03/05/2007 – Week #19 – The End Of The Regular Season

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played the last two games of the regular season this week, both at home, and they won one and lost one. On Tuesday (02/27/2007), they beat Michigan State (67-56), then on Saturday (03/03/2007), they lost to (#1) Ohio State (65-61). The win and the loss brought Michigan's record to 20-11 (8-8). They ended up tied for 7th place in the Big Ten, with Michigan State.

See my special "EXTRA" article on the day after the MSU game for more details on the game itself. To summarize it in one sentence: Michigan played very well, and it was a big win.

The Ohio State game was very frustrating. Michigan led for most of the game, and had a nice 6-point lead (61-55) with about 4:00 left in the game, then they fell apart. They didn't score again, and OSU went on a 10-0 run to finish the game. It was very disappointing to get so close, and fall apart at the end.

Game Statistics

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

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	19-45 (42.2%)	4-14 (28.6%)	25-33 (75.8%)
Michigan State	22-52 (42.3%)	3-15 (20.0%)	9-15 (60.0%)
Advantage	Michigan State	Michigan	Michigan

Here's where Michigan won the game: free-throw shooting. Michigan made 10 more free throws than MSU even attempted. Those 16 extra points are huge in an 11-point win.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	33	9	8	5	3
Michigan State	30	13	9	5	3
Advantage	Michigan	MSU	Michigan	Even	Even

These stats are all too close to be a factor. However, it is impressive that Michigan only had 8 turnovers, their lowest total of the season.

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

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	20-44 (45.5%)	5-13 (38.5%)	16-22 (72.7%)
Ohio State	23-52 (44.2%)	4-19 (21.1%)	15-19 (78.9%)
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Ohio State

Even though Michigan shot a better percentage from the floor, and hit one more 3-pointer and one more free throw than OSU did, they still lost. Those 3 extra baskets that OSU scored were the difference. The answer must be in the non-shooting stats.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	32	15	13	2	3
Ohio State	29	13	8	4	4
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State

These stats are all pretty close, except for Turnovers and Blocks. That's where OSU won the game.

Individual Statistics

Coach Amaker went with his new regular starting lineup for the MSU game, but he started all 4 seniors for Senior Day against OSU. Here's how the starters did this week:

	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
Player	MSU	OSU	MSU	OSU	MSU	OSU	MSU	OSU
Lester Abram	0-3	1-4	0-1	0-1	6-6	2-2	6	4
Dion Harris	7-14	6-15	2-7	3-9	8-8	4-7	24	19
Brent Petway	3-5	4-5	0-0	0-0	1-6	3-4	7	11
Courtney Sims	Bench	4-7	Bench	0-0	Bench	3-5	Bench	11
Jerret Smith	2-5	3-4	1-3	2-2	3-3	2-2	8	10
Ekpe Udoh	0-3	Bench	0-0	Bench	0-0	Bench	0	Bench
Totals	12-30 40.0%	18-35 51.4%	3-11 27.3%	5-12 41.7%	18-23 78.3%	14-20 70.0%	45	55

As a group, the starters had a pretty good week. Their percentages are good, and they scored a lot of points. They just didn't quite score enough points against OSU.

Individually, only Harris hit double figures in both games this week, although Petway and Smith came close. Sims hit double figures in both games, but he wasn't a starter in the MSU game. Abram had an off week.

Here's how the bench players did this week:

	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
Player	MSU	OSU	MSU	OSU	MSU	OSU	MSU	OSU
Reed Baker	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0	DNP
Ron Coleman	1-2	1-1	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	3	2
Jevohn Shepherd	0-1	1-3	0-1	0-0	0-0	2-2	0	4
Courtney Sims	4-8	Starter	0-0	Starter	5-8	Starter	13	Starter
DeShawn Sims	2-4	0-2	0-0	0-0	2-2	0-0	6	0
Ekpe Udoh	Starter	0-3	Starter	0-1	Starter	0-0	Starter	0
Totals	7-15 46.7%	2-9 22.2%	1-3 33.3%	0-1 0.0%	7-10 70.0%	2-2 100.0%	22	6

As a group, the bench players had an up-and-down week. They contributed a lot in the MSU game, but hardly at all in the OSU game.

Individually, no one stood out. Courtney Sims was the only bench player to score more than 6 points in a game this week.

