



Golden Gophers' projected starting lineup:

0 Liam Robbins 7'0" C

Not as tall as Hunter Dickinson

5 Marcus Carr 6'2" G

Shoots the ball A LOT

11 Both Gach 6'6" G

Throws up more pregame chalk than Lebron

22 Gabe Kalscheur 6'4" G

"Haters can't stop me" -@gaber_32 on IG circa 2012

23 Brandon Johnson 6'8" F

Might have stolen Walter White's top hat

HC Richard Pitino

Minnesota's Head Coach since 2013

Good evening, Ragers! After dominating Northwestern Sunday night to stay undefeated, the Wolverines now appear with their first Top 10 ranking in the AP Poll. Seven Big 10 teams remain ranked as well, as Michigan looks to take down the 16th-ranked Golden Gophers tonight.

Cats = Crushed:

In the first game back to the Crisler Center after the holidays, the Wolverines performed to the highest of standards in front of their parents on Sunday night. After allowing a swift eight points from Larry Nance's son, Pete, and giving three late Christmas presents in the forms of turnovers, Michigan settled in and didn't look back against 19th ranked Northwestern. In what was called the first "true test" of the season against a Wildcat team who has beaten 4th-ranked Michigan State and 23rd-ranked Ohio State, Michigan dominated the final 36 minutes of the game. In the spotlight was Hunter Dickinson scoring 19 and Chaundee Brown, Franz Wagner, Eli Brooks netting 14 apiece. Franz Wagner also added a dominant five blocks in what was his most complete game of the season. Superb three point shooting was a great addition to the statline for Michigan going 12-27 from behind the arc.

Bench Mob:

Although the final four minutes won't look dominant, Michigan worked with a rotation of bench mob members: Zeb Jackson, C.J. Baird, Adrien Nuñez, Terrance Williams, Jaron Faulds, and Jace Howard. Although it looks like T-Will may be the official 7th player in the rotation, he provided quality minutes especially on the defensive end. Perhaps the coolest part of the night was Jace's first points as a Wolverine coming as an and-1 layup assisted by the birthday boy, C.J. Baird which was followed by emotional fist pumps from dad on the sideline. Michigan was vaulted to #10 in the AP poll a day after the dominant 85-66 win and will face another formidable opponent in Minnesota on Wednesday.

The Rest of the Golden Gophers:

Tre Williams (#1), Martice Mitchell (#2), Jamal Mashburn Jr. (#4), Hunt Conroy (#13), Jarvis Omersa (#21), Eric Curry (#24), Sam Freeman (#32), Isaiah Ihnen (#35)

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

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

Jeff Goodman (@GoodmanHoops) ½

"The Top 3 Freshman in the Country thus far: 1A. Jalen Suggs 1B: Cade Cunningham 1C: Hunter Dickinson"

Context: Jeff Goodman labels Dickinson in his top three Freshman along with some impressive names. Names that will likely be in the lottery in the next NBA Draft.

Zach Shaw (@_ZachShaw) ½

"Chaundee Brown Jr. [...] with quite an answer when asked if he thinks Michigan deserves more respect in the polls: "Not yet, we need to win more games." How many? "We need to beat every team in the league. We're not satisfied at 9-0."

Context: Culture wins championships...

Northwestern Basketball (@NUMensBball) ½

"Not our night. Back to work. #B1GCats / #PoundTheRock"

Context: NU must have caught on to the #MaizeRaid antics refusing to post the final score. At least they posted a tweet recognizing the game was over.

Juwan Howard (@JuwanHoward) ¼ + Jenine Howard (@J9Howard)

"I don't have the words ... Wait ... make the free throw! So, so blessed 🙏🙏"

Context: Coach Howard acknowledging a video of Jace's first bucket as a Wolverine. A father's love means criticism as he notes the missed free throw after the and-1.

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

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Gopher Grudges:

Tonight's game will be the 127th meeting between Michigan and Minnesota, and the fifth in the last two years. Michigan will enter with a 20-game lead in the series overall, having won 73 games to Minnesota's 53. While the Wolverines are playing a formidable Minnesota squad who are ranked for the first time since 2013, they have lost only three of their almost 20 matchups against the Golden Gophers over the last decade.

Minnesota has been another surprise team in a loaded B10 conference this year. They are currently ranked 16th with a record of 10-2 (3-2 in B10 play) with marquee wins over Iowa, MSU, OSU, and SLU. They are led by Marcus Carr, the third leading scorer and leader in assists in Big Ten, and Liam Robbins, the Big Ten blocks leader, who is also coming off a massive 27pt, 14reb, 5blk game against OSU. As a team, Minnesota shoots 42.3% from the field but only 30.9% from three. They take pretty good care of the ball, averaging 11.3 turnovers with an assist to turnover ratio of 1.45. This will be Michigan's toughest test yet.

Pro Blue Update

Duncan Robinson:

Off to a hot start this season with the Miami Heat, Robinson is shooting 48% from three. He also had a standout Christmas Day game in which he scored 23 points—including an eye-catching seven triples.

Caris LeVert:

Starting the season with the Nets, LeVert is already pumping out an impressive 15 ppg.

Tim Hardaway Jr.:

After signing recently with the Dallas Mavericks, Hardaway Jr. is also averaging around 15 points per game so far to kick off his 2020-2021 campaign.