

Nothing But 'Net – Week #09 – 12/23/2019 – A Holiday Cupcake

The (#14) University of Michigan men's basketball team played one game this week, and they won it. [On Saturday \(12/21/2019\), they beat Presbyterian College 86-44](#) in Crisler Arena. The win raises Michigan's record to 9-3 (1-1 in the Big Ten).

What Happened?

This was a classic holiday "cupcake". Presbyterian was overmatched, and they never really stood a chance. Michigan raced out to a quick 13-point lead (17-4) in the first 8 minutes, and never looked back. They led by 23 at halftime (38-15), pushed the lead into the 30's and 40's in the 2nd half, and won by 42 points. It was an easy, stress-free game, and every healthy UM player got to play a decent amount.

Stats

The stats for the game are good, even after they got dragged down a little by extended "garbage time". Michigan shot well overall (28-for-53 = 52.8%), they shot 3-pointers well (11-for-27 = 40.7%), and they shot free throws well (19-for-25 = 76.0%). They won the rebounding battle handily (44-30), and they won the turnover battle (10-13). Without the five 3-pointers that the scrubs hoisted up in "garbage time", Michigan shot 50% (11-for-22) from 3-point range.

Who Started?

The starters were [Eli Brooks](#), [Isaiah Livers](#), [Zavier Simpson](#), [Jon Teske](#), and [Franz Wagner](#). However, Livers suffered an injury at the 16:54 mark in the 1st half, and he didn't return.

Who Looked Good?

Brooks was the leading scorer, with 16 points, including 3-for-5 from 3-point range.

Teske scored 15 points, on very efficient shooting (6-for-9). He also had 7 rebounds.

[David DeJulius](#) was the only other Michigan player in double figures, with 12 points, all 3-pointers. He shot 4-for-7 from 3-point range.

Simpson didn't quite hit double figures (9 points), but he did have 9 assists and 5 rebounds.

[Cole Bajema](#) had his best game so far, with a career-high 9 points.

[Austin Davis](#) played 17 minutes, and looked solid out there. He scored 7 points, had (team-high) 8 rebounds, 3 blocked shots, and only 1 foul.

[Colin Castleton](#) played 22 minutes, and did a decent job. He scored 6 points and had 7 rebounds.

Who Looked Not-So-Good?

Wagner hit his first shot, a 3-pointer, in the first minute of the game, and didn't score again.

[Adrien Nuñez](#) came in when Livers went out, and he didn't do much besides foul. He did score 5 points, but he also had 5 fouls.

Who Else Played?

[C.J. Baird](#), [Jaron Faulds](#), [Rico Ozuna-Harrison](#), and [Luke Wilson](#) all played at least 3 minutes, and Baird even scored 2 points.

Who Didn't Play?

[Brandon Johns, Jr.](#) was ill, and didn't play.

As mentioned above, Livers only played 3 minutes before he got hurt.

What Does It Mean?

This was a meaningless game. Michigan was heavily favored to win, and they did the job. It's hard to learn anything from a game against such an overmatched opponent.

What's Next?

This week, Michigan only plays one game, in Crisler Arena. On Sunday (12/29/2019, 2:00 p.m., FS1), they play [UMass-Lowell](#).

UMass-Lowell is another cupcake, although they are a notch better than Presbyterian. Still, Michigan will be heavily favored, and should win by 20-30 points. UML is currently 6-7, with no significant wins, and a few embarrassing losses (Jacksonville, Merrimack, Dartmouth, and Sacred Heart). They have no height (no one over 6'7"), and no real stars.

Check back next week to see how Michigan did.

Go Blue!