

CONN @ MICH

Connecticut Huskies (CONN) at Michigan Wolverines (MICH)
Lucas Oil Stadium – Indianapolis, IN · Monday, April 6, 2026

Game Breakdown

- Efficiency Matchup:** Michigan enters as the consensus No. 1 overall team, sweeping the SRS (#1/365, 32.9), Adj ORtg (#3/365, 130.0), and Adj DRtg (#1/365, 85.3) boards; CONN counters with a top-10 defensive profile (#8 Adj DRtg, 89.9) and a #10 SRS (23.4).
- Pace Clashes:** The game features a massive tempo disconnect; MICH operates as the 22nd-fastest adjusted tempo in D1 (71.0), while CONN ranks 322nd (64.6), preferring a methodical half-court grind.
- Series History:** This is the first postseason meeting ever between these programs; CONN leads the all-time regular-season series 2-1, including a 74-60 road win on Nov 25, 2015.
- Neutral Site Stakes:** Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis, IN) hosts the first #1 vs #2 AP matchup for the title since 2021; MICH is chasing its first title since 1989, while CONN eyes a third title in four seasons.
- Paint vs Paint:** MICH's offense (87.3 PPG, #9) runs through three 60%+ interior finishers (Mara, Johnson, Lendeborg) against a CONN wall that blocks 5.0 shots per game (#15).
- Recent Tournament Form:** MICH has scored 90+ points in five straight games (Avg 94.4 PPG); CONN has mastered the margin, winning four of five tournament games by single digits (73-72 at Duke, 67-63 vs Michigan St).
- First Half Disparity:** MICH owns a dominant +6.9 first-half margin (41.2 to 34.3) across the season and held a 16-point half time lead in the 91-73 semifinal win over Arizona (Apr 4, 2026).

Team Identity – CONN

- Working – Halfcourt Suffocation:** 89.9 Adj DRtg (#8/365); opponents 65.2 PPG (#10), 40.3% FG, 30.2% 3 P; stay-in-front scheme, not turn over-hunting.
- Working – Rim Protection:** 5.0 BPG (#15/365); anchors Tarris Reed (9.0 RPG, 60.7 FG%) and Eric Reibe (65.8 FG%).
- Working – Clutch Halfcourt:** 1.00 PPP, 43.8% FG in final-five, within-five window vs MICH's 0.82 – a ~0.18 PPP edge.
- Working – After-Timeout Threes:** 1.13 PPP, 45.5% 3 P on first shot post-TO; funneled to Mullins (61.1%, 18 ATO looks) and Ball (41.2%, 17).
- Working – Balanced Ball Movement:** 18.1 APG (#11/365); five double-figure scorers.
- Not Working – Perimeter Value:** 34.4% 3 P (#157/365).
- Not Working – Free-Throw Line:** 72.4% FT (#191/365).
- Not Working – Foul Exposure in Finishing Five:** Reed and Demary each carry 87 season fouls (2.9 and 2.6 PF/G).
- Not Working – Steal Generation:** 6.8 SPG (#160/365).
- Not Working – Sideline Discipline:** 5 technicals on the season (Malachi Smith 2, Demary 1).
- Tournament run:** 5-0 in 2026 NCAA; four of five decided by single digits – 71-62 vs Illinois (Apr 4), 73-72 at Duke (Mar 29), 67-63 vs Michigan State (Mar 27), 73-57 vs UCLA (Mar 22), 82-71 vs Furman (Mar 20); last loss 52-72 at St. John's (Mar 14, REG).

