

## Nothing But 'Net – Week #22 – 03/27/2017 – End Of Season

### Quick Look

The (#23) University of Michigan men's basketball team played one game last week in [the NCAA Tournament](#) in Kansas City (MO), and they lost it. They were the #7 seed in the Midwest Region. [On Thursday \(03/23/2017\), Michigan lost to the #3 seed, Oregon, 69-68.](#) The loss eliminated Michigan from the tournament, and left them with a final record of 26-12 (10-8 in the Big Ten).

### What Happened

The game was every bit as close as the final score would indicate. Michigan played one of their worst games in the last 2 months, but still had a shot at the game-winning basket as time expired, but it didn't drop. Game, and season, over.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> half, the game was tied 8 times, and there were 8 lead changes. Oregon's biggest lead of the half was 5 points, Michigan's biggest lead was 4. Oregon led by 2 points at halftime, 35-33. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half was much the same. There were 8 more lead changes. Oregon's biggest lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half was 6 points, Michigan's biggest lead was 3 points. Michigan had that lead (68-65) with 2:02 left in the game, and it looked like they were going to pull the game out again in the closing moments, like they have so many times in postseason play. Instead, they didn't score again. An Oregon player missed the front end of a one-and-one free throw attempt with 1:49 left, but Michigan couldn't grab the rebound, and Oregon made a basket instead. Michigan missed their last 3 shots, and Oregon made one more basket, and that was the game.

### Stats

[The stats for the game](#) are mediocre. Michigan didn't shoot very well overall (25-for-58 = 43.1%), they shot 3-pointers fairly well (11-for-31 = 35.5%), but they did shoot free throws perfectly (7-for-7 = 100.0%). They lost the rebounding battle, but not badly (36-31), but they also lost the turnover battle (8-5), which is a big surprise. While 8 turnovers isn't bad at all, they were the difference in this game.

### Who Looked Good

[Derrick Walton Jr.](#) carried Michigan on his back again, in his final game as a Wolverine. He scored 20 points, had 8 assists, and even grabbed 5 rebounds. He was the player who took the last "win or lose" shot at the buzzer, and it was a good and reasonable shot, it just didn't go in. Bummer.

[Zak Irvin](#) also played hard in his last game as a Wolverine. He scored 19 points, grabbed 8 rebounds, and had 3 assists. He hit crucial shots in "crunch time" to keep Michigan in the game. It was good to see him go out on a high note.

[DJ Wilson](#) had an interesting game. He scored 12 points, all on 3-pointers. He shot 3-pointers pretty well (4-for-8), but missed both of his 2-point attempts, including a point-blank uncontested layup in the closing minutes that could have sealed the game. Still, it's hard to complain about his effort and his defense.

[Duncan Robinson](#) scored 8 points, which was good, but didn't help out much on defense.

### Who Looked Not-So-Good

[Moritz Wagner](#) picked a bad time to have an "off" game. He only scored 7 points, and he only played 24 minutes. He got open for 4 good 3-point attempts, and he bricked all 4 of them. He missed a contested layup on Michigan's first possession, and he never seemed to get in sync after that.

[Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman](#) also picked a bad time to have an "off" game. Unlike Wagner, he played a lot (38 minutes), but he only scored 2 points on 1-for-6 shooting (0-for-4 from 3-point range). He had 3 of Michigan's 8 turnovers, and was also out of sync for the whole game.

[Mark Donnal](#) played 4 minutes, and didn't take a shot.

[Xavier Simpson](#) played 5 minutes, and didn't take a shot.

### **Who Else Played**

No one else played.

### **Who Didn't Play**

[Brent Hibbitts](#), [Sean Lonergan](#), [Jon Teske](#), [Ibi Watson](#), and [Fred Wright-Jones](#) didn't play in this game.

### **The Big Picture**

The season is over. No more "Big Picture".

It was a good season that far exceeded expectations. It could have been ever better.

### **What's Next**

The season is over, so nothing is "Next".

Check back next week for the last article of the season, including a Season Wrap-Up, Final Grades, and a Look Ahead.

Go Blue!