

Spartans projected starting line-up:

5 Cassius Winston 6'1" G

Has been thoroughly outplayed by Xavier Simpson head-to-head so far in his career

11 Aaron Henry 6'6" F

Once went on a six tweet rant about how his parents are "the most annoying people ever"

20 Matt McQuaid 6'5" G

Referred to Michigan as Brian Lewerke's state

23 Xavier Tillman 6'8" F

Was the 2017 Michigan Mr. Basketball runner-up to Isaiah Livers

25 Kenny Goins 6'7" F

Called his friend 14 times in 3 minutes to try and save their snap streak

HC Tom Izzo

Hasn't made it past the first weekend of the NCAA Tournament since 2015

Good afternoon, Maize Rage and welcome back to Crisler Center! We have a massive Maize-Out matchup as your Michigan Wolverines face their fierce in-state rival: the Michigan State Spartans. Last year's squad proved to be an absolute thorn in the side of the Spartans, winning the matchup by double digits in East Lansing and again by 11 in New York City in the semifinals of the Big Ten Tournament. In total, Michigan has won three straight in the rivalry and looks to add a pair of wins to their streak before the regular season comes to a close.

Rivalry Ramifications: Michigan and Michigan State stand atop the conference deadlocked at 13-3 with Purdue tied for first place. This is the first matchup between the rivals this year, but it won't be the last, as they are scheduled for another contest in East Lansing to close out the regular season. A series split between the two likely gives the conference title edge to Purdue, but a sweep by either school gives the winner a major boost for at least a share of the conference crown. It's no overstatement to say that today's game goes a long way in determining this year's Big Ten champion.

Sparse Spartans: As you no doubt have heard from every talking head on TV and from Tom Izzo himself, the Spartans are dealing with some injuries. Starting junior guard Josh Langford hasn't played since December 29th and will miss the rest of the season with a stress fracture in his left foot/ankle area. Though one could make the argument that the Spartans offense has been more efficient absent Langford, no one can oversell the importance of starting junior forward Nick Ward's recent injury: a hairline fracture in his shooting hand. The wildcard big man will miss today's game, but may make it back in time for the rematch in East Lansing.

The Rest of the Spartans: Kyle Ahrens (#0), Joshua Langford (#1), Foster Loyer (#3), Jack Hoiberg (#10), Gabe Brown (#13), Brock Washington (#14), Thomas Kithier (#15), Marcus Bingham Jr. (#30), Braden Burke (#40), Conner George (#41), Nick Ward (#44)

To comply with the Big Ten sportsmanship code, the "Bum of the Game" has been replaced by the "Player to Watch": **Cassius Winston**

Keep it classy, Rage: As one of college basketball's premiere student sections, it's important that we refrain from swearing or using other slurs throughout the game. The University of Michigan is an institution of class, and as a collective representative, we need to uphold this standard.

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Historic Rivalry: This game will be the 182nd meeting all-time between Michigan and Michigan State on the hardwood, with the first meeting taking place in 1909. Michigan leads the all-time series 93-81 with a current winning streak of 3 games against the Spartans. Unfortunately, this meeting between the top ten teams should not be a cake walk for the Wolverines, as the largest victory between the two last year was only 11 points.

Backcourt War: Michigan State is lead by junior guard Cassius Winston, who's averaging 18.9 points per game. Junior guard Joshua Langford was also having a strong season with 15 points per game before suffering a season ending injury. The Spartans have looked to senior Matt McQuaid to pick up the slack. The McQuaid-Winston combination in the backcourt should have their hands full trying to defend Jordan Poole and Xavier Simpson.

Repeat Offenders: Charles Matthews and Xavier Simpson look to have another strong performance against Sparty. Last year in the Big Ten Tournament, Matthews had a stat line of 12 points, 3 assists, and 6 rebounds while Simpson had 15 points, 2 assists, and 7 points en route to their 75-64 victory. They also look to have another strong defensive performance as they held current leading scorer Cassius Winston to only 11 points.

Remember: A maize Michigan shirt, a Michigan basketball jersey, or costume is required to sit in the bleachers.



Visit our website at maizerage.org and follow us on Twitter [@MaizeRageUM](https://twitter.com/MaizeRageUM). To sign up for weekly newsletters and important Rage tidbits, send an email to emckeen@umich.edu requesting that your name be added.

Cheers and Chants

- Put your arms around those near you and sway to the beat during the pregame video
- IggyIggyIggyIggyIggy (when Ignas Brazdeikis touches the ball or makes a play)
- Big Jon (when Jon Teske makes a play)
- During free throws, listen for the distracting noise and echo along
- Howl like a wolf when Charles Matthews has a great play
- Defense! (stomp, stomp)

The Cannonball: Every time Jordan Poole hits a three, drop back in your seat as though you are doing a cannonball in Crisler

Maize Ragers of the Game



Names: Lexi and Nicole

Year: Juniors

Majors: Psychology and Elementary Education

Favorite thing about the Maize Rage:
"Screaming like banshees during free throws"

If we notice you on the jumbotron, or if you tweet a picture of yourself using #LetsRage, you could be the next Maize Rager of the Game!