Starters – CONN

- Silas Demary (JR, G):** 10.1 PPG, 5.9 APG (team high), 38.5 3P%; Naismith DPOY Watch-list anchor; carries team-high 87 season fouls and 22 early-1 H fouls; logged 7 assists and 9 rebounds vs Illinois (Apr 4, 2026).
- Solomon Ball (JR, G):** 12.8 PPG, 85.2 FT% (98/115, best on roster); 17 ATO looks at 41.2%; leads team with 29 early-first-half fouls; 5-of-12 from deep in last two tournament games.
- Braylon Mullins (FR, G):** 12.0 PPG, 42.1 FG%; primary ATO target at 61.1% (18 looks); 15 points on 4-7 3 P vs Illinois (Apr 4, 2026); second-highest PF/G at 2.8.
- Alex Karaban (SR, F):** 13.2 PPG, 5.3 RPG, 46.4 FG%; leads team at 34.2 MPG; cleanest starter at 2.0 PF/G; has struggled recently, shooting 3-for-18 FG and 2-for-13 3 P in the last two tournament games.
- Tarris Reed (SR, C):** 14.7 PPG, 9.0 RPG (team high), 60.7 FG% (all interior); 69 blocks (Naismith DPOY Watch); three double-doubles in five tournament games, including 31 points and 27 rebounds vs Furman.
- Sixth Man – Eric Reibe (FR, C):** 5.9 PPG, 3.3 RPG, 65.8 FG%; 29 blocks; 8 ATO looks at 50.0% efficiency; 85 total personal fouls (2.1/G).

Efficiency

- Unit comparison (printed):** MICH leads offense (87.3 PPG #9 vs 76.6 #155; 50.7 FG% #6 vs 47.2; 130.0 ORtg #3 vs 123.2 #26); MICH leads defense (85.3 DRtg #1 vs 89.9 #8; 38.2 opp FG% vs 40.3; 6.0 BPG #2 vs 5.0 #15); CONN leads clutch (1.00 vs 0.82 PPP); CONN leads ATO 3P% (45.5 vs 18.5).
- 3 P shooting:** MICH 36.8% 3 P (#32/365); CONN 34.4% (#157/365).
- Turnovers:** CONN 10.9 TO/G (#123/365); MICH 11.7 (#203/365).
- Steals:** MICH 5.6 SPG (#302/365); CONN 6.8 (#160/365).
- Opponent FT%:** MICH allows 74.1% at the line.

Portal

- Arrivals/Valuations:** The packet prints no 2026-27 transfer portal commitments, arrivals, or On 3 NIL valuations for either UConn or Michigan; roster-composition source material is unrecorded for this cycle.
- Transfers as Core:** Michigan's current top four scorers are all first-year transfers: Lendeborg (UAB), Johnson (Illinois), Cadeau (North Carolina), and Mara (UCLA) – Sports Illustrated.
- Series Context:** UConn leads the all-time series 2-1 (all regular season) through the 2015-16 meeting.

Staff & Front Office

- Dan Hurley (CONN HC):** 8th season at UConn; 2026 Naismith COY semifinalist; back-to-back titles 2023-24; Naismith COY (2024), Big East COY (2024); all-time March Madness record 20-5 (.800) entering this game – best among active coaches, third-highest in D1 history (min. 15 games) behind Phil Woolpert (13-2) and John Wooden (47-10) (The Bulletin).
- Dusty May (MICH HC):** 2025-26 national championship season; left for Dallas Mavericks the following June; defensive coordinator Mike Boynton Jr. later promoted (Sports-Reference).
- May's rebuild:** 64-13 in two seasons after taking over 8-24 program in 2024; program-record 37 wins and 19-1 Big Ten in 2025-26 (247 Sports, MGo Blue).
- UConn's titles:** 1999, 2004, 2011, 2014, 2023, 2024 – tied with North Carolina for third all-time, behind UCLA (11) and Kentucky (8) (Sporting News); first repeat since Florida (2006-07).
- Michigan's title history:** Won 1989 (80-79 OT over Seton Hall); runner-up 1965, 1976, 1992, 1993, 2013, 2018; Glen Rice's 184 points in 1989 tournament remains NCAA single-tournament record (MGo Blue).
- Michigan transfers:** Top four scorers all first-year transfers – Lendeborg (UAB), Johnson (Illinois), Cadeau (North Carolina), Mara (UCLA) (Sports Illustrated).

