

Nothing But 'Net – Week #06 – 11/17/2025 – Welcome To Cliffhanger U

The (#6) University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games this past week, and they won both of them. [On Tuesday \(11/11/2025\), they beat Wake Forest 85-84](#) in overtime in Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, then [on Friday \(11/14/2025\), they won at Texas Christian \(TCU\) 67-63](#). Michigan's record improves to 3-0.

Note: Remember in last week's article where I said that Michigan only played one game this week? Wrong. I completely blanked out on the TCU game, no excuses. I'll try to do better.

What Happened?

Welcome to Cliffhanger U! Not only did the last couple basketball games come down to the final seconds, but so did the last couple football games (21-16 over Purdue and 24-22 over Northwestern). In fact, including the two exhibition games, the Michigan basketball team has had four cliffhangers (an exhibition loss to Cincinnati, an exhibition win over St. John's, and the two games this past week) and one blowout (the regular season opener over Oakland).

Considering that Michigan was a 10.5 point favorite vs. WFU and a 6.5 point favorite vs. TCU, both of the basketball games were a lot closer than they should have been. Just like the football team vs. Northwestern, the basketball team kept both games too close with turnovers. In both sports, it's frustrating to watch Michigan outplay an opponent, but struggle to pull away due to turnovers.

Enough football, back to just basketball.

Game Flow

Against Oakland last week, Michigan led from wire to wire. Not in the games this week. In the Wake Forest game, Michigan built up an early 7-2 lead at the 18:11 mark, then they went to sleep. WFU ripped off a 9-0 run over the next 2 minutes, and led 11-7 with 16:08 left in the half. The lead went back and forth for the next 11 minutes, and Michigan was up 29-26 at the 5:00 mark. They pushed the lead up to 10 points (38-28) with 2:27 to go, then 13 points (47-34) at halftime. Things looked to be under control.

The 2nd half of the WFU game was a slow-motion disaster. Michigan managed to keep their lead in the 11-13 point range for the first 4 minutes, and still led by 13 (53-40) at the 16:08 mark. That's when the wheels started to come off. WFU went on a quick 13-3 run, and cut the lead down to 3 points (56-53) with 13:15 to go. Michigan managed to keep the lead between 4-6 points for a while, but WFU finally tied the game up (64-64) at the 8:45 mark. WFU finally went ahead (67-66) 25 seconds later, and pushed their lead up to 7 points (77-70) with 4:53 left. That woke Michigan up, and they went on an 8-0 run over the next 4 minutes, to lead 78-77 at the 1:14 mark. WFU hit a 3-pointer with 54 seconds left, Michigan made a layup with 36 seconds left, and that made it a tie game (80-80) at the end of regulation. On to overtime.

Michigan never trailed in overtime. They led 82-80 at the 4:43 mark, the game was tied up 82-82 at the 4:26 mark, Michigan led 84-82 at the 3:39 mark, the game was tied up 84-84 at the 1:54 mark, and Michigan scored the winning free throw with 13 seconds left. WFU missed a runner at the buzzer.

The TCU game was also close and tense. Michigan led 3-0 and 4-3, then TCU led for the next 12 minutes, by as many as 8 points. Michigan finally caught up and led briefly (23-21) at the 4:47 mark. That lead didn't last long. TCU went back ahead for the rest of the half, although Michigan stayed close. UM made a layup with 1 second left in the half to pull within 2 points (35-33) at halftime.

The 2nd half of the TCU game was more of the same. TCU led for the first 14 minutes, but they couldn't pull away. Michigan managed to tie the game up a couple times (35-35, 49-49,

and 51-51) before they finally regained the lead (52-51) at the 6:24 mark. Once they got the lead back, they never trailed again. They pushed the lead as high as 7 points (61-54) with 2:19 left, and held off TCU for the 4-point victory.

Stats

The [stats for the Wake Forest game](#) were unimpressive. Michigan shot decently overall (28-for-62 = 45.2%), they shot 3-pointers terribly (4-for-25 = 16.0%), and they shot free throws just so-so (25-for-37 = 67.6%). They won the rebounding battle handily (50-43), but they lost the turnover battle (17-13). They won this game at the free throw line and with superior rebounding, but they almost lost it with lousy 3-point shooting and turnovers.

The [stats for the TCU game](#) were slightly better. Michigan shot decently overall (23-for-53 = 43.4%), they shot 3-points decently (5-for-16 = 31.3%), and they shot free throws pretty well (16-for-20 = 80.0%). They won the rebounding battle decisively (44-23), but lost the turnover battle badly (22-11). They won this game with decent shooting and great rebounding, but they almost lost it with WAY TOO MANY turnovers.

Who Started?

The starters for both games were [Nimari Burnett](#), [Elliot Cadeau](#), [Morez Johnson Jr.](#), [Yaxel Lendeborg](#), and [Aday Mara](#).

Who Looked Good?

Johnson was the most consistent player this week, with double figures (10 points) in both games. He also had 8 and 12 rebounds, giving him a solid double-double vs. TCU.

[Roddy Gayle Jr.](#) was the only other Michigan player to hit double figures in both games, with 13 and 10 points off the bench. He's turning out to be a valuable "6th man".

Lendeborg had one good game and one decent game. He was the leading scorer for Michigan vs. TCU, with 14 points, and he almost hit double figures vs. WFU, with 9 points. He had 10 rebounds vs. TCU, for a double-double.

[Trey McKenney](#) came off the bench and had one good game and one decent game. He was the 2nd leading scorer for Michigan vs. TCU, with 11 points, and he almost hit double figures vs. WFU, with 8 points.

Mara had one good game and one mediocre game. He was the star of the WFU game, with a team-high 18 points, 14 rebounds, 6 assists, and 5 blocked shots. He shot very well: 8-for-11 overall. He was much less effective vs. TCU, with only 6 points and 6 rebounds.

Cadeau also had one good game and one mediocre game. He had 17 points, 8 rebounds, and 7 assists in the WFU game, but only 3 points vs. TCU.

[L.J. Cason](#) had two decent games, with 8 and 5 points off the bench.

Who Looked Not-So-Good?

Burnett had one decent game (8 points vs. TCU) and one lousy game (2 points vs. WFU). As a starter and returning veteran, much more is expected from him.

[Will Tschetter](#) had a terrible week, with 0 points in both games. He can do much better than that.

Who Else Played?

No one else played.

Who Didn't Play?

[Winters Grady](#) sat out both games with an injured foot. He is listed as "day to day", and should be available soon.

The uninjured scholarship players who didn't play this week were: [Oscar Goodman](#), [Malick Kordel](#), and [Ricky Liburd](#).

The Scout Team players who didn't play this week were: [Howard Eisley Jr.](#), [Harrison Hochberg](#), and [Charlie May](#).

What Does It Mean?

These were two important wins for Michigan. Sure, they were favored to win both games, and sure, they struggled to put the games away, but they were still wins over power conference opponents, away from Crisler Arena. Come March, these results will look good on Michigan's postseason resume.

This Week

This week, Michigan only plays one game (yes, I double checked this time). On Wednesday (11/19/2025, 6:30 p.m., BTN), they play Middle Tennessee State in Crisler Arena.

[Middle Tennessee State](#) was 22-12 (12-6 in Conference-USA) last season. They lost in the 2nd round of their conference tournament, then lost in the 1st round of the NIT. They don't have any noteworthy players, but they do have some height: two 6'11" players. This is a game that Michigan should win relatively easily, which would be a welcome change after all the cliffhangers lately.

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

Go Blue!