



The Rage Page



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The Northwestern Wildcats come to Crisler Arena from Evanston, Illinois after their best start in years. While they have started the Big Ten season with two straight losses at the hands of Illinois and Michigan State, they have shown the ability to win quality games, especially on the road, where they have beaten Notre Dame, Iowa State, and North Carolina State. Meanwhile, the Wolverines come off their first winning streak since beating Northern Michigan, Houston Baptist, and Creighton in back-to-back-to-back games in November. Michigan must put away a pesky Wildcat team to stay afloat in the Big Ten and lengthen their winning streak. Stand loud and proud.

Here is the *projected* starting lineup for the Northwestern Wilcats (11-3, 0-2 Big Ten):

22	Michael Thompson	5'10" G	"Juice" averaging 15.3 points and 4.4 assists per game; 41% from downtown.
23	Jeremy Nash	6'4" G	Defensive stopper is majoring in Learning and Organizational Change.
1	Drew Crawford	6'5" F	The freshman writes a diary on Northwestern's athletic website that a total of 0 people read.
24	John Shurna	6'8" F	Leading scorer with 17.8 points per game. Also hauls in 7.1 rebounds to lead the team while coughing it up a team-high 2.1 times a game.
12	Luka Mirkovic	6'11" C	Hails from Belgrade, Serbia, home country of Peja Stojakovic and others.
Coach	Bill Carmody		Namesake of the notorious website firebillcarmody.com.

***BUM OF THE GAME:** Be sure to salute Drew Crawford, because he's our Bum of the Game. Chant "BUM" whenever he touches the ball and if the center section asks "What's the matter with Crawford?" respond: "He's a bum. Bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum!"

The Injury Bug: Before the season even got rolling, Northwestern took probably the hardest hit from injuries out of any team in the country. Last year's leading scorer with 15.5 points per game, **#44 Kevin Coble**, went down with a foot injury and will miss the whole season in hopes of returning next year by gaining a medical redshirt. Fellow senior **#5 Jeff Ryan** is sitting out the entire year with an ACL injury. These two seasoned vets represented half of the Wildcats' senior class.

Foreign Connection: Taking a quick look through Northwestern's basketball roster, you might stumble across a few names, including the likes of **#3 Mike Capocci**, **#4 Alex Marcotullio**, **#15 Nick Fruendt**, **#21 Ivan Peljusic**, **#30 Davide Curletti**, and Luka Mirkovic. Perhaps you'd be surprised to know that only two of these players (Peljusic and Mirkovic, from Croatia and Serbia, respectively) are foreign-born. It's fairly clear what, or who for that matter, draws these foreigners to the shores of Lake Michigan when you see assistant coach Ivan Vujic sitting on the bench. This is not the end of Northwestern's worldly recruiting, however. Continue reading.

Questionable Recruiting? Looking through Northwestern's commitment lists over the past four years, it's not hard to see why Bill Carmody hasn't had the most success recently. From 2006 through 2009, the Wildcats have attracted a total of 13 recruits. Of these 13, nine were rated as 3-star prospects, two were two-star prospects, and two were unranked. Looking ahead to 2010, however, you will see that Northwestern has secured a commitment from four-star guard Jershon Cobb of Georgia. Even more puzzling is the fact that 2011 five-star prospect Dai-Jon Parker, also of Georgia, has Northwestern among his final five schools of choice. Is Carmody resorting to questionable recruiting tactics or is something about not making the NCAA Tournament in the history of the 104-year-old program extremely appealing to all of these high schoolers? Maybe the NCAA's investigating team should make their next stop in Evanston.

The Caveman: Look to Northwestern's bench to see who has been lovingly given the nickname of "The Caveman" by the Maize Rage, 7-foot, 280-pound center **#54 Kyle Rowley**. While you wouldn't know it by hearing the name, the sophomore actually hails from Arima, Trinidad. Accordingly, the sport of basketball is still fairly primitive to this caveman. Rowley only played basketball for two years in high school at Lake Forest Academy in Illinois (rival of Lake Forest High School, the former home of Matt Vogrich), averaging 14 points and eight rebounds his senior season. He also played on Trinidad and Tobago's under-18 team in 2007. He was a highly sought-after prospect coming out of high school, but he clearly has not come close to his supposed ceiling.

THE REST OF THE WILDCATS: #11 Reggie Hearn and #33 Matt Steger

- 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 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 (8-6, 2-1 Big Ten):

31	Laval Lucas-Perry	6'3"	G	Kept the Wolverines afloat Thursday night at Penn State, hitting four 3-pointers in a span of two minutes to solidify the win.
1	Stu Douglass	6'3"	G	Cooled down since his hot shooting at Indiana, but is still scoring over 7 ppg
3	Manny Harris	6'5"	W	Only scored 13 points in the win at Penn State, but also had 4 steals.
0	Zack Novak	6'5"	F	Continues to see a ton of minutes while knocking down timely 3-pointers and proving that he is the heart and soul this team
34	DeShawn Sims	6'8"	F	Scored a team-high 25 points in the team's last game at Penn State, hitting 12-17 from the field in addition to 6 rebounds in 39 minutes of play.
Coach	John Beilein			Beginning to look like the team we all envisioned at season's onset, winning three of four games, including a huge victory against Ohio State last weekend.

How about those fair-weather fans? After a great performance last weekend against then-#15 Ohio State, people started hopping back on the bandwagon. But then after one half at Penn State in which Michigan shot 0-11 from beyond the arc, one cursory glance at U-M message boards showed that the fair-weather fans were hopping right back off. But then we saw arguably the greatest 20 minutes of basketball this season, and got our first road win. Some of those fair-weather fans are undoubtedly back on the bandwagon, but it is important to keep the faith. Back-to-back wins have put us back on winning track (sort of) and hopefully we can continue this for the next few games! Don't lose faith!

Jordan Duuumars: Jordan Dumars (yes, he is related to Joe) has enrolled at Michigan and will be walking on to the Michigan basketball team. Per NCAA rules, he must sit out for the next two semesters, making him eligible next December after classes end (think LLP last season). He previously played at South Florida, and is a graduate of Detroit Country Day, which has starred the likes of Shane Battier, Chris Webber, and Mr. Transfer himself, Alex Legion.

Send in Mahoney! Coach John Mahoney will be attending our next Maize Rage meeting, which is Monday, January 11 at 7pm. He wants as many people in attendance as possible, so come if you can! The location is TBD, so look for an email with that information. Of course, if you would like to attend but are not on the list, just email treasurer Sean Grant at grantsea@umich.edu.

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.

THE FISH: At halftime, be sure to sit down and start swaying back and forth. You will see random Maize Ragers jump up and flop like a fish. If you feel so inclined, go ahead and try it out, too!

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:

January 14	vs. Indiana	9:00pm	Drink some caffeine before this late game
January 17	vs. Connecticut	1:30pm	New student ticket policy will be in full effect
January 20	@ Wisconsin	8:30pm	Did their best impersonation of us by beating Duke, rushing the floor



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.

Webber's Wisdom

Some facts about Chris Webber

- Chris Webber's birthday is coming up on March 1! He will be turning 37.

- Did you know that Chris bet Charles Barkley that he couldn't eat a piece of bread in 30 seconds? Of course, Charles failed the challenge... C-Webb is never wrong.

