

AROUND THE BIG TEN • OPENING NIGHT

Monday, Nov. 3. Thirteen of 18 Big Ten teams opened at home and all 13 won. Purdue, Iowa and Oregon open Tuesday; Indiana and Rutgers on Wednesday.

Big Ten 13-0 Avg. margin 27.2 9 transfers scored 20+ 3 freshmen scored 20+ Michigan 121 No. 1 Purdue opens Tue

BIG TEN IN THE PRESEASON AP POLL • STILL TO OPEN

AP TOP 25			STILL TO OPEN		
1	PUR Purdue	opens Tue	Tue: PUR vs. EVAN	No. 1 at home	
7	M MICH Michigan	W 121-78	Tue: IOWA vs. Robert Morris	McCollum debut	
12	UCLA UCLA	W 80-74	Tue: ORE vs. Hawai'i	Altman yr 16	
17	ILL Illinois	W 113-55	Wed: IU vs. Alabama A&M	DeVries debut	
22	MSU Michigan State	W 80-69	Wed: RUTG vs. Rider	at home	
24	WIS Wisconsin	W 96-64			

TALKING POINTS

- **A clean opening night.** All 13 Big Ten teams that played won, by an average of 27.2. Only Penn State (trailed with 2:00 left) and UCLA (led by 6 in the final minute) were in real danger.
- **The portal showed up.** Transfers led eight of the 13 teams in scoring: Tyson 30, Tilly 26, M. Johnson 24, Cofie 23, Payne 21, Dent 21, Boyd 21, plus Rice and Ausar with 21 each at USC.
- **Freshmen too.** Frager (NEB) 22, Steinbach (WASH) 21 and McKenney (MICH) 21 scored 20+ in their debuts. Mirkovic (ILL) had 19-14, and Penn State's freshmen scored 53 of its 76.
- **Michigan set the bar.** 121 points (most since 1990), a program-record 69 in the first half, 19 threes (tied the record), 31 assists and seven double-figure scorers, which had never happened at Michigan.
- **Health and coaching.** Stojakovic, Lee (ILL), Rice (MD), Claude (WASH), Dailey (UCLA) and Omot (MINN) sat. Buzz Williams (MD) and Niko Medved (MINN) won their debuts; McCollum (IOWA) and DeVries (IU) debut this week.

 **OAK** Horizon

78

FINAL
8:30 PM ET • FS1

121

AP No. 7

 **MICH**

Program records: 121 in an opener, 69 in a half • next: WAKE 11/11 38-69 • 40-52

Michigan raised its 2025 Big Ten Tournament banner, then shot 64% (45-70) with a portal-built rotation. Seven players scored in double figures, a first in program history.

RECAP

Morez Johnson Jr. (Illinois transfer) took over the paint early: 20 of his career-high 24 came in the first half, on 10-11 shooting in 20 min. **Elliot Cadeau** ran the offense with a career-high 14 assists and 1 turnover.

STORYLINE

The Johnson, Mara (12-12, 5 blocks) and Lendeborg frontcourt combined for 48 points on 20-25 shooting. That size is the profile to watch against Wake Forest next week.

KEY DECISION

May spread the minutes: no one played more than 28, and all five starters were out for good by **7:02 of H2** (+43). The Gayle, Lendeborg, Mara, McKenney and Tschetter unit went **+15 in 3 min** (17-2). A **20-0 run** (15:46 to 11:44 of H1) broke the game open.

TEAM METRICS

MICH: 154.8 ORtg, 77.9 eFG%, **31 assists on 45 makes**. OAK made 11 of 26 threes but rebounded only 10.5% of its misses.

RARITY

121 points, Michigan's most since March 10, 1990 vs. Iowa (school notes). The **19 threes** tied the program record, and the 31 assists were its most in a game since at least 2004-05.

OFF-NORM

Michigan took **35 threes** (last season 24.7 per game) and had a 9.5 TOV% (16.8). Last year's turnover problem did not show up.

ROTATION

Freshman **Trey McKenney** scored 21 off the bench in his debut, 6-8 from three. Lendeborg (17.7 ppg at UAB) played 22 min and scored 12 on 5 FGA. L.J. Cason dressed but sat (right shoulder); Winters Grady (right foot, boot) was out.

 **JKST** SWAC

55

FINAL
8:30 PM ET • BTN

113

AP No. 17

 **ILL**

Largest win since Nov. 2024 • next: FGCU Fri 11/7 27-60 • 28-53

Illinois was without four guards, Stojakovic among them, and still led by 58. A 17-0 run in the first four minutes decided it.

RECAP

David Mirkovic (freshman, Montenegro) controlled the glass in his debut, with 19-14 on 7-10 shooting and 4 assists in 24 min. Fellow freshman **Keaton Wagler** added 18 (8-10 FT), and Tomislav Ivisic scored 21 on 12 FGA.

STORYLINE

The international frontcourt of Mirkovic, the Ivisic twins and Jakstys combined for 46 points and 36 rebounds.

KEY DECISION

Underwood kept his starters in deep: Boswell and T. Ivisic did not leave for good until **4:52 of H2**, up 50, and Wagler stayed until 3:00. Jackson State's three first-half timeouts came at -5, -24 and -28.

TEAM METRICS

ILL: 149.6 ORtg, 66.4 eFG%, 17-37 from three. JKST: 24.1% from three and 5 assists.

RARITY

The **58-point margin** matched Illinois' largest since Nov. 25, 2024 (92-34 vs. Little Rock).

OFF-NORM

21 offensive rebounds, a 61.8 OREB% (last season 35.2), and 17 threes (9.4).