The Big Picture

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
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	W	77-57	15-4 (3-1)
01/20/2007 (Sat)	Purdue	Ann Arbor	W	71-55	16-4 (4-1)
01/24/2007 (Wed)	Wisconsin	Madison, WI	L	58-71	16-5 (4-2)
01/27/2007 (Sat)	Indiana	Bloomington, IN	L	61-76	16-6 (4-3)
01/31/2007 (Wed)	Iowa	Ann Arbor	L	62-69	16-7 (4-4)
02/06/2007 (Tue)	Ohio State	Columbus, OH	L	63-76	16-8 (4-5)
02/10/2007 (Sat)	Minnesota	Ann Arbor	W	82-80	17-8 (5-5)
02/13/2007 (Tue)	Michigan State	East Lansing, MI	L	44-59	17-9 (5-6)
02/17/2007 (Sat)	Indiana	Ann Arbor	W	58-55	18-9 (6-6)
02/21/2007 (Wed)	Illinois	Champaign, IL	L	42-54	18-10 (6-7)
02/24/2007 (Sat)	Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN	W	62-51	19-10 (7-7)
02/27/2007 (Tue)	Michigan State	Ann Arbor	W	67-56	20-10 (8-7)
03/03/2007 (Sat)	Ohio State	Ann Arbor	L	61-65	20-11 (8-8)
Big Ten Tournament					
03/08/2007 (Thu)	Round 1 - Minnesota	Chicago, IL			
03/09/2007 (Fri)	Quarterfinals	Chicago, IL			
03/10/2007 (Sat)	Semifinals	Chicago, IL			
03/11/2007 (Sun)	Finals	Chicago, IL			

The regular season is over, and Michigan is probably not on the bubble for an NCAA bid any more. They finished the regular season with a record of 20-11. That is probably 2 wins short of a ticket to The Big Dance, so they'll have to do well in the Big Ten Tournament. It's still possible, but Michigan has very little margin for error left.

Big Ten Results

Here are the final Big Ten standings, after Week #9 (the last week) of league play:

	Big Ten			Overall		
Team	Wins	Losses	Percent	Wins	Losses	Percent
Ohio State	15	1	0.938	27	3	0.900
Wisconsin	13	3	0.812	27	4	0.871

Indiana	10	6	0.625	20	9	0.690
Illinois	9	7	0.562	21	10	0.677
Purdue	9	7	0.562	20	10	0.667
Iowa	9	7	0.562	17	13	0.567
Michigan State	8	8	0.500	21	10	0.677
Michigan	8	8	0.500	20	11	0.645
Minnesota	3	13	0.188	9	21	0.300
Northwestern	2	14	0.125	13	17	0.433
Penn State	2	14	0.125	11	18	0.379

Here are the results from last week's games:

Tuesday (02/27/2007)
Michigan State lost at Michigan, 67-56

Wednesday (02/28/2007)
Indiana won at Northwestern, 69-65
Iowa lost at Penn State, 74-72
Minnesota lost at Purdue, 66-47

Saturday (03/03/2007)
Ohio State won at Michigan, 65-61
Northwestern lost at Purdue, 73-50
Penn State lost at Indiana, 94-63
Illinois lost at Iowa, 60-53
Michigan State lost at Wisconsin, 52-50

The home teams did pretty well this week, going 8-2. Of course, one of those home losses was courtesy of Northwestern, and the other one was Michigan against the #1 team in the country. There were no surprises this week.

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
Illinois	9-7	Iowa (H) Minnesota (A) Indiana (H) Michigan State (H) Minnesota (H) Northwestern (A) Northwestern (H) Michigan (H) Penn State (A)	Michigan (A) Ohio State (H) Michigan State (A) Wisconsin (H) Purdue (A) Indiana (A) Iowa (A)
Indiana	10-6	Michigan State (H) Purdue (H) Penn State (A) Iowa (H) Michigan (H) Wisconsin (H) Illinois (H) Minnesota (H)	Ohio State (A) Illinois (A) Iowa (A) Purdue (A) Michigan (A) Michigan State (A)

		Northwestern (A) Penn State (H)	
Iowa	9-7	Michigan State (H) Minnesota (H) Penn State (H) Michigan (A) Indiana (H) Minnesota (A) Northwestern (H) Purdue (H) Illinois (H)	Illinois (A) Indiana (A) Ohio State (A) Wisconsin (H) Wisconsin (A) Michigan State (A) Penn State (A)
Michigan	8-8	Illinois (H) Northwestern (A) Penn State (H) Purdue (H) Minnesota (H) Indiana (H) Minnesota (A) Michigan State (H)	Purdue (A) Wisconsin (A) Indiana (A) Iowa (H) Ohio State (A) Michigan State (A) Illinois (A) Ohio State (H)
Michigan State	8-8	Northwestern (H) Illinois (H) Penn State (A) Minnesota (H) Michigan (H) Iowa (H) Wisconsin (H) Indiana (H)	Iowa (A) Indiana (A) Ohio State (A) Illinois (A) Ohio State (H) Purdue (A) Michigan (A) Wisconsin (A)
Minnesota	3-13	Purdue (H) Penn State (H) Northwestern (A)	Wisconsin (A) Iowa (A) Illinois (H) Northwestern (H) Michigan State (A) Illinois (A) Iowa (H) Michigan (A) Wisconsin (H) Ohio State (H) Indiana (A) Michigan (H) Purdue (A)
Northwestern	2-14	Minnesota (A) Penn State (H)	Penn State (A) Michigan (H) Michigan State (A) Wisconsin (H) Ohio State (A) Ohio State (H) Minnesota (H) Wisconsin (A) Illinois (H) Iowa (A) Illinois (A) Purdue (H) Indiana (H)