We want to win at a high, high level. I want to be at this press conference on Sunday next year. But we also want our guys to feel like when they leave here that we poured into them. – Dusty May · 247 Sports

Availability

- MICH – Full Health (through April 4):** No printed injuries or absences for the Wolverines' 10-man tournament rotation following the 91-73 win over Arizona.
- CONN – Full Health (through April 4):** All rotation regulars cleared in the Final Four; Dan Hurley has utilized a 9-man rotation throughout the 2026 NCAA Tournament.

All Things to Watch

- The Clutch Gap:** CONN holds a significant late-game efficiency edge, posting 1.00 PPP on 43.8% FG in the 2026 REG clutch window (final 5:00, within 5) compared to MICH's 0.82 PPP on 34.7% FG.
- Huddle Scripting:** CONN produces elite 1.13 PPP and 45.5% 3 P on first shots post-timeout; MICH counters with 1.08 PPP, but funnels almost exclusively to the paint (50.7% FG vs just 18.5% 3 P post-TO).
- Rebounding Possession:** MICH holds a clear glass advantage, ranking #18 nationally with 40.1 RPG compared to CONN's #111 rank (36.6 RPG), a vital factor for second-chance points.
- Foul Trouble Anchors:** MICH's Aday Mara leads the game with 24 early-first-half fouls and 3 technicals; CONN's Tarris Reed (2.9 PF/G) and Silas Demary (2.6 PF/G) both carry 87 season fouls.
- ATO Target Accuracy:** Watch Braylon Mullins (CONN), who converts 61.1% of his 18 post-timeout looks; MICH counters with Morez Johnson (88.9% on 9 looks) and Aday Mara (70.0% on 10).
- Second-Half Pop:** CONN has recorded a +11.0 scoring swing in the second half (32.0 to 43.0), though the packet notes this is a limited 2-game postseason sample.
- Perimeter Defense:** MICH shooters (36.8% 3 P, #32) face a CONN perimeter wall that holds opponents to 30.2% from deep (#8 Adj DRtg profile).
- Steal Avoidance:** Both teams are conservative defensively; MICH ranks #302 in steals (5.6 SPG) while CONN is #160 (6.8 SPG), favoring a game of contested misses over live-ball turnovers.

Team Identity – MICH

- Working – Paint Gravity:** Three bigs (Lendeborg 51.5 FG%, Johnson 62.3%, Mara 66.8%) power Adj ORtg 130.0 (#3/365) and 50.7% FG (#6/365).
- Working – Postseason Surge:** Topped 90 points in five straight tournament games – 101-80 over Howard, 95-72 over Saint Louis, 90-77 over Alabama, 95-62 over Tennessee, 91-73 over Arizona.
- Working – No. 1 Defense:** Adj DRtg 85.3 (#1/365); 6.0 BPG (#2/365); opponents 38.2% FG, 30.4% 3 P.
- Working – Huddle Art:** 50.7% FG on first post-timeout looks at 1.08 PPP; Johnson (88.9%), Mara (70.0%), Lendeborg (53.3%) are set-piece finishers.
- Working – Ball Movement:** 18.6 APG (#5/365).
- Not Working – Clutch Halfcourt:** 0.82 PPP, 34.7% FG, 32.1% 3 P in 2026 REG clutch window.
- Not Working – ATO Perimeter:** 18.5% 3 P on first shot after timeout.
- Not Working – Foul Trouble Up Front:** Mara (79 PF, team-high 3 techs, 24 early first-half fouls); Johnson 2.4 PF/G.
- Not Working – Ball Security:** 11.7 TO/G (#203/365).
- Not Working – Live-Ball Theft:** 5.6 SPG (#302/365).
- Last loss:** 72-80 vs Purdue (Mar 15, REG); four straight wins since.
- Regular season:** 10-0 in Big Ten road games in 2025-26, first conference team in 50 years to sweep league road schedule (MGo Blue).
- May's record:** Took over 8-24 program in 2024; 64-13 in two seasons, program-record 37 wins in 2025-26.

