11/12/2007 – Week #03 – A Solid Start

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games this week, and they won both of them. On Friday (11/09/2007), they beat Radford 82-55, then on Sunday (11/11/2007), the beat Brown 72-57. Both games were in Crisler Arena. The two wins start UM off with a 2-0 record.

These were both games that Michigan should win, and they did. Radford and Brown are decent teams, and the wins were well-earned, you can't read too much into them. In both games, Michigan got ahead early, and played ahead the whole game. In the Radford game, they were never seriously challenged. Brown put up a little bit of a fight near the end of the game, but the win was never really in doubt.

Game Statistics

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

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	31-61 (50.8%)	7-23 (30.4%)	13-20 (65.0%)
Radford	21-54 (38.9%)	6-19 (31.6%)	7-12 (58.3%)
Advantage	Michigan	Radford	Michigan

Michigan won the stats battle, especially the most important one: field goal percentage. Anytime you shoot over 50%, you're doing well.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	37	16	8	4	10
Radford	34	16	19	4	2
Advantage	Michigan	Even	Michigan	Even	Michigan

Once again, Michigan won the stats battle. The most impressive numbers here are the 8 Turnovers and the 10 Steals.

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

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	24-48 (50.0%)	12-24 (50.0%)	12-19 (63.2%)
Brown	23-58 (39.7%)	10-29 (34.5%)	1-2 (50.0%)
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan

Michigan didn't just win these stats, they dominated. Michigan's free-throw shooting percentage is a little weak, but it didn't matter in this game.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	36	18	14	7	3
Brown	26	16	12	1	2
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Brown	Michigan	Michigan

Once again, Michigan won the stats battle. The most impressive numbers here are the 7 Blocks and the +10 Rebounding edge.

Season 3-Point Shooting

One thing is already apparent: this team will live or die on 3-point shooting. I consider 3-point shooting percentage to be the most important stat this season, so I'm going to track it all season:

Date	Opponent	3-Point Shooting	Result
11/09/2007 (Fri)	Radford	7-23 (30.4%)	W
11/11/2007 (Sun)	Brown	12-24 (50.0%)	W
Totals		19-47 (40.4%)	

I suspect that Michigan will win most of the games when they shoot more than 40%. They might win some games (like Radford) when they shoot less than 40%, but not when they play against a quality opponent.

Individual Statistics

Coach Beilein seems to have chosen a fixed starting lineup: Ron Coleman, Zack Gibson, Manny Harris, DeShawn Sims, and Jerret Smith. However, Smith missed both games this week, for two different reasons. He missed the Radford game because of a minor ankle injury, then he missed the Brown game while he served a one-game disciplinary suspension that he earned by missing a class. In his absence, Beilein started Kelvin Grady.

Here's how the starters did this week:

	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
Player	Rad	Brown	Rad	Brown	Rad	Brown	Rad	Brown
Ron Coleman	1-4	1-4	0-1	1-2	0-0	0-0	2	3
Zack Gibson	3-4	4-6	0-1	0-0	4-6	0-0	10	8
Kelvin Grady	3-5	2-5	3-4	2-4	2-2	4-4	11	10
Manny Harris	6-13	6-8	0-3	3-4	1-2	7-9	13	22
DeShawn Sims	10-19	7-11	1-6	3-5	2-4	0-0	23	17
Totals	23-45 51.1%	20-34 58.8%	4-15 26.7%	9-15 60.0%	9-14 64.3%	11-13 84.6%	59	60

As a group, the starters did pretty well. Three of them hit double figures in both games, and a 4th one came close. Their percentages are very good, except for 3-point shooting in the Radford game, and they scored a decent number of points in both games.

Individually, Sims and Harris were the stars. They both shot well, and they played hard. Once again, it's interesting to note that Sims only shot (and missed) one 3-pointer all of last season, and he's already 4-for-11 this season. He was very confident shooting the 3 in the Brown game.

Gibson and Grady both also had two good games this week. Gibson looked solid and comfortable out there, and he almost hit double figures in the Brown game, after scoring 10 points against Radford. Grady did his double figures in both games, and he shot very well.

Coleman was the weak link out there, among the starters. He wasn't bad, but he just didn't do much. He tended to just stand around near the 3-point line, hoping to get an open shot.

