor
11/29/2005 (Tue)	Miami (FL)	Ann Arbor
12/03/2005 (Sat)	Notre Dame	South Bend, IN
12/07/2005 (Wed)	Delaware State	Ann Arbor
12/10/2005 (Sat)	South Florida	Tampa, FL
12/17/2005 (Sat)	UCLA	Ann Arbor
12/22/2005 (Thu)	Miami (OH)	Ann Arbor
12/28/2005 (Wed)	Coppin State	Ann Arbor
12/31/2005 (Sat)	Chicago State	Ann Arbor
01/03/2006 (Tue)	Indiana	Bloomington, IN

01/07/2006 (Sat)	Purdue	Ann Arbor
01/14/2006 (Sat)	Illinois	Champaign, IL
01/18/2006 (Wed)	Northwestern	Ann Arbor
01/21/2006 (Sat)	Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN
01/25/2006 (Wed)	Michigan State	Ann Arbor
01/28/2006 (Sat)	Wisconsin	Ann Arbor
02/01/2006 (Wed)	Penn State	State College, PA
02/04/2006 (Sat)	Iowa	Iowa City, IA
02/09/2006 (Thu)	Ohio State	Ann Arbor
02/11/2006 (Sat)	Purdue	West Lafayette, IN
02/15/2006 (Wed)	Minnesota	Ann Arbor
02/18/2006 (Sat)	Michigan State	East Lansing, MI
02/21/2006 (Tue)	Illinois	Ann Arbor
02/25/2006 (Sat)	Ohio State	Columbus, OH
03/04/2006 (Sat)	Indiana	Ann Arbor
Big Ten Tournament		
03/09/2006 (Thu)	First Round	Indianapolis, IN
03/10/2006 (Fri)	Quarterfinals	Indianapolis, IN
03/11/2006 (Sat)	Semifinals	Indianapolis, IN
03/12/2006 (Sun)	Finals	Indianapolis, IN

The Upcoming Week

Michigan only has one game this week, and it's the regular-season opener against CMU, in Crisler Arena, on Friday (11/18/2005). Come on down to Crisler, and check out this year's Wolverines.

Go Blue!