Starters – MICH

- Elliot Cadeau (JR, G):** 10.5 PPG, 5.8 APG (team high), career-best 37.6 3P%; averaging 8.6 APG in the 2026 tournament with two 10-assist games; carries 22 early-first-half fouls.
- Nimari Burnett (SR, G):** 8.2 PPG, 2.8 RPG, 37.5 3P%; 8-of-20 (40.0%) from deep in the postseason; scored 15 points vs Howard but just 6 vs Arizona (Apr 4, 2026).
- Trey McKenney (FR, G):** 9.9 PPG, 39.1 3P% (2026 REG); postseason riser averaging 12.6 PPG on 11-for-21 (52.4%) from three; two technicals on the season.
- Yaxel Lendeborg (SR, F):** 15.1 PPG (team high), 6.8 RPG, 3.2 APG, 37.2 3P%; leads team in minutes (30.1 MPG); shooting 56.0% from three (14/25) in the tournament; cleanest starter at 1.7 PF/G.
- Morez Johnson (SO, F):** 13.1 PPG, 7.3 RPG (team high), 62.3 FG%; No. 1 ATO finisher at 88.9% (9 looks); 2.4 PF/G with 18 early-first-half fouls.
- Sixth Man – Aday Mara (JR, C):** 12.1 PPG, 6.8 RPG, team-best 66.8 FG%; scored 26 points (11-16 FG) vs Arizona; 13 tournament blocks; whistle risk with 24 early-1 H fouls and team-high 3 technicals.

Team Comparison

- First-half edge belongs to MICH:** Wolverines open at 41.2 first-half PPG and hold opponents to 34.3 before the break.
- MICH shot diet vs CONN defense:** MICH 36.8% 3 P (#32) – McKenney (39.1%), Cason (40.2%), Burnett (37.5%) – vs CONN holding opponents to 30.2% 3 P.
- Paint vs paint wall:** MICH's front line (Lendeborg 15.1 PPG, Johnson 62.3 FG%, Mara 66.8 FG%) vs CONN's Reed-Reibe rim protection (5.0 BPG, #15).
- Foul-trouble watch both sides:** Mara (24 early-1 H fouls, 3 techs) and Reed/Demary (87 season fouls each) are whistle risks.
- MICH ATO funnels to paint:** Johnson (88.9%), Mara (70.0%), Cason (75.0%); CONN ATO leans perimeter – Mullins (61.1%), Ball (41.2%).

Ken Pom

- Model rankings:** MICH – AP #1, Ken Pom #1, SRS #1 (complete sweep); CONN – AP #2, Ken Pom #9, SRS #10.
- Ken Pom gap:** MICH AdjEM 39.70 vs CONN 29.78.
- SRS gap:** MICH 32.9 (#1) vs CONN 23.4 (#10).

Cool Stats & Storylines

- UConn's only semifinal slip:** Lone Final Four semifinal loss came vs Big Ten team Michigan State, 82-73, in Detroit, 2009 (Sporting News).
- MICH's three-big lottery frontcourt:** Johnson (No. 9), Lendeborg (No. 11), Mara (No. 12) all projected 2026 lottery picks.
- Cadeau's creation:** 5.8 APG regular season; 8.6 APG postseason with double-digit assists in Elite Eight and Arizona semifinal.
- Lendeborg's tournament heater:** 56.0% 3 P on 25 attempts in postseason vs 37.2% season clip.
- Reed's tournament run:** Three double-doubles in five games – 31-27 vs Furman, 26-9-4 blocks vs Duke, 17-11 vs Illinois.
- McKenney's two technicals** – tied for second-most on MICH; Mara's 3 techs team-high.
- CONN's 2 H pop is a sample-size note:** +11.0 second-half swing printed on 2 games only.

