

“Our backs were against the wall. We came out and didn’t think about winning or losing, we just played.” ...
Sophomore forward DeShawn Sims, on the late-game run against Iowa

Welcome to the finale of Michigan/MSU weekend. With hockey games against the Spartans on Friday and Saturday night, the basketball team looks to close out the weekend on a positive note by winning the only meeting between these rivals this year. Lest you think the Wolverines don’t have a chance, look no farther than their performance at Wisconsin on Tuesday. They made shots; they out-rebounded the Badgers; they hung with the #11 team the country before losing by a single possession, 64-61. Though Michigan couldn’t close the deal in the waning minutes, it has chance to replicate that situation in John Beilein’s first rivalry game. Go Blue!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the #10 Michigan State Spartans (17-2, 5-1 Big Ten):

11	Drew Neitzel	6’0”	G	Who knew that Britney Spears and Dr. Evil had a child?
5	Travis Walton	6’2”	G	Junior has made zero field goals in three of the last four games
2	Raymar Morgan	6’7”	F	Izzo credits Morgan’s mom—not himself—for #2’s improvement; says Raymar: “whenever I talk to her, it’s always about the things I did wrong” in the game
14	Goran Suton	6’10”	C	Bosnia native lists basketball as his third favorite sport behind soccer and team handball; says he started playing basketball “in the street” in seventh grade, but MSU claims he made Bosnia’s national team at age 14 (a mere one year later?)
34	Drew Naymick	6’10”	C	Call him “Dr. Naymick;” he already graduated and is pursuing a PhD in Finance
Coach	Tom Izzo			Named his son Steven Thomas Mateen Izzo in honor of his best friend, Steve Mariucci, and former Spartan Mateen Cleaves; first hobbit to coach in Div I-A

HER-zog: While redshirt freshman center **Tom Herzog (#40)** sat out last year on gameday, he participated with enthusiasm when the basketball team decided to put on dresses and perform Britney Spears songs. Whether his motivation was a love for cross-dressing or simply the desire to be the first seven-foot tall Britney impersonator, we may never know. →



In the summertime: Besides being the second-best freshman from a Redford high school on the court today, you should recognize guard **Durrell Summers (#15)** for a few more interesting distinctions. He claims to have never cleaned his room in his life, his proposed Ben & Jerry’s flavor is Cookie Dough (umm... Durrell, I think they’ve already thought of that), his favorite restaurant is “Red Lob” (where he always gets the Seaside Shrimp Trio), and his Facebook profile is listed under the name “Summer Time Summers.”

Slackstronaut: Sophomore forward **Jon Crandell (#10)** will likely not see game action today (he was playing IM basketball one year ago) but his Facebook profile is worth mentioning. On the website, he declares “I’m a loser,” he lists his major as “Astronaut,” and claims to have worked at Home Depot last January. His official title? “Slacker.”

Briefly: Freshman guard **Chris Allen’s (#3)** aunt and uncle live in Lansing on the same street as former Spartan Magic Johnson’s parents. ... The full name of redshirt junior center **Idong Ibok (#00)** is Idongesit William Ibok. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, the fan favorite has a 7’5” wingspan. His father is named Moses.

THE REST OF THE MSU ROSTER: #1 Kalin Lucas, #13 Austin Thornton, #20 Mike Kebler, #22 Isaiah Dahlman, #41 Marquise Gray

Upcoming events:			
Thurs, January 31	vs. Minnesota	7:00pm	**Gates open one hour prior to tipoff**
Sat, February 9	vs. Penn State	4:00pm	

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Histo’s Corner:

Michigan is 90-68 all-time against MSU.

In games at MSU, Michigan is 35-42, but 3-3 in years ending in the number eight.

In a Michigan head coach’s first season, the Wolverines are 2-0 in games at MSU on odd-numbered days.

Michigan is 2-0 against MSU head coaches in their 13th season.

Histo’s RPI Update:

Michigan - #173, Michigan State - #5