Nothing But 'Net – Week #09 – 12/08/2025 – A Flying Start To Big Ten Play

The (#3) University of Michigan men's basketball team played one game this past week, and they won it. On Saturday (12/06/2025), they beat Rutgers 101-60 in Crisler Arena. Michigan's record improves to 8-0 (1-0 in Big Ten).

What Happened?

Talk about a flying start to league play: Michigan got an early lead, built it steadily, doubled Rutgers at halftime (50-25), and just kept going in the 2nd half. Almost everyone played, and almost everyone who played, played well. It was a smooth, confident, dominant victory over a team that's expected to finish in the middle of the Big Ten.

It was also the third game in a row (Auburn: 102, Gonzaga: 101, and Rutgers: 101) where Michigan scored at least 100 points. They haven't done that since 1989. To top it off, it was the fifth game in a row where Michigan has won by at least 25 points: MTSU: 86-61 (25 points), SDSU: 94-54 (40 points), Auburn: 102-72 (30 points), Gonzaga: 101-61 (40 points), and Rutgers: 101-60 (41 points). Michigan is definitely on a hot streak.

Game Flow

Rutgers actually led in this game, for 5 seconds. They were up 2-0 at the 19:05 mark, before Michigan tied it up 2-2 at the 19:00 mark. Michigan went ahead 4-2 with 17:37 to go, and Rutgers never tied or led again. The lead grew to 8 points (12-4), then 12 points (18-6), then 20 points (39-19). At that point, the game was essentially over. Rutgers stood no chance of coming back. They got their deficit down to 19 points (39-20), then Michigan pushed it over 20 points for the rest of the game. It was 25 points (50-25) at halftime.

The 2nd half was more of the same. Michigan pushed their lead up to 30 points (63-33) at the 15:38 mark, and kept it over 30 for most of the rest of the game. They made it 41 points (97-56) at the 4:00 mark, and kept it between 39-42 points the rest of the way, even with the Scout Team out there. It was a dominant victory.

Stats

The game stats were great. Michigan shot very well overall (39/65 = 60.0%), they shot 3-pointers very well (13/29 = 44.8%), and they shot free throws decently (10/15 = 66.7%). They won the rebounding battle handily (40-29) along with the turnover battle (11-16). Another big stat: Michigan had 8 blocked shots, Rutgers had 0. Michigan won this game with great shooting, solid rebounding, and low(ish) turnovers.

Who Started?

The starters were Nimari Burnett, Elliot Cadeau, Morez Johnson Jr., Yaxel Lendeborg, and Aday Mara.

Who Looked Good?

The star in this game was Johnson. Rutgers didn't have anyone who could guard him, and he feasted. He scored a game-high 22 points on excellent shooting: 9/11 overall, 2/2 from deep. That's right: after missing his first two 3-point attempts this season in earlier games, he nailed both attempts vs. Rutgers. He was awesome.

Lendeborg had another good game, with 14 points and 8 rebounds. He shot pretty well: 5/10 overall, 3/8 from deep.

Trey McKenney was the 3rd leading scorer for Michigan in this game, with 13 points off the bench, including a very nice alley-oop slam dunk.

Cadeau hit double figures, with 11 points, along with 9 assists.

Roddy Gayle Jr. had a nice game off the bench, with 11 points and 6 assists.

L.J. Cason had a very good game off the bench, with 11 points, on good shooting: 4/6 overall, 3/5 from deep.

Mara had a quiet game offensively, with only 4 points, but he was a terror on defense. He had 4 of Michigan's 8 blocked shots, and he made the Rutgers players alter or reconsider many other shots. He also had 11 rebounds.

Who Looked Not-So-Good?

Burnett had a quiet game, with only 5 points. He needs to be more of a scoring threat out there.

Will Tschetter didn't do much off the bench, with 0 points on one shot attempt.

Who Else Played?

Since the game was a blowout, some of the non-mainstream players got to play more than usual.

Oscar Goodman played for 8 minutes, and scored 2 points on another nice dunk.

Winters Grady also played for 8 minutes, and he was 2/2 from deep, for 6 points. He also got into a minor shoving match with a Rutgers player after his 2nd 3-pointer. He didn't start it, but he reacted, so they each got a technical foul.

Malick Kordel played for 4+ minutes, and scored 2 more points on a nice layup.

Howard Eisley Jr. got to play for the first time this season, for 2 minutes. He missed his only shot attempt, a 3-pointer.

Who Didn't Play?

The only scholarship player who didn't play was Ricky Liburd.

The Scout Team players who didn't play were: Harrison Hochberg and Charlie May.

What Does It Mean?

It's great that Michigan started the Big Ten season with a convincing win. Half of the teams started with a loss. This win will look pretty good on Michigan's NCAA Tournament resume, but it won't be a big factor. The biggest impact of this result is that it keeps Michigan undefeated, which should help them move up to #2, or even #1, in the upcoming AP Poll. The current #1 team, Purdue, lost by 23 points at home to (#10) Iowa State, so there's room at the top.

This Week

This week, Michigan plays two games. On Tuesday (12/09/2025, 6:30 p.m., FS1), they play Villanova in Crisler Arena, then on Saturday (12/13/2025, 8:00 p.m., FOX), they play at Maryland.

Villanova is currently 7-1, with no significant wins and a blowout loss to (#8) BYU in their opener. They don't have any noteworthy players, but they do have some height: a 6'10" guy, a 7-footer, and a 7'1" guy. Even though they are not ranked, they are a blue-blood program from a major conference, and they will be out to upset Michigan on the road. This will be a

good test of Michigan's current hot streak. Michigan should win, but they'll have to stay focused.

Maryland is currently 6-4 (0-1 in Big Ten), with no impressive wins, and unimpressive losses to Georgetown and Iowa. They actually have a common opponent with Michigan this season: they also played in the Players Era Festival, and they were crushed by (#12) Gonzaga 100-61, right before Michigan crushed Gonzaga 101-61. So, Michigan should beat Maryland by about 80 points, right? Sorry, it doesn't work like that. Anyway, they don't have any noteworthy players, and they don't have much height: only one 6'10" guy, and he's a lightly-used freshman. So, Michigan will have a huge height advantage. They should be able to beat Maryland, even on the road, as long as they play like they've done for the last 5 games.

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

Go Blue!