



The Rage Page



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Guard Laval Lucas-Perry, on the Big Ten-opening loss vs. Wisconsin ... "We need to keep our head through this thing. We are running a marathon. We lost the first leg, but we need to keep going."

After the big win over UCLA in November, John Beilein warned that one victory does not make a successful season. And if you thought the Big Ten season would go as smoothly as the non-conference schedule did, you were sadly mistaken. With only two losses in the first two months, and huge victories over two #4-ranked teams, things could hardly have started better for the Wolverines. Not so for the conference portion of the schedule, which opened with a 73-61 home loss to Wisconsin. But just as one early-season win does not make the year, so too does one loss not break it. A big win over a tough Illinois team that just knocked off #9 Purdue would go a long way to restoring the confidence that U-M has displayed all season long. Go Blue!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Illinois Fighting Illini (13-1, 1-0 Big Ten):

3	Chester Frazier	6'2"	G	Enjoys table tennis; favorite athlete is Pistons Nuggets' PG Chauncey Billups
1	Trent Meacham	6'2"	G	Transfer from Dayton is engaged to a junior guard on the St. Louis women's team
32	Demetri McCamey	6'3"	G	As a child, "D-Mac" was a member of the Jesse White Tumblers, an organization that performs acrobatic feats at halftime of sporting events
24	Mike Davis	6'9"	F	There is a photo on Facebook in which the sophomore is under one basket and the other nine players are on the other end of the court; his explanation? "D doesn't get u to the league....O does!" [sic]; activities include "gettin' new shoes"
54	Mike Tisdale	7'1"	C	Achievements include one-time Riverton (IL) High School Student of the Month
Coach	Bruce Weber			In these economic times, single-handedly keeps the orange blazer industry afloat

***BUM OF THE GAME:** Normally, the Bum of the Game is reserved for a starter, but today the distinction goes to **Alex Legion (#33)**. Once upon a time, Legion, then at Detroit Country Day, committed to Michigan under Tommy Amaker. He then decommitted, recommitted once more, and, for good measure, decommitted yet again when Amaker was replaced by John Beilein. After going to Kentucky (his mother claimed that she was sent a vision from God that Alex would lead Kentucky to the Final Four in Detroit) and playing in just six games, he decided to transfer to Illinois. Make up your mind, Alex. Chant "Bum!" whenever he touches the ball and if the center section asks "What's the matter with Legion?" respond: "He's a bum. Bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum!"

Air Jeffrey: Two Illinois players list their favorite athlete as Michael Jordan; another says his favorite basketball memory is Jordan's game-winner in the 1998 NBA Finals; yet a fourth is a member of a Facebook group called "Jordan Love" that honors His Airness. But MJ's own son, guard **Jeff Jordan (#13)**, at Illinois on academic scholarship, is not one of the players that references dear old dad.

Lip reader: Media guides often try to stretch the truth to paint a certain picture of their athletes—studious, involved, conscientious, and intellectual. But rarely is there an inconsistency quite this explicit. The Illinois media guide lists "reading" as one of Mike Davis's hobbies. But on the sophomore's Facebook page, under Favorite Books, he responds: "Not Really A Reader."

Name game: On **C.J. Jackson's (#34)** Facebook profile, his girlfriend lists various nicknames for the redshirt junior. They include: Big Head, Super Size, Big Foot, Nerd Face, Weiner Fade, Extra Cheese Lover, Dweeb Face, Horse Legs, and our favorite: *Sasquatch Giant*.

THE REST OF THE ILLINOIS ROSTER: #15 Bubba Chisholm, #21 Stan Simpson, #23 Dominique Keller, #25 Calvin Brock, #30 Bill Cole, #50 Richard Semrau

Upcoming events:			
Wed, January 7	at Indiana	6:30pm	BTN
Sun, January 11	vs. Iowa	11:30am OR Noon	BTN

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If you have questions, comments, or future Rage Page material, send an e-mail to Craigjoh@umich.edu.

Histo's Corner:

Michigan is 17-1 all-time in games played on January 4, the lone loss coming in 1972 against Princeton.

Michigan's all-time record in home games against Illinois is 46-28. When a ranked Michigan team plays a home game against an unranked Illinois squad, U-M is 9-1.

Bruce Weber is 1-3 at Crisler Arena, having lost his last three games in Ann Arbor.

Histo's RPI Update:

Michigan - #53, Illinois - #17