

## **Nothing But 'Net – Week #02 – 11/05/2018 – The (Yawn) Exhibition Game**

The (#19) University of Michigan men's basketball team played their first and only exhibition game [on Friday \(11/02/2018\) in Crisler Arena, and they pounded poor Northwood University 90-58](#). Since it was only an exhibition game, Michigan's record is still 0-0.

I enjoyed Question & Answer Time so much last week, I'm going to do it again. If you have any questions you'd like me to answer, send them to [dmontag@umgoblue.com](mailto:dmontag@umgoblue.com).

Q: So, what happened?

A: Michigan trounced an overmatched opponent in what was realistically a controlled scrimmage/dunk practice. I get it: an exhibition game is a good way to work out some of the kinks, give the new guys a chance to get rid of the "first game jitters", and for [Coach Beilein](#) to try some different lineup combinations in a "can't lose" situation, but it's hard to get excited about an exhibition game, and it's hard to learn anything about the team from it.

Q: How did the game go?

A: About what you'd expect from a game against a 6<sup>th</sup> place GLIAC team: Michigan overpowered them and won on sheer athletic ability, not with any finesse or style. UM raced out to a 19-10 lead at the 12:14 mark in the 1<sup>st</sup> half, and kept the lead in the 10-15 point range for the rest of the half. It was 41-26 at halftime. Early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, Michigan pushed the lead up over 20 points, and that was the game. The lead got as high as 35 points (86-51) before the final 32-point margin.

Q: Who were the starters?

A: The starters were: [Ignas Brazdeikis](#), [Charles Matthews](#), [Jordan Poole](#), [Zavier Simpson](#), and [Jon Teske](#). The only surprise here was Iggy starting instead of [Isaiah Livers](#), who started most of the games last season. Livers was the first player off the bench. We'll see if this is the starting lineup for the real games.

Q: Who were the "mainstream" subs?

A: The subs who played in the "real" part of the game (not "garbage time") were: [Eli Brooks](#), [Austin Davis](#), [David DeJulius](#), [Brandon Johns, Jr.](#), and Livers.

Q: Who played in "garbage time"?

A: With the game a runaway/blowout, Coach Beilein emptied his bench in the last 4 minutes, so everyone played: [C.J. Baird](#), [Colin Castleton](#), [Adrien Nuñez](#), and [Luke Wilson](#).

Q: Who looked good?

A: That's a tough one. Six players scored in double figures, with Matthews as the leading scorer with 15 points, but nobody really looked "good". Among the starters, Simpson (5-for-5), Teske (4-for-5), and Iggy (6-for-9) were the most efficient, but their made baskets were mostly dunks and layups. The other 2 starters (Matthews and Poole) didn't shoot very well (5-for-12 each), and scored most of their points at the rim. No one made more than one 3-pointer, even though Poole hoisted up 4 of them. Teske did try, and make, a 3-pointer!

For the mainstream subs, Brooks (2-for-2), Davis (1-for-1), and Johns (1-for-1) were certainly efficient, but didn't shoot much. Livers shot a lot, but not very efficiently (5-for-9) for 10 points. Brooks was definitely the most improved player from last season.

For the scrubs, Baird (1-for-1) hit a 3-pointer, and Castleton (1-for-2) had a nice putback offensive rebound.

Q: Who looked not-so-good?

A: That's also a tough one. No one looked bad, but a couple players never got a chance to do anything interesting: Nuñez and Wilson.

Q: How were the [team stats](#)?

A: Deceptive. Overall, UM shot a good percentage (37-for-62 = 59.7%), but most of the made baskets were dunks or layups. The 3-point shooting (5-for-14 = 35.7%) was shaky, and the mid-range shooting was just as bad. One of the biggest weaknesses last season, free throw shooting, was a minor problem in this game: 11-for-16 = 68.8%. That's not bad, but it's not very good either. As expected, Michigan won the rebounding battle easily (41-28), but it was surprising that they barely won the turnover battle (15-19). 15 turnovers is not very good, but it's understandable in a sloppy exhibition game.

Q: What are the areas of concern?

A: Outside shooting, turnovers, and defensive rebounding. Michigan missed their first nine 3-point attempts, and just about every shot from more than 5 feet out, and they allowed a much smaller Northwood team to get 12 offensive rebounds, leading to 12 second-chance points. I'm assuming that the coaches will get this cleaned up.

Q: What did we learn?

A: We learned that exhibition games can be boring, and that they don't tell us much. We did get a rough idea of which of the freshmen are college-ready (Iggy and Johns) and which ones need more work (the other three).

Q: What's next?

A: Michigan plays two games this week: the first regular season game is this Tuesday (11/06/2018, 8:30 p.m., BTN) vs. [Norfolk State](#) in Crisler Arena, and they play again on Saturday (11/10/2018, 7:30 p.m., BTN+) vs. [Holy Cross](#), also in Crisler. These are games that Michigan should win easily.

Both of these games are the "Campus Round" of [the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall Of Fame Tip-Off Tournament](#). The four main teams in the "Naismith Bracket" (Michigan, George Washington, Providence, and South Carolina) all play 2 "Campus Round" games against teams in the "Springfield Bracket" on their home courts, but they all advance to the "Naismith Bracket" in Uncasville, Connecticut (where?) on 11/17 and 11/18. The four smaller teams (Norfolk State, Holy Cross, Stony Brook, and Siena) also play in Uncasville in their own bracket on 11/16 – 11/18.

That's it for this week. Come on down to Crisler on Tuesday and Saturday for the games, and drop by Sections 209/210 to say hi.

Go Blue!