

Nothing But 'Net – Week #17 (02/08/2010) – Watching The Season Slip Away

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games last week, and they lost both of them. In fact, they got their butts whipped in both games. [On Tuesday \(02/02/2010\), they lost at Northwestern 67-52](#), then [on Saturday \(02/06/2010\), they lost to \(#16\) Wisconsin in Crisler Arena 62-44](#). The two losses lower Michigan's record to 11-12 (4-7 in the Big Ten). They've now lost 5 of their last 6 games.

I try to stay positive, but these two losses are hard to shrug off. Sure, it would have been an upset if UM had knocked off nationally-ranked Wisconsin, even at home, but they didn't even threaten the Badgers after the first 9 minutes. The Wolverines were only down one point (15-14) with 11:09 left in the 1st half, when Wisconsin went on a quick 14-0 run, and that was the game. I've been watching college basketball for 40 years now, and I have **NEVER** seen a team shoot 3-pointers like Wisconsin did in the 1st half. They were 9-for-13 (69.2%), and they hit their first two 3-pointers of the 2nd half, which made them 11-for-15 (73.3%). They just couldn't miss, including a 40-footer as the 1st half ran out. They cooled down a little in the 2nd half, but by then it didn't matter. They held Michigan at bay for the whole 2nd half, and won easily.

As disappointing as the Wisconsin loss was, the loss at Northwestern was even worse. Northwestern isn't that good this season, but they looked like the Harlem Globetrotters playing the New Jersey Generals against Michigan. Everything they did worked. This was the first time Northwestern has swept Michigan in basketball since the 1966-1967 season.

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 [Northwestern](#) and [Wisconsin](#) boxscores. Here are the highlights:

- Michigan continued to shoot poorly in the Northwestern game (32.7%), but they did a little better against Wisconsin (43.6%). Their 3-point shooting was terrible in both games (28.6% and 18.2%).
- Michigan was outrebounded by Northwestern (30-27), but they outrebounded Wisconsin by 10 (29-19).
- The only players in double figures were [Manny Harris](#) and [Darius Morris](#) (at Northwestern) and Harris and [DeShawn Sims](#) (vs. Wisconsin).

The rest of the team didn't do much in either game. Other than the 11 points from Morris in the Northwestern game, the bench chipped in 7 and 4 points in the two games.

The Big Picture

Forget about the NCAA Tournament. Sure, Michigan could win their last 7 regular season games, and 2 more in the Big Ten Tournament, which would give them 20 wins, but that isn't going to happen. If they can't beat Northwestern, even on the road, they're not going to beat Ohio State and Michigan State on the road. At this point, Michigan has to worry about getting over 0.500 so they're eligible for the NIT.

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	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	L	57-56	10-10 (3-5)
01/30/2010 (Sat)	Iowa	Ann Arbor	W	60-46	11-10 (4-5)
02/02/2010 (Tue)	at Northwestern	Evanston, IL	L	67-52	11-11 (4-6)
02/06/2010 (Sat)	Wisconsin	Ann Arbor	L	62-44	11-12 (4-7)
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)	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 only plays one game next week, on the road. On Thursday (02/11/2010, 7:00 p.m. EST, ESPN), they play at Minnesota. Tune by, and see if the Wolverines can get back on the winning track.

Go Blue!