**01/14/2008 – Week #12 – Finally! A Big Ten Win!**

**The Week In Review**

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games last week, and they won one and lost one. On Tuesday (01/08/2008), they lost to (#11) Indiana in Crisler Arena, 78-64, then on Saturday (01/12/2008), they won at Northwestern, 78-68. The win and the loss leave Michigan with a record of 5-11, 1-3 in the Big Ten. The win at Northwestern ended a 5-game losing streak, and gave coach John Beilein his first Big Ten victory, finally.

The Indiana game looked like a lot of Michigan's other losses to Top-25 teams: UM hung in there with them for a while, but once the other team started pulling away, there wasn't much the Wolverines could do to stop them. Thanks to a 55-foot shot at the buzzer by DeShawn Sims to end the 1st half, Michigan was within 6 points (37-31). They got even closer early in the 2nd half (39-34, with 18:57 left), but then IU went on a 22-5 run, and that was the game.

Against Northwestern, Michigan finally figured out what they needed to do to win a Big Ten game: play a team that's worse than they are. Michigan is not a very good team this year, but Northwestern is even worse. UM led for the whole game, including a 30-point lead (58-28, with 13:52 left), before they let most of the lead get away in the last 9 minutes. Still, with the kind of season UM is having, any win is a big win.

**Game Statistics**

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

| Team | Field goals | 3-Pointers | Free throws |
|---|---|---|---|
| Michigan | 19-60 (31.7%) | 8-28 (28.6%) | 18-26 (69.2%) |
| Indiana | 30-66 (45.5%) | 8-18 (44.4%) | 10-15 (66.7%) |
| Advantage | Indiana | Indiana | Michigan |

Indiana dominated these stats, and that's why they won the game. Michigan shot pretty poorly, and Indiana shot pretty well. Michigan shot free throws better, and made more free throws than Indiana attempted, but it wasn't nearly enough.

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

| Team | Rebounds | Assists | Turnovers | Blocks | Steals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Michigan | 33 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 9 |
| Indiana | 51 | 18 | 18 | 2 | 7 |
| Advantage | Indiana | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan | Michigan |

The big stat here is Rebounds. IU owned the boards. Even though Michigan won the rest of the stats, they weren't enough to make up for those 18 extra rebounds.

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

| Team | Field goals | 3-Pointers | Free throws |
|---|---|---|---|
| Michigan | 27-58 (46.6%) | 8-26 (30.8%) | 16-24 (66.7%) |
| Northwestern | 28-60 (46.7%) | 5-21 (23.8%) | 7-10 (70.0%) |
| Advantage | Northwestern | Michigan | Northwestern |

These stats are all pretty close, but it was free-throw shooting that won it for Michigan. Even though Northwestern had a better percentage, once again Michigan made more free throws than Northwestern attempted.

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

| Team | Rebounds | Assists | Turnovers | Blocks | Steals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Michigan | 45 | 20 | 15 | 5 | 5 |
| Northwestern | 25 | 19 | 10 | 4 | 8 |
| Advantage | Michigan | Michigan | NW | Michigan | NW |

Other than Rebounds, these stats are pretty close. However, those 20 extra possessions for Michigan made all the difference.

**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 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 | At Purdue | 4-18 (22.2%) | L | Yes |
| 01/08/2008 | Indiana | 8-28 (28.6%) | L | Yes |
| 01/12/2008 | At Northwestern | 8-26 (30.8%) | W | N/A |
| Totals | | 109-339 (32.2%) | | 11-1 |

Once again, Michigan is a team that lives and dies with the 3-point shot. Indiana held UM to less than 40% shooting on 3-pointers, and that's how you beat Michigan.

**Individual Statistics**

Coach Beilein went with his latest starting lineup in the Indiana game, starting C.J. Lee instead of Kelvin Grady. Due to a minor ankle injury suffered by Ron Coleman in the Indiana game, Jevohn Shepherd started in his place in the Northwestern game. It was a shame that Coleman missed the game, since he had played in every game (114 of them) since his freshman year.

Here's how the starters did:

| Player | Field Goals | | 3-Pointers | | Free Throws | | Points | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | IU | NU | IU | NU | IU | NU | IU | NU |
| Ron Coleman | 0-4 | DNP | 0-3 | DNP | 0-0 | DNP | 0 | DNP |
| Manny Harris | 6-15 | 6-11 | 1-5 | 3-5 | 6-9 | 7-10 | 19 | 22 |
| C.J. Lee | 2-5 | 0-3 | 2-5 | 0-2 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 7 | 0 |
| Jevohn Shepherd | Bench | 3-6 | Bench | 0-2 | Bench | 2-4 | Bench | 8 |
| DeShawn Sims | 4-12 | 5-11 | 3-5 | 1-5 | 5-6 | 1-3 | 16 | 12 |
| Ekpe Udoh | 1-5 | 6-10 | 0-1 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2-2 | 2 | 14 |
| Totals | 13-41<br>31.7% | 20-41<br>48.8% | 6-19<br>31.6% | 4-14<br>28.6% | 12-17<br>70.6% | 12-19<br>63.2% | 44 | 56 |

As a group, the starters did OK. Their percentages are decent, and they scored a reasonable number of points.

