

## **Nothing But 'Net – Week #10 (12/21/2009) – No Match For #1**

### **The Week In Review**

No one complained last week, so I'm sticking with my new "streamlined" version.

The University of Michigan men's basketball team only played 1 game this week, and they lost it. [On Saturday \(12/19/2009\), they lost at \(#1\) Kansas 75-64](#). The loss drops Michigan's record to 5-5.

I don't think anyone really expected Michigan to be able to beat Kansas, especially on the road, but the Wolverines put up a pretty good fight. After an early 11-10 lead, they got down by 21 points (41-20) with 3:41 left in the 1<sup>st</sup> half. It could have easily turned into a blowout, but UM went on an 11-1 run to pull within 11 points (42-31) at halftime. The good news is that Michigan played Kansas even in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. The bad news is that they were down 11 points at halftime, which means that they lost by 11. Michigan never managed to get the deficit down to single-digits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, but they never let it get higher than 15 points either. I suspect that if Michigan had actually gotten too close, Kansas had another "gear" available, and they would have pushed their lead back up to double-digits if they needed to.

The frustrating part, as it has been all season, was watching UM work the offense well, get a good open 3-point shot, and brick it. If Michigan had hit a reasonable percentage (say 40%) of their 3-point attempts, it would have been a close game, and they might have even snuck out a win at the end. However, they only hit 17.9% (5-for-28), and that was the ballgame.

### **Game Statistics**

Once again, here are the "streamlined" stats. If you want to see the full stats, check out [MGoBlue.com](#). Here are the highlights:

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

They were the only 2 UM players in double figures (16 for Harris, 19 for Sims), although [Zack Novak](#) (8 points), [Stu Douglass](#) (8 points), and [Darius Morris](#) (9 points) all got close. For this game, Coach Beilein started Douglass instead of Morris, but other than Morris, none of the other bench players contributed much. Zack Gibson (2 points) was the only other bench player to score. So, the bench really let the team down.

### **The Big Picture**

The Kansas game has been marked down as "the least likely upset" since the schedule was announced, so it was no surprise that Michigan got the "L". Michigan only has one non-conference game left (home vs. Coppin State) before the Big Ten season starts, although they do have one more non-conference game (home vs. Connecticut) in the middle of the Big Ten schedule (Sunday 01/17/2010). They should beat Coppin State, but I expect them to have a tough time with Connecticut. Assuming that they beat Coppin State and lose to Connecticut, they will have a non-conference record of 6-6. That means they'll need to win about 13-14 games in the Big Ten to make the NCAA Tournament. That's a tall order. This is starting to look like an NIT year, which is quite a step backwards from last season.

Here's the 2009-2010 schedule/results:

| Date                                       | Opponent                              | Site               | Result | Score                      | Record |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| 11/06/2009 (Fri)                           | <a href="#">Wayne State</a> (exh)     | Ann Arbor          | W      | <a href="#">73-54</a>      | 0-0    |
| 11/14/2009 (Sat)                           | <a href="#">Northern Michigan</a>     | Ann Arbor          | W      | <a href="#">97-50</a>      | 1-0    |
| 11/20/2009 (Fri)                           | <a href="#">Houston Baptist</a>       | Ann Arbor          | W      | <a href="#">77-55</a>      | 2-0    |
| <b>Old Spice Classic</b>                   |                                       |                    |        |                            |        |
| 11/26/2009 (Thu)                           | vs. <a href="#">Creighton</a>         | Orlando, FL        | W      | <a href="#">83-76</a> (ot) | 3-0    |
| 11/27/2009 (Fri)                           | vs. <a href="#">Marquette</a>         | Orlando, FL        | L      | <a href="#">79-65</a>      | 3-1    |
| 11/29/2009 (Sun)                           | vs. <a href="#">Alabama</a>           | Orlando, FL        | L      | <a href="#">68-66</a>      | 3-2    |
| <b>ACC/Big Ten Challenge</b>               |                                       |                    |        |                            |        |
| 12/02/2009 (Wed)                           | <a href="#">Boston College</a>        | Ann Arbor          | L      | <a href="#">62-58</a>      | 3-3    |
| 12/05/2009 (Sat)                           | <a href="#">Arkansas – Pine Bluff</a> | Ann Arbor          | W      | <a href="#">67-53</a>      | 4-3    |
| 12/09/2009 (Wed)                           | at <a href="#">Utah</a>               | Salt Lake City, UT | L      | <a href="#">68-52</a>      | 4-4    |
| 12/13/2009 (Sun)                           | <a href="#">Detroit – Mercy</a>       | Ann Arbor          | W      | <a href="#">75-64</a>      | 5-4    |
| 12/19/2009 (Sat)                           | at <a href="#">Kansas</a>             | Lawrence, KS       | L      | <a href="#">75-64</a>      | 5-5    |
| 12/22/2009 (Tue)                           | <a href="#">Coppin State</a>          | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 12/31/2010 (Thu)                           | at <a href="#">Indiana</a>            | Bloomington, IN    |        |                            |        |
| 01/03/2010 (Sun)                           | <a href="#">Ohio State</a>            | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 01/07/2010 (Thu)                           | at <a href="#">Penn State</a>         | State College, PA  |        |                            |        |
| 01/10/2010 (Sun)                           | <a href="#">Northwestern</a>          | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 01/14/2010 (Thu)                           | <a href="#">Indiana</a>               | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 01/17/2010 (Sun)                           | <a href="#">Connecticut</a>           | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 01/20/2010 (Wed)                           | at <a href="#">Wisconsin</a>          | Madison, WI        |        |                            |        |
| 01/23/2010 (Sat)                           | at <a href="#">Purdue</a>             | West Lafayette, IN |        |                            |        |
| 01/26/2010 (Tue)                           | <a href="#">Michigan State</a>        | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 01/30/2010 (Sat)                           | <a href="#">Iowa</a>                  | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 02/02/2010 (Tue)                           | at <a href="#">Northwestern</a>       | Evanston, IL       |        |                            |        |
| 02/06/2010 (Sat)                           | <a href="#">Wisconsin</a>             | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 02/11/2010 (Thu)                           | at <a href="#">Minnesota</a>          | Minneapolis, MN    |        |                            |        |
| 02/16/2010 (Tue)                           | at <a href="#">Iowa</a>               | Iowa City, IA      |        |                            |        |
| 02/20/2010 (Sat)                           | <a href="#">Penn State</a>            | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 02/23/2010 (Tue)                           | <a href="#">Illinois</a>              | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 02/27/2010 (Sat)<br>or<br>02/28/2010 (Sun) | at <a href="#">Ohio State</a>         | Columbus, OH       |        |                            |        |
| 03/02/2010 (Tue)<br>or<br>03/03/2010 (Wed) | <a href="#">Minnesota</a>             | Ann Arbor          |        |                            |        |
| 03/06/2010 (Sat)<br>or<br>03/07/2010 (Sun) | at <a href="#">Michigan State</a>     | East Lansing, MI   |        |                            |        |
| <b>Big Ten Tournament</b>                  |                                       |                    |        |                            |        |
| 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. On Tuesday (12/22/2009, 7:00 p.m.), they play Coppin State, in Crisler Arena. Drop by and cheer on the Wolverines.

Go Blue!