

Nothing But 'Net – Week #08 – 12/17/2012 – The Kings Of New York City

The (#2) University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games last week, and they won both of them. [On Tuesday \(12/11/2012\), they beat Binghamton 67-39](#) in Crisler Arena, then [on Saturday \(12/15/2012\), they beat West Virginia 81-66](#) in the [Barclays Center](#), in New York City, which is the new home of the [Brooklyn Nets](#) (formerly the New Jersey Nets) of the NBA. The two wins raise UM's record to 11-0.

If you've been paying attention, you've seen that Michigan's ranking has slowly but steadily moved up all season. They started the year ranked #5, and as teams ahead of them have lost, they've moved up to #4 and #3, and this week to #2. All season long, Indiana has been ranked #1, and for several weeks now, Duke has been #2, with UM at #3. Well, Indiana lost to Butler in overtime on Saturday, so Duke moved up to #1, and Michigan is now #2. This is the highest ranking that Michigan has had in a long time, and the 11-0 start is the best start UM has had since that magical season (1988-1989) when they won the National Championship. These are exciting times.

So, why are the Wolverines "the Kings of New York City"? Well, over Thanksgiving weekend they won the [NIT Season Tip-Off](#) tournament in [Madison Square Garden](#), and this weekend they won their game in the [Brooklyn Hoops Winter Festival](#) in Brooklyn. They're doing pretty well in NYC.

The Binghamton game was just a joke. It was more like a controlled scrimmage. Binghamton stood no chance, and the only interesting aspect was seeing how sharp (or not) Michigan would look against an overmatched opponent. The answer: meh. They took care of business, but didn't look fabulous. The WVU game was a much better test. Even though West Virginia doesn't have a very good record this season (now 4-5), they were scrappy and relentless, and they gave Michigan a good run for their money. Even though the final margin of victory (15 points) looks pretty convincing, WVU made the game interesting a couple times in both halves. Michigan had to play hard and well to beat them.

Stats time! First, the [Binghamton](#) scrimmage: Michigan didn't shoot particularly well overall (27-for-61 = 44.3%), and they didn't very well from 3-point range (10-for-30 = 33.3%). They didn't get to the free-throw line much, and they didn't shoot very well when they got there (3-for-5 = 60.0%). They did win the rebounding battle (39-28) and the turnover battle (7-16). They won the game with all those extra possessions.

The stats for the [WVU](#) game are a little better: Michigan shot better overall (26-for-50 = 56.0%), and OK from 3-point range (7-for-21 = 33.3%). There were a lot of fouls in the game, and WVU shot a sizzling 83.3% (20-for-24) from the free-throw line, but UM didn't do quite as well (18-for-27 = 66.7%). Michigan did win the rebounding battle (32-29), but they lost the turnover battle (14-13). They won the game because they held WVU to 38.5% (20-for-52) overall shooting.

Individually, two players hit double figures in both games:

- [Trey Burke](#) (19 vs. Binghamton and 27 vs. WVU). Trey has hit double figures in every game this season. He's averaging 18.0 points/game.
- [Nik Stauskas](#) (12 and 10). Nik has hit double figures in every game this season except the opener (Slippery Rock). He's averaging 13.2 points/game.

One other player came close to double figures in both games:

- [Tim Hardaway Jr.](#) (9 and 25). Tim did a lot better shooting from 3-point range this week: 2-for-9 and 4-for-8.

The other two starters did OK this week:

- [Jordan Morgan](#) (6 and 8). Jordan was unusually quiet on the boards this week, with only 2 rebounds in each game.
- [Glenn Robinson III](#) (6 and 8).

Besides the starters (and McGary), the bench chipped in a little scoring:

- [Mitch McGary](#) (6 and 2). Mitch had a career-high 10 rebounds in the Binghamton game.
- [Spike Albrecht](#) (3 and 0).
- [Jon Horford](#) (4 and 1). Jon re-injured his knee in the WVU game, and could miss 2-3 weeks. Bummer.
- [Caris LeVert](#) (2 and 0).

A few other bench players played in at least one game last week, but didn't score:

- [Eso Akunne](#) - Eso didn't play in the WVU game.
- [Blake McLimans](#) - Blake didn't play in the WVU game.
- [Corey Person](#) - Corey didn't play in the WVU game.
- [Matt Vogrich](#) - Matt didn't play in the WVU game.

[Josh Bartelstein](#) is still out due to his ankle surgery, and [Max Bielfeldt](#) missed both games due to an ankle sprain. Bielfeldt is just about ready to return to action.

This Week

Michigan only has one game this week. On Thursday (12/20/2012, 8:30 p.m., BTN), Michigan plays [Eastern Michigan](#), in Crisler Arena. EMU is currently 6-3 on the season, but their only impressive win is over Purdue. I expect this game to be a lot like the Western Michigan game a few weeks ago: tense for a while, then a blowout win for Michigan.

Check back next week to see what happened, and why.

Go Blue!