Bench

- CONN – Jayden Ross (JR, F):** 4.6 PPG, 2.5 RPG, 39.1 3P% (2026 REG); postseason minutes riser (19-22 MPG vs 17.4 season avg); 11 points vs UCLA (Mar 22), 7 vs Illinois (Apr 4); 30 steals / 15 blocks on season.
- CONN – Malachi Smith (SR, G):** 3.6 PPG, 3.0 APG, team-best 44.7 3P% (2026 REG); 53.2 FT% (33/62); 118 total assists; 2 technicals (T-most on team); 9 points on 4-7 FG at Duke (Mar 29).
- CONN – Eric Reibe (FR, C):** 5.9 PPG, 3.3 RPG, 65.8 FG% (2026 REG); 29 blocks; 85 PF (2.1/G); 8 ATO looks at 50.0%; season-high 9 points vs Xavier (Feb 1); 4 points in 11 min vs UCLA (Mar 22).
- MICH – Trey McKenney (FR, G):** 9.9 PPG, 22.1 MPG, 39.1 3P% (2026 REG); postseason surge: 12.6 PPG on 11-of-21 3 P (52.4%); 17 vs Alabama (Mar 27), 16 vs Arizona (Apr 4); 2 technicals on season.

- **Foul Risk Anchor – Aday Mara (MICH):** 79 season fouls and 24 early first-half fouls; led team with 3 technicals; whistled for 24 early first-half fouls – highest mark of any player in the game.
- **Foul Risk Anchor – Tarris Reed (CONN):** Team-high 2.9 PF/G and 87 season fouls; carries 17 early first-half fouls into the final.

Shot Profile

- **Interior Efficiency:** MICH ranks #6 nationally in FG% (50.7%) and #3 in Adj ORtg (130.0); Mara (66.8% FG), Johnson (62.3%), and Lendeborg (51.5%) power the D1-best efficiency profile.
- **Post-Timeout Disparity:** CONN generates 1.13 PPP and 45.5% 3 P on first shots post-TO; MICH converts at 1.08 PPP but only 18.5% from three on those sets, funneled to Johnson (88.9%) and Mara (70.0%).
- **Deep Ball Ranks:** MICH shoots 36.8% 3 P (#32/365) led by Cason (40.2%) and McKenney (39.1%); CONN ranks #157 at 34.4% 3 P but holds opponents to 30.2% (#8 DRTg).
- **Postseason Shooting Surge:** MICH's Yaxel Lendeborg is 14-of-25 (56.0%) from three in the tournament; Trey McKenney is 11-for-21 (52.4%) from three in the same five-game span.
- **Rim-Wall Conflict:** MICH ranks #2 nationally in blocks (6.0 BPG) holding opponents to 38.2% FG; CONN ranks #15 in blocks (5.0 BPG) holding opponents to 40.3% FG.

Shot Diet & Zones

- **MICH Paint Funnel:** Michigan's offense produces 87.3 PPG (#9) through an assist-heavy diet (18.6 APG, #5); the Wolverines assisted on 22 of 33 made FGs in the Arizona semifinal (Apr 4, 2026).
- **CONN Huddle Targets:** 47.7% FG on first shots post-TO (86 attempts); funneled to Braylon Mullins (61.1% on 18 looks) and Solomon Ball (41.2% on 17 looks).
- **MICH Huddle Targets:** 50.7% FG on first shots post-TO (75 attempts); funneled to Morez Johnson (88.9% on 9 looks) and Aday Mara (70.0% on 10 looks).
- **Striped Disparity:** Solomon Ball (85.2% FT) is the game's top foul-line target; MICH allows 74.1% FT to opponents, while CONN is a shaky #191 nationally (72.4% FT).
- **Low Gamble Scheme:** MICH (#302 in steals) and CONN (#160 in steals) both avoid live-ball gambles, forcing the shot diet into long, contested half-court possessions.

