

Nothing But 'Net – Week #04 (11/09/2009) – The First (And Only) Exhibition Game

The Week In Review

The (#15) University of Michigan men's basketball team played their first (and only) exhibition game this week, and they won it. [On Friday \(11/06/2009\), they beat Wayne State \(WSU\) in Crisler Arena, 73-54.](#) I say "and only" in parentheses because the next game, on Saturday 11/14/2009 vs. Northern Michigan is somewhat confusing. As recently as [last week](#), I had it listed as an exhibition game, but it is really the regular season opener. When I first started looking at Michigan's 2009-2010 schedule, I couldn't tell whether the NMU game was an exhibition or not. Some of the online schedules I looked at listed it as an exhibition, some didn't. Some listed the Wayne State game as a regular game, but I knew that was incorrect. So, I went to [Northern's official athletics web site](#) to see what they said. [They consider the game to be an exhibition.](#) That led me to contact Tom Wywrot, the press guy for the UM basketball team. He assured me that it is indeed a regular season game for Michigan, although it might be an exhibition game for Northern, since they're a Division II team, and they might have different rules about playing games in November.

I say this every season about exhibition games: it's always hard to tell much about a team after watching an exhibition game. [Coach Beilein](#) played almost everyone, and he tried a lot of unusual lineups. As a result, the game was pretty choppy, with no real "flow". However, I was still able to get some initial reactions:

- Michigan still misses too many wide open 3-pointers, even from their best shooters. This was a problem in the games where UM struggled last season, and it doesn't look any better this season.
- Michigan's defense is ahead of their offense. The 1-3-1 zone looked particularly good. The offense looked shaky at times.
- This season's batch of freshmen isn't as "game ready" as last season's was. They don't look bad, they just look young and inexperienced.

Michigan certainly didn't look like a Top-15 team on Friday night, but they didn't need to against Wayne State. They started out slowly, but once they got a decent lead, they did a good job maintaining it, and controlling the game. It was a game that Michigan should have won, and they did.

Game Statistics

Let's look at the shooting [statistics from the WSU game](#):

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	25-57 (43.9%)	11-29 (37.9%)	12-20 (60.0%)
WSU	22-60 (36.7%)	5-10 (50.0%)	5-8 (62.5%)
Advantage	Michigan	WSU	WSU

Here's another case of deceptive stats. Sure, WSU shot a better percentage than UM for both 3-pointers and free throws, but Michigan made more than WSU attempted in both categories.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	36	15	7	6	7

WSU	40	9	15	2	3
Advantage	WSU	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan

These stats aren't as impressive as the shooting stats, but they're still pretty good. It's a little embarrassing to get out-rebounded by a Division II team, but other than that, Michigan can be happy about these stats.

Individual Statistics

Coach Beilein went with a pretty unusual starting lineup in the WSU game: [Manny Harris](#), [Laval Lucas-Perry](#), [Darius Morris](#), [Zack Novak](#), and [DeShawn Sims](#). Actually, the only unusual part was starting two point guards (LLP and Morris). As I've said in the past, given how much Beilein substitutes, it really doesn't matter much who starts, since many players will get significant playing time.

Here's how the starters did:

Player	Field Goals	3-Pointers	Free Throws	Points
Manny Harris	8-14	2-6	7-8	25
Laval Lucas-Perry	0-2	0-2	1-3	1
Darius Morris	2-5	0-2	0-0	4
Zack Novak	5-8	5-8	0-0	15
DeShawn Sims	3-9	1-2	2-2	9
Totals	18-38 47.4%	8-20 40.0%	10-13 76.9%	54

As a group, the starters did just fine. Their percentages are good, and they scored a decent number of points.

Individually, both Harris and Novak hit double figures, and Sims came close. Morris did OK, for a freshman, but LLP didn't show us much.

This was only an exhibition game, so Coach Beilein played almost everyone (except [Jordan Morgan](#), who is recovering from knee surgery and might end up redshirting). Here's how the bench players did:

Player	Field Goals	3-Pointers	Free Throws	Points
Eso Akunne	1-2	1-1	0-0	3
Josh Bartelstein	0-1	0-0	0-0	0
Ben Cronin	1-2	0-0	2-4	4
Stu Douglass	2-3	2-3	0-0	6
Zack Gibson	3-6	0-1	0-2	6
Blake McLimans	0-1	0-1	0-0	0
Corey Person	0-0	0-0	0-1	0
Eric Puls	0-0	0-0	0-0	0
Matt Vogrich	0-2	0-2	0-0	0
Anthony Wright	0-2	0-1	0-0	0
Totals	7-19 36.8%	3-9 33.3%	2-7 28.6%	19

As a group, the bench players didn't contribute much. Their shooting percentages are mediocre, and they didn't score many points.

