01/07/2008 – Week #11 – A Rough Start To The Big Ten Season

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games last week, and they lost both of them. On Wednesday (01/02/2008), they lost to (#24) Wisconsin in Crisler Arena, 70-54, then on Saturday (01/05/2008), they lost at Purdue, 65-58. The two losses lower Michigan's record to 4-10, 0-2 in the Big Ten. Michigan has now lost 4 in a row, and 8 of their last 9 games (and 10 of their last 12 games). This is one of the worst starts in Michigan basketball history.

In both games, Michigan got down in the 1st half, and came back in the 2nd half, only to come up short. Against Wisconsin, both teams started out very slowly. The score was still 0-0 with 16:39 left in the half, before Wisconsin scored 10 straight to make it 10-0 with 13:06 left in the half. During the first 3:21, when Wisconsin didn't score a point, UM missed 8 shots, including two layups and four 3-pointers. If they could have put even one of those shots in, it might have been a whole different ballgame.

In the 2nd half, Michigan got down by as many as 20 points early (42-22, with 16:50 left), but they came back to within 8 points, 47-39, with 9:31 left. From that point, Wisconsin pulled away, and won by 16 points.

The Purdue game was a little better. Michigan hung with Purdue for most of the 1st half. With 8:24 left in the half, it was 11-10, Purdue. Unfortunately, UM let the game get away from them for the rest of the half, and trailed by 14 (34-20) at halftime. Fortunately, they opened the 2nd half with a nice 12-2 run to pull within 4 (36-34) with 15:56 left. Unfortunately, they couldn't get "over the hump", and they never got closer than 2 points. Purdue closed the game out strong, and won by 7.

Game Statistics

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

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	20-51 (39.2%)	5-18 (27.8%)	9-13 (69.2%)
Wisconsin	22-45 (48.9%)	7-12(58.3%)	19-25 (76.0%)
Advantage	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin

Wisconsin dominated these stats, and that's why they won the game. Michigan shot pretty poorly, and Wisconsin shot pretty well. The biggest difference was at the free throw line, where once again, the other team made more free throws than Michigan attempted.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	25	10	15	2	11
Wisconsin	35	15	18	3	4
Advantage	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Michigan	Wisconsin	Michigan

The big stat here is Rebounds. Those 10 extra possessions for Wisconsin really helped.

Next, let's look at the shooting statistics from the Purdue game:

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws

Michigan	21-57 (36.8%)	4-18 (22.2%)	12-14 (85.7%)
Purdue	20-51 (39.2%)	9-18 (50.0%)	16-21 (76.2%)
Advantage	Purdue	Purdue	Michigan

These stats are all pretty close, except for 3-point shooting, where Purdue dominated Michigan. Those extra five 3-pointers made all the difference.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	34	7	12	3	8
Purdue	34	15	14	7	8
Advantage	Even	Purdue	Michigan	Purdue	Even

These stats are all very close. The real important stat was 3-point shooting.

Season 3-Point Shooting

Here's my theory: Michigan should win a game if they can shoot at least 20 3-pointers, and hit at least 40% of them. Of course, they can still win the game when they shoot less than 20 3-pointers, or when they hit less than 40% of them. I'm just saying that they should win the game if they do shoot 20 and make 40%. Let's see how they that works this season:

Date	Opponent	3-Point Shooting	Result	Fits Theory?
11/09/2007	Radford	7-23 (30.4%)	W	N/A
11/11/2007	Brown	12-24 (50.0%)	W	Yes
11/15/2007	At Georgetown	5-18 (27.8%)	L	Yes
11/21/2007	Butler (neutral site)	8-20 (40.0%)	L	No
11/23/2007	Eastern Washington (neutral site)	10-27 (37.0%)	W	N/A
11/24/2007	Western Kentucky (neutral site)	5-17 (29.4%)	L	Yes
11/28/2007	Boston College	9-25 (36.0%)	L	Yes
12/01/2007	At Harvard	5-20 (25.0%)	L	Yes
12/08/2007	At Duke	6-19 (31.6%)	L	Yes
12/12/2007	Oakland	7-17 (41.2%)	W	N/A
12/15/2007	Central Michigan	4-8 (50.0%)	L	Yes
12/22/2007	UCLA	6-31 (19.4%)	L	Yes
01/02/2008	Wisconsin	5-18 (27.8%)	L	Yes
01/05/2008	Purdue	4-18 (22.2%)	L	Yes
Totals		93-285 (32.6%)		10-1

Once again, Michigan is a team that lives and dies with the 3-point shot. Both Wisconsin and Purdue held UM to less than 20 3-point attempts, and that's how you beat Michigan.

