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The Official Newsletter of the Maize Rage

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“We have to **stay hungry**. Our goal wasn’t just to be ranked. Our goal is to win a Big Ten championship.” –*Courtney Sims*

Welcome back, Wolverine faithful, to Crisler Arena! It’s been a long 12 days since we witnessed the Michigan basketball team take down Wisconsin, 85-76, to propel U-M into the national rankings for the first time since 1998. Last week, the Wolverines split road games at Penn State and Iowa. But despite the tough setback in Iowa City on Saturday, an Iowa loss to Northwestern last night means that Michigan can recapture a tie for first place atop the Big Ten standings with a win tonight. The hated Ohio State Buckeyes are in town for ESPN’s Rivalry Week and ranked in the top 20 in both polls. The Bucks are talented and shoot lights out from distance, but they are just another barrier ready to be broken in the road to an 8-0 Big Ten home record. Let’s bring it, Rage!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Ohio State Buckeyes (16-3, 5-3 Big Ten):

14	Jamar Butler	6’1”	G	Sophomore from Lima was honored as Ohio’s Mr. Basketball in 2004
23	Je’Kel Foster	6’2”	G	JuCo transfer comes in as co-Big Ten Player of the Week, shooting 10-13 from behind the arc after Buckeye fans criticized him for mid-season slump
0	J.J. Sullinger	6’5”	G	Over the season, the height of his socks has increased so much so that he is now to the point of wearing <i>tights</i> ; wannabe LeBron or wannabe ballerina?
40	Matt Sylvester	6’7”	F	A fan favorite for his clutch shooting (hit game-winning three-pointers to beat Illinois last year and LSU this year); see below for his inspiration
34	Terence Dials	6’9”	C	Senior says his greatest thrill to date is playing with U-M greats Jalen Rose and Robert Traylor in an open gym at the University of Detroit
Coach	Thad Matta			Former head coach at Xavier posted 20 wins last season, his first at OSU

“Charmed”: You may have known that Matt Sylvester knocked down game-winning late three pointers to beat Illinois, 65-64 last year, and LSU, 78-76 this year. What you may *not* have known is that his most recent game winner might not have ever dropped had it not been for a string of lucky beads. Sylvester entered the LSU game in December shooting just 31% from the field, and one astute classmate of his had an instant solution for the slump. This mysterious classmate, who is in a badminton (yes, *badminton*) class with Sylvester, caught a string of beads at the Illinois game last year before Matt hit the winning basket. Before the LSU game, he gave the beads to Sylvester, promising him they would fix the shooting woes. The senior forward shoved the beads in his sock, where they remained throughout the game, and the rest is history. Now, Sylvester reportedly carries the beads in his sock for each game. How did he plan on thanking the badminton buddy? “I’ll have to take him out for a steak dinner or something,” Matt said.

“Nuts” in our house (clap, clap, clap clap clap): Last year, several members of the Orange Krush attempted to take over Crisler by disguising themselves as a youth group from Chicago interested in Michigan basketball. Now, OSU’s Buckeye NutHouse student section is giving their best shot to establish a presence here: “The Buckeye NutHouse student section will be well represented up in Ann Arbor on Thursday evening. We’re taking a group of 14 up there to cheer on the Bucks,” said a member of the section. Try not to get too intimidated, Rage, by the grand army of 14 Bucknuts in the upper bowl. And be sure to sign up for our road trip to Purdue on Saturday; we’re taking 100 people down to West Lafayette, as we did for Notre Dame earlier in the year. Sorry, NutHouse – nice try.

Briefly: Sophomore center Matt Terwilliger (#42) says the greatest risk he’s ever taken is scuba diving... Junior forward Ivan Harris (#3), a highly-touted McDonald’s All-American out of high school, is averaging a mere 4.3 points per game in 9.1 minutes... Matt Sylvester’s name can be rearranged to spell the phrase “My vest rattles”.

No timeouts in Crisler: The Rage is one of the few student sections in the country with a major presence behind the opposing team’s bench. Just like we’ve done in the last few games, let’s take advantage of where we are. Get loud, make odd (but clean) gestures, hold up signs, or do whatever and direct it at the Ohio State huddle *whenever the Buckeyes call a timeout*.