Individually, both Harris and Sims scored in double figures in both games, and Udoh and Shepherd had good games against Northwestern. In fact, Udoh had his first career double-double, with 11 rebounds to go with his 14 points. Lee and Coleman didn't contribute much.

As far as the bench players go, Coach Beilein only played 4of them in each game.

Here's how the bench players did:

| Player | Field Goals | | 3-Pointers | | Free Throws | | Points | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | IU | NU | IU | NU | IU | NU | IU | NU |
| Zack Gibson | 1-3 | 1-2 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 2-2 | 0-0 | 4 | 2 |
| Kelvin Grady | 1-5 | 1-5 | 1-4 | 1-5 | 0-0 | 4-4 | 3 | 7 |
| David Merritt | DNP | 2-3 | DNP | 2-3 | DNP | 0-1 | DNP | 6 |
| Jevohn Shepherd | 3-7 | Starter | 0-1 | Starter | 4-5 | Starter | 10 | Starter |
| Anthony Wright | 1-4 | 3-7 | 1-4 | 1-4 | 0-2 | 0-0 | 3 | 7 |
| Totals | 6-19<br>31.6% | 6-17<br>35.3% | 2-9<br>22.2% | 4-12<br>33.3% | 6-9<br>66.7% | 4-5<br>80.0% | 20 | 22 |

As a group, the bench players contributed a little more than usual. Their shooting percentages are just OK, but they did chip in a few points.

Individually, only Shepherd hit double figures, against Indiana. However, the big news this week was David Merritt: he hit his first field goal of his Michigan career, a 3-pointer against Northwestern, then he hit his next shot, another 3-pointer. Good for him!

**Big Ten This Week**

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

| Team | Big Ten | | | Overall | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Wins | Losses | Percent | Wins | Losses | Percent |
| Indiana | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | 14 | 1 | 0.933 |
| Wisconsin | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | 13 | 2 | 0.867 |
| Ohio State | 3 | 1 | 0.750 | 12 | 4 | 0.750 |
| Michigan State | 2 | 1 | 0.667 | 14 | 2 | 0.875 |
| Minnesota | 2 | 1 | 0.667 | 12 | 3 | 0.800 |
| Purdue | 2 | 1 | 0.667 | 11 | 5 | 0.688 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Penn State | 2 | 1 | 0.667 | 10 | 5 | 0.667 |
| Iowa | 1 | 3 | 0.250 | 8 | 9 | 0.471 |
| Michigan | 1 | 3 | 0.250 | 5 | 11 | 0.313 |
| Illinois | 0 | 4 | 0.000 | 8 | 9 | 0.471 |
| Northwestern | 0 | 4 | 0.000 | 5 | 8 | 0.385 |

Here are the results from last week's games:

Tuesday (01/08/2008)
Indiana won at Michigan, 78-64
Purdue lost at Michigan State, 78-75

Wednesday (01/09/2008)
Iowa lost at Ohio State, 79-48
Northwestern lost at Minnesota, 82-63

Thursday (01/10/2008)
Illinois lost at Wisconsin, 70-60

Saturday (01/12/2008)
Michigan won at Northwestern, 78-68
Minnesota won at Penn State, 76-73
Ohio State lost at Purdue, 75-68
Michigan State lost at Iowa, 43-36

Sunday (01/13/2008)
Illinois lost at Indiana, 62-58

The home teams did much better this week, going 7-3. The most surprising result this week was definitely Michigan State losing at Iowa. It wasn't just the result that was surprising, but the final score: 43-36. MSU scored 18 points in the first 8 minutes, then only 18 points in the last 32 minutes. Amazing.

Here are the games scheduled for the upcoming week (Week #3):

Tuesday (01/15/2008)
Ohio State at Michigan State
Wisconsin at Penn State

Wednesday (01/16/2008)
Michigan at Illinois
Purdue at Iowa
Northwestern at Chicago State (non-conference)

Thursday (01/17/2008)
Indiana at Minnesota

Saturday (01/19/2008)
Iowa at Michigan
Illinois at Purdue
Northwestern at Wisconsin
Ohio State at Tennessee (non-conference)

Sunday (01/20/2008)
Penn State at Indiana
Michigan State at Minnesota

There are a couple of big games this week:

- Ohio State at Michigan State on Tuesday. Is Ohio State for real? We'll find out in this game.
- Wisconsin at Penn State on Tuesday. Here's another big game for a contender: is Penn State a contender or a pretender? We'll find out in this game.
- Michigan at Illinois on Wednesday. Michigan hasn't won at Illinois in 13 years, but this could be their best chance. Illinois is 0-4 in the Big Ten this year.
- Iowa at Michigan on Saturday. Michigan has to win their home games against the lower-division Big Ten teams.

