

Nothing But 'Net – Week #22 – 03/10/2025 – A Miserable End To The Regular Season

The (#17) University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games this past week, and they lost both of them. [On Wednesday \(03/05/2025\), they lost to \(#13\) Maryland 71-65](#) in Crisler Arena, and [on Sunday \(03/09/2025\), they lost at \(#8\) Michigan State 79-62](#). Michigan's record is now 22-9 (14-6 in Big Ten).

What Happened?

Going into March, Michigan still controlled their destiny in the Big Ten race. They were 22-6 overall, and 14-3 in the Big Ten. If they won their final three games, they would be outright Big Ten champions. If they won two out of three, they would tie for 1st place. What did they do? They lost all three games, and none of them were very close. It was a miserable end to the regular season.

Game Flow

The Maryland game was close in the early going. Maryland started with a small lead (7-4) at the 14:17 mark, but Michigan went on a 10-0 run to go up 14-7 with 11:26 to go. That was the high point for Michigan. Maryland went on a quick 9-0 run to go back ahead (16-14) with 8:24 left, and they never trailed again. They finished the half on a 17-8 run to lead by 11 points (33-22) at halftime. The 2nd half wasn't much better. Maryland kept their lead in the 9-11 point range for the first 6 minutes of the half. They still led by 9 points (44-35) at the 13:46 mark, when Michigan made a small run at them. Michigan got within 5 points (44-39) with 13:11 to go, and the crowd woke up. It didn't do much good. Maryland promptly pushed the lead back up to 11 points (50-39) with 12:14 left. Michigan made a couple other runs at Maryland's lead, and actually got within 2 points a couple times (54-52 and 59-57), but Maryland held them off down the stretch, winning by 6 points. With 6:51 to go, Michigan was within 2 points (59-57), then they fell apart. They shot 1-for-6 on 2-point shots, 2-for-5 on 3-point shots, 0-for-3 on free throws, and committed 4 turnovers and 5 fouls.

The MSU game was miserable from start to finish. Michigan led exactly once: 3-2 at the 18:04 mark. That was it. MSU pulled out to a 20-6 lead with 12:21 to go, and Michigan was done. They occasionally got within 10 points, but MSU was usually ahead by 15-20 points. They were ahead by 22 points (50-28) at halftime, and they kept the lead in the 18-20 point range for most of the 2nd half. Michigan got as close as 11 points (61-50) with 9:23 to go, but MSU pushed it back up to 15 points and kept it there the rest of the way.

Stats

[The stats for the Maryland game](#) were pretty weak. Michigan shot poorly overall (27-for-62 = 43.5%), they shot 3-pointers decently (7-for-20 = 35.0%), and they shot free throws poorly (4-for-7 = 57.1%). They won the rebounding battle (39-37), but lost the turnover battle badly (16-8). They lost this game with mediocre shooting and poor rebounding.

[The stats for the Michigan State game](#) were miserable. Michigan shot poorly overall (19-for-52 = 36.5%), they shot 3-pointers terribly (3-for-24 = 12.5%), and they shot free throws decently (21-for-29 = 72.4%). They lost the rebounding battle (39-30), and tied in the turnover battle (15-15). They lost this game with terrible shooting and rebounding.

Who Started?

The starters for the Maryland game were [Nimari Burnett](#), [Tre Donaldson](#), [Roddy Gayle Jr.](#), [Vladislav Goldin](#), and [Danny Wolf](#). [Rubin Jones](#) replaced Gayle in the starting lineup for the MSU game.

Who Looked Good?

Goldin was great in both games, with 20 and 29 points. He had 15 rebounds vs. Maryland, for a double-double. He more than did his part.

Wolf hit double figures in both games, with 20 and 18 points, but had too many turnovers in both games (5 and 3), and he shot poorly vs. MSU: 5-for-15 overall, 1-for-4 from deep.

Donaldson had one decent game (10 points vs. Maryland) and one lousy game (2 points vs. MSU).

Burnett had one decent game (8 points vs. Maryland) and one mediocre game (5 points vs. MSU).

Who Looked Not-So-Good?

Gayle was worthless this week, with 2 points vs. Maryland and 1 point vs. MSU.

Jones was worthless this week, with 0 points vs. Maryland and 3 points vs. MSU.

[Will Tschetter](#) was worthless this week, with 3 points vs. Maryland and 0 points vs. MSU.

Who Else Played?

[Justin Pippen](#) scored 0 and 2 points.

[L.J. Cason](#) scored 2 and 2 points.

[Phat Phat Brooks](#) played for 2 minutes in the MSU game, but didn't attempt a shot.

Who Didn't Play?

[Sam Walters](#) didn't play again this week. He's still recovering from a lower back injury.

[Jace Howard](#) was the other scholarship player who didn't play this week.

None of the Scout Team players played this week: [Ian Burns](#), [Howard Eisley Jr.](#), [Harrison Hochberg](#), and [Charlie May](#).

What Does It Mean?

The regular season is over, and it's a relief. After losing their last 3 games of the regular season, Michigan finished tied for 2nd place in the Big Ten with Maryland. Since Maryland beat Michigan in their only head-to-head matchup, Maryland gets the #2 seed in the [Big Ten Tournament](#), and Michigan gets the #3 seed. MSU won the Big Ten title outright, so they are the #1 seed. Three teams tied for 4th place (Wisconsin, UCLA, and Purdue), and UCLA won the tiebreakers for the #4 seed. The complete [bracket for the tournament is here](#).

At this point, Michigan is probably looking at a #5 seed in the NCAA Tournament. They can improve on that with a deep run in the Big Ten Tournament.

What's Next?

This week, Michigan plays in the Big Ten Tournament, in Indianapolis. They start play on Friday (03/14/2025, 9:00 p.m., BTN) vs. the winner of the game between the #6 seed (Purdue) and the winner of the game between the #14 seed (USC) and the #11 seed (Rutgers). For reference, Michigan beat both USC and Rutgers, but they split with Purdue.

If Michigan wins their game on Friday, they play again on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. on CBS vs. the winner of the game between the #2 seed (Maryland) and the winner of the #7 seed

(Illinois) and the winner of the game between the #15 seed (Iowa) and the #10 seed (Ohio State).

If Michigan makes it to the Championship game on Sunday, it's at 3:30 p.m. on CBS.

Check back next week to find out what happened and why.

Go Blue!