Nothing But 'Net – Week #07 – 11/16/2026 – Back On Track

The (#20) University of Michigan men's basketball team played two games this past week, and they won both of them. On Wednesday (11/11/2026), they beat Marquette 84-70, then on Sunday (11/15/2026), they beat William & Mary 123-79. Both games were in Crisler Arena. Michigan's record is now 3-1.

What Happened?

After a couple shaky games two weeks ago (a closer-than-expected win over Oakland and an uninspiring loss to Connecticut), Michigan got back on track this past week with a solid win over Marquette and a thrashing of William & Mary. Michigan looked a lot more cohesive in these games, with a little bit of chemistry starting to emerge.

The Marquette game was somewhat of a "toss up", and Michigan had to play pretty well to win it. The William & Mary game was not expected to be too much of a challenge, and Michigan eventually turned it into a blowout, although it took a while to get there.

Game Flow

The first few minutes of the MU game were close and exciting, with a couple ties and lead changes. Michigan had a 2-point lead (13-11) at the 11:03 mark, when MU went on an 11-2 run, to go on top, 22-15. Michigan countered with a 13-0 run of their own, to go back on top, 28-22, with 5:17 to go in the half. Michigan kept the lead in the 4-6 point range for the rest of the half, leading by 8 points (35-27) at halftime. Michigan came out of halftime on fire, and they quickly pushed their lead up over 10 points, and kept it in the 13-15 point range for a while. At the 12:19 mark, they finally got the lead over 20 points (57-36), but MU wasn't done. They fought back, and got their deficit down to 9 points (60-51) with 7:14 to go. Fortunately, that was as close as they got. Michigan pushed their lead back into the 12-14 point range, and MU got it back down to 9 points a couple more times, but they never got closer than that. With 2:17 to go, MU was within 9 points again (73-64), but Michigan closed out the game with an 11-6 run, to win by 14 points.

Even though Michigan eventually beat William & Mary by 44 points, the entire 1st half was close and competitive. W&M presses a lot, and they want to play at a frantic pace. It took a couple minutes for Michigan to adjust to that kind of game. There were lots of turnovers and steals, lots of loose balls, and lots of fast breaks and 3-pointers. It was chaos out there.

W&M actually led, 2-1, at the 19:14 mark, and they tied the game (12-12) with 15:44 to go. Other than that, Michigan led the rest of the game, but they had a hard time pulling away from W&M in the first 20 minutes. Michigan got a 10-point lead (31-21) at the 10:23 mark, but W&M hung around, and got back within 3 points a couple times. Michigan led by just 5 points (48-43) at halftime. The 2nd half was all Michigan. They quickly pushed the lead back up to 10 points (57-47) with 18:22 to go, then kept the lead in the 15-17 point range for quite a while. They finally got the lead up to 20 points (80-60) at the 11:36 mark, and 30 points (100-70) with 5:59 to go. At this point, both teams were just running up and down the floor, firing up 3-pointers. Michigan put in some lesser-used subs, and when the dust settled, they won by 44 points.

A few school records that Michigan set in the W&M game:

- Most points in a half: 75 points in the 2nd half
- Most players in double figures: 8 players
- 4th highest point total in history: 123 points

Stats

The stats for the Marquette game were pretty good:

- Overall shooting - 32/62 = 51.6% (Good)
- 3-point shooting - 11/26 = 42.3% (Very good)
- Free throws - 9/15 = 60.0% (Poor)
- Rebounds - Michigan won 45-33
- Turnovers - Michigan lost 15-12

Michigan won this game with good shooting and rebounding.

The stats for the William & Mary game were also pretty good:

- Overall shooting - 43/89 = 48.3% (Good)
- 3-point shooting - 14/40 = 35.0% (Good)
- Free throws - 23/27 = 85.2% (Very good)
- Rebounds - Michigan won 57-34
- Turnovers - Michigan won 12-24

Michigan won this game with good shooting and excellent rebounding. 57 rebounds! Wow!

Who Started?

The starters for both games were Elliot Cadeau, J.P. Estrella, Roddy Gayle Jr., Trey McKenney, and Moustapha Thiam.

Who Looked Good?

Estrella was the leading scorer for Michigan vs. MU, with 18 points, and he was the 2nd leading scorer in the W&M game, with 15 points. He also had 8 and 7 rebounds. He is so solid and steady out there.

Cadeau was the 2nd leading scorer in the MU game, with 17 points, and he scored 11 points vs. W&M. Equally important, he had 10 and 11 assists, for two double-doubles this week.

McKenney scored 15 and 14 points, along with 5 and 5 rebounds, and 4 and 5 assists. He did a little bit of everything.

Quinn Costello is turning into a very valuable "6th man" off the bench. He scored 15 and 16 points, including a bunch of 3-pointers.

Thiam didn't quite hit double figures in both games, with 9 and 16 points, but he chipped in 12 and 7 rebounds, and 3 and 4 blocked shots. He was a force out there.

Gayle had one decent game (7 points vs. MU) and one good game (13 points vs. W&M). He scored 9 of Michigan's first 12 points in the W&M game, including a pair of 3-pointers. He also had 4 and 8 rebounds.

Oscar Goodman came off the bench, and he had one quiet game (2 points vs. MU) and one good game (11 points vs. W&M). 11 points is his UM career high.

Kenny Noland came off the bench, and he had one quiet game (1 point vs. MU) and one good game (11 points vs. W&M). 11 points is his UM career high.

Jalen Reed didn't play in the MU game, and he came off the bench in the W&M game. He had a nice game: 6 points (on 3/3 shooting) and 6 rebounds.

Who Looked Not-So-Good?

Ricky Liburd chipped in 0 and 5 points. He is wildly athletic, but he doesn't have great basketball instincts.

Who Else Played?

Malachi Brown didn't play in the MU game, but he came off the bench in the W&M game. He played for almost 4 minutes, and scored 2 points.

Harrison Hochberg didn't play in the MU game, but he came off the bench in the W&M game. He played for 2+ minutes, and he scored 3 points.

Marcus Møller didn't play in the MU game, but he came off the bench in the W&M game. He played for almost 4 minutes, and missed his only shot attempt.

Who Didn't Play?

Joseph Hartman is injured (shoulder), and will be out for "at least 2 weeks". That was 2 weeks ago; when will he return?

Howard Eisley Jr. was the only player on the Scout Team who didn't play this week.

What Does It Mean?

These were both important games, for different reasons. The MU game will look good on Michigan's tournament resume in March, and the W&M game gave a lot of players a chance to play significant minutes in a regular season game. It's too early to be thinking about Michigan's chances of making the Big Dance and how they'll do there, but it's never too early to get a solid win against a respected opponent.

This Week

This week, Michigan only plays one game. On Saturday (11/21/2026, 7:00 p.m., Fox), they play Villanova in Xfinity Mobile Arena, in Philadelphia.

Villanova is currently 3-1, with no impressive wins, and an unimpressive loss to Notre Dame. Last season, they were 24-9 (15-5 in Big East), with no impressive wins, and an unimpressive loss to Creighton. They lost in the 1st round of the Big East tournament, then in the 1st round of the NCAA Tournament. They don't have any noteworthy players, but they do have some height: a 6'10" player, a 7'1" player, and a 7'3" player. This should be a "toss up" game, especially on the road. It's technically a "neutral site" game, but it will definitely be a home game for Villanova. Michigan can beat Villanova, but they have to continue to improve. They looked better this past week than the previous weeks, which is encouraging.

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

Go Blue!