Quarters & Late Flow

- **First Half Dominance:** MICH averages 41.2 PPG in the 1 H while holding opponents to 34.3; they held a 16-point half time lead over Arizona on April 4.
- **Second Half Swing:** CONN posts a +11.0 second-half swing (32.0 to 43.0), though this is noted as a small 2-game sample only.
- **Pace Variance:** MICH (71.0 adjusted tempo) pushes for transition (91.0 PPG tournament avg); CONN (64.6 tempo) forces a deliberate, low-possession grind.
- **Late Clock fragile MICH:** Michigan stalls to 0.82 PPP in the clutch window (final 5:00, within 5), a sharp disconnect from their #3 ranked Adj ORtg.
- **Postseason Margin Mastery:** CONN has won four of five tournament games by single digits (9, 1, 4, 16, 11); MICH has won five straight tournament games by double digits (21, 23, 13, 33, 18).

Clutch

- **Closing Efficiency (2026 REG):** CONN posts 1.00 PPP on 43.8% FG / 33.3% 3 P in the final-five/within-five window; MICH drops to 0.82 PPP on 34.7% FG / 32.1% 3 P.
- **Scripting the Finish:** CONN's ATO targets Mullins (61.1%) and Ball (41.2%) provide a ~0.18 PPP edge in late-game scripting over MICH's interior-only huddle sets.
- **Striped Reliability:** Solomon Ball (85.2% FT) is the most reliable late-game foul target; MICH allows a generous 74.1% FT to opponents.
- **Foul Trouble Constraint:** Tarris Reed (87 season fouls) and Aday Mara (79 season fouls) must stay clean for their respective teams to maintain rim protection in the final 5:00.

Milestones

- **CONN Title Pursuit:** Chasing a third title in four seasons; a win would tie UNC for 3rd all-time (7 titles); currently 6-0 all-time in national championship games.
- **Dan Hurley (CONN):** .800 March Madness record (20-5) is best among active coaches; 3rd-highest in D1 history min. 15 games.
- **Dusty May (MICH):** Program-record 37 wins in 2025-26; 64-13 in two seasons after inheriting 8-24 program in 2024.
- **MICH Program Search:** Seeking first national title since 1989 (80-79 OT over Seton Hall); 1-6 all-time in championship games.

- **MICH – Roddy Gayle (SR, G):** 7.3 PPG, 3.3 RPG, 46.3 FG% (2026 REG); tournament minutes leader among reserves (30 min vs Arizona); 8-of-15 3 P (53.3%) in postseason; 13 early 1 H fouls.
- **MICH – Will Tschetter (SR, F):** 3.5 PPG, 1.9 RPG, 34.5 3P% (2026 REG); 5 rebounds vs Tennessee (Mar 29), 3 rebounds vs Arizona (Apr 4); stretch-four role to clear paint for Mara/Johnson.

Matchups To Hunt

- **Reed (CONN) vs Mara (MICH):** A battle of elite interior efficiency; Reed has three tournament double-doubles, while Mara is coming off a 26-point (11-16 FG) semifinal explosion vs Arizona (Apr 4, 2026).
- **Lendeborg (MICH) vs Karaban (CONN):** Matchup of high-minute point-forwards; Lendeborg (56.0% 3 P postseason) vs Karaban (34.2 MPG), who is currently 2-for-13 from deep over his last two games.
- **Cadeau (MICH) vs Demary (CONN):** Duel of the floor generals; Cadeau (8.6 APG in tournament) vs Demary (Naismith DPOY Watch), who anchors the #8 defense and logged 7 assists and 9 rebounds vs Illinois.
- **MICH Paint Gravity vs CONN Rim Protection:** MICH's three-lottery frontcourt (Lendeborg, Johnson, Mara) all finish above 60% inside against CONN's 5.0 BPG wall (#15 nationally).
- **Foul Trouble Roulette:** Mara (24 early-1 H fouls) and Cadeau (22) vs CONN's Solomon Ball (29) and Demary (22); the game likely turns on which rotation thins out first in the opening 10 minutes.
- **Clutch Scripters:** CONN's 1.00 PPP clutch offense (2026 REG) vs MICH's 0.82 PPP; Hurley's 1.13 PPP ATO package vs May's 1.08 PPP interior-only sets.

