

Nothing But 'Net – Week #07 (11/30/2009) – The Old Spice Classic

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played 3 games in 4 days in the Old Spice Classic in Orlando (FL) this week. Unfortunately, they only won 1 of those 3 games. [On Thursday \(11/26/2009\), they beat Creighton \(CU\), 83-76 \(in overtime\).](#) The next day, [Friday \(11/27/2009\), they lost to Marquette, 79-65.](#) Finally, [on Sunday \(11/29/2009\), they lost to Alabama, 68-66.](#) The 1 win and 2 losses leave Michigan with a record of 3-2, and drop them out of the Top 25.

These were all respectable teams that Michigan played, but they should have done better than 1-2. They let decent leads slip away in both the Creighton and Alabama games, although they did hang on to win the Creighton game. They played very poorly in the last few minutes of all 3 games. In the Creighton game, UM led by 2 (67-65) with 1:30 left, and then proceeded to turn the ball over once and miss two free throws. Still, they had a 2-point lead (69-67) with 6 seconds left, and they let Creighton go the length of the floor for the game-tying layup. Fortunately, they played a solid overtime period, and managed to salvage a win. They weren't so lucky the next night in the Marquette game. After trailing by double digits in the 2nd half, Michigan pulled to within 6 points (62-56) with plenty of time (7:32) left in the game, then they fell apart and never challenged Marquette again. Finally, they led Alabama for most of the game, but let that lead slip away with 7:30 left in the game. The lead seesawed until 1:06, when Michigan led 66-65. They never scored again, and they let Alabama steal the win.

Game Statistics

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

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	30-69 (43.5%)	10-27 (37.0%)	13-23 (56.5%)
Creighton	33-66 (50.0%)	8-26 (30.8%)	2-6 (33.3%)
Advantage	Creighton	Michigan	Michigan

These stats are pretty weird. Creighton shot a better percentage overall, but lost the game. Michigan shot a terrible percentage at the free-throw line, but it was still way better than Creighton's, and that's where UM won the game. Weird.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	39	16	11	3	10
Creighton	37	18	18	3	6
Advantage	Michigan	Creighton	Michigan	Even	Michigan

These stats are too close to make much difference. It was free-throw shooting that won the game for Michigan.

Moving on, let's look at the shooting [statistics from the Marquette game](#):

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	25-55 (45.5%)	3-20 (15.0%)	16-20 (66.7%)
Marquette	28-53 (52.8%)	6-17 (35.3%)	17-21 (81.0%)

Advantage	Marquette	Marquette	Marquette
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Marquette won all three of the shooting stats, and that's why they won the game. They just shot better than Michigan. Michigan's 3-point shooting was miserable. For a team that lives and dies by the 3-pointer, 15% is never going to win a "toss up" game.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	27	14	9	2	5
Marquette	33	15	10	1	5
Advantage	Marquette	Marquette	Michigan	Michigan	Even

These stats are too close to make much difference. The real story here is the shooting stats.

Continuing on, let's look at the shooting [statistics from the Alabama game](#):

Team	Field goals	3-Pointers	Free throws
Michigan	22-57 (38.6%)	6-25 (24.0%)	16-20 (80.0%)
Alabama	27-57 (47.4%)	8-17 (47.1%)	6-8 (75.0%)
Advantage	Alabama	Alabama	Michigan

Alabama won 2 of the 3 shooting stats, and that's why they won the game. Michigan's free-throw shooting was the only reason they stayed in the game. Once again, 24% shooting from 3-point range is not going to win many "toss up" games. UM needs to shoot about 35% or better to win a game against a quality opponent.

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

Team	Rebounds	Assists	Turnovers	Blocks	Steals
Michigan	26	16	12	2	15
Alabama	41	17	19	5	4
Advantage	Alabama	Alabama	Michigan	Alabama	Michigan

These stats all balance each other out. The 15 extra possessions that Alabama got in Rebounds, they threw away in 7 extra Turnovers and 11 Steals. The key stats are the shooting stats.

Individual Statistics

Coach Beilein went with his regular starting lineup in all 3 games. Here's how the starters did:

Player	Field Goals			3-Pointers			Free Throws			Points		
	CU	Marq	Bama	CU	Marq	Bama	CU	Marq	Bama	CU	Marq	Bama
Manny Harris	6-15	9-16	7-17	0-4	0-4	1-6	8-13	4-6	11-13	20	22	26
Laval Lucas-Perry	5-11	4-7	2-7	4-6	2-4	2-6	4-6	2-4	0-0	18	12	6
Darius Morris	2-5	1-5	1-5	1-3	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	2-2	5	2	4
Zack Novak	5-7	1-2	1-4	3-5	0-1	1-4	1-2	1-2	0-0	14	3	3
DeShawn Sims	8-17	3-10	6-14	0-3	0-2	1-4	0-0	2-2	3-5	16	8	16
Totals	26-45 57.8%	18-40 45.0%	17-47 36.2%	8-21 38.1%	2-11 18.2%	5-22 22.7%	13-21 61.9%	9-14 64.3%	16-20 80.0%	73	47	55

As a group, the starters did pretty well. Their percentages are reasonable, except for 3-point shooting in the Marquette and Alabama games, and they scored a reasonable number of points.

