

Nothing But 'Net – Week #01 (10/19/2009) – Michigan Madness

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to ["Nothing But 'Net"](#) for the 2009-2010 University of Michigan men's basketball season. I know it's still October, but ["Michigan Madness"](#) was this past Friday (10/16/2009), and the games will be starting soon. The first exhibition game is in less than two weeks (Friday 11/06/2009), and the first "real" game is two weeks after that (Friday 11/20/2009). Check back next week for a full preview article. For now, let's look at "Michigan Madness 2009-2010".

"Madness" Report

It's been 13 years since Michigan last held some sort of "Midnight Madness" for men's basketball. This year's "Michigan Madness" didn't center around midnight, it was an evening event. Festivities started at 7:00, with the main events starting at 9:00, and everything wrapped up by 10:30. It was a fun event, very nicely planned and executed. The mood was light and fun, and the crowd, estimated at 3500, had a good time.

One of the reasons that the event was so much fun was that it included both the men's and women's basketball teams. The player introductions were done by pairs, with one player from each team in a pair. The music was loud, and most of the players danced onto the floor. The coaches did their best to dance as well. Analysis: most of the women can dance very well, about half of the men can dance at least a little, and the coaches (except men's associate head coach [Jerry Dunn](#)) need some lessons.

Once everyone had been introduced, and head coaches [Kevin Borseth](#) and [John Beilein](#) had said a few words, there were three competitions: skills (timed relay race), 3-point shooting, and dunk. To keep things fun, the skills teams were made up of one player from the men's team, one player from the women's team, and one student from the Maize Rage. In general, the Maize Rage team members did pretty well, although almost everyone had a hard time with the "bounce pass" portion. It was a fun competition, and the last team (freshman [Blake McLimans](#), women's player [Veronica Hicks](#), and Maize Rage president Nick Mattar) won by 1 second.

Similarly, the 3-point shooting contest was made up of pairs of players from the men's and women's teams. It was interesting to see that most of the pairs were pretty evenly matched, and that the men and women shot about the same percentage from 3-point range. Once again, the last team to shoot ([Manny Harris](#) and [Carmen Reynolds](#)) won the competition.

The last competition (dunk) was men-only: [Laval Lucas-Perry](#), (freshman) [Darius Morris](#), [Zack Novak](#), and [DeShawn Sims](#). Morris and Novak made it to the finals, and Novak won it with an amazing through-the-legs-one-handed dunk. We didn't see much (any?) dunk action from Zack last season, so it was a complete surprise to see how good he is. I just hope he gets a bunch of dunks this season.

After the competitions, there was a women's scrimmage, then a men's scrimmage. It's hard to tell much about a team or individual players after watching two 4-minute periods, but it sure was entertaining.

The Upcoming Week

As I mentioned above, there are no games next week. Instead, next week's article will be a full preview of the upcoming season. Check back next Monday, and every Monday throughout the season.

Go Blue!