01/15/2007 – Week #12 – Road Woes Continue

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team only played one game this week, and they lost it. On Saturday (01/13/2007), they lost to Purdue (67-53) on the road. The loss lowers Michigan's record to 14-4 (2-1). They are currently tied for 3rd place in the Big Ten.

Michigan has had trouble on the road all season, and all during Coach Amaker's tenure as coach. This season, they are 2-3, with wins at Miami (OH) and Northwestern, and losses at NC State, UCLA, and now, Purdue. Under Amaker, Michigan is 18-39 on the road, with most of those wins at Penn State (5) and Northwestern (3). If you can't win a few road games (other than at Penn State and Northwestern), you're not going to win many Big Ten titles.

The game itself was a mess, like the NC State game. Michigan got out to a strong start, going up 8-2 on a 2-point baskets by Dion Harris and a pair of 3-pointers by Ron Coleman, and that was about it. Purdue went on a 20-5 run, and never trailed again. The lead got as large as 15 points, and Michigan got as close as 6 points, but the Wolverines could never quite make up for that early Purdue run.

Game Statistics

Let's look at the shooting statistics from the Purdue game:

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	18-42 (42.9%)	6-13 (46.2%)	11-16 (68.8%)
Purdue	26-46 (56.5%)	5-13 (38.5%)	10-16 (62.5%)
Advantage	Purdue	Michigan	Michigan

Here's where the game was won by Purdue: overall shooting percentage. Those 8 extra baskets made all the difference. Michigan shot pretty well, but just didn't get enough shots. I'm thinking turnovers.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	23	7	17	3	6
Purdue	26	16	12	2	5
Advantage	Purdue	Purdue	Purdue	Michigan	Michigan

Yup, it was turnovers, and rebounds. Those extra 3 rebounds and 5 turnovers equal 8 extra possessions, which led to those 4 extra shots for Purdue.

Individual Statistics

Coach Amaker went with his main starting lineup again. Here's how they did:

Player	Field Goals	3-Pointers	Free Throws	Points
Lester Abram	3-9	1-1	2-5	9
Ron Coleman	2-3	2-2	0-0	6
Dion Harris	7-14	3-6	4-4	21
Brent Petway	2-4	0-0	3-4	7
Courtney Sims	2-3	0-0	0-0	4

Totals	16-33 48.5%	6-9 66.7%	9-13 69.2%	47

As a group, the starters did pretty well. Their percentages are good; they just didn't score that many points.

Individually, only Harris hit double figures, although Abram came close. Coleman started out strong, then disappeared for the rest of the game. Petway played hard and did his best, but Sims was a no-show.

Once again, Coach Amaker only played 4 of his regular 5 bench players. Jevohn Shepherd has only played 2 minutes in the last 4 games, sitting out all but the Illinois game. I don't know what's up here.

Here's how the bench players did:

Player	Field Goals	3-Pointers	Free Throws	Points
Reed Baker	0-2	0-2	0-0	0
DeShawn Sims	1-3	0-0	2-3	4
Jerret Smith	0-2	0-2	0-0	0
Ekpe Udoh	1-2	0-0	0-0	2
Totals	2-9 22.2%	0-4 0.0%	2-3 66.7%	6

As a group, the bench players didn't do much. Their shooting percentages are lousy, and they didn't contribute many points. Michigan needs much more of a contribution from their bench to win consistently.

Individually, none of the bench players had a good game.

The Big Picture

It's back to Earth for the Wolverines, after starting the Big Ten season 2-0. They played well against Illinois, and that was a big win. So was the road win at Northwestern. However, they were back to looking lost out there against Purdue.