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

| Team | Record | Wins | Losses | Remaining Games |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Illinois | 0-4 | | Ohio State (H)<br>Penn State (H)<br>Wisconsin (A)<br>Indiana (A) | Michigan (H)<br>Purdue (A)<br>Ohio State (A)<br>Northwestern (H)<br>Michigan State (A)<br>Purdue (H)<br>Indiana (H)<br>Minnesota (A)<br>Penn State (A)<br>Wisconsin (H)<br>Michigan (A)<br>Iowa (A)<br>Michigan State (H)<br>Minnesota (H) |
| Indiana | 3-0 | Iowa (A)<br>Michigan (A)<br>Illinois (H) | | Minnesota (A)<br>Penn State (H)<br>Iowa (H)<br>Wisconsin (A)<br>Northwestern (H)<br>Illinois (A)<br>Ohio State (A)<br>Wisconsin (H)<br>Michigan State (H)<br>Purdue (H)<br>Northwestern (A)<br>Ohio State (H)<br>Michigan State (A)<br>Minnesota (H)<br>Penn State (A) |
| Iowa | 1-3 | Michigan State (H) | Indiana (H)<br>Wisconsin (A)<br>Ohio State (A) | Purdue (H)<br>Michigan (A)<br>Indiana (A)<br>Penn State (H)<br>Purdue (A)<br>Ohio State (H)<br>Wisconsin (H) |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Minnesota (A)<br>Michigan (H)<br>Northwestern (H)<br>Michigan State (A)<br>Penn State (A)<br>Illinois (H)<br>Northwestern (A) |
| Michigan | 1-3 | Northwestern (A) | Wisconsin (H)<br>Purdue (A)<br>Indiana (H) | Illinois (A)<br>Iowa (H)<br>Wisconsin (A)<br>Michigan State (A)<br>Minnesota (H)<br>Ohio State (A)<br>Penn State (H)<br>Iowa (A)<br>Ohio State (H)<br>Minnesota (A)<br>Illinois (H)<br>Northwestern (H)<br>Penn State (A)<br>Purdue (H) |
| Michigan State | 2-1 | Minnesota (H)<br>Purdue (H) | Iowa (A) | Ohio State (H)<br>Minnesota (A)<br>Northwestern (A)<br>Michigan (H)<br>Illinois (H)<br>Penn State (A)<br>Northwestern (H)<br>Purdue (A)<br>Indiana (A)<br>Penn State (H)<br>Iowa (H)<br>Wisconsin (A)<br>Indiana (H)<br>Illinois (A)<br>Ohio State (A) |
| Minnesota | 2-1 | Northwestern (H)<br>Penn State (A) | Michigan State (A) | Indiana (H)<br>Michigan State (H)<br>Ohio State (A)<br>Michigan (A)<br>Wisconsin (H)<br>Northwestern (A)<br>Iowa (H)<br>Illinois (H)<br>Wisconsin (A)<br>Michigan (H)<br>Penn State (H)<br>Purdue (A)<br>Ohio State (H)<br>Indiana (A)<br>Illinois (A) |
| Northwestern | 0-4 | | Penn State (H)<br>Ohio State (A) | Wisconsin (A)<br>Michigan State (H) |

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

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Northwestern (H)<br>Ohio State (A)<br>Michigan (A) |
| Wisconsin | 3-0 | Michigan (A)<br>Iowa (H)<br>Illinois (H) | | Penn State (A)<br>Northwestern (H)<br>Michigan (H)<br>Purdue (A)<br>Indiana (H)<br>Minnesota (A)<br>Iowa (A)<br>Purdue (H)<br>Indiana (A)<br>Minnesota (H)<br>Illinois (A)<br>Ohio State (A)<br>Michigan State (H)<br>Penn State (H)<br>Northwestern (A) |

**The Big Picture**

Michigan finally got a "W", but they still have a lot of games left to play. Based on what I've seen so far, I still think that UM will be lucky to win more than 4 Big Ten games.

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 | L | 78-64 | 4-11 |
| 01/12/2008 (Sat) | Northwestern | Evanston, Ill. | W | 78-68 | 5-11 |
| 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 | | | |

| Date | Opponent | Site | Result | Score | Record |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 Wednesday (01/16/2008, 9:00 p.m. EST), they play at Illinois, then on Saturday (01/19/2008, 7:00 p.m.), they play Iowa in Crisler Arena. Come down to Crisler to cheer on the Wolverines, and check back here next week to see what happened, and why.

Go Blue!