THE REST OF THE BUCKEYE ROSTER: #12 Ron Lewis, #21 Brayden Bell, #32 Sylvester Mayes, #33 Samuel Payne

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.

OSU’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”)
- Gooooo!! Bluuuuuuue!! (with the rest of the crowd)
- Absolute quietness, and then scream just as the player shoots
- Sing The Victors (listen for the “1, 2, you know what to do!”)
- 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 (16-4, 6-3 Big Ten):

4	Daniel Horton	6'3"	G	Dished out a career-best 12 assists in last week's win at PSU and now holds the #5 spot on U-M's all-time assist list (423); scored 19 pts at Iowa
5	Dion Harris	6'3"	G	Knocked down a career-best seven three-pointers at Penn State en route to 23 points, which pushed him over 1,000 points for his career
24	Ron Coleman	6'6"	W	Continuing to fill in nicely for Lester while LA's ankle heals; tied his season high with 10 points on 4-7 shooting in Happy Valley
44	Courtney Sims	6'11"	F	Dominated Wisconsin with 18 points in just 15 minutes of play; chipped in 12 points and 6 rebounds in Saturday's loss at Iowa
25	Graham Brown	6'9"	F	Since the FCP's last publication, Hambone has taken out two opponents (Kammron Taylor and Jeff Horner) with "brick wall" screens
Coach	Tommy Amaker			Gracious enough to provide buses for Saturday's Rage road trip to Purdue

Eyes on the prize: When the Wolverines found out that they had been ranked for the first time since 1998, there were, of course, feelings of happiness. But more than anything else, the team vowed that they will stay focused, realizing that a Big Ten title is within sight. Coach Amaker noted: "We're honored. Hopefully, we're deserving of it. But also we want to keep things in perspective. For us, it's never been about us trying to crack the polls. We're still on our journey to become champions in our conference. So, nothing has changed in that regard." We must defend Crisler Arena, Maize Rage, for this journey to happen!

Throwdown Thursday: For the first time in nearly two months, Michigan is being showcased tonight on national television. ESPN is broadcasting the game in HD as part of Rivalry Week, and Brent Musberger, Steve Lavin, and Erin Andrews are all in the building. Ragers, let's show the trio some love, and let's show the nation that "it's great to be a Michigan Wolverine".

Hype our players: In the pre-game introductions, rather than chanting "who cares!" when an opposing player is introduced, start chanting for the Michigan player about to be introduced (i.e. before Daniel is introduced, we will start chanting "Dan-iel Hor-ton!" (clap clap clap clap clap) during the Wisconsin player's introduction). Listen in to the center section for the next player to be called.

Bluuueeee on made FTs: Instead of saying "whoosh" when you drop your hands after a made U-M free throw, say "bluuueee".

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

Road Rage: The Maize Rage is taking its second mass road trip of the season on Saturday for the game at Purdue! It's time, Ragers, to take over Mackey Arena the way we did the Joyce Center. There are still spots left; e-mail ghickman@umich.edu ASAP (by tonight if possible) if you want to go. A reduced price of just \$10 gets you a ticket and roundtrip transportation.

Old Chants: Be steady and don't speed up, or the chants will become disorganized and ineffective...

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) ←DON'T SPEED UP!
- 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)

Upcoming Home Games:

February 15	vs. Minnesota	7pm	Gates open at 5:30pm	
February 21	vs. Illinois	7pm	Gates open at 5:30pm	**Part of ESPN's Super Tuesday**

Visit MaizeRage.org

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

Histo's Corner: Michigan is 70-83 all-time against Ohio State, but the Wolverines hold a 21-13 advantage in games played at Crisler Arena, including a 12-5 mark in even-ending years and a 10-3 mark on odd-ending days.

Michigan is 13-8 all-time in games played on February 9th, including a 4-1 record against Ohio State. The Buckeyes are 16-19 all-time in games played on this date.

HISTO'S "BY THE NUMBERS":

5: The number of seasons since 1940 in which Michigan has compiled a 16-4 record through the first 20 games. Three of these five U-M teams advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight, with one (1988-89) bringing home a national championship.