

Nothing But 'Net – Week #21 (03/23/2009) – Two And Done In The Big Dance

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games in the [NCAA Tournament](#) last week, and they won the first and lost the second. [They beat Clemson 62-59 in the 1st round on Thursday \(03/19/2009\)](#), then [they lost to Oklahoma 73-63 in the 2nd round on Saturday \(03/21/2009\)](#). The win and the loss leave Michigan with a final record of 21-14 (9-9 in Big Ten play).

Considering that Michigan was a "bubble team" to even get into the NCAA Tournament, it was a big deal that they won their 1st round game against Clemson. When you consider that they were a #10 seed playing a #7 seed, it's even more impressive. They played a good, solid game, and they slowly built a nice 15-point lead (58-43) with about 6 minutes left in the game. That's when they fell apart a little bit, just as Clemson got hot, and the lead shrunk all the way down to 1 point (58-57) with 48 seconds left. Yes, that's a 14-0 run by Clemson. Fortunately, Michigan held on for the win. This was another huge win for the program.

In the 2nd round game, the Wolverines played the #2 seed (Oklahoma) very well, and they were only down by 1 point at halftime, 30-29. Unfortunately, Oklahoma went on a 12-2 run in the first 5 minutes of the 2nd half, and that put Michigan in a hole they never quite climbed out of. UM got within 3 points (58-55) with 6 minutes left in the game, but that was it. Oklahoma closed the game out strong, and they deserved to win. Still, Michigan gave them all they could handle, and could have won the game.

Game Statistics

First, let's look at the shooting [statistics from the Clemson game](#):

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	20-51 (39.2%)	10-26 (38.5%)	12-15 (80.0%)
Clemson	21-65 (32.3%)	5-22 (22.7%)	12-14 (85.7%)
Advantage	Michigan	Michigan	Clemson

The big difference here is the 3-point shooting. Those 5 extra points came in real handy.

Now, let's look at the non-shooting [statistics from the Clemson game](#):

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	33	16	14	3	5
Clemson	44	14	11	7	8
Advantage	Clemson	Michigan	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson

It still amazes me how often Michigan wins a game while getting out-rebounded.

By the way, check out the number of assists Michigan had: 16 assists on 20 field goals. That's excellent unselfish play.

Next, let's look at the shooting [statistics from the Oklahoma game](#):

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	22-56 (39.3%)	10-27 (37.0%)	9-11 (81.8%)
Oklahoma	25-51 (49.0%)	6-19 (31.6%)	17-27 (63.0%)

Advantage	Oklahoma	Michigan	Michigan
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Oklahoma shot much better overall than Michigan did, and that's why they won the game. They scored 8 more points from the free-throw line, and they won by 10.

Finally, let's look at the non-shooting [statistics from the Oklahoma game](#):

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	34	12	14	1	5
Oklahoma	35	18	11	4	5
Advantage	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Even

These stats are too close to matter much. It was shooting that won the game for Oklahoma.

Season 3-Point Shooting

The way UM's offense is set up, they need to get off at least 20 3-pointers, and hit at least 40% of them to win. In the past, I counted a win where UM didn't hit 20/40 as "fits the theory", but no more. To fit my theory, they either have to hit 20/40 and win, or hit less than 20/40 and lose. If they win, but fail to hit 20/40, that doesn't fit my theory.

Here's how things have gone so far:

Date	Opponent	3-Point Shooting	Result	Fits Theory?
11/06/2008	Saginaw Valley State (exhibition)	11-24 (45.8%)	W	Y
11/11/2008	Michigan Tech	8-24 (33.3%)	W	N
11/12/2008	Northeastern	5-14 (35.7%)	W	N
11/20/2008	UCLA	5-20 (25.0%)	W	N
11/21/2008	Duke	6-22 (27.3%)	L	Y
11/25/2008	Norfolk State	9-27 (33.3%)	W	N
11/29/2008	Savannah State	4-22 (18.2%)	W	N
12/03/2008	Maryland	12-29 (41.4%)	L	N
12/06/2008	Duke	7-16 (43.8%)	W	N
12/13/2008	Eastern Michigan	16-33 (48.5%)	W	Y
12/20/2008	Oakland	13-29 (44.8%)	W	Y
12/22/2008	Florida Gulf Coast	12-42 (28.6%)	W	N
12/29/2008	North Carolina Central	9-30 (30.0%)	W	N
12/31/2008	Wisconsin	8-24 (33.3%)	L	Y
01/04/2009	Illinois	11-27 (40.7%)	W	Y
01/07/2009	Indiana	12-40 (30.0%)	W	N
01/11/2009	Iowa	7-22 (31.8%)	W	N
01/14/2009	Illinois	7-26 (26.9%)	L	Y
01/17/2009	Ohio State	10-29 (34.5%)	L	Y
01/20/2009	Penn State	5-30 (16.7%)	L	Y
01/24/2009	Northwestern	9-27 (33.3%)	W	N
01/28/2009	Ohio State	7-26 (26.9%)	L	Y
01/31/2009	Purdue	6-23 (26.1%)	L	Y
02/05/2009	Penn State	10-26 (38.5%)	W	N
02/07/2009	Connecticut	9-29 (31.0%)	L	Y
02/10/2009	Michigan State	4-24 (16.7%)	L	Y
02/15/2009	Northwestern	7-26 (26.9%)	W	N

Date	Opponent	3-Point Shooting	Result	Fits Theory?
02/19/2009	Minnesota	13-28 (46.4%)	W	Y
02/22/2009	Iowa	12-34 (35.3%)	L	Y
02/26/2009	Purdue	8-16 (50.0%)	W	N
03/01/2009	Wisconsin	6-21 (28.6%)	L	Y
03/07/2009	Minnesota	9-22 (40.9%)	W	Y
03/12/2009	Iowa	10-22 (45.5%)	W	Y
03/13/2009	Illinois	9-29 (31.0%)	L	Y
03/19/2009	Clemson	10-26 (38.5%)	W	N
03/21/2009	Oklahoma	10-27 (37.0%)	L	Y
Totals		316-936 (33.8%)		20-16

Michigan managed to win the Clemson game despite shooting less than 40% from 3-point range. It cost them the Oklahoma game.

Individual Statistics

[Coach Beilein](#) used his favorite starting lineup for both games this week. Here's how the starters did:

Player	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
	Clem	OU	Clem	OU	Clem	OU	Clem	OU
Stu Douglass	3-8	2-10	1-5	1-7	5-6	0-1	12	5
Manny Harris	7-15	3-9	3-6	1-3	6-6	4-4	23	11
C.J. Lee	2-3	3-6	2-3	2-4	0-0	3-3	6	11
Zack Novak	2-6	1-5	2-5	1-4	1-2	0-0	7	3
DeShawn Sims	4-12	6-11	1-2	1-1	0-0	1-1	9	14
Totals	18-34 52.9%	15-41 36.6%	9-21 42.9%	6-19 31.6%	12-14 85.7%	8-9 88.9%	57	44

As a group, the starters had a pretty good week. Their percentages were good, and they scored a reasonable number of points.

Individually, Harris was the only starter to hit double figures in both games, although Sims got close. Harris had a good game against Clemson, and a pretty good game against Oklahoma. Sims had a decent game against Clemson, and a fairly good game against Oklahoma. Douglass hit double figures in the Clemson game, but he wasn't much of a factor in the Oklahoma game. The other starters didn't do much offensively.

Here's how the bench players did this week:

Player	Field Goals		3-Pointers		Free Throws		Points	
	Clem	OU	Clem	OU	Clem	OU	Clem	OU
Zack Gibson	1-1	2-4	0-0	1-3	0-0	0-0	2	5
Kelvin Grady	0-2	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
Laval Lucas-Perry	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0
David Merritt	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0
Eric Puls	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0
Jevohn Shepherd	DNP	0-2	DNP	0-0	DNP	0-0	DNP	0
Anthony Wright	1-1	5-7	1-1	3-4	0-1	1-2	3	14
Totals	2-7 28.6%	7-15 46.7%	1-5 20.0%	4-8 50.0%	0-1 0.0%	1-2 50.0%	5	19

As a group, the bench players didn't make much of a contribution this week. Their shooting percentages were acceptable, but they didn't score enough points.

Individually, only Wright hit double figures in either game. He did a great job filling in for Harris, who sat out much of the 1st half of the Oklahoma game with 2 quick fouls. Other than that, none of the bench players contributed much offensively.

Big Ten Report

My weekly Big Ten Report is now a separate article, [here](#).