Individually, Harris was the only player to hit double figures in all 3 games. In fact, he was Michigan's leading scorer in all 3 games, and he had a "double-double" in 2 of the 3 games: 20 points and 11 assists vs. Creighton, and 26 points and 10 rebounds against Alabama. But, he wasn't perfect: his 3-point shooting (1-for-14 for the tournament) was a big problem, and he missed more free throws than usual, especially in the Creighton game.

Of the other starters, 2 of them hit double figures in 2 of the 3 games: Lucas-Perry and Sims. Look at LLP's line; he had a great tournament, especially in the first 2 games. Sims almost hit double figures in all 3 games, and he had a "double-double" vs. Creighton, with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Novak hit double figures in one game, and played hard in all 3 games. Morris is still playing like a freshman point guard. He's not bad, he just isn't doing much when he's out there.

Coach Beilein has settled on his 4 "regular" bench players, although Eso Akunne did get in for 1 minute in the Marquette game, once it was out of reach. Here's how the bench players did:

Player	Field Goals			3-Pointers			Free Throws			Points		
	CU	Marq	Bama	CU	Marq	Bama	CU	Marq	Bama	CU	Marq	Bama
Eso Akunne	DNP	0-0	DNP	DNP	0-0	DNP	DNP	0-0	DNP	DNP	0	DNP
Stu Douglass	1-6	2-7	1-2	1-3	0-5	1-1	0-0	1-1	0-0	3	5	3
Zack Gibson	1-3	3-5	3-3	0-1	0-2	0-0	0-2	2-3	0-0	2	8	6
Matt Vogrich	0-2	1-1	0-2	0-0	1-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	0
Anthony Wright	2-3	1-2	1-3	1-2	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	5	2	2
Totals	4-14 28.6%	7-15 46.7%	5-10 50.0%	2-6 33.3%	1-9 11.1%	1-3 33.3%	0-2 0.0%	3-4 75.0%	0-0 0.0%	10	18	11

As a group, the bench players didn't make much of a contribution. Their shooting percentages are decent, except for 3-point shooting, but they didn't score many points.

Individually, only Gibson really did much out there, but only in the last 2 games.

The Big Picture

Last week, I said that we would get a much better idea of how good Michigan is in [the Old Spice Classic](#). Well, now we know: they're not as good as they looked in their first 3 games (an exhibition and two "creampuffs"). They didn't look terrible in the Creighton or Alabama games, but they sure didn't look like at Top-25 team either. They did look terrible in the Marquette game.

Still, there's a lot of basketball left to play, and Michigan has lots of talent, so they can certainly improve as the season goes on. The next section of the schedule is a mixed bag of easy wins at home (Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Detroit-Mercy, and Coppin State) and tough games on the road (at Utah and at Kansas), with a tough home game against Boston College thrown in. They should win the 3 easy home games, they don't stand much chance in the road game at Kansas, and the BC and Utah games are "toss up" games.

Here's the 2009-2010 schedule/results:

Date	Opponent	Site	Result	Score	Record
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11/06/2009 (Fri)	Wayne State (exh)	Ann Arbor	W	73-54	0-0
11/14/2009 (Sat)	Northern Michigan	Ann Arbor	W	97-50	1-0
11/20/2009 (Fri)	Houston Baptist	Ann Arbor	W	77-55	2-0
Old Spice Classic					
11/26/2009 (Thu)	vs. Creighton	Orlando, FL	W	83-76 (ot)	3-0
11/27/2009 (Fri)	vs. Marquette	Orlando, FL	L	79-65	3-1
11/29/2009 (Sun)	vs. Alabama	Orlando, FL	L	68-66	3-2
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 03/03/2010 (Wed)	Minnesota	Ann Arbor			
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 plays 2 games next week, both at home. On Wednesday (12/02/2009, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2), they play Boston College, as part of the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. On Saturday (12/05/2009, 2:00 p.m.), they play Arkansas-Pine Bluff. Come on down to Crisler Arena and cheer on the Wolverines.

Go Blue!