11/20/2006 – Week #04 – Two More Predictable Wins

The Week In Review

I know, it's hard to concentrate on the University of Michigan men's basketball team, with the sad news about Coach Glenn (Bo) Schembechler, and the heartbreaking loss in the Big Game, but the beat goes on. The basketball team played two games this week, and they won both of them. On Wednesday (11/15/2006), they beat University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), 66-59, then on Friday (11/17/2006), they beat Harvard, 82-50. Both games were in Crisler Arena, and both games were ones that UM was expected to win. These two wins raise UM's overall record to 5-0.

Michigan looked a little sluggish in the game against UWM, but it was understandable since it was their 4th game in 6 days. UWM is a good team, with lots of recent NCAA Tournament experience, so this was a fairly important win.

The Wolverines looked much sharper on Friday against Harvard. Harvard featured a 7-footer who was their leading scorer and rebounder coming into the game, but the Wolverines shut him down.

Game Statistics

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

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	25-55 (45.5%)	1-9 (11.1%)	15-22 (68.2%)
UWM	18-53 (34.0%)	9-19 (47.4%)	14-18 (77.8%)
Advantage	Michigan	UWM	UWM

The key stat here is overall field-goal shooting percentage. Michigan shot pretty well, and they held UWM to 34%. The 7 extra baskets more than made up for UWM's much better 3-point shooting. Michigan's 3-point shooting was terrible, but they still managed to win, which is encouraging.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	44	13	16	7	8
UWM	30	11	14	1	3
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	UWM	Michigan	Michigan

Those 14 extra rebounds, 6 extra blocks, and 5 extra steals all came in very handy.

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

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	34-57 (59.6%)	6-19 (31.6%)	8-13 (61.5%)
Harvard	18-48 (37.5%)	5-11 (45.5%)	9-12 (75.0%)
Advantage	Michigan	Harvard	Harvard

Even though Harvard shot slightly better at the free-throw line and from 3-point range, it wasn't nearly enough to make up for the 16 extra field goals that Michigan scored.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	35	24	20	8	10
Harvard	22	10	25	0	5
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan

These stats are all great, except for the 20 turnovers for Michigan.

Individual Statistics

Coach Amaker went with his regular starting lineup in both games, and here's how they did:

	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
Player	UWM	Harv	UWM	Harv	UWM	Harv	UWM	Harv
Lester Abram	3-7	4-8	0-3	0-1	2-2	2-2	8	10
Ron Coleman	1-5	9-16	0-1	2-6	0-0	0-0	2	20
Dion Harris	7-17	4-7	1-2	2-5	2-4	0-0	17	10
Brent Petway	4-6	1-2	0-0	0-0	5-6	0-0	13	2
Courtney Sims	10-13	5-6	0-0	0-0	6-9	2-3	26	12
Totals	25-48 52.1%	23-39 59.0%	1-6 16.7%	4-12 33.3%	15-21 71.4%	4-5 80.0%	66	54

As a group, the starters did pretty well. Their percentages are decent, except for 3-point shooting against UWM, and they scored a reasonable number of points.

Individually, both Harris and Sims hit double figures in both games, and Abram came close. Coleman and Petway each had one good game and one mediocre game.

Since the UWM game was close, Amaker counted on his starters more, but the Harvard game was a blowout, so more bench players got in. Here's how they did:

	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
Player	UWM	Harv	UWM	Harv	UWM	Harv	UWM	Harv
Reed Baker	DNP	1-2	DNP	1-2	DNP	2-2	DNP	5
K'Len Morris	DNP	1-2	DNP	0-1	DNP	0-0	DNP	2
Kendric Price	DNP	3-4	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	6
Jevohn Shepherd	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-1	0-1	1-2	0	1
DeShawn Sims	0-1	DNP	0-1	DNP	0-0	DNP	0	DNP
Jerret Smith	0-3	1-3	0-2	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	3
Ekpe Udoh	0-3	5-5	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-4	0	11
Totals	0-7 0.0%	11-18 61.1%	0-3 0.0%	2-7 28.6%	0-1 0.0%	4-8 50.0%	0	28

As a group, the bench players did OK in the Harvard game, but contributed nothing in the UWM game. Against Harvard, they shot pretty well, and they chipped in a nice portion of Michigan's points, but they were oh-for-everything against UWM.

Individually, only two of the bench players had good games, both against Harvard. Price was very energetic and active out there, and Udoh did a very nice job off the bench.

The Big Picture

As I mentioned above, Michigan looked a little tired against UWM, but they bounced back nicely against Harvard. They were games that Michigan was expected to win, and they did.

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	W	60-40	1-0
11/11/2006 (Sat)	Davidson	Ann Arbor	W	78-68	2-0
11/12/2006 (Sun)	Eastern Michigan	Ann Arbor	W	80-51	3-0
11/15/2006 (Wed)	Wisconsin-Milwaukee	Ann Arbor	W	66-59	4-0
11/17/2006 (Fri)	Harvard	Ann Arbor	W	82-50	5-0
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			
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 two games this week. On Wednesday (11/22/2006, 7:00 p.m.), they play Youngstown State, then on Saturday (11/25/2006, 2:00 p.m.), they play Maryland-Baltimore County. Both games are in Crisler Arena. These are two more games that Michigan is expected to win. These are the first of the real creampuffs, along with Wofford, and Delaware State, coming up next month.

Come on out and cheer on the Wolverines.

Go Blue!