



The Rage Page



*Coach John Beilein, after the 77-62 loss at MSU ... "You look at most of our 62 points today, they're all on half court offense. We need to get some **easy points** as well."*

In some ways, this Minnesota team and our Michigan squad are in similar places. Both have first-year head coaches, who have struggled to implement their system with a group of players unfamiliar with it; both have stressed improvement at the expense of short-term success; and both programs are on the rise, expecting substantial progress in the next year or two. The main difference between the Wolverines and the Gophers is the schedules they have played. Thus far, Michigan has faced eight nationally-ranked teams, including five in the top ten; Minnesota has played MSU twice, Indiana once, and no other ranked teams. We can earn a win today. Fire up, Rage.

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Minnesota Golden Gophers (12-6, 2-4 Big Ten):

20	Lawrence Westbrook	6'0"	G	Sophomore is cousin of Philadelphia Eagles running back Brian Westbrook
1	Lawrence McKenzie	6'2"	G	Senior frequently returns to the court moments after a bad shooting game to practice his shot; it must not work, as he's scoring five ppg less than last year
34	Damian Johnson	6'7"	F	Nickname on the team is "Duck;" Minny PA Announcer can't remember his real name, reportedly calling him Damian <i>Jackson</i> multiple times this year
13	Dan Coleman	6'9"	F	Senior transferred from Boston College after only taking summer school classes at B.C.; uncle, Ben, (the rice guy?) played for the Gophers in 1980-81
50	Spencer Tollackson*	6'9"	C	Theater major played baseball in H.S. and claims to have a fastball in the high 80s; pierced his ears in a friend's basement when he was a sophomore in H.S.
Coach	Tubby Smith			Making a fourth attempt to win his 400 th game; real first name is Orlando; got the nickname for, out of his 16 siblings, being most fond of the wash tub

***Bum of the Game: #50 Spencer Tollackson** – Whenever Spencer Tollackson touches the ball, we'll do a "Spen-cer... Bum!" chant (like "Goalie... Sieve!" at a hockey game).

Burrito banditos: Tubby Smith stopped by a Minnesota on-campus Chipotle location last Wednesday, but it wasn't just for lunch. Smith stepped behind the counter and prepared burritos for hungry customers, the first of which was Bo Arnold, a Minnesota student who proclaimed: "I'll bet it's going to taste extra good" because Tubby prepared it. The Gophers' team chemistry extends off the court and into the realm of Mexican food, as Smith's burrito of choice is "definitely chicken" and Spencer Tollackson, when asked in a prior interview what food he would choose if he could only eat one thing for the rest of his life, did not miss a beat, saying, "a Chipotle chicken burrito because it's a good source of nutrition."

'Back'board: Who knows what trick shots freshman guard **Blake Hoffarber (#24)** may try to pull today. Hoffarber gained fame during the 2005 Minnesota State Championship game, when, with his team down two points, he hit a buzzer beater while lying flat on his back near the three-point arc to send the game to overtime, where his team would eventually win. Hoffarber won the 2005 ESPY award for Best Play, beating out Tiger Woods's famous chip-in at the Masters. It marked the first time that a high school player had won an ESPY.

Lil' Flip: Making the final visit to Crisler of his career is **Ryan Saunders (#2)**, the senior guard who is best known for being Pistons coach Flip Saunders's son. Flip played basketball at Minnesota in the '70s and led the Gophers to a school-best 24-3 record; Ryan's mom, Debbie, was a member of the dance line during that time (why hasn't she suited up for Automotion?).

Name Game: Junior guard **Jamal Abu-Shamala's (#33)** father's name is Subhy; junior forward **Jonathan Williams's (#11)** dad is named Ballery.

THE REST OF THE GOPHER ROSTER: #0 Al Nolen, #3 Kevin Payton, #4 Travis Busch

- Minnesota'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 silence, 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!"

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.

