**12/26/2005 – Week #08 – Back On The Winning Track**

**The Week In Review**

After losing for the first time this season against UCLA on Saturday 12/17/2005, the University of Michigan men's basketball team came back strong last week, and beat a good Miami (OH) team in Crisler Arena on Thursday (12/22/2005) night, 87-80. Like the UCLA game, it was a back-and-forth battle, with lots of runs and lead changes, but once Michigan got the lead in the 2nd half, they held it. The win raises Michigan's record to 8-1.

## Game Statistics

Let's look at the shooting statistics from the Miami (OH) game:

| Team | Field goals | 3-Pointers | Free throws |
|---|---|---|---|
| Michigan | 27-42 (64.3%) | 9-16 (56.3%) | 24-31 (77.4%) |
| Miami (OH) | 30-59 (50.8%) | 13-29 (44.8%) | 7-8 (87.5%) |
| Advantage | Michigan | Michigan | Miami |

There's a lot of significant information in these stats: first of all, UM shot 64.3%, which is their best shooting percentage of the season. Secondly, they shot 56.3% from 3-point range, which is also a season-high percentage for them, and a huge improvement over their 5-for-23 performance against UCLA. But, the biggest stat is the free throws: UM made 3 times as many free throws as Miami attempted. Those 17 extra points more than made up for the 4 extra 3-pointers that Miami made.

Now, let's look at the non-shooting statistics from the Miami (OH) game:

| Team | Rebounds | Assists | Turnovers | Blocks | Steals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Michigan | 23 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Miami (OH) | 27 | 14 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| Advantage | Miami | Miami | Michigan | Miami | Michigan |

The game was close, and these stats are close. The most significant stat is Turnovers: this is the lowest total for Michigan in years.

## Individual Statistics

For the first time this season, Coach Amaker did not use his regular starting lineup. For disciplinary reasons, Dion Harris didn't start. Instead, Ron Coleman started in his place. The rest of the starting lineup was intact: Lester Abram, Graham Brown, Daniel Horton, and Courtney Sims. Here's how they did:

| Player | Field Goals | 3-Pointers | Free Throws | Points |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lester Abram | 3-5 | 1-2 | 1-2 | 8 |
| Graham Brown | 4-5 | 0-0 | 2-4 | 10 |
| Ron Coleman | 3-4 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 10 |
| Daniel Horton | 6-10 | 4-8 | 1-2 | 17 |
| Courtney Sims | 5-10 | 0-0 | 6-7 | 16 |
| Totals | 21-34<br>61.8% | 6-12<br>50.0% | 13-19<br>68.4% | 61 |

As a group, the starters did a very good job. Everyone shot at least 50% in every category.

Individually, all the starters hit double figures except Abram, and he got close. This kind of scoring balance is very important.

Here's how the bench players did in the Miami (OH) game:

| Player | Field Goals | 3-Pointers | Free Throws | Points |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amadou Ba | 0-0 | 0-0 | 1-2 | 1 |
| Hayes Grooms | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2-2 | 2 |
| Sherrod Harrell | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2-2 | 2 |
| Dion Harris | 1-3 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 2 |
| Chris Hunter | 4-4 | 3-3 | 4-4 | 15 |
| Jevohn Shepherd | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 0 |
| Jerret Smith | 1-1 | 0-0 | 2-2 | 4 |
| Totals | 6-8<br>75.0% | 3-4<br>75.0% | 11-12<br>91.7% | 26 |

The bench contributed quite nicely in this game, which is a good sign. Of course, most of the contribution was from Hunter, who had a perfect game in terms of shooting percentage. His three 3-pointers were all big baskets, and three 3-pointers is a career high for him. Since he hit double figures, that meant that Michigan had 5 players in double figures.

The rest of the bench players didn't do much, but at least some of the players with less game experience got in, and scored. Smith played a nice game out there, and chipped in 4 points. It should also be noted Amadou ("Do The 'Dou") Ba hit his first career free throw.

**The Big Picture**

Michigan bounced back nicely from the loss to UCLA, and they played hard against Miami. Their 8-1 record is very good, and they should easily win their last 2 non-conference games. Both games are in the next week, and they're both at home.

Here's Michigan's entire remaining schedule:

| Date | Opponent | Site |
|---|---|---|
| 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**

Looking ahead to the upcoming week, Michigan has two games this week, both at home. On Wednesday (12/28/2005, 6:00 p.m.) they play Coppin State, then on Saturday (12/31/2005, 2:00 p.m.) they play Chicago State. Both games are during UM's winter break, so most of the students will be out of town. Come on down to Crisler Arena and cheer on the Wolverines. Every little bit helps. As a special bonus, after the Coppin State game on Wednesday, they're going to show the Alamo Bowl football game between Michigan and Nebraska on the videoscreens. A double feature!

Go Blue!