			Purdue (A)
Ohio State	15-1	Indiana (H) Illinois (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)	Wisconsin (A)
Penn State	2-14	Northwestern (H) Iowa (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) Indiana (A)
Purdue	9-7	Penn State (H) Michigan (H) Illinois (H) Penn State (A) Michigan State (H) Indiana (H) Northwestern (A) Minnesota (H) Northwestern (H)	Minnesota (A) Indiana (A) Wisconsin (A) Michigan (A) Ohio State (H) Ohio State (A) Iowa (A)
Wisconsin	13-3	Minnesota (H) Ohio State (H) Northwestern (A) Purdue (H) Illinois (A) Michigan (H) Iowa (A) Northwestern (H) Penn State (A) Iowa (H) Minnesota (A) Penn State (H) Michigan State (H)	Indiana (A) Michigan State (A) Ohio State (A)

The Big Ten this season was really made up of three groups:

- The Big Two (Ohio State and Wisconsin)
- The Middle Six (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, and Purdue)
- The Bottom Three (Minnesota, Northwestern, and Penn State)

In general, the Big Two beat everyone, the Middle Six beat each other and the Bottom Three, and the Bottom Three only beat each other. Here's how each group did against the others:

	The Big Two	The Middle Six	The Bottom Three	Total
The Big Two	2-2	15-2	11-0	28-4
Ohio State	1-1	9-0	5-0	15-1
Wisconsin	1-1	6-2	6-0	13-3
The Middle Six	2-15	26-26	25-2	53-43
Illinois	0-2	4-5	5-0	9-7
Indiana	1-1	5-5	4-0	10-6
Iowa	0-3	5-3	4-1	9-7
Michigan	0-3	4-5	4-0	8-8
Michigan State	1-3	4-5	3-0	8-8
Purdue	0-3	4-3	5-1	9-7
The Bottom Three	0-11	2-25	5-5	7-41
Minnesota	0-3	1-9	2-1	3-13
Northwestern	0-4	0-8	2-2	2-14
Penn State	0-4	1-8	1-2	2-14
Total	4-28	43-53	41-7	

There's a lot of interesting information in this table:

- The easiest schedule in the Middle Six: Purdue, with 6 games against the Bottom Three. Illinois and Indiana also benefited from only playing the Big Two once each.
- The toughest schedule in the Middle Six: Michigan State, with only 3 games against the Bottom Three. They were also the only team to play both of the Big Two twice.
- The best record in intra-group play in the Middle Six: Iowa, at 5-3.

Big Ten Tournament



It's time to look at the Big Ten Tournament. Here's the schedule:

FIRST ROUND
Thursday, March 8

Game 1: No. 8 Michigan vs. No. 9 Minnesota (ESPN2, noon)
Game 2: No. 7 Michigan State vs. No. 10 Northwestern (ESPN2, 2:30 p.m.)
Game 3: No. 6 Illinois vs. No. 11 Penn State (ESPN2, 5:05 p.m.)

QUARTERFINALS
Friday, March 9
Game 4: No. 1 Ohio State vs. No. 8/No. 9 (ESPN, noon)
Game 5: No. 4 Iowa vs. No. 5 (ESPN, 2:30 p.m.)
Game 6: No. 2 Wisconsin vs. No. 7/No. 10 (6:40 p.m.)
Game 7: No. 3 Indiana vs. No. 6/No. 11 (9:10 p.m.)

SEMIFINALS
Saturday, March 10
Game 8: Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner (1:40 p.m.)
Game 9: Game 6 vs. Game 7 winner (4:05 p.m.)

CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunday, March 11
Game 10: Game 8 vs. Game 9 winner (3:30 p.m.)

The Upcoming Week

As you can see, Michigan ended up as the #8 seed, and they play the #9 seed, Minnesota, on Thursday (03/08/2007) at noon CST. If they can beat Minnesota, they'll have to play the #1 seed, Ohio State at noon on Friday (03/09/2007) at noon CST. If they can get by OSU, they can beat anyone in the Big Ten, but that's a big "if". Tune in, and root for the Wolverines.

Go Blue!