ROTATION

Out: Stojakovic (knee sprain; sore after Saturday's practice), Brandon Lee (ankle, rolled at Sunday's practice), Petrovic (hamstring), Rodgers (knee). **Jake Davis** started and played 29 min (9.5 mpg and one start last season).

 **CAM** CAA

64

FINAL
8:00 PM ET • B1G+

96

AP No. 24

 **WIS**

Led 67-62 with 8:00 left, closed 29-2 • next: NIU Fri 11/7 38-48 • 26-48

Wisconsin opened in the AP Top 25 for the first time since 2020-21. It trailed by 5 early and led by only five inside the final 8 minutes.

RECAP

John Blackwell scored 31 on 10-19 with 6 threes, one shy of his career high. San Diego State transfer **Nick Boyd** added 21 (7-7 FT) in his debut; the backcourt combined for 52.

KEY DECISION

Gard kept his starters on for the finish. That five was **+22 in 8 min** (28-6) and stayed in until 1:40, through runs of **15-0** (7:32 to 3:36) and **14-0** (3:26 to the end). Campbell's timeout at 4:46 (-16) was followed by a 12-point swing the other way.

TEAM METRICS

WIS: 133.2 ORtg, 35.5 OREB% (24.5) and 11 steals. CAM: 24.0 TOV%.

RARITY

The **32-point margin** was Wisconsin's largest since Nov. 12, 2021 (72-34 vs. Green Bay). Boyd's 21 were the second-most by a Badger in his debut since at least 2000 (school notes).

OFF-NORM

31 points off turnovers (last season 11.7) and 46 paint points (30.9).

ROTATION

Gard used 13 players, but four starters played 28+ min. Portland transfer Austin Rapp scored 13 in 29 min; Virginia transfer Andrew Rohde had 3 steals.

 **EWU** Big Sky

74

FINAL
10:30 PM ET • BTN

80

AP No. 12

 **UCLA**

Cronin: "I'd like to fire myself for our defense" • next: PEPP 11/7 33-40 • 41-40

UCLA led by 15 early in the second half, then let Eastern Washington within 6 in the final minute. The Eagles shot a 60.2 eFG% and scored 38 paint points.

RECAP

Donovan Dent (New Mexico transfer) had 21 and 9 assists in his debut, and his fast-break basket with 30 seconds left sealed it. **Xavier Booker** (Michigan State transfer) went 6-7 for 14 in 30 min; he averaged 12.8 mpg last season.

KEY DECISION

Down 14 at **7:29 of H2**, Eastern Washington called timeout and won the rest of the game by 8. It was still an 8-point game when the Eagles used their last timeout at 0:59.

TEAM METRICS

EWU: 60.2 eFG%, 22 assists, 38 paint points. UCLA: 9.7 TOV% (12.9) and 19 from Tyler Bilodeau.

NEWS

Cronin said he "lost them with three easy exhibition games" and listed poor pick-and-roll and post defense and "lack of adherence to the scouting report."

OFF-NORM

UCLA's FTr was **8.6** (last season 23.5): six made free throws in a six-point game.

ROTATION

Eric Dailey Jr. (knee) sat. Skyy Clark started and went 4-12. Trent Perry played 26 min (11.4 last season) and scored 11.

 COLG Patriot	69	FINAL 7:00 PM ET · B1G+	80	AP No. 22	MSU 
Held off a Patriot League team · next: No. 14  ARK Sat 11/8					
Michigan State never led by more than 15 and won on the glass and at the line. Colgate made 11 threes.					
RECAP	Jaxon Kohler dominated the glass with 16-15 in 31 min (20.8 mpg last season). Jeremy Fears Jr. had 14 points, 10 assists, 5 steals and 1 turnover.				
STORYLINE	MSU's six threes came from three players (Kohler, Fort, Teng, two each). Shooting is the question before Saturday's game with No. 14 Arkansas.				
KEY DECISION	The Carr, Cooper, Fears, Kohler and Teng group was Izzo's best unit at +9 in 5 min . Colgate's two H2 timeouts, both at -11, changed nothing (+3 and +0 over the next 3 min).				
TEAM METRICS	MSU: 47.5 OREB% (34.0) and 20 fast-break points. COLG: 57.0 eFG%, but a 7.0 FTr and 17.8 TOV%.				
OFF-NORM	FTr 40.0 (last season 30.0) on a 46.7 eFG%: MSU went 24-37 at the line and 6-21 from three.				
ROTATION	Kur Teng started (3.1 mpg last season) and scored a career-high 6. Samford transfer Trey Fort had 9 in 19 min (14.6 ppg last season). Kaleb Glenn (FAU transfer) is out for the season with a torn patellar tendon.				

HEALTH AND ELIGIBILITY WATCH

NEWS	I ILL: Stojakovic (knee sprain, sore after Saturday's practice), Lee (severe ankle sprain), Petrovic (hamstring), Rodgers (knee, out indefinitely).
NEWS	M MD: Rice and Washington (both ankle). W WASH: Claude (ankle); Peterson is playing back from a hamstring injury.
NEWS	M MICH: Cason (right shoulder) dressed but sat; Grady (right foot) was in a boot. Ucla UCLA: Dailey (knee).
NEWS	S OSU: Puff Johnson's waiver appeal is pending; Ojianwuna (ACL) is listed out. M MINN: Omot (leg).
STORYLINE	Long-term: Kaleb Glenn (M MSU, torn patellar tendon in June) and Alijah Arenas (S USC, knee surgery in July).