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	W	65-56	6-0
11/25/2006 (Sat)	Maryland-Baltimore County	Ann Arbor	W	66-54	7-0
ACC/Big Ten Challenge					
11/27/2006 (Mon)	North Carolina State	Raleigh, NC	L	67-74	7-1
12/02/2006 (Sat)	Wofford	Ann Arbor	W	83-49	8-1
12/07/2006 (Thu)	Miami (OH)	Oxford, OH	W	62-56	9-1
12/09/2006 (Sat)	Delaware State	Ann Arbor	W	70-43	10-1
12/16/2006 (Sat)	Northern Illinois	Ann Arbor	W	67-52	11-1

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
12/23/2006 (Sat)	UCLA	Los Angeles, CA	L	92-55	11-2
12/28/2006 (Thu)	Army	Ann Arbor	W	62-50	12-2
12/30/2006 (Sat)	Georgetown	Ann Arbor	L	51-67	12-3
01/03/2007 (Wed)	Illinois	Ann Arbor	W	71-61	13-3 (1-0)
01/06/2007 (Sat)	Northwestern	Evanston, IL	W	58-46	14-3 (2-0)
01/13/2007 (Sat)	Purdue	West Lafayette, IN	L	53-67	14-4 (2-1)
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			

Big Ten Results

Here are the current Big Ten standings, after Week #2 of league play:

	Big Ten			Overall		
Team	Wins	Losses	Percent	Wins	Losses	Percent
Wisconsin	3	0	1.000	17	1	0.944
Indiana	3	1	0.750	12	4	0.750
Ohio State	2	1	0.667	14	3	0.824
Michigan	2	1	0.667	14	4	0.778
Iowa	2	1	0.667	10	7	0.588
Michigan State	2	2	0.500	15	4	0.789
Purdue	2	2	0.500	13	5	0.722
Penn State	1	2	0.333	10	6	0.625
Minnesota	1	2	0.333	7	10	0.412
Illinois	1	3	0.250	13	6	0.684
Northwestern	0	4	0.000	10	7	0.588

Here are the results from last week's games:

Tuesday (01/09/2007)
Ohio State lost at Wisconsin, 72-69

Wednesday (01/10/2007)
Purdue lost at Indiana, 85-58
Iowa lost at Illinois, 74-70

Northwestern lost at Michigan State, 66-45

Saturday (01/13/2007)
Michigan lost at Purdue, 67-53
Indiana won at Penn State, 84-74
Tennessee lost at Ohio State, 68-66 (non conference)
Wisconsin won at Northwestern, 56-50
Minnesota lost at Iowa, 60-49

Sunday (01/14/2007)
Illinois lost at Michigan State, 63-57

Once again, the home teams won most of the games: 8 wins and 2 losses. It's tough to win on the road in the Big Ten.

There were no real surprises this week. The team that was expected to win won in all cases.

Here are the games scheduled for the upcoming week:

Tuesday (01/16/2007)
Iowa at Indiana

Wednesday (01/17/2007)
Penn State at Michigan
Illinois at Minnesota
Northwestern at Ohio State
Purdue at Wisconsin

Saturday (01/20/2007)
Purdue at Michigan
Wisconsin at Illinois
Northwestern at Minnesota
Indiana at Connecticut (non conference)
Michigan State at Penn State
Iowa at Ohio State

There are a few big games this week:

- Iowa at Indiana on Tuesday. Both teams are battling to stay close to the front of the pack in the Big Ten race.
- Wisconsin at Illinois on Saturday. Wisconsin is looking to stay unbeaten (they won't have any trouble with Purdue at home on Wednesday), and Illinois is trying to get back into the Big Ten race.
- Iowa at Ohio State on Saturday. Iowa has to win at least one of their two games this week, both on the road, to stay in the Big Ten race.

