



*Spartans' projected starting lineup:*

0 Aaron Henry 6'6" F

#0 on the court, #0 in our hearts

1 Joshua Langford 6'5" G

Has been on the team since before Izzo was hired

11 A.J. Hoggard 6'3" G

Mistakenly believes he has better hair than Mike Smith

25 Malik Hall 6'7" F

Has a career negative K/D ratio on Call of Duty

34 Julius Marble II 6'8" F

Thinks Tony Romo is an elite QB

HC Tom Izzo

Claims he only benched his son to spend quality time with him

To comply with the Big Ten sportsmanship code, the "Bum of the Game" has been replaced by the "Player to Watch": **Aaron Henry**

Good evening, Ragers! Despite a rough loss to Illinois on Tuesday, Michigan has yet another chance to clinch the B10 Title with a win over Little Brother tonight at Crisler. The rivalry opens up a back-to-back series to be completed in East Lansing on Sunday.

**What game?:**

This is a game that Michigan should scrap for the time being. The Tuesday night rescheduled contest against Illinois was something straight out of a college basketball horror film. Michigan had their lowest scoring half of the season in the 1st, only scoring 22 points. Hunter Dickinson found himself in foul trouble with around 5 minutes to go in that first half and Michigan was lucky to be down 11 at the break. Without leading scorer, Ayo Dosumnu, the Fighting Illini seemed to be a bit more balanced. The Wooden Award candidate went through shoot around before a team spokesman ruled him out for the game around an hour before tipoff.

The second half started off well when Michigan cut it down to single digits and Kofi Cockburn picked up his 3rd foul. Michigan then had a premium opportunity to cut even more into that lead but Dickinson picked up his 3rd foul battling for a rebound with Giorgi Bezhanishvili. By the time he reentered the game, Michigan's deficit was near 20 and they still couldn't find the bottom of the nylon. The bright spot at the end was solid play from some of the freshmen who don't typically get playing time. Michigan has two more chances to win the B10 title outright against rival Michigan State on Thursday and Saturday.

**The Rest of the Spartans:**

Rocket Watts, (#2), Thomas Kithier, (#15), Joey Hauser, (#20), Mady Sissoko, (#22), Marcus Bingham Jr., (#30), Gabe Brown, (#44)

**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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**Have questions, comments, or potential future Rage Page material?** Contact Gabrielle Dykhouse, Rage Page Editor (gdhouse@umich.edu)

### Tweets of the Week

Ant Wright (@itsAntWright) 3/2

"Tough loss.. Michigan will move from sole possession of 1st place, to sole possession of 1st place. Quick turnaround Thursday"

Context: Michigan could afford a loss now. Better to lose in the regular season than in the postseason.

#2 Basketball School Barstool Blue (@BarstoolUofM) 3/2

"We'll be fine, trust Juwan Howard. Win on Thursday and we're Big Ten Champs"

Context: This team has one job to do this coming weekend. Beat State and the title comes with it.

Brandon Brown (@BSB\_Wolverine) 3/2

"I think if #Michigan and Illinois played 10 more times, even with Ayo in the lineup, you wouldn't see a loss like that by either team. Just one of those weird, off, disjointed nights. They happen"

Context: Illinois became more of a balanced team without their star and Michigan didn't play well, we'll be o-k.

Rich Eisen (@richeisen) 3/2

"Tournament Fact: The 1989 National Championship @umichbball team lost their last game against Illinois at home by double digits and didn't lose again. #GoBlue"

Context: Big if true...

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### Spartan Stats:

Thursday's rivalry game in Ann Arbor will be the 132nd all time matchup (since 1949) between Michigan and Michigan State. The Spartans lead the all time series 68-63. Last year, in Juwan Howard's first season as head coach, the Wolverines split the two matchups against MSU. These included a 69-87 loss in East Lansing and a 77-68 win in Crisler. Coach Howard will look to capitalize on his head to head record against Tom Izzo against an MSU team playing for their tournament lives.

MSU had lofty expectations entering this season, starting ranked 13th and then moving up to 4th after beating Duke. They fell off hard after that, starting 2-7 in B10 play, before regaining some form and beating Illinois, Ohio State and Indiana twice in the past two weeks. They average 70.3 PPG shooting 42.6% from the field and 32.7% from three, all ranking towards the bottom of the B10. However, in a rivalry game like this, all statistics get thrown out the window. Expect Sparty to bring its A-game to beat their rival and secure an NCAA tournament berth. Michigan will need to match the energy, intensity, and physicality tonight.

## Pro Blue Update

### Moe Wagner:

Franz' big bro was named to the Washington Wizards' starting lineup last week!

### Zavier Simpson:

The 6'0" guard has been making a mark for the Oklahoma City Blue G League team, putting up 14 points and 10 assists last Sunday night.

### Jon Teske:

Also in the G league, Teske joined four of his Lakeland Magic teammates in scoring double digits for their season opener.