

# The Michigan Full Court Press

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The Official Newsletter of the Maize Rage

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“The (Big Ten) is going to be interesting to follow. Michigan could be the most intriguing of all. **Hail to the Victors, baby, hail to the maize and blue!** I think you will see the star quality projected for Amaker becoming a reality this season.” –*Dick Vitale, 9/26/05*

At most college campuses across the nation, the atmosphere is one of stress and anxiety. But here at the great University of Michigan, the atmosphere is one of excitement. Our 7-0 Wolverine basketball team is off to its best start since the 1996-97 season. And not only are the students taking notice, but the national media is catching on as well. This week, Michigan cracked the ESPN Power 16 and was the focus of several high-profile college basketball news columns. All seem to agree that the undefeated start has been impressive, and that this team has the potential to do great things. But every bit of praise comes with a common tag line: “We’ll find out if Wolverines are for real on Saturday.” Well, Maize Rage, Saturday is here. And the proverbial measuring stick is here in the form of the 14<sup>th</sup>-ranked UCLA Bruins. Ben Howland’s team comes into today’s game with a 7-1 record, having only lost to #5 Memphis. The Bruins are extremely talented, but also very young, starting two freshmen and two sophomores. That is where we come in, Ragers. Let’s show UCLA and the rest of the nation watching on ESPN HD that this is our house, and that our undefeated team is for real. This is Judgment Day, Rage... we need to bring it! So get up, jump around, get LOUD, and Go Blue!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the UCLA Bruins (7-1, 0-0 Pac-10):

1	Jordan Farmar	6’2”	G	The phenom who Bruin fans call the “Jewish Jordan” was named Pac-10 Freshman of the Year last season; he’s a Wooden Award candidate this year
4	Arron Afflalo	6’5”	G	Sophomore leads UCLA in scoring this season at 18.1 ppg
21	Cedric Bozeman	6’6”	F	Highly-touted senior committed 5 turnovers here two years ago as UCLA’s point guard, then missed all of 2004-05 with a torn right ACL
23	Luc Richard Mbah a Moute	6’7”	F	Freshman from Cameroon doubles as the leading rebounder of the Bruins and the prince of his native African village, Bia Messe
11	Ryan Wright	6’8”	C	Will be the second-best Canadian on the floor today after he lost out on last year’s Mr. Basketball Canada to fellow Toronto native Jevohn Shepherd
Coach	Ben Howland			’02 National Coach of the Year at Pitt has now led three schools to NCAAs

**And we thought Al Gore went to Harvard:** Visit the official site of UCLA athletics, uclabruins.com, and you’ll come across a list of the “25 major reasons why attending UCLA is so special”. Perhaps the most entertaining reason is #11, which states that “The internet was invented at UCLA”. While further research reveals that UCLA was involved in some of the early internet-like communications, it’s unrealistic to say that the internet was invented by any one person or at any one place. Sorry, Bruins.

**The best things in life are free:** Down late by two points and in danger of being upset by the Drexel Dragons in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place game of the NIT Season Tip-Off, UCLA’s Arron Afflalo made two of three free throws to tie the game at 56. Then, after a Drexel turnover, Jordan Farmar was fouled with 0.8 seconds left. The star point guard stepped to the line with a chance to win the game... and threw up an airball. Farmar did, however, make the second free throw to help UCLA escape with a 57-56 win.

**Bon Appetit:** The things Luc Richard Mbah a Moute misses the most about Cameroon are his favorite foods – sanga ndole, bobolo and kpen ke bazedishes – which are derived from corn, **maize** (he loves the Rage) and the cassava plant. He also calls Viper and Boa (“you know, the snake”) the best meat in the world (“you cook it like you cook chicken”).

**Papa Bear:** Bruin guard Janou Rubin (#10), who is believed to be the first walk-on ever to win Pac-10 Player of the Week honors, was recently activated after being granted a Jason White-esque sixth year of eligibility. The now-graduated Rubin only has 2 points in three games against Michigan, though, so let’s start a “one more year!” chant and see if he’ll go for lucky number seven.

**THE REST OF THE UCLA ROSTER:** #2 Darren Collison, #3 Josh Shipp, #5 DeAndre Robinson, #12 Alfred Aboya, #14 Lorenzo Mata, #15 Ryan Hollins, #20 Michael Roll, #22 Kelvin Kim, #24 Joey Ellis, #45 Michael Fey, #55 Nican Robinson.

**Keep it classy, Rage:** As we work toward becoming a great student section, it’s important that we refrain from swearing and making other negative slurs throughout the game. The University of Michigan is an institution of class, and as a collective representative of the University, we need to uphold this standard. It’s cool to razz the opposition, but keep it clean, Ragers.

UCLA’s Free Throws: Listen in to the center of the Rage where the chant will be started, and follow along with one of these:

- You Will Miss! You Will Miss! You Will Miss! (And upon a miss, yell “Thank you”)
- Chanting a player’s name
- Absolute quietness, and then scream just as the player shoots
- Upon a made free throw, listen for the “It doesn’t matter!” prompt and yell “You still suck!”