Defense & Rim

- **MICH Efficiency Anchor:** No. 1 Adj DRTg (85.3) and No. 1 SRS (32.9); led by a 6.0 BPG rim wall (#2 nationally) that forces opponents into a 38.2% FG clip.
- **CONN Suffocation:** No. 8 Adj DRTg (89.9); holds opponents to 65.2 PPG (#10) and 30.2% 3 P; a stay-in-front scheme that results in just 6.8 SPG (#160).
- **Rim Protection Depth:** Tarris Reed (69 blocks) and Eric Reibe (29 blocks) ensure CONN's 5.0 BPG wall (#15) remains active even when the starter sits.
- **Cleaning the Glass:** MICH holds a clear defensive edge with 40.1 RPG (#18/365) compared to CONN's 36.6 RPG (#111/365).
- **Steal Generation Disconnect:** MICH (5.6 SPG) ranks near the bottom of D1 at #302, meaning they rarely turn defense into easy transition offense.

Timeouts & ATO

- **Hurley's Huddle Edge:** 1.13 PPP and 45.5% 3 P on first shots post-timeout; Braylon Mullins (61.1%) and Silas Demary (46.2%) are the primary scripted targets.
- **May's Paint Huddle:** 1.08 PPP on first shots post-timeout; conversion rate is 50.7% FG but only 18.5% 3 P; Johnson (88.9%) and Mara (70.0%) are the interior set-piece finishers.
- **Early Whistle Risk:** MICH's Aday Mara (24) and Elliot Cadeau (22) are the most frequent early first-half foulers; CONN's Solomon Ball (29) and Silas Demary (22) lead the Huskies.
- **Discipline Check:** CONN has five technical fouls on the season (Malachi Smith 2, Demary 1); MICH's Aday Mara carries a team-high 3 technicals.

Usage & On-floor Defense

- **CONN Minutes Anchor:** Alex Karaban leads the team at 34.2 MPG; Tarris Reed (69 blocks) and Silas Demary (5.9 APG) are both Naismith DPOY Watch-list names.
- **MICH Engine:** Elliot Cadeau (5.8 APG) facilitates a #5 ranked assist offense (18.6 APG); Yaxel Lendeborg (30.1 MPG) leads the team in usage and scoring (15.1 PPG).
- **Clean Defense:** Alex Karaban (2.0 PF/G) and Yaxel Lendeborg (1.7 PF/G) are the cleanest regulars for their respective frontcourts.
- **Foul-Prone Anchors:** Tarris Reed (2.9 PF/G) and Aday Mara (2.2 PF/G with 3 techs) represent the primary interior whistle risks.
- **Post-Timeout Volume:** Braylon Mullins leads all players with 18 ATO looks; Yaxel Lendeborg leads MICH with 15 ATO looks.

Recent Form

- **MICH Postseason Explosiveness (5-0):** The Wolverines have topped 90 points in five straight games – 101-80 (Howard), 95-72 (St. Louis), 90-77 (Alabama), 95-62 (Tennessee), 91-73 (Arizona).
- **CONN Close-Game Mastery (5-0):** Four of five tournament wins decided by single digits – 71-62 (Illinois), 73-72 (Duke), 67-63 (Michigan St), 73-57 (UCLA), 82-71 (Furman).
- **Lendeborg's Tournament Heater:** Shooting 56.0% from three (14-of-25) in the postseason compared to a 37.2% regular-season clip.
- **Tarris Reed's Tournament Run:** Three double-doubles in five tournament games, including 31-27 vs Furman and 26-9 with 4 blocks vs Duke.
- **MICH Assist Trend:** Averaging 18.6 APG (#5 D1); assisted on 22 of 33 made FGs in the semifinal win over Arizona (Apr 4, 2026).