

Nothing But 'Net – Week #20 (03/01/2010) – From NCAA To NIT To CBI

The Week In Review

The University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games last week, and they lost them both. [On Tuesday \(02/23/2010\), they lost to Illinois 51-44 in Crisler Arena](#), then [on Saturday \(02/27/2010\), they lost at \(#9\) Ohio State 66-55](#). The two losses lower Michigan's record to 13-15 (6-10 in the Big Ten).

The Illinois game was one of the stranger ones I've ever seen: neither team (nor the crowd) seemed to want to be there. Everyone went through the motions: both teams ran up and down the floor and fired random shots, the band played, the Maize Rage made as much noise as they could, the refs were their usual mediocre selves, the crowd sat and watched with dazed looks on their faces, etc., but there was absolutely no passion by anyone. Illinois played slightly less poorly than Michigan, so they won the game. The Michigan players (and coaches) didn't seem to care. It was sad.

The Ohio State game was a little better, since at least OSU was playing for something (1st place in the Big Ten), but once again Michigan went down to defeat without much of a struggle. It's one thing to put on a "game face" and not react negatively when something doesn't go your way, but the Michigan players have taken it a step further, and now they act like they don't care.

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 [Illinois](#) and [Ohio State](#) boxscores. Here are the highlights:

- Michigan shot terribly in the Illinois game, but did a little better in the OSU game. They still are shooting way too poorly to beat anyone decent.
- Michigan was soundly outrebounded in both games.
- The only players in double figures in both games were [Manny Harris](#) (15 and 10) and [Zack Novak](#) (13 and 11). However, if you look a little more closely at Harris' numbers against OSU, you'll see why Michigan didn't stand a chance in the game: he was 1-for-8 from the floor, and 0-for-5 shooting 3-pointers. He got his other 8 points at the free throw line.
- The rest of the starters didn't do much in the Illinois game, but all five starters scored in double figures against OSU: [DeShawn Sims](#) and [Darius Morris](#) each had 11 points, and [Stu Douglass](#) had 10 points.
- The bench didn't help at much in either game: [Zack Gibson](#) had 7 points in the Illinois game and 2 points vs. OSU, and that was it. None of the other bench players scored a point in either game. That's a huge problem.

The Big Picture

Ever heard of the [CBI \(College Basketball Invitational\)](#)? It's in its 3rd year, and it's the tournament for teams that aren't even good enough to get into the NIT. That's where Michigan is probably headed. At 13-15 with only 2 games left (one at home, one on the road), the NIT might be a stretch. Michigan needs to finish at or above 0.500 to qualify for the NIT, so they would need to win both of their remaining regular season games along with at least one game in the Big Ten Tournament. Of course, they could still afford to lose one of the two regular season games, as long as they then won three games in the Big Ten Tournament. There's also the distant possibility that Michigan could win the Big Ten Tournament, in which case they would automatically be in the NCAA Tournament.

Hello, CBI.

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	W	71-63	12-12 (5-7)
02/16/2010 (Tue)	at Iowa	Iowa City, IA	W	80-78 (ot)	13-12 (6-7)
02/20/2010 (Sat)	Penn State	Ann Arbor	L	55-51	13-13 (6-8)
02/23/2010 (Tue)	Illinois	Ann Arbor	L	51-44	13-14 (6-9)
02/27/2010 (Sat)	at Ohio State	Columbus, OH	L	66-55	13-15 (6-10)
03/02/2010 (Tue)	Minnesota	Ann Arbor			
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 two games next week, one at home and one on the road. On Tuesday (03/02/2010, 7:00 p.m., Big Ten Network), they play

Minnesota in Crisler Arena, then on Sunday (03/07/2010, 4:00 p.m., CBS), they play at Michigan State. Tune by, and come on down to Crisler to cheer on the Wolverines.

Go Blue!