Daily Sports

ELLIOT'S WEEKLY TIPOFF:

MICHIGAN CUTS DOWN THE NETS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1989

by Elliot Koplas
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
ejk23008@uconn.edu

They were the most dominant team all-tournament and possibly all season.

The 2025-26 Michigan Wolverines are your NCAA National Champions.

It came with a 69-63 victory over the UConn Huskies in a tight battle between programs.

The Wolverines ended the season with an impressive 37-3 record after going 19-1 in conference. Their opponent for the championship was the most dominant program of the past few seasons when it comes to March.

The close game featured multiple lead changes and ties in the first half before Michigan started pulling away with multiple scoring runs to solidify the victory.

Michigan started the season at No. 10 in the AP poll with a starting lineup of all players who did not start their collegiate careers at the school. This marked the first time in history that a starting lineup in the national title game consisted of all players who transferred in. Players came from North Carolina, Illinois, UAB, UCLA and Alabama.

The squad's four leading scorers all transferred to Michigan this season.

An incredible stat that needs to be credited to coach Dusty May.

May knows how to build a monster program using the transfer portal. The transfer portal is a key development in recent years in the NCAA, where players find themselves switching from one school to another.

There was just one SEC senior this season who started and finished their career at the same school. Players staying loyal to one school just does not happen that often anymore, leading coaches to figure out strategies to build a program to win the national championship.

The Wolverines broke records in the tournament, including being the first Big Ten team to win since 2000. Not only did they win, but they did so in a dominating fashion.

Michigan ended the tournament with a plus-114 point margin which is the seventh highest total by a national champion and sixth-best since the field expanded in 1985, according to CBS sports.

Additionally, Michigan scored 90+ points in all games leading up to the championship, a record they can now call their own. They also won every game by double digits leading to the championship which had them passing the previous record holders of UNLV in 1990.

They entered the tournament with the No. 1 strength of schedule in the country and had both a top 10 offense and defense. That balance is rare which helped prove they had what it takes to go all the way.

Their victories came against some of the best; defeating programs such as Alabama, Tennessee, Arizona and UConn. Alabama was the highest scoring offense in the country, and Michigan held them to 77 points while beating them by 13.

They also beat Tennessee in the Elite Eight by 33 points. The following round, they took down the second hottest team in the tournament beating Arizona by 18.

Their final opponent, the Huskies, gave them the hardest fight with their largest lead only reaching 11. The first half and final minutes were closer with game clinching free throws by Trey McKenny.

The Michigan Wolverines had a historic season ending in a flawless manner. A team built on transfers, turned the program around after having an 8-24 record just two seasons ago.

March is defined by moments, and this one belongs to Michigan.



Michigan Men's Basketball Head Coach Dusty May cutting down the basketball net after winning the NCAA national championship. The Wolverines beat the Huskies 69-63.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NCAA MEN'S FINAL FOUR ON FACEBOOK