11/06/2006 – Week #02 – The End Of The Exhibition Season

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played both of their exhibition games this week, and they won both of them handily. On Thursday (11/02/2006), they beat Wayne State, 85-51, then on Sunday (11/05/2006), they beat Michigan Tech by almost exactly the same score, 85-50. Both games were in the friendly-but-not-very-full confines of Crisler Arena, and both games were against Division II teams, so the results are not very surprising, nor very enlightening. Coach Amaker tried lots of different combinations of players, and every player on the roster got to play in at least one of the games. The veteran players all looked OK, and the newcomers looked pretty well, but it's tough to tell against such overmatched opponents. Still, the exhibition season has to be considered a success; the team got some game experience, and no one got hurt.

Game Statistics

First, let's look at the shooting statistics from the Wayne State game:

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	32-62 (51.6%)	12-20 (60.0%)	9-18 (50.0%)
Wayne State	17-52 (32.7%)	9-23 (39.1%)	8-13 (61.5%)
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Wayne State

The shooting stats tell the story of the game; the game was a blowout, and the shooting stats show it, especially 3-point shooting. UM shot a good percentage from the field, and Wayne State shot poorly.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	40	22	10	6	5
Wayne State	34	13	20	2	4
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan

As if the shooting stats weren't enough, the non-shooting stats are all Michigan as well. These are all very good numbers, especially the Rebounds and Turnovers.

Moving on to the Michigan Tech game, let's look at the shooting statistics:

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	31-54 (57.4%)	5-15 (33.3%)	18-25 (72.0%)
Michigan Tech	19-50 (38.0%)	7-18 (38.9%)	5-10 (50.0%)
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan Tech	Michigan

Once again, the shooting stats tell the story of the game; the game was another blowout, and the shooting stats show it.

Finally, let's look at the non-shooting statistics from the Michigan Tech game:

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	33	21	16	4	11
Michigan Tech	26	10	24	2	3

Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan

Just to add to the blowout, the non-shooting stats are all Michigan as well. These are all pretty good numbers, especially the Steals.

Individual Statistics

Coach Amaker is still fiddling with his starting lineup, so there isn't a set group of starters yet. However, here's how the players who started this week did:

	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
Player	WSU	MTU	WSU	MTU	WSU	MTU	WSU	MTU
Lester Abram	6-9	4-7	3-4	2-3	4-4	4-4	19	14
Ron Coleman	4-6	4-8	0-1	0-2	0-0	1-1	8	9
Dion Harris	5-10	3-6	3-6	1-4	0-0	2-2	13	9
Brent Petway	2-6	DNP	0-0	DNP	1-4	DNP	5	DNP
Courtney Sims	2-4	9-11	0-0	0-0	1-1	3-6	5	21
Jerret Smith	Bench	0-1	Bench	0-1	Bench	0-0	Bench	0
Totals	19-35 54.3%	20-33 60.6%	6-11 54.5%	3-10 30.0%	6-9 66.7%	10-13 76.9%	50	53

Petway didn't play against Michigan Tech, apparently due to an illness. I saw him in the parking lot after the game, and he looked miserable. Hopefully, he'll be ready to play again for the season opener this Friday (11/10/2006).

As a group, the starters did OK. Their percentages are decent, and they scored a reasonable number of points.

Individually, only Abram hit double figures in both games, although Harris hit double figures in one game, and came close in the other, and Coleman came close twice. Sims was the other player to start both games, and he looked lost out there vs. WSU, but came back strong against MTU. Petway and Smith were just OK in the games they started.

Since both games were blowouts, Amaker got a lot of bench players in, some for extended periods, and others for just a few minutes. Here's how they did:

	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
Player	WSU	MTU	WSU	MTU	WSU	MTU	WSU	MTU
Reed Baker	4-4	1-2	4-4	1-2	1-2	0-0	13	3
Phillip DeVries	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0
David Merritt	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0
K'Len Morris	1-3	3-5	0-2	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	7
Kendric Price	3-3	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	7	0
Jevohn Shepherd	0-3	0-3	0-1	0-1	0-0	8-8	0	8
DeShawn Sims	2-7	2-5	0-0	0-0	2-5	0-3	6	4
Jerret Smith	1-2	Starter	1-1	Starter	0-0	Starter	3	Starter
Ekpe Udoh	1-4	5-6	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	2	10
Anthony Wright	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	0
Totals	13-27 48.1%	11-21 52.4%	6-9 66.7%	2-5 40.0%	3-9 33.3%	8-12 75.0%	35	32

As a group, the bench players did OK in the two exhibition games. Other than free throws against Wayne State, they shot pretty well, and they chipped in a nice portion of Michigan's points.

