



The Rage Page



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The Official Newsletter of the Maize Rage

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Exactly two weeks ago, your Wolverines were riding a six game losing streak heading into a game in East Lansing, which most people were expecting to be Michigan's seventh straight loss. As we all know, it wasn't the seventh loss in a row for the team, but the start of Michigan's best two weeks since early December. The Northwestern Wildcats come to chilly Ann Arbor tonight for a match-up of two coaches with similar brands of basketball. Northwestern is coming off four straight games against ranked opponent, with their only victory in that stretch being a 71-70 win at home against Illinois last Saturday. With a somewhat tame schedule in the final seven games, the Wolverines have the ability to put on a run and finish the season with a post-season appearance. These next two games are some of the most important, as the Wolverines lost by a combined total of 33 points at NU and at IU, so we need to make sure the team can feed off of our energy. Let's show the Big Ten that Michigan will never give up, so be loud, be hype, and most importantly... Go Blue!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Northwestern Wildcats (14-8, 4-7 Big Ten):

22	Michael Thompson	5'10" G	"Juice" is a career 40% 3-pt shooter and has started all 116 games in his time at Northwestern; coach Carmody refers to him as a "40-minute guy"
23	JerShon Cobb*	6'5" G	Freshman is from Columbia High School in Decatur, GA, the same high school Rush Hour funnyman Chris Tucker attended.
1	Drew Crawford	6'5" G/F	Son of NBA referee Danny Crawford; Drew racked up 25 points and 8 rebounds at Crisler last year as a freshman.
24	John Shurna	6'8" F	The answer to your question is yes, that is his real jump shot. The answer to your other question is no, we don't know how he shoots the lights out.
12	Luka Mirkovic	6'11" C	As a junior, Mirkovic is averaging 8.6 ppg and 5.8 rpg while shooting 52% from the field.
Coach	Bill Carmody		Carmody will throw a Princeton Offense out there, as well as a little 1-3-1 zone on defense ala John Beilein.

To comply with the new Big Ten Sportsmanship code, the Bum of the Game has been removed from the Rage Page. Instead **JerShon Cobb is now the "Player to Watch".*

Recruiting Strategy: If you take a quick look at the Northwestern basketball roster, you will see quite a few players from the great Midwest, but there are a couple players that stand out. While 10 out of 13 players on the Wildcat's roster are from Illinois, Indiana, or Michigan, Luka Mirkovic and **Ivan Peljusic (#21)** have to travel 5000 miles to find the place they call home. Luka was born in Belgrade, Serbia but went to high school in LaPorte, Ind. Ivan was born in Croatia and stayed there until coming to America. Peljusic played his prep basketball for V. Nazor Gymnasium (hopefully there is more than just a gym at the school) and his club basketball for KK Borik-Puntamika, finishing seventh at the Croatian Championships.

NU over U-M?: Of the three Wildcats from the state of Michigan, only junior **Davide Curletti (#30)** was linked to the Michigan Basketball program. Davide, from athletic powerhouse Orchard Lake St. Mary's, was potentially going to walk on to the Michigan basketball team until he eventually signed to play for Northwestern. It's a good thing he chose Northwestern because Curletti played the role of the unofficial tour guide for the team during their trip to Italy (where Curletti's family is from) last fall.

Briefly: Senior **Jeff Ryan (#5)** has been Academic All-Big Ten the past 3 years. Jeff is majoring in learning and organizational change (he's learning how to learn at one of the best schools in the nation?)... **Reggie Hearn (#11)** likes mostly rap music, but lists "A Lil Christian Rap" and "Star Wars in Concert" as some of his favorite music... **Austin Nichols (#10)**, from Lansing, played four sports in high school (basketball, golf, tennis, and cross country).

THE REST OF THE WILDCATS: #3 Mike Capocci, #4 Alex Marcotullio, #15 Nick Freundt

NU'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)
- 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!"

Keep it classy, Rage: As one of college basketball's premiere student sections, 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.

The Rage Page is produced by the Maize Rage, an independent student group, for University of Michigan students only. It is funded by the Michigan Student Assembly and does not reflect the views of the Michigan Athletic Department or the University of Michigan.

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

Here is the *projected* starting lineup for YOUR Michigan Wolverines (14-10, 4-7 Big Ten):

4	Darius Morris	6'4"	G	The floor general continues to shine, leading the team with 15.6 points per game and 6.9 assists per game.
0	Zack Novak	6'4"	G	Scorching the nets from downtown, Novak is shooting 45.3% from 3-point range during Big Ten play.
10	Tim Hardaway Jr.	6'5"	G	Led Michigan back in Happy Valley over Penn State with a team-high 13 points in the second half.
23	Evan Smotrycz	6'9"	F	Playing like a typical inconsistent freshman, Evan has scored in double digits seven times this season while recording a goose egg in six games.
52	Jordan Morgan	6'8"	F	Leads team with an incredible field goal percentage of 60.8%, but shoots a team-low 51.2% from the charity stripe.
Coach	John Beilein			At least <i>our</i> coach will be looking classy tonight with a shirt, tie, and rolled up sleeves.

Road Warriors: With such a young team, it is hard to predict how it will perform night-in and night-out, but one thing we have seen over the course of the season is that they seem to play fairly well on the road. Up to this point, the Wolverines have won three true road games this season, including two during Big Ten play. While this may not seem like much, this number equals our away-game win total from the past two seasons; plus, this team still has three more chances to steal coveted conference road wins.

Sandwich in the Big Ten: While Ohio State seems to have taken control of the Big Ten, having not lost a game yet, the rest of the Big Ten is still battling for position heading into the postseason. With seven games remaining for each team (except Illinois, who has eight), almost anything could happen. Wisconsin and Purdue seem relatively safe in second and third place, but only two and a half games separate fourth place (Illinois) from last place (Iowa and Indiana), and only one and a half games separate Illinois from Michigan and Northwestern, in seventh and eighth place. With all these teams facing each other throughout the month of February, be sure to keep a close eye on the Big Ten and how it shakes out.

Big Ten Tournament: No matter what happens in the remainder of the regular season, every Big Ten team will have the chance to redeem its season in the Big Ten Tournament (March 10-13) at Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. The Maize Rage will be sending approximately 60 Ragers to the tourney to cheer on the Wolverines. Look out for updates in the near future and contact Patrick Brown (patribro@umich.edu) for complete details on Road Rage 2011 if you are interested in attending.

***H-BOMB:** When Tim Hardaway Jr. hits a three, drop back in your seats as if a bomb has violently shaken Crisler Arena. Simultaneously, yell "Timmy" (like Timmy from South Park).

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)
-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)

Upcoming games:

February 12	vs. Indiana	4:00pm	A chance at revenge against the short-handed Hoosier squad.
February 16	@ Illinois	8:30pm	Michigan will look to steal the only game against Illini this season.
February 19	@ Iowa	3:30pm	Bring out the brooms for this one as Wolverines look for sweep.



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 grantsea@umich.edu requesting that your name be added.

The Histo and Bacari Corner

Did you know...

- Contrary to last week's fact, Michigan has actually played Iowa the last *three* seasons in the Big Ten Tournament; they are in a similar position this year, as well.

Coach BA's tweets of the week!

Feb. 7: "@JMorgan_52 U concious [sic]! That's why i'm so happy that I get to be the coach and you get to be the player! HALOL!!!! Stay thirsty my friend."

Feb. 6: "Time to prepare for a tough minded Northwestern club. Can't wait to see how the home crowd and Maize Rage will energize our guys! Go Blue!"