



The Rage Page



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“I think it's time you start talking to your team about ‘we're getting better’ so **anything can happen in March** at that Big Ten Tournament. We have to be prepared to stay in Indianapolis for a little bit.” ... *John Beilein after defeating Illinois*

It certainly wasn't pretty, but then again, it might just be part of John Beilein's welcome to the Big Ten. There aren't many conferences where you can shoot 30% from the field, put up your lowest point total of the year, and still win by 6, but that's exactly what the Maize and Blue were able to do on Saturday against Illinois. Tonight, with winless Northwestern in the house, Michigan will be looking for its 5th win in 6 games. In Evanston, U-M shot 47% - look for that same hot-shooting team tonight, folks. Let's Go Blue!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Northwestern Wildcats (7-18, 0-14 Big Ten):

22	Michael Thompson	5'10"	G	“Juice” couldn't connect on a potential game-winning layup in the final seconds against Indiana on Saturday; the freshman leads NU with 53 turnovers
20	Craig Moore	6'3"	G	Junior from (Tim) Doylestown, PA beat the likes of J.R. Smith, Luol Deng, and Charlie Villanueva in high school; it helps that he played on the same team as Joakim Noah (Lawrenceville Prep, NJ)
32	Sterling Williams	6'4"	G	Call him by his real name, Joseph – he's the fourth in the family line; scored a career-high 20 points in NU's home loss to Brown (U-M beat them by 15)
21	Ivan Peljusic	6'8"	F	Redshirt freshman from Croatia dished out 7 assists in the loss to Indiana
44	Kevin Coble	6'9"	F	This sophomore may not look like a basketball player (he was a standout golfer in high school with a 4.0 GPA), but the three-time Arizona player of the year dropped 34 on Michigan and 37 on Indiana, both in losing efforts at home
Coach	Bill Carmody			Voted by Division I peers as one of five coaches they would most like to see give an offensive clinic, yet NU ranks 10 th in the Big Ten in scoring (58.9)

“Bum” of the Game: Tim Doyle – In lieu of difficulties finding a true bum from a group of good-natured losers, the Rage Page wanted to give special recognition to former Wildcat Tim Doyle. #00 was a favorite of the Rage for years but has moved on from his playing career to become an analyst for the Big Ten Network. Those of you hoping that Doyle might be doing the game tonight will be disappointed to see the combover of now-analyst Gene Keady at the announcers' table across the court. Thus, we ask the BTN with heavy hearts, *why “Boil Up” when you can “Doyle Up”?*

Keeping up with the Joneses: Senior guard **Tonjua Jones (#2)** originally attended Northwestern to play wide receiver on the Wildcat football team, but the Southfield Lathrup alum never found much success on the gridiron, scoring only 2 touchdowns in 3 years. This year, he decided to look to the hardwood for some redemption, joining the hoops squad. The results haven't been much better; his younger sister Ashley, a junior forward on the Michigan women's team, scored more points in Thursday's win over Purdue (8) than Tonjua has in his entire Northwestern career (5). If he gets in the game, let him know that he's not even the best player in his family.

Briefly: Freshman forward **Mike Capocci (#3)** was a member of the Spanish Honors Society and Mu Alpha Theta (math honors society) in high school... Redshirt senior guard **Jason Okrzesik (#1)** was a teammate of former Michigan walk-on guard Ashtyn Bell at Fenwick High School in Oak Park, Illinois... Sophomore forward **Matt Steger (#33)** is the first collegiate basketball player in his family but not the first collegiate athlete; among others, his uncle Geoff Steger donned the winged helmet for Bo Schembechler from 1970-74.

THE REST OF THE NORTHWESTERN ROSTER: #5 Jeff Ryan, #10 Patrick Houlihan, #11 Nikola Baran, #23 Jeremy Nash, #25 Jean-Marc Melchior

Upcoming events:			
Mon, March 3	JOHN BEILEIN RADIO SHOW	6:00pm	(Live from Damon's Grill on State St., stop by!)
Sun, March 9	vs. Purdue	4:00pm	**Senior Day on CBS... get here early!**



Interested in helping make this fine publication? Send an e-mail to craigjoh@umich.edu or come to a Monday evening Maize Rage meeting.

Histo's Corner:

Michigan is 100-52 all-time against Northwestern, including a 57-17 mark at home. U-M has only lost to the Wildcats three times in Crisler Arena (versus 32 wins).

U-M is 1-0 against NU at home when the game is played on an even-ending date in the month of February during a Michigan coach's debut season (in the Crisler Arena era).

Michigan is 2-0 against the Wildcats when the Northwestern coach is in his 8th season.

Histo's RPI Update: Michigan - #153, Northwestern - #221