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 (5-15, 1-7 Big Ten):

2	C.J. Lee	6'0"	G	Junior's 2.9 assist-to-turnover ratio leads the team; the transfer from Manhattan has started the last seven games for the Maize and Blue
3	Manny Harris	6'5"	G	Star freshman exploded for a career-high 26 points at Wisconsin on 11-of-19 shooting; he leads the team in scoring, assists, steals, and defensive rebounds
15	Jevohn Shepherd	6'5"	W	Air Canada has stepped up his game with the increased playing time he's seen the last few games, scoring 11 against Iowa and nine at Wisconsin
34	DeShawn Sims	6'8"	F	Sophomore scored 18 the last time he played in Crisler Arena; leads the team in rebounds (4.8 rpg) and three-pointers made (30) and attempted (83)
22	Ekpe Udoh	6'10"	F	Oklahoma native leads the Big Ten with 56 blocks; posted his first career double-double at Northwestern, scoring 14 points and snatching 11 rebounds
Coach	John Beilein			First-year UM coach set the trend for West Virginia coaches coming to A ² ; check out his radio show every Monday evening at 6 p.m.

Happy birthday, Crisler: Today's game is a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the opening of Crisler Arena. Give a warm welcome to Wolverine legends Cazzie Russell and Rudy Tomjanovich, as well as the 1967-68 basketball team, which played the first season in Crisler. Michigan's all-time record in Crisler is 478-130.

Take it easy: After tonight's game, Michigan will have its first weekend off since the holidays. After that, it's a trip to Columbus to take on the Buckeyes next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. on ESPN. Four of Michigan's next five games will be on national TV.

Students, we want to hear you: What do you think of the Maize Rage? What can we do better? What do we do well? We want to know what you think! Come to a meeting of the Maize Rage Core Committee. We meet each Monday night at 7:00 p.m. Next week's meeting will be in the Henderson Room on the third floor of the Michigan League (location sometimes changes, so e-mail wolters@umich.edu beforehand to double-check that we'll be there). Whether you just want to share a few thoughts or you want to get involved long-term, we'd like to hear what you have to say.

H-BOMB: When Manny Harris hits a three, drop back in your seats as if a bomb has violently shaken Crisler Arena. Simultaneously yell "Fresh" (Manny's nickname), holding the -SH at the end.

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:

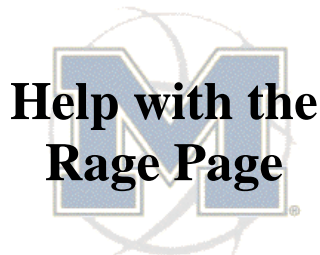
- De-fense! (clap clap)
- D-D-D-Defense! D-D-D-Defense!
- Popcorn (Jump up and down while screaming OHHHH!!)
- Bounce! Bounce! Pass! (Yell "bounce" when the opposition dribbles, and "pass" when they pass)

Bum of the Game goes to the bench: -NaNaNaNaN! NaNaNaNaN! Hey Hey Hey, You Suck!

Band Chants: Try to follow along with what the band is doing. In particular, listen for "Mi-chi-gan, Let's Go," "Blue," and "Go Blue." Also, pay attention to any signs the band might hold up.

Upcoming home games:

Sat, February 9	vs. Penn State	4:00pm	Gates open one hour before tipoff. Get here early to read this.
Sun, February 17	vs. Ohio State	1:00pm	Nationally televised on CBS



Interested in helping make this fine publication? Send an e-mail to craigjoh@umich.edu or come to a Monday evening Maize Rage meeting.

Histo's Corner:

Michigan is 51-39 all-time at home against Minnesota. In the 40 years of Crisler Arena's existence, Michigan holds a 32-4 advantage.

In the month of January, Michigan is 7-2 at home against the Gophers. Michigan is also 10-3 at home in even-numbered years.

In Michigan coaches' first year, the Wolverines are 5-1 against Minnesota when the year ends in an even number.

Histo's RPI Update:

Michigan - #170, Minnesota - #78