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The Official Newsletter of the Maize Rage

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We return to Crisler Arena this evening after a considerable layoff that included losses at Michigan State and Purdue. Injuries and other problems have rocked our program lately, and it's shown up in the form of a four-game losing streak. Frankly, it doesn't get any easier. After tonight's Groundhog Day matchup with Minnesota, the Maize and Blue goes on the road to Ohio State and then hosts two top-tier teams in Illinois and Michigan State. Just because Michigan has lost some games does not mean it is time to give up on the team. We're at a crucial point in the season, and it's important that the whole Rage brings it tonight and for every night through the rest of the season. Let's show the Gophers that they're good for nothing but causing some laughs back in "Caddyshack."

Here is the starting lineup for the Minnesota Golden Gophers (14-6, 4-3 Big Ten Conference):

3	Aaron Robinson	5'10" G	"Lil' A" is a member of Minnesota's "Tupac's Army", a group consisting of Gopher athletes split into fake teams like the Army and the Hellraisers; it's baaaaaad; scored 3 points in most recent game against Illinois
15	Vincent Grier	6'5" G	A double transfer from UNC-Charlotte and then Dixie State JC who made the All-Scenic West Conference First Team in 2003-04
21	J'son Stamper	6'6" F	Forced to use an apostrophe in his name as a result of lacking the necessary money to buy another vowel
34	Brent Lawson	6'4" F	Torched the Fighting Illini for 2 points last Saturday
42	Jeff Hagen	7'0" C	One of the messiest-looking men to ever play college basketball
Coach	Dan Monson		The husband of Darci is a former Idaho Vandal footballer

Problems, Rico?: In-depth research may have revealed that Rico Tucker (#24), a high-flying freshman guard, has recently had some relationship problems. He's a young kid, so he'll get over it. Besides, he's an aspiring model. Just check the picture below.

More from "Lil' A": In addition to being "The Guard" in Tupac's Army, Aaron Robinson considers himself the "greatest hooper in Guilford High School history." Further examination does indeed reveal that he is also the shortest hooper in the history of GHS.

Coach's kid: Ryan Saunders (#2), the son of Timberwolves coach Flip Saunders, should probably go with Daddy to work someday and take in a workout. He's only seen action in seven games this year, and he averages just 0.3 ppg. (And that's rounding up!)

The rest of the roster: 1 – Miles Webb, 11 – Maurice Hargrow, 12 – Jordan Nuness, 13 – Dan Coleman, 23 – Alex Popp, 30 – Jonathan Williams, 31 – Adam Boone, 32 – Zach Puchtel, 33 – Kerry Wooldridge, 50 – Spencer Tollackson

Belt it out: When the band breaks out in Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer", be ready to sing with this Maize Rage Lyrics Guide:

Tommy used to work on the docks
Union's been on strike
He's down on his luck...it's tough, so tough
Gina works the diner all day
Working for her man, she brings home her pay
For love - for love

She says we've got to hold on to what we've got
'cause it doesn't make a difference
If we make it or not
We've got each other and that's a lot
For love - we'll give it a shot

Chorus:
Whooh, we're half way there
Livin' on a prayer
Take my hand and we'll make it - I swear
Livin' on a prayer

Tommy's got his six string in hock
Now he's holding in what he used
To make it talk - so tough, it's tough
Gina dreams of running away
When she cries in the night
Tommy whispers baby it's okay, someday



Rico Tucker

Histo's Corner: Minnesota has not won at Crisler Arena since February 17, 2001.

Michigan has won its last two Groundhog Day games, having beaten Wisconsin 64-53 in 2002 and Michigan State 73-69 in 1993.

Michigan is 30-3 at home against Minnesota in the Crisler Arena era.

Michigan is 2-0 at home against Minnesota in the Amaker Era.