

Harris, Sims lead Michigan past Michigan Tech in 2K Sports Classic First Round

[box score](#)

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The University of Michigan men's basketball team opened the 2008-09 season with a 77-55 win over Michigan Tech on Tuesday night (Nov. 11) in Crisler Arena to advance to the second round of the 2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer.

Sophomore guard Manny Harris (Detroit, Mich./Sutherland HS) recorded his first 30-point effort of his career, posting a personal-best 30 points, seven rebounds and two assists. Off of the bench, junior DeShawn Sims (Detroit, Mich./Detroit Pershing HS) earned his second career double-double, closing the contest with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Converting 16-of-26 (.615) attempts from the field and 5-of-10 from outside, the Maize and Blue held a 42-24 lead going into the break. Harris continued last year's scoring spree, opening the 2008-09 campaign with a game-best 18 points, three rebounds and two assists in the first 20 minutes of action.

U-M jumped out to an early 12-point advantage, 19-7, midway through the first half following an 11-2 stretch, opened by a two-handed slam from senior/junior Zack Gibson (Grand Blanc, Mich./Grand Blanc HS). The 6-10, 220-pounder accounted for four points during the run and finished the opening half with seven points, one assist and one steal.

Opening the second half, Michigan Tech cut the deficit to 10 points, 45-35, with an 11-3 stretch, but the Huskies did not reach within single digits for the remainder of the contest. Michigan quickly increased the lead to 57-37 with a 12-2 run of its own, fueled by six points from Harris. Sims accounted for four points during the three-minute span, doubling his scoring output from the first stanza. The Wolverines remained in control the rest of the way, knocking off the Huskies by the 77-55 margin.

Freshmen guard Zack Novak (Chesterton, Ind./Chesterton HS) and freshman center Ben Cronin (Syracuse, N.Y./Henninger) both recorded the first points of their U-M career in the final 10 minutes of the competition. Novak hit a layup late in the contest, while Cronin, who entered the game with 1:18 minutes remaining, was perfect on two attempts from the charity stripe to obtain his first career points.

Fifth-year senior guard David Merritt (West Bloomfield, Mich./West Bloomfield HS) and freshman guard Stu Douglass (Carmel, Ind./Carmel HS) both started their first career games against the Huskies, with Douglass making his collegiate debut in the competition. Merritt contributed three points and three assists, while Douglass ended the day with four assists, one block and one steal.

The Wolverines face off against Northeastern tomorrow night (Nov. 12) in Crisler Arena for the second round of the 2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer, with the winner earning a trip to the tournament semifinals in Madison Square Garden in New York, N.Y. Tipoff is scheduled for 8 p.m. on ESPNU.