**MAIZE RAGE NEWS AND INFO ON YOUR MICHIGAN WOLVERINES ON THE FLIP SIDE →**

Here is the projected starting lineup for YOUR Michigan Wolverines (7-0, 0-0 Big Ten):

4	Daniel Horton	6'3"	G	Leads the Big Ten in steals at 2.43 per game, but don't sleep on his 6.1 assists per game in the last four contests. And beware the H-BOMB!
5	Dion Harris	6'3"	G	Quietly leading the Big Ten with an assist to turnover ratio of 3 to 1, he also quieted the Irish by knocking down the game winner two weeks ago
32	Lester Abram	6'6"	W	His 18 points against USF included a 7-7 performance from the stripe
44	Courtney Sims	6'11"	F	33 point, 13 reb domination of Delaware State helped him become the first Wolverine since Daniel in '03 to earn Big Ten Player of the Week
25	Graham Brown	6'9"	F	Already admired by Bill Raftery, now Jay Bilas says Hambone "might be the hardest working and most unselfish interior player in the country"
Coach	Tommy Amaker			"Classy, hard-working, unselfish"; has received plenty of Dickie V praise

**No bull:** Last Saturday, the Wolverines traveled down to Tampa to take on South Florida in their third road game of the year. The Bulls put up a fight in the first few minutes, before Michigan went on a commanding 19-0 run for a 20-point lead which was never relinquished. Lester Abram had 18 points, Daniel Horton had 5 steals, and Graham Brown had 10 boards in a dominant 68-47 win.

**Enter Hambone:** Graham Brown, who affectionately garnered the nickname "Moose" from the Rage for the last year and a half, has admitted that he prefers to be called by his childhood nickname of "Hambone", given by his father. We're all family here, Ragers, so let's make Graham feel at home this season with chants of "Ham-bone!"

**Not in our house:** In a chat on Wednesday, ESPN's Andy Katz had this to say about Michigan: "Saturday is a huge barometer for this squad. They need to continue to establish Crisler as a dominant homecourt. Beating UCLA would continue the trend this season." Establishing a dominant homecourt starts with us, Maize Ragers. Keep up the energy, and make yourselves heard!

**Loud and proud:** As much as we love our pep band, Rage, we don't need them to dictate when we sing The Victors. On offense, on defense, during free throws, listen for the "1, 2, you know what to do!" and join in a rendition of the greatest fight song ever.

**H-BOMB:** If Daniel hits a three, drop back in your seats as if a bomb has violently shaken Crisler Arena. It's the H-BOMB!

**Chants: Be steady and don't speed up**

Offense:

-Here we go Michigan, here we go! (clap clap)  
-Let's Go Michigan! (clap, clap, clap clap clap)  
-Go, Blue, Go! (clap clap clap)  
-Let's Go Blue! (clap)  
-Go Blue! (clap clap)

Defense:

-De-fense! (clap clap)  
-D-D-D-Defense! D-D-D-Defense!  
-Popcorn (Jump up and down while screaming OHHHH!!)  
-Bounce! Bounce! Pass! (Yell "bounce" when the opposition dribbles, and "pass" when they pass)

Turnovers: -You! You! You! (while pointing finger at the player)

Fouls: -It's all your fault! It's all your fault! It's all your fault! (while pointing finger at the player)

**Notin' but net(work):** For the first time in the Amaker era, Dick Vitale is in town, calling today's game for ESPN along with Dan Shulman and Doris Burke. On Thursday, Dickie V. wrote that he "can't wait to mingle with the students" and is "thrilled" to be part of "an exciting environment, on one of the best college campuses in America". Ragers, let's give the legend some love, baby!

**Remember when?:** The last time a Michigan team faced UCLA on ESPN was just six months ago in Oklahoma City. The occasion? The Women's College World Series, of course, where the Wolverines beat UCLA 4-1 to capture their first ever softball national title.

**Upcoming Home Games:**

December 22	vs. Miami (OH)	7pm	Gates open at 5:30pm	**They're not part of the season ticket package, but the
December 28	vs. Coppin St	6pm	Gates open at 4:30pm	Boys in Blue need our presence at these break games!**

## Visit MaizeRage.org

**E-MAIL LIST:** To sign up for weekly newsletters and important Rage tidbits, go MaizeRage.org and click the link on the left side of the page, or send an email to [tsuchii@umich.edu](mailto:tsuchii@umich.edu) requesting that your name be added.

**Histo's Corner:** Michigan is 3-8 all-time against UCLA, but since 1978, the Wolverines are 3-2 against the Bruins, including a 2-1 record under Tommy Amaker.

Michigan is 2-0 in home games played on December 17<sup>th</sup> under coaches in their fifth season with the Wolverines.

**HISTO'S "BY THE NUMBERS":**

**7:** The number of times the NCAA National Championship game has matched the #1 and #2 ranked teams in the season-ending AP poll. In 1965, #1 ranked Michigan fell, 91-80, to #2 ranked UCLA. **Bill Buntin**, whose number 22 will be retired against Purdue (Jan 7<sup>th</sup>), scored 14 points in the game, his final with the Wolverines.