

Nothing But 'Net – Week #16 – 01/26/2026 – Two Very Different Wins

The (#3) University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games this past week, and they won both of them. [On Tuesday \(01/20/2026\), they beat Indiana 86-72](#), then [on Friday \(01/23/2026\), they beat Ohio State 74-62](#). Both games were in Crisler Arena. Michigan's record improves to 18-1 (8-1 in Big Ten).

What Happened?

On the surface, these two wins look pretty similar: victories over two middle-of-the-pack Big Ten teams by similar margins (14 and 12 points). But, looks can be deceiving: in the Indiana game, Michigan led wire-to-wire, and could have won by 25 points if they had needed to, trading points for time off the clock at the end to get the game over with. On the other hand, OSU led for much of the game, with Michigan coming back in the last 8:00 to tie the game and go ahead for good, winning going away. The IU game should have been a 25-point win, and the OSU game should have been an 8-point win.

Still, these are two important wins against quality opponents, regardless of the game flow.

As a side note, I'd like to thank OSU reserve guard Colin White for his fine "bulletin board" material before the game: "We hate Michigan, so we're coming out for blood. We're going up there to win -- and we're going to have fun doing it." It certainly got the crowd fired up; they gave White the reception he deserved. Then, he backed it up with a big 2 points on 1/2 shooting. Nice job, Colin!

Game Flow

As I mentioned above, Michigan led IU for the entire game. Michigan started the game playing ferocious defense, and they were up 9-0 at the 14:43 mark. A few seconds later, with 14:29 left, IU finally scored. Yes, they went the first 5:31 of the game without a point. In that time, they went 0/6 from 3-point range, 0/2 from 2-point range, and committed 2 turnovers. Nice start. Michigan got the lead up to 10 points (14-4) at the 12:45 mark, and as high as 17 points (22-5) with 9:55 left. They let IU creep back within 8 points (31-23) at the 5:12 mark, but pushed the back up to 11 points (40-29) at halftime.

The 2nd half was more of the same. Michigan finally got the lead up to 20 points (57-37) at the 14:19 mark, and 25 points (66-41) with 10:45 left. At this point, the game was over. Michigan kept the lead in the 19-21 point range for the next few minutes, then in the 15-17 point range for the rest of the game, winning by 14 points.

The OSU game started with a bang. Michigan won the tip, and 2 quick passes led to a thunderous dunk for a 2-0 lead just 7 seconds in. It really got the crowd going. The early going was a seesaw battle, with the lead going back and forth. The game was tied (14-14) at the 11:03 mark, when OSU hit back-to-back 3-pointers to go up by 6 points (20-14). They led for the next 7 minutes, but never by more than 6 points. Michigan finally tied it up again (26-26) at the 3:47 mark, and managed to squeak out a 3-point lead at halftime, 33-30.

That 3-point halftime lead didn't last long. OSU tied it up (34-34) at the 18:56 mark, then hit back-to-back 3-pointers again, to go up 40-34 with 17:40 left. Once again, Michigan crept back, and tied it up (40-40) at the 16:09 mark. The lead went back and forth again, with OSU up 48-47 with 10:45 to go. That was their last lead. Michigan tied it up 48-48, then went ahead 50-48. OSU tied it up one last time (50-50) at the 8:50 mark, and that's when Michigan finally got going. They went ahead, and pushed their lead up to 15 points (71-56) at the 3:17 mark, coasting to a 12-point win.

Stats

[The stats for the Indiana game](#) were pretty good. Michigan shot well overall (27/53 = 50.9%), they shot 3-pointers well (10/25 = 40.0%), but they didn't shoot free throws very

well ($22/33 = 66.7\%$). They won the rebounding battle decisively (41-25), but they lost the turnover battle (13-10). They won this game with good shooting and great rebounding.

[The stats for the Ohio State game](#) were just OK. Michigan shot well overall ($27/52 = 51.9\%$), they shot 3-pointers poorly ($5/23 = 21.7\%$), and they shot free throws poorly ($15/25 = 60.0\%$). They won the rebounding battle (36-27), but they lost the turnover battle (14-13). They won this game with good overall shooting and good rebounding. They almost lost it with too many turnovers and poor free throw shooting.

Who Started?

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

Who Looked Good?

Lendeborg was the most consistent player this week, with 15 and 18 points. He also had 7 and 9 rebounds, and 4 assists in each game.

Mara also had a good week, with 13 and 11 points. He also had 3 and 4 blocked shots.

Johnson had one pretty good game (9 points vs. IU) and one good game (12 points vs. OSU).

Cadeau had one very good game (19 points vs. IU, team high) and one decent game (6 points vs. OSU). Even though he only had 6 points in the OSU game, they were very important points: back-to-back 3-pointers during Michigan's big run to close out the game.

Burnett had one decent game (9 points vs. IU) and one mediocre game (4 points vs. OSU).

[Trey McKenney](#) did a great job off the bench, with double figures in both games: 10 and 12 points. He isn't playing like a freshman, he's playing like a seasoned veteran. He's in there as much for his defense as his offense.

[Roddy Gayle Jr.](#) chipped in 2 and 5 points off the bench.

[Will Tschetter](#) chipped in 7 and 0 points off the bench.

[L.J. Cason](#) chipped in 2 and 6 points off the bench.

Who Looked Not-So-Good?

All the mainstream players looked good this week.

Who Else Played?

No one else played.

Who Didn't Play?

The scholarship players who didn't play were: [Oscar Goodman](#), [Winters Grady](#), and [Malick Kordel](#).

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

What Does It Mean?

These were two more important wins for Michigan. They keep Michigan in the title hunt, and they help Michigan hold onto their #3 ranking in the AP Poll. They also help Michigan's confidence heading into the most crucial week of the regular season.

This Week

This week, Michigan plays two huge games. On Tuesday (01/27/2026, 7:00 p.m., Peacock), they play (#7) Nebraska in Crisler Arena, then on Friday (01/30/2026, 8:00 p.m., FOX), they play at (#10) Michigan State.

[Nebraska](#) is currently 20-0 (9-0 in Big Ten), with impressive wins over Oklahoma, (#13) Illinois, and (#9) Michigan State, and no losses. They are one of only three teams left that are undefeated. They have been the biggest surprise so far this season. They haven't been tested very much, but they have passed all their tests so far. They have a couple noteworthy players (Pryce Sandfort and Rienk Mast), and they have plenty of height: two 6'10" players (one of them is Mast), a 6'11" player, and a 7'2" player. This will easily be Michigan's most challenging game to date. Nebraska is very good, much better than any preseason predictions, and they're on a roll. They're going to be trying to hang onto 1st place in the Big Ten and their Top 10 AP ranking. This is probably their best team ever, and they're trying to make history. Can Michigan beat them? Sure, but they need to play like they did in Las Vegas for the Players Era Festival. The way they played since the USC game in early January won't cut vs. Nebraska.

[Michigan State](#) is currently 18-2 (8-1 in Big Ten), with impressive wins over Kentucky and North Carolina, and understandable losses to (#4) Duke and (#13) Nebraska. MSU has only played against two ranked opponents, and they lost both games. They have several noteworthy players (Jaxon Kohler, Jeremy Fears Jr., Carson Cooper, and Coen Carr), and they have some height: one 6'10" player (Kohler) and two 6'11" players (one is Cooper). This game is just as challenging, and just as important, as the Nebraska game. Can Michigan beat them in Breslin? Yes, but it's going to take a nearly flawless performance.

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

Go Blue!