

Nothing But 'Net – Week #09 (12/14/2009) – Running Out Of "Toss Up" Games

The Week In Review

I had a frantic weekend, so this week's article is going to be a new, experimental "streamlined" version. ;-)

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played 2 games this week, and they won one and lost one. [On Wednesday \(12/09/2009\), they lost at Utah 68-52](#), then [on Sunday \(12/13/2009\), they beat the University of Detroit-Mercy \(UDM\) 75-64 in Crisler Arena](#). The loss and the win leave Michigan with a record of 5-4.

Before the season, I divided the games up into 3 types: "should win", "should lose", and "toss up". I counted Utah as a "toss up", and UDM as a "should win". Having seen them play, I still think the Utah game was a toss up game, but I think UDM was a "toss up" instead of a "should win". It was discouraging to watch UM play so poorly vs. Utah, and in the 1st half vs. UDM, but the Wolverines finally got their act together in the 2nd half of the UDM game.

The big problem, as we shall see below, is that Michigan is running out of "toss up" games.

Game Statistics

Here's where we get into the experimental "streamlined" version: limited stats. If you want to see the full stats for the [Utah](#) or [UDM](#) games, check out MGoBlue.com. Here are the highlights:

[Manny Harris](#) and [DeShawn Sims](#).

No big surprise there. Harris and Sims are the backbone of this team, one of the two of them will probably be the leading scorer almost every game this season. In the case of this week, Harris was the leading scorer in both games, with 25 vs. Utah and 27 vs. UDM. Sims hit double figures in both games as well, with 10 and 23 points, respectively. No other UM player hit double figures vs. Utah, but [Laval Lucas-Perry](#) did (10 points) vs. UDM. [Stu Douglass](#) played well off the bench in the UDM game (9 points), but none of the other bench players did much offensively.

As a team, UM continued to struggle on both ends of the court. It appears that every team in the NCAA has figured out how to beat [Coach Beilein's](#) famous 1-3-1 zone, and the Wolverines have matchup problems in the post. Sims tries really hard down there, and he does his best, but he has a hard time defending guys 4-5 inches taller than he is.

On the offensive end, Michigan is running Beilein's offense, and getting the shots they want, they just are NOT going in. In particular, UM needs to shoot a good 3-point percentage, and they're not doing it. This week, they shot a respectable 31.8% and 33.3%, but they really need to hit at least 40% to win consistently.

The Big Picture

So far, Michigan has played 4 "should win" games (Northern Michigan, Houston Baptist, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and Detroit-Mercy), and they've won all 4 of them. They have played 5 "toss up" games (Creighton, Marquette, Alabama, Boston College, and Utah), and they've only won 1 of them. In order to make it to the NCAA Tournament, UM needs to win all their

"should win" games and win 5 of their 9 "toss up" games. They have now lost all 4 of the "toss up" games that they can only afford to lose. Yikes.

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	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	L	62-58	3-3
12/05/2009 (Sat)	Arkansas - Pine Bluff	Ann Arbor	W	67-53	4-3
12/09/2009 (Wed)	at Utah	Salt Lake City, UT	L	68-52	4-4
12/13/2009 (Sun)	Detroit - Mercy	Ann Arbor	W	75-64	5-4
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 only plays 1 game next week, but it's a biggie. On Saturday (12/19/2009, 12:00 noon EST, ESPN), they play at (#1) Kansas. Tune on by to see how they do.

Go Blue!