



The Rage Page



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Senior guard C.J.Lee ...“You have to win at home in conference....We are doing that for the most part.”

Exactly 11 months ago, the Maize Rage stormed the court after a game that seemed an omen for good things to come. At the time, Michigan was 8-16 and had suffered humiliating losses to Central Michigan and Harvard. If you were a senior at Michigan, you hadn't seen your basketball team or football team (okay, maybe some things don't change) beat Ohio State during your time at the University. Your basketball team hadn't made the NCAA Tournament in a decade. But for one moment, the failures of the past were forgotten with a huge 80-70 victory over the Buckeyes. And indeed that omen proved prophetic, as U-M has looked like a whole different team this year, cracking the Top 25 and putting itself in excellent position to break the tournament drought. But the work is far from over. With the win last year, Michigan became relevant once again. Today, we can take one more step toward finally capitalizing on that success.

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Ohio State Buckeyes (12-3, 2-2 Big Ten):

2	Jeremie Simmons	6'2"	G	Junior's high school was named "Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center," but wants to become a math—not science—teacher after graduation
44	William Buford*	6'5"	G	Ohio's Mr. Basketball last year has adjusted seamlessly to college on offense, but still struggles on defense; says Buford: "I played [D] sometimes" in HS
33	Jon Diebler	6'6"	G	Sophomore's high school retired his #23 jersey when he was just a freshman at OSU; scored 77 points in a high school game that his team only eked out in OT
21	Evan Turner	6'7"	G	On Facebook, lists his employer as "THE Ohio State University" and his position as "Full time student athlete;" the NCAA hopes it's a volunteer position
52	Dallas Lauderdale	6'8"	F	Said Dallas: "I don't see us losing this year....I think it's very realistic....It's not cockiness, it's just being bold....I really don't see us losing this year"
Coach	Thad Matta			Played high school basketball for the Hoopeston-East Lynn (IL) <i>Cornjerkers</i>

***BUM OF THE GAME:** William Buford is tonight's Bum of the Game. Chant "BUM" whenever he touches the ball and if the center section asks "What's the matter with Buford?" respond: "He's a bum. Bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum!"

Club benchwarmer: Following in the footsteps of the great Pete Burak, Ohio State sports two student managers-