Since Michigan had comfortable leads in both games, Coach Beilein probably used more bench players, and more combinations, than he will in a close game. In all, 7 bench players got to play. Here's how they did:

Player	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
	Rad	Brown	Rad	Brown	Rad	Brown	Rad	Brown
Adam Block	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0	DNP
C.J. Lee	1-1	0-3	1-1	0-2	0-0	0-0	3	0
David Merritt	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0	DNP
K'Len Morris	2-5	0-1	1-3	0-1	0-0	0-0	5	0
Jevohn Shepherd	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-4	0-0	2	0
Ekpe Udoh	4-6	1-2	0-1	0-0	2-2	0-3	10	2
Anthony Wright	1-4	3-8	1-3	3-6	0-0	1-3	3	10
Totals	8-16 50.0%	4-14 28.6%	3-8 37.5%	3-9 33.3%	4-6 66.7%	1-6 16.7%	23	12

As a group, the bench players did OK. Their shooting percentages are acceptable, and they did chip in a few points.

Individually, only Udoh (in the Radford game) and Wright (in the Brown game) hit double figures. Unfortunately, they each only had one good game. Udoh looked pretty good against Radford, but he looked lost out there against Brown. Similarly, Wright was tentative in the Radford game, but he looked confident and comfortable out there vs. Brown.

None of the other bench players did very much. Morris probably looked the best of them. He looked OK out there, and he showed a lot of hustle. Lee did a decent job running the point, but he doesn't appear to be much of an offensive threat. The rest of the bench players got less than 5 minutes each, so they didn't have much of a chance to do anything.

The Big Picture

Radford and Brown provided little in the way of resistance, but that's about to change. Georgetown is up next, and they're currently ranked #5 in the nation. There are several good teams in the Great Alaska Shootout, then Boston College comes to town as part of the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. By the time those 5 games have been played, we'll know a lot more about this season's Michigan team.

Here's the 2007-2008 schedule/results:

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
11/01/2007 (Thu)	Ferris State (exhibition)	Ann Arbor	W	78-40	0-0
11/09/2007 (Fri)	Radford	Ann Arbor	W	82-55	1-0
11/11/2007 (Sun)	Brown	Ann Arbor	W	72-57	2-0
11/15/2007 (Thu)	Georgetown	Washington, D.C.			
Carrs/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout					
11/21/2007 (Wed)	Butler	Anchorage, Alaska			
11/23/2007 (Fri)	Eastern Washington or Virginia Tech	Anchorage, Alaska			
11/24/2007 (Sat)	Championship Round	Anchorage, Alaska			
ACC/Big Ten Challenge					
11/28/2007 (Wed)	Boston College	Ann Arbor			
12/01/2007 (Sat)	Harvard	Boston, Mass.			
12/08/2007 (Sat)	Duke	Durham, N.C.			
12/12/2007 (Wed)	Oakland	Ann Arbor			

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
12/15/2007 (Sat)	Central Michigan	Ann Arbor			
12/22/2007 (Sat)	UCLA	Ann Arbor			
01/02/2008 (Wed)	Wisconsin	Ann Arbor			
01/05/2008 (Sat)	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.			
01/08/2008 (Tue)	Indiana	Ann Arbor			
01/12/2008 (Sat)	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.			
01/16/2008 (Wed)	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.			
01/19/2008 (Sat)	Iowa	Ann Arbor			
01/22/2008 (Tue)	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.			
01/27/2008 (Sun)	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.			
01/31/2008 (Thu)	Minnesota	Ann Arbor			
02/05/2008 (Tue)	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio			
02/09/2008 (Sat)	Penn State	Ann Arbor			
02/14/2008 (Thu)	Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa			
02/17/2008 (Sun)	Ohio State	Ann Arbor			
02/21/2008 (Thu)	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.			
02/23/2008 (Sat) or 02/24/2008 (Sun)	Illinois	Ann Arbor			
02/26/2008 (Tue)	Northwestern	Ann Arbor			
03/01/2008 (Sat)	Penn State	State College, Pa.			
03/08/2008 (Sat) or 03/09/2008 (Sun)	Purdue	Ann Arbor			
Big Ten Tournament					
03/13/2008 (Thu)	First Round	Indianapolis, Ind.			
03/14/2008 (Fri)	Quarterfinal	Indianapolis, Ind.			
03/15/2008 (Sat)	Semifinal	Indianapolis, Ind.			
03/16/2008 (Sun)	Championship	Indianapolis, Ind.			

The Upcoming Week

As you can see in the schedule above, Michigan only has one game this week. On Thursday (11/15/2007, 7:30 p.m.), they play at Georgetown. Check back next week to see what happened, and why.

Go Blue!