

The Michigan Full Court Press

Volume VII Issue XX

The Official Newsletter of the Maize Rage

4 March 2006

“You start this year with the thought, the dream, the hope to be in March Madness. I think that’s the way our sport is structured. I know our kids are working hard at trying to make that a reality, **especially for the seniors** - these kids have done a lot and given a lot of themselves for the program. It would be the right script.” –Tommy Amaker, before the season, on U-M making the NCAA Tournament

Healthy, happy, and hungry. Today, on Senior Day, in the final regular season game for the Wolverines, we look back at these three words which Michigan coach Tommy Amaker used to describe his team before the season. With Lester Abram possibly seeing his first action in Crisler today since mid-January and Chris Hunter’s knee progressing, the team is finally getting healthy. With a marquee win over #8 Illinois here last week likely pushing U-M into the NCAA Tourney, the team is happy. But the Wolverines are still hungry; hungry to make some noise in the post-season, and even more hungry to beat an Indiana team for the first time since 2001. This is the seniors’ last chance – let’s rally behind them today and send the team to the post-season in style with a big W!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Indiana Hoosiers (16-10, 8-7 Big Ten):

22	Marshall Strickland	6’2”	G	Amazingly, this senior was snubbed by the Oscars despite his dramatic flop off a Terrence Dials screen that gave Indiana the winning FTs over OSU
20	A.J. Ratliff	6’2”	G	Amos Jr., the 2004 Indiana Mr. Basketball, possesses a 6’9” wingspan
51	Earl Calloway	6’3”	G	Speedy junior from Georgia is good friends with former Hoosier A.J. Moyer
24	Robert Vaden	6’5”	F	Sophomore celebrated his 21 st birthday last night by prepping for today’s game (or <i>did</i> he?); likes to engage in heated arguments with frat boys
5	Marco Killingsworth	6’8”	F	IU’s media guide boasts that the Auburn transfer has only 7% body fat; enjoys picking fights with players like Matt Trannon (who doesn’t?)
Coach	Mike Davis			Announced on February 17 th that he will resign after the season

Bravo, Hoosier fans: After days (or months... or wait, make that *years*) of pressure from Indiana alumni, students, and fans, Mike Davis finally announced on February 17th that he will resign after the season, ending a long period of speculation. The move seemed to go over well with everyone in the Hoosier state... that is, everyone except the *players*. Many of the IU players expressed their regrets, saying that their coach deserved better from fans. Then, reports arose of Robert Vaden and injured sophomore D.J. White (last year’s Big Ten Freshman of the Year) wanting to transfer with Davis gone. “Who knows what the future holds for me, but hopefully I can be with him wherever he goes,” Vaden said, while White made it clear that he “came all the way from Alabama” for Davis and that it would be “tough” for him to stay at IU. No word yet on what sophomore guard/coach’s son Mike Davis, Jr. (#15) will be doing next year, though it’s hard to imagine him in Bloomington. Thanks, Hoosier fans, for destroying your basketball team.

Hail to the Chiefs, revisited: Speaking of Vaden, White, and resignations, you may recall from last year’s FCP that Maggie Daniels, daughter of Indiana governor “My Man” Mitch Daniels and classmate of Vaden and White, convinced the young ballers to run for seats on the IU Student Association Congress as candidates on the Kirkwood ticket. Well, sure enough, the dynamic duo, along with Daniels, won the elections thanks to thousands of votes from Hoosier students, including then-sophomore guard Roderick Wilmont (#10). Despite Wilmont’s public longings for Vaden and White to serve, both players resigned immediately from their positions, claiming that they tried to withdraw their names before the election. “I don’t even know what happened,” White said. “I just woke up one day and I was on the ballot.”

Degenerate water boy: Last year, following Indiana’s 70-63 victory here in Crisler, fired-up Hoosier forward Sean Kline (#23) threw water at and gave “suck it” motions to a group of Ragers behind the IU bench. Kline, whose scoring average has decreased from 4.0 ppg two years ago to 1.6 last year to 1.4 this year, is regularly booed during home games at Assembly Hall, and was reminded of it all game by the boisterous Rage. For the record, Kline played a big 4 minutes in the win last year, registering more turnovers (1) than points (0). See picture →



Kline, left, tells the Rage to “suck it” before shaking hands with Tommy

Two-sport threat, revisited: In last year’s FCP, we wrote the following:

James Hardy (#2), a freshman forward, signed a letter of intent to play football for the Hoosiers. Even in a season in which the Hoosiers went 3-8 and got smoked by three touchdowns against our Wolverines, James saw no action.