The Big Picture

On the whole, it was a successful season for Michigan. They overachieved by making it to the NCAA Tournament in just Beilein's 2nd season, and they even won a tournament game as a bonus. Check back next week for my season wrap-up.

Here are the final results for the 2008-2009 season:

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
11/06/2008 (Thu)	Saginaw Valley State (exh)	Ann Arbor	W	81-55	0-0
<i>2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer</i>					
11/11/2008 (Tue)	Michigan Tech	Ann Arbor	W	77-55	1-0
11/12/2008 (Wed)	Northeastern	Ann Arbor	W	76-56	2-0
11/20/2008 (Thu)	UCLA	New York, NY	W	55-52	3-0
11/21/2008 (Fri)	Duke	New York, NY	L	71-56	3-1
11/25/2008 (Tue)	Norfolk State	Ann Arbor	W	83-49	4-1
11/29/2008 (Sat)	Savannah State	Ann Arbor	W	66-64 (ot)	5-1
<i>ACC/Big Ten Challenge</i>					
12/03/2008 (Wed)	at Maryland	College Park, MD	L	75-70	5-2
12/06/2008 (Sat)	Duke	Ann Arbor	W	81-73	6-2
12/13/2008 (Sat)	Eastern Michigan	Ann Arbor	W	91-60	7-2
12/20/2008 (Sat)	vs. Oakland	Auburn Hills, MI	W	89-76	8-2
12/22/2008 (Mon)	Florida Gulf Coast	Ann Arbor	W	76-59	9-2
12/29/2008 (Mon)	North Carolina Central	Ann Arbor	W	77-57	10-2
12/31/2009 (Wed)	Wisconsin	Ann Arbor	L	73-61	10-3 (0-1)
01/04/2009 (Sun)	Illinois	Ann Arbor	W	74-64	11-3 (1-1)
01/07/2009 (Wed)	at Indiana	Bloomington, IN	W	72-66 (ot)	12-3 (2-1)
01/11/2009 (Sun)	Iowa	Ann Arbor	W	64-49	13-3 (3-1)
01/14/2009 (Wed)	at Illinois	Champaign, IL	L	66-51	13-4 (3-2)
01/17/2009 (Sat)	Ohio State	Ann Arbor	L	65-58	13-5 (3-3)
01/20/2009 (Tue)	at Penn State	State College, PA	L	73-58	13-6 (3-4)
01/24/2009 (Sat)	Northwestern	Ann Arbor	W	68-59	14-6 (4-4)
01/28/2009 (Wed)	at Ohio State	Columbus, OH	L	72-54	14-7 (4-5)
01/31/2009 (Sat)	at Purdue	West Lafayette, IN	L	67-49	14-8 (4-6)
02/05/2009 (Thu)	Penn State	Ann Arbor	W	71-51	15-8 (5-6)
02/07/2009 (Sat)	at Connecticut	Storrs, CT	L	69-61	15-9 (5-6)
02/10/2009 (Tue)	Michigan State	Ann Arbor	L	54-42	15-10 (5-7)
02/15/2009 (Sun)	at Northwestern	Evanston, IL	W	70-67 (ot)	16-10 (6-7)
02/19/2009 (Thu)	Minnesota	Ann Arbor	W	74-62	17-10 (7-7)
02/22/2009 (Sun)	at Iowa	Iowa City, IA	L	70-60 (ot)	17-11 (7-8)
02/26/2009 (Thu)	Purdue	Ann Arbor	W	87-78	18-11 (8-8)
03/01/2009 (Sun)	at Wisconsin	Madison, WI	L	60-55	18-12 (8-9)
03/07/2009 (Sat)	at Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN	W	67-64	19-12 (9-9)
<i>Big Ten Tournament</i>					
03/12/2009 (Thu)	Iowa (1 st round)	Indianapolis, IN	W	73-45	20-12 (9-9)

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
03/13/2009 (Fri)	Illinois (Quarterfinal)	Indianapolis, IN	L	60-50	20-13 (9-9)
NCAA Tournament					
03/19/2009 (Thu)	Clemson (1 st round)	Kansas City, MO	W	62-59	21-13 (9-9)
03/21/2009 (Sat)	Oklahoma (2 nd round)	Kansas City, MO	L	73-63	21-14 (9-9)

The Upcoming Week

The season is over, but I'll be back again next week with the season wrap-up, final grades, and a look ahead to next season. See you then.

Go Blue!