Individually, several of the bench players had good games. Baker looked very sharp in the Wayne State game, and Udoh looked good against Michigan Tech. Morris looked pretty comfortable out there, and Shepherd looked improved from last season. Price looked very good when he was in the WSU game, but he didn't do much in limited action against MTU. DeShawn Sims looked a little tentative in both games, and Wright didn't get to play as much as I would have expected. DeVries and Merritt only got garbage time.

The Big Picture

Michigan did fine in their two exhibition games, and they appear to be ready for the regular season to begin.

Here's the 2006-2007 schedule/results:

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
11/02/2006 (Thu)	Wayne State (exh)	Ann Arbor	W	85-51	0-0
11/05/2006 (Sun)	Michigan Tech (exh)	Ann Arbor	W	85-50	0-0
John Thompson Challenge					
11/10/2006 (Fri)	Central Connecticut State	Ann Arbor			
11/11/2006 (Sat)	Davidson	Ann Arbor			
11/12/2006 (Sun)	Eastern Michigan	Ann Arbor			
11/15/2006 (Wed)	Wisconsin-Milwaukee	Ann Arbor			
11/17/2006 (Fri)	Harvard	Ann Arbor			
11/22/2006 (Wed)	Youngstown State	Ann Arbor			
11/25/2006 (Sat)	Maryland-Baltimore County	Ann Arbor			
ACC/Big Ten Challenge					
11/27/2006 (Mon)	North Carolina State	Raleigh, NC			
12/02/2006 (Sat)	Wofford	Ann Arbor			
12/07/2006 (Thu)	Miami (OH)	Oxford, OH			
12/09/2006 (Sat)	Delaware State	Ann Arbor			
12/16/2006 (Sat)	Northern Illinois	Ann Arbor			
12/23/2006 (Sat)	UCLA	Los Angeles, CA			
12/28/2006 (Thu)	Army	Ann Arbor			
12/30/2006 (Sat)	Georgetown	Ann Arbor			
01/03/2007 (Wed)	Illinois	Ann Arbor			
01/06/2007 (Sat)	Northwestern	Evanston, IL			
01/13/2007 (Sat)	Purdue	West Lafayette, IN			
01/17/2007 (Wed)	Penn State	Ann Arbor			
01/20/2007 (Sat)	Purdue	Ann Arbor			
01/24/2007 (Wed)	Wisconsin	Madison, WI			
01/27/2007 (Sat)	Indiana	Bloomington, IN			
01/31/2007 (Wed)	Iowa	Ann Arbor			
02/06/2007 (Tue)	Ohio State	Columbus, OH			
02/10/2007 (Sat)	Minnesota	Ann Arbor			
02/13/2007 (Tue)	Michigan State	East Lansing, MI			
02/17/2007 (Sat)	Indiana	Ann Arbor			
02/21/2007 (Wed)	Illinois	Champaign, IL			
02/24/2007 (Sat)	Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN			
02/27/2007 (Tue) or 02/28/2007 (Wed)	Michigan State	Ann Arbor			
03/03/2007 (Sat)	Ohio State	Ann Arbor			

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
Big Ten Tournament					
03/08/2007 (Thu)	First Round	Chicago, IL			
03/09/2007 (Fri)	Quarterfinals	Chicago, IL			
03/10/2007 (Sat)	Semifinals	Chicago, IL			
03/11/2007 (Sun)	Finals	Chicago, IL			

The Upcoming Week

As you can see in the schedule above, Michigan has 3 games this week, all part of the John Thompson Challenge: on Friday (11/10/2006) at 8:00 p.m., they play their first regular season game, against Central Connecticut State. On Saturday (11/11/2006) at 4:00 p.m., they Davidson, then on Sunday (11/12/2006) at 4:00 p.m., they play Eastern Michigan. All three games are in Crisler Arena. Come on out and cheer on the Wolverines.

Go Blue!