Here are all the Big Ten results for the whole season, with the teams in alphabetical order, and the wins, losses, and remaining games in scheduled order:

Team	Record	Wins	Losses	Remaining Games
Illinois	1-3	Iowa (H)	Michigan (A) Ohio State (H) Michigan State (A)	Minnesota (A) Wisconsin (H) Indiana (H)

				Purdue (A) Michigan State (H) Minnesota (H) Northwestern (A) Indiana (A) Northwestern (H) Michigan (H) Penn State (A) Iowa (A)
Indiana	3-1	Michigan State (H) Purdue (H) Penn State (A)	Ohio State (A)	Iowa (H) Illinois (A) Michigan (H) Wisconsin (H) Iowa (A) Illinois (H) Purdue (A) Michigan (A) Minnesota (H) Michigan State (A) Northwestern (A) Penn State (H)
Iowa	2-1	Michigan State (H) Minnesota (H)	Illinois (A)	Indiana (A) Ohio State (A) Penn State (H) Wisconsin (H) Michigan (A) Indiana (H) Minnesota (A) Wisconsin (A) Northwestern (H) Michigan State (A) Purdue (H) Penn State (A) Illinois (H)
Michigan	2-1	Illinois (H) Northwestern (A)	Purdue (A)	Penn State (H) Purdue (H) Wisconsin (A) Indiana (A) Iowa (H) Ohio State (A) Minnesota (H) Michigan State (A) Indiana (H) Illinois (A) Minnesota (A) Michigan State (H) Ohio State (H)
Michigan State	2-2	Northwestern (H) Illinois (H)	Iowa (A) Indiana (A)	Penn State (A) Minnesota (H) Ohio State (A) Illinois (A) Ohio State (H) Purdue (A)

				Michigan (H) Iowa (H) Wisconsin (H) Indiana (H) Michigan (A) Wisconsin (A)
Minnesota	1-2	Purdue (H)	Wisconsin (A) Iowa (A)	Illinois (H) Northwestern (H) Michigan State (A) Penn State (H) Northwestern (A) Illinois (A) Iowa (H) Michigan (A) Wisconsin (H) Ohio State (H) Indiana (A) Michigan (H) Purdue (A)
Northwestern	0-4		Penn State (A) Michigan (H) Michigan State (A) Wisconsin (H)	Ohio State (A) Minnesota (A) Ohio State (H) Minnesota (H) Wisconsin (A) Illinois (H) Penn State (H) Iowa (A) Illinois (A) Purdue (H) Indiana (H) Purdue (A)
Ohio State	2-1	Indiana (H) Illinois (A)	Wisconsin (A)	Northwestern (H) Iowa (H) Northwestern (A) Michigan State (H) Purdue (A) Michigan State (A) Michigan (H) Purdue (H) Penn State (A) Minnesota (A) Penn State (H) Wisconsin (H) Michigan (A)
Penn State	1-2	Northwestern (H)	Purdue (A) Indiana (H)	Michigan (A) Michigan State (H) Iowa (A) Minnesota (A) Purdue (H) Wisconsin (H) Northwestern (A) Ohio State (H) Wisconsin (A)

				Ohio State (A) Illinois (H) Iowa (H) Indiana (A)
Purdue	2-2	Penn State (H) Michigan (H)	Minnesota (A) Indiana (A)	Wisconsin (A) Michigan (A) Illinois (H) Ohio State (H) Penn State (A) Michigan State (H) Ohio State (A) Indiana (H) Iowa (A) Northwestern (A) Minnesota (H) Northwestern (H)
Wisconsin	3-0	Minnesota (H) Ohio State (H) Northwestern (A)		Purdue (H) Illinois (A) Michigan (H) Iowa (A) Indiana (A) Northwestern (H) Penn State (A) Iowa (H) Minnesota (A) Penn State (H) Michigan State (A) Ohio State (A) Michigan State (H)

The Upcoming Week

As you can see in the schedule above, Michigan has two games this week, both at home. On Wednesday (01/17/2007, 8:00 p.m.), Penn State comes to town, then on Saturday (01/20/2007, 12:17 p.m.) they play Purdue, in a rematch of last week's game. Come on down to Crisler to cheer on the Wolverines.

Go Blue!