Individually, none of the bench players contributed much. Douglass looked OK, but not as good as last season. Gibson also looked OK, but not great. None of the other bench players did very much. I was expecting to see more of Cronin and McLimans, but they only got a few minutes each, and they didn't look very smooth.

The Big Picture

The one-game exhibition portion of the schedule is over, but we'll still have to wait to see how good Michigan is against real competition. The first two games (Northern Michigan and Houston Baptist) won't be much of a test. The [Old Spice Classic](#) over Thanksgiving will be UM's first real challenge, and the games against Boston College, Utah, Connecticut, and (especially) Kansas will be good tests. The rest of the home non-conference games are pretty easy.

Here's the 2009-2010 schedule/results:

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
11/06/2009 (Fri)	Wayne State (exh)	Ann Arbor	W	73-54	0-0
11/14/2009 (Sat)	Northern Michigan	Ann Arbor			
11/20/2009 (Fri)	Houston Baptist	Ann Arbor			
Old Spice Classic					
11/26/2009 (Thu)	vs. Creighton	Orlando, FL			
11/27/2009 (Fri)	vs. Marquette/Xavier	Orlando, FL			
11/29/2009 (Sun)	Final/Consolation game	Orlando, FL			
ACC/Big Ten Challenge					
12/02/2009 (Wed)	Boston College	Ann Arbor			
12/05/2009 (Sat)	Arkansas - Pine Bluff	Ann Arbor			
12/09/2009 (Wed)	at Utah	Salt Lake City, UT			
12/13/2009 (Sun)	Detroit - Mercy	Ann Arbor			
12/19/2009 (Sat)	at Kansas	Lawrence, KS			
12/22/2009 (Tue)	Coppin State	Ann Arbor			
12/31/2010 (Thu)	at Indiana	Bloomington, IN			
01/03/2010 (Sun)	Ohio State	Ann Arbor			
01/07/2010 (Thu)	at Penn State	State College, PA			
01/10/2010 (Sun)	Northwestern	Ann Arbor			
01/14/2010 (Thu)	Indiana	Ann Arbor			
01/17/2010 (Sun)	Connecticut	Ann Arbor			
01/20/2010 (Wed)	at Wisconsin	Madison, WI			
01/23/2010 (Sat)	at Purdue	West Lafayette, IN			
01/26/2010 (Tue)	Michigan State	Ann Arbor			
01/30/2010 (Sat)	Iowa	Ann Arbor			
02/02/2010 (Tue)	at Northwestern	Evanston, IL			
02/06/2010 (Sat)	Wisconsin	Ann Arbor			
02/11/2010 (Thu)	at Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN			
02/16/2010 (Tue)	at Iowa	Iowa City, IA			
02/20/2010 (Sat)	Penn State	Ann Arbor			
02/23/2010 (Tue)	Illinois	Ann Arbor			
02/27/2010 (Sat) or 02/28/2010 (Sun)	at Ohio State	Columbus, OH			
03/02/2010 (Tue) or	Minnesota	Ann Arbor			

03/03/2010 (Wed)					
03/06/2010 (Sat) or 03/07/2010 (Sun)	at Michigan State	East Lansing, MI			
Big Ten Tournament					
03/11/2010 (Thu)	First Round	Indianapolis, IN			
03/12/2010 (Fri)	Quarterfinal	Indianapolis, IN			
03/13/2010 (Sat)	Semifinal	Indianapolis, IN			
03/14/2010 (Sun)	Championship	Indianapolis, IN			

The Upcoming Week

As you can see in the schedule above, Michigan has one game this week. On Saturday (11/14/2009, 7:00 p.m.), they play their first regular season game, vs. Northern Michigan, in Crisler Arena. Come on down and cheer on the Wolverines. Be sure to drop by Sections 8/11 and say hi to the usher (me).

Go Blue!