



The Rage Page



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*Junior forward Deshawn Sims, after his 20 point, 20 rebound performance against FGCU:
"Coach said, 'If I am a warrior and you are a warrior, this team could be special.'"*

Ready yet for the Big Ten season? Although we're all anxious to see how Peedi Sims and the rest of the Michigan Wolverines perform against the likes of Wisconsin, Purdue, and sPARTY, the Maize and Blue have one more tune-up left in the form of the North Carolina Central Eagles. Like the *Florida Gulf Coast* Eagles, these Eagles are in the midst of only their second season in Division I. Unlike FGCU, however, NC Central doesn't have a Reed Baker or a single win this year. The Eagles don't appear to pose much of a threat, but crazier things have happened, especially in Crisler Arena this season against Independent D-I teams. Look for more PT for LLP, more domination from Peedi, and more points for Manny, but let's not look past this game just yet. Unfortunately, Big Ben Cronin won't be making an appearance due to pending hip surgery, but we can still have fun with these guys. Get loud and Go Blue!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the North Carolina Central Eagles (0-14, 0-2 Independents):

10	Jamar Briscoe	5'10"	G	Nicknamed "Deuce", this freshman from Baltimore stole the show at Duquesne last week, scoring 34 pts and receiving a standing ovation from the Dukes fans when he fouled out late in the game; NCCU lost 97-79
12	Bryan Ayala*	6'3"	G	Senior "leader" led the Eagles with 6 costly turnovers at Duquesne in his first game of the season; previously, he was suspended for "breaking team rules"
24	Vincent Davis	6'2"	G	Sophomore transfer has somehow upped his scoring average from 4.6 ppg at Motlow State Community College to 12.2 ppg at NC Central
53	Norbert Randall	6'6"	F	This 250-pounder wears a special-order size 19 shoe, earning him a prominent mention in the NC Central media guide as the Eagles' very own "Big Foot"
30	Stevy Worah-Ozimo	6'9"	C	Big man from Gabon, West Africa must have felt that he wasn't tech-savvy enough to cut it at the Technical Career Institute College of Technology, where he averaged 12.7 rebounds/game before transferring to NC Central
Coach	Henry Dickerson			West Virginia native likely has a soft spot for Southeast Michigan, as the Detroit Pistons were the first team to sign him to an NBA contract

***BUM OF THE GAME:** Henry Dickerson was counting on **Bryan Ayala** to provide wisdom and leadership to his Eagle squad as a returning senior starter. Ayala responded by breaking team rules and following his suspension with a 6-turnover performance, qualifying him as our Bum of the Game. Chant "Bum! Bum! Bum!" when he touches the ball, and if the center section asks "What's the matter with Bryan?" respond: "He's a bum! Bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum!"

Not Worthy: Averaging more than 20 minutes a game, Junior forward **Joshua Worthy (#0)** has had plenty of chances to live up to some of the expectations he carries as the nephew of Lakers great "Big Game" James Worthy. Unfortunately, his 2.4 ppg and 2.3 rpg indicate that he might want to focus on his Environmental Science major rather than chase an NBA career like his uncle.

Saul good: Senior guard **Ashton Sauls (#21)** holds an Iowa HS football record with three interceptions in a game on two occasions.

Party like it's 1989: Later this season, the Michigan Basketball program will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of winning the 1989 NCAA National Championship. But did you know that the North Carolina Central Basketball program will be doing the same? Just days before the Wolverines defeated Seton Hall in the Division I title game, the NC Central Eagles throttled SE Missouri State 73-46 to take the Division II Championship. Amazingly, you can purchase the epic NCCU/SEMSU game on DVD at Amazon.com for \$24.99.

THE REST OF THE NCCU ROSTER: #1 Michael Glasker, #3 J'Mell Walters, #5 Philip Branch, #15 Lamar Pittman, #22 Nick Chasten, #23 Dami Sapara, #33 Tremain Holloway

Upcoming games:			
Wed, December 31	vs. Wisconsin (Big Ten opener)	2:00pm	Free admission for students!
Sun, January 4	vs. Illinois ("welcome" back Alex Legion!)	Noon	Free admission for students!

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Histo's Corner: This is the first ever meeting between Michigan and NC Central. The Wolverines are 6-0 against Independents, which includes 5 wins over Chicago State and 1 over Savannah State this year. U-M is 2-0 at home on December 29th in even-ending years against teams from "the South".

Michigan is 2-0 this season in games with a single-sided Rage Page.

Histo's RPI Update: Michigan - #21, NC Central - #339