Individual Statistics

Coach Beilein went with his new starting lineup in the Wisconsin game, but he switched things up in the Purdue game, starting C.J. Lee instead of Kelvin Grady.

Here's how the starters did:

Player	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
	Wisc	Purdue	Wisc	Purdue	Wisc	Purdue	Wisc	Purdue

Ron Coleman	2-5	3-5	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	4	6
Kelvin Grady	2-4	Bench	1-3	Bench	0-0	Bench	5	Bench
Manny Harris	5-13	7-16	1-4	1-6	5-5	10-11	16	25
C.J. Lee	Bench	1-2	Bench	0-0	Bench	0-0	Bench	2
DeShawn Sims	6-14	6-13	1-5	2-3	0-0	1-1	13	15
Ekpe Udoh	1-2	1-7	0-0	1-1	1-2	0-0	3	3
Totals	16-38 42.1%	18-43 41.9%	3-13 23.1%	4-11 36.4%	6-7 85.7%	11-12 91.7%	41	51

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

Individually, both Harris and Sims scored in double figures in both games, but the rest of the starters didn't contribute much.

As far as the bench players go, Coach Beilein still played 5 of them in each game.

Here's how the bench players did:

	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
Player	Wisc	Purdue	Wisc	Purdue	Wisc	Purdue	Wisc	Purdue
Zack Gibson	2-3	1-3	1-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	5	2
Kelvin Grady	Starter	1-5	Starter	0-3	Starter	0-0	Starter	2
C.J. Lee	0-2	Starter	0-2	Starter	0-0	Starter	0	Starter
David Merritt	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
Jevohn Shepherd	1-5	1-4	0-0	0-1	1-3	1-2	3	3
Anthony Wright	1-2	0-1	1-2	0-1	2-3	0-0	5	0
Totals	4-13 30.8%	3-14 21.4%	2-5 40.0%	0-7 0.0%	3-6 50.0%	1-2 50.0%	13	7

As a group, the bench players didn't contribute much. Their shooting percentages are lousy, and they didn't chip in many points. Michigan really needs much more bench support.

Individually, no one had a good game all week.

Big Ten This Week

Here are the current Big Ten standings, after Week #1 of league play:

	Big Ten			Overall		
Team	Wins	Losses	Percent	Wins	Losses	Percent
Wisconsin	2	0	1.000	12	2	0.857
Ohio State	2	0	1.000	11	3	0.786
Penn State	2	0	1.000	10	4	0.714
Michigan State	1	0	1.000	13	1	0.929
Indiana	1	0	1.000	12	1	0.923
Purdue	1	0	1.000	10	4	0.714
Minnesota	0	1	0.000	10	3	0.769
Illinois	0	2	0.000	8	7	0.533
Northwestern	0	2	0.000	5	6	0.454
Iowa	0	2	0.000	7	8	0.467
Michigan	0	2	0.000	4	10	0.286

Here are the results from last week's games:

Wednesday (01/02/2008)
Wisconsin won at Michigan, 70-54
Penn State won at Northwestern, 79-68
Indiana won at Iowa, 79-76

Thursday (01/03/2008)
Ohio State won at Illinois, 74-58

Saturday (01/05/2008)
Michigan lost at Purdue, 65-58
Minnesota lost at Michigan State, 65-59
Iowa lost at Wisconsin, 64-51

Sunday (01/06/2008)
Northwestern lost at Ohio State, 62-51
Penn State won at Illinois, 68-64

The home teams didn't do very well this week, going 4-5. The most surprising results this week were the two home losses by Illinois, especially the one on Sunday to Penn State.

Here are the games scheduled for the upcoming week (Week #2):

Tuesday (01/08/2008)
Indiana at Michigan
Purdue at Michigan State

Wednesday (01/09/2008)
Iowa at Ohio State
Northwestern at Minnesota

Thursday (01/10/2008)
Illinois at Wisconsin

Saturday (01/12/2008)
Michigan at Northwestern
Minnesota at Penn State
Ohio State at Purdue

Sunday (01/13/2008)
Illinois at Indiana

There are a couple of big games this week:

- Indiana at Michigan on Tuesday. Michigan gets another chance to beat a Top-25 team.
- Illinois at Wisconsin on Thursday. If Illinois wants to be a contender, they need to start winning some games, and soon.
- Michigan at Northwestern on Saturday. This is one of the few games that Michigan stands a legitimate chance of winning.
- Illinois at Indiana on Sunday. If Illinois loses both games this week, they will stand little chance in the Big Ten race. Unfortunately, they're playing on the road, in two of the toughest places to win, against two ranked teams.

Here's the entire Big Ten schedule and results, with the teams in alphabetical order:

Team	Record	Wins	Losses	Remaining Games
Illinois	0-2		Ohio State (H) Penn State (H)	Wisconsin (A) Indiana (A) Michigan (H) Purdue (A) Ohio State (A) Northwestern (H) Michigan State (A) Purdue (H) Indiana (H) Minnesota (A) Penn State (A) Wisconsin (H) Michigan (A) Iowa (A) Michigan State (H) Minnesota (H)
Indiana	1-0	Iowa (A)		Michigan (A) Illinois (H) Minnesota (A) Penn State (H) Iowa (H) Wisconsin (A) Northwestern (H) Illinois (A) Ohio State (A) Wisconsin (H) Michigan State (H) Purdue (H) Northwestern (A) Ohio State (H) Michigan State (A) Minnesota (H) Penn State (A)
Iowa	0-2		Indiana (H) Wisconsin (A)	Ohio State (A) Michigan State (H) Purdue (H) Michigan (A) Indiana (A) Penn State (H) Purdue (A) Ohio State (H) Wisconsin (H) Minnesota (A) Michigan (H) Northwestern (H) Michigan State (A) Penn State (A) Illinois (H) Northwestern (A)

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

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

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

The Big Picture

Well, Michigan had a terrible start to the Big Ten schedule, and things don't look very good for the rest of the season.

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.	L	74-52	2-1
Carrs/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout					
11/21/2007 (Wed)	Butler	Anchorage, Alaska	L	79-65	2-2
11/23/2007 (Fri)	Eastern Washington	Anchorage, Alaska	W	61-53	3-2
11/24/2007 (Sat)	Western Kentucky	Anchorage, Alaska	L	73-69	3-3
ACC/Big Ten Challenge					
11/28/2007 (Wed)	Boston College	Ann Arbor	L	77-64	3-4
12/01/2007 (Sat)	Harvard	Boston, Mass.	L	62-51	3-5
12/08/2007 (Sat)	Duke	Durham, N.C.	L	95-67	3-6
12/12/2007 (Wed)	Oakland	Ann Arbor	W	103-87	4-6
12/15/2007 (Sat)	Central Michigan	Ann Arbor	L	78-67	4-7
12/22/2007 (Sat)	UCLA	Ann Arbor	L	69-54	4-8
01/02/2008 (Wed)	Wisconsin	Ann Arbor	L	70-54	4-9
01/05/2008 (Sat)	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.	L	65-58	4-10
01/08/2008 (Tue)	Indiana	Ann Arbor			
01/12/2008 (Sat)	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.			
01/16/2008 (Wed)	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.			

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
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 has two games this week. On Tuesday (01/08/2008, 7:00 p.m.), they play (#11) Indiana in Crisler Arena, then on Saturday (01/12/2008, 5:30 p.m.), they play at Northwestern. The Indiana game is on ESPN, so if you can't come down to Crisler to cheer on the Wolverines, tune by to see how they do.

Go Blue!