

Nothing But 'Net – Week #18 (02/15/2010) – Finally, Another Road Win

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team only played one game last week, and they won it. [On Thursday \(02/11/2010\), they won at Minnesota 71-63](#). The win raises Michigan's record to 12-12 (5-7 in the Big Ten), and stops a 2-game losing streak.

This is only the 2nd time Michigan has won a true road game this season, the other time being [at Penn State back on 01/07/2010](#). They did win one other game away from Crisler Arena on [11/26/2009, when they beat Creighton](#) in Orlando (FL) in the Old Spice Classic. That's it. Their other 9 wins have all come at home.

Minnesota's a pretty good team, with a pretty good record coming in (14-8, 5-5), and they always play well in Williams Arena ("The Barn"), so this was a pretty encouraging win. After leading early in the 1st half, 15-8 with 11:30 left, Michigan let Minnesota back into the game. Michigan managed to eke out a 1-point lead (27-26) at halftime, but the game was still close with 12:41 left in the game and Michigan up 40-38. Michigan went on a 7-0 run, and that gave them enough breathing room to hold off Minnesota and win the game.

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 [boxscore](#). Here are the highlights:

- Michigan broke out of their recent shooting slump, and shot well overall (26-for-53 = 49.1%) and from 3-point range (7-for-15 = 46.7%). That's the reason they won the game.
- Michigan was outrebounded by Minnesota (32-24), but they only had 8 turnovers compared to Minnesota's 16, so it all evens out.
- The only players in double figures were [DeShawn Sims](#) (27) and [Manny Harris](#) (20), but [Zack Gibson](#) chipped in 8 big points, including 2-for-2 shooting from 3-point range. The rest of the bench scored 0 points.

The rest of the team didn't do much in terms of scoring, although [Darius Morris](#) did have 5 very nice assists to go with his 5 points.

The Big Picture

With only 12 wins, and only 6 regular season games left to play, Michigan can forget about the NCAA Tournament. At this point, they need to worry about getting over 0.500 so they're eligible for the NIT. Fortunately, 3 of the 6 remaining games are very winnable: at Iowa, home vs. Penn State, and home vs. Minnesota. The other 3 are tough: home vs. Illinois, at Ohio State, and at Michigan State. Figure UM will go 3-3, which will give them a record of 15-15 going into the Big Ten Tournament. That would mean that they would need to win at least one game in the tournament to finish at or above 0.500, which would make them 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

<u>Old Spice Classic</u>					
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
<u>ACC/Big Ten Challenge</u>					
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	W	71-63	12-12 (5-7)
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			
<u>Big Ten Tournament</u>					
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 two games next week, one on the road and one at home. On Tuesday (02/16/2010, 9:00 p.m. EST, Big Ten Network), they play at Iowa, then on Saturday (02/20/2010, 6:00 p.m., Big Ten Network), they play Penn State in Crisler Arena. Tune by, and come on down to Crisler to cheer on the Wolverines.

Go Blue!