Perhaps when James finally gets on the gridiron, the football Hoosiers will finally have the push to get over the hump and beat the “powerful” men of Illinois, who also went 3-8 this year and bested Hardy’s Boys 26-22 on November 6.

As it turns out, Hardy, now a sophomore, took our words to heart. He led the Hoosiers in receiving this year with 893 yards and 10 touchdowns, and his 10 catch, 118 yard, 2 touchdown performance against Illinois gave Indiana a 36-13 victory over the Illini. The Hoosiers finished 1-7 in the Big Ten; Illinois finished 0-8. Hardy missed the Michigan game, however, due to injuries.

Bad boy: Sophomore guard Adam Ahlfeld (#34) left a half-gallon of rum sitting on the floor of his room and was nabbed for illegal consumption last January.

Happy Belated Birthdays: In addition to Vaden's 21st last night, Marshall Strickland celebrated his 23rd birthday on Wednesday.

REST OF THE IU ROSTER: #21 Ben Allen, #31 Cem Dinc, #33 Lewis Monroe, #32 Joey Shaw, #11 Errek Suhr, #44 Kyle Taber

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.

Here are the **departing seniors** for YOUR Michigan Wolverines (18-8, 8-7 Big Ten):

4	Daniel Horton	6'3"	G	His career-high 39 points (including 5 H-Bombs) downed Illinois, likely pushed Blue into the tournament, and truly left a lasting mark at U-M
10	Hayes Grooms	6'2"	G	Greet the transfer from Lamar by singing "Hayes! Hayes, Hayes, Hayes!" to the intro tune of Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger"
14	Troy Sanchez	6'2"	G	Walk-on has yet to see action, but we still love him
22	Sherrod Harrell	6'3"	G	Two-year captain from Kalamazoo was always consistent on the court and will be the last Wolverine to ever wear the number 22
25	Graham Brown	6'9"	F	Hambone has proven to be invaluable to the team throughout his four years of hustling for loose balls, grabbing boards, and setting screens
31	Chris Hunter	6'11"	F	Captain is still recovering from a knee injury but hopes to be back for tourney time; came up big in both wins over MSU (this year and 2003)
50	Amadou Ba	6'10"	C	Fan favorite will always be remembered for his energy and enthusiasm
32	Lester Abram???	6'6"	W	Showtime <i>does</i> have one more year of eligibility left...

Farewell, seniors: Today's contest marks the final home game for at least seven seniors who have done immeasurable things for the Michigan basketball program. When the six members of Coach Amaker's highly-touted first recruiting class (Daniel, Sherrod, Graham, Chris, Amadou, and Lester) arrived on campus in 2002, Michigan basketball was in shambles. After an 0-6 start to their postseason-banned freshman year, things didn't look to be getting any better. Then from nowhere, the Wolverines went on a 13 game winning streak, led by Daniel Horton, capping off the streak with a victory at home over MSU. This class would go on to capture an NIT Championship in 2004 and now looks to be bringing U-M back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1998. When the seniors are introduced, show them how much we as fans appreciate what they've done for Michigan.

Hype our players: In the pre-game introductions, rather than chanting "who cares!" when an opposing player is introduced, start chanting for the Michigan player about to be introduced (i.e. before Daniel is introduced, we will start chanting "Dan-iel Hor-ton!" (clap clap clap clap clap) during the Indiana player's introduction). Listen in to the center section for the next player to be called.

H-BOMB: If Daniel Horton hits a three, drop back in your seats as if a bomb has violently shaken Crisler Arena. It's the H-BOMB!

Old 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) ←DON'T SPEED UP!
-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)

Turnovers: -You! You! You! (while pointing finger at the player)

Fouls: -It's all your fault! It's all your fault! It's all your fault! (while pointing finger at the player)

COMING UP - Big Ten Tournament:

March 9-12

Conseco Fieldhouse

Indianapolis, IN

Give the team a big boost - be there!

Visit
MaizeRage.org

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

Histo's Corner: Michigan is 51-95 all-time against Indiana, although the Wolverines hold a 39-34 advantage in games played in Ann Arbor, including a 20-15 mark in games played here at The House that Cazzie Built.

Michigan is 6-4 in home games played on March 4th, including a 1-0 advantage over Indiana. The Wolverines defeated the Hoosiers 53-45 on this date in 1939. In the Crisler Arena era, Michigan is 3-0 at home against IU in the month of March.

HISTO'S "BY THE NUMBERS":

70: When Michigan holds Indiana under 70 points in Crisler Arena, the Maize and Blue are 10-2, while U-M holds a 10-13 record when the Hoosiers eclipse 70 points.