

Nothing But 'Net – Week #15 (01/25/2010) – A Tough Week On The Road

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played 2 games last week, and they lost both of them. Both games were on the road, against ranked teams, in two of the tougher places to win. [On Wednesday \(01/20/2010\), they lost at \(#18\) Wisconsin 54-48](#), then [on Saturday \(01/23/2010\), they lost at \(#13\) Purdue 69-59](#). The losses drop Michigan's record to 10-9 (3-4 in the Big Ten).

Michigan started strong in both games, but couldn't keep it up in either game. In the Wisconsin game, they controlled the tempo of the game for the first 35 minutes, and had double digit leads several times. They led from the opening tip to the 3:30 mark, when Wisconsin finally took their first lead. The Badgers never looked back, and won the game. It was a real shame, since UM outplayed them for most of the game, but the Wolverines couldn't finish them off. It's really hard to win at Wisconsin, and Michigan had one of the best chances they're likely to see for a while, but they blew it.

The Purdue game was very different than the Wisconsin game. Michigan was playing without their best player, the leading scorer in the Big Ten, [Manny Harris](#). [Coach Beilein suspended him from the team after an undisclosed "unsportsmanlike conduct" incident near the end of Friday's practice](#). At this point, it hasn't been announced when he will return to the team. More on this below.

Without Harris, Michigan didn't stand much chance against Purdue, but they gave it a good try early. [DeShawn Sims](#) scored the first 13 points for Michigan, and they actually led Purdue 11-10, before the roof fell in. A quick 16-2 run put Purdue up 26-13, and that was the game. The lead swelled to 27 points (59-32) in the 2nd half, and Michigan rallied near the end to cut the deficit to "only" 10 points, but a loss is still a loss. Purdue is also really tough to beat in their place, and I'm not sure that UM could have pulled it off, even with Harris.

Which brings us to the Harris situation. We're not likely to ever officially hear what Manny did in practice that got him suspended, but it doesn't really matter much. He obviously did something pretty bad, and I'm sure he deserved the suspension he got from Beilein. I'm glad Beilein is the kind of coach who maintains discipline on the team, and doesn't favor the stars on the team. It's not an easy decision to suspend your leading scorer for a crucial game on a hostile floor, but Beilein did it. I just hope that Harris learns from his mistake, and quickly. He's a good kid, he made a mistake, he paid for it, and now his team needs him back.

Game And Individual Statistics

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

- Michigan continued to shoot poorly against Wisconsin, but they did a little better against Purdue.
- Michigan actually out-rebounded Wisconsin (34-33), but lost the rebounding battle against Purdue.
- The only players in double figures were Sims and Harris (vs. Wisconsin), and Sims and [Zack Novak](#) (vs. Purdue). Sims had a double-double (13 rebounds) in the Wisconsin game.

Once again, Sims (23 points) and Harris (11 points) were the only Michigan players in double figures vs. Wisconsin. That is not very surprising. With Harris absent from the Purdue game, Michigan needed at least one player to step up and do some scoring, and that player was Novak. He had 16 points to go with 21 points from Sims. Unfortunately, he had 0 points against Wisconsin.

The rest of the starters didn't do much in either game. [Stu Douglass](#) had 8 and 2 points, respectively, [Laval Lucas-Perry](#) had 5 and 7 points, and [Anthony Wright](#) (starting for Harris in the Purdue game) had 3 points. That's 25 points in 2 games.

The bench didn't help out much either. [Darius Morris](#) was the only bench player to score against Wisconsin, with 1 point. He and [Matt Vogrich](#) were the only bench players to score against Purdue, with 6 and 4 points, respectively. That's it: 11 points off the bench in 2 games.

The Big Picture

The games at Wisconsin and Purdue weren't games that Michigan was expected to win, so their situation with respect to getting into the NCAA Tournament hasn't really changed much. They still need 9 or 10 more wins, with 11 games left to play. Since 3 of those games are against Michigan State (twice) and Wisconsin, they pretty much need to win all their remaining 6 home games, and go 3-2 on the road. It's quite a challenge.

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
<i>Old Spice Classic</i>					
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
<i>ACC/Big Ten Challenge</i>					
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	L	75-64	5-5
12/22/2009 (Tue)	Coppin State	Ann Arbor	W	76-46	6-5
12/31/2010 (Thu)	at Indiana	Bloomington, IN	L	71-65	6-6 (0-1)
01/03/2010 (Sun)	Ohio State	Ann Arbor	W	73-64	7-6 (1-1)
01/07/2010 (Thu)	at Penn State	State College, PA	W	64-55	8-6 (2-1)
01/10/2010 (Sun)	Northwestern	Ann Arbor	L	68-62	8-7 (2-2)
01/14/2010 (Thu)	Indiana	Ann Arbor	W	69-45	9-7 (3-2)
01/17/2010 (Sun)	Connecticut	Ann Arbor	W	68-63	10-7 (3-2)
01/20/2010 (Wed)	at Wisconsin	Madison, WI	L	54-48	10-8 (3-3)
01/23/2010 (Sat)	at Purdue	West Lafayette, IN	L	69-59	10-9 (3-4)
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			

See my [Big Ten Report](#) for a complete rundown of the Big Ten last week.

The Upcoming Week

As you can see in the schedule above, Michigan plays 2 games next week, both in Crisler Arena. On Tuesday (01/26/2010, 7:00 p.m. ESPN), they play (#6) Michigan State, then on Saturday (01/30/2010, 4:35 p.m. Big Ten Network), they play Iowa. Come on down to Crisler and cheer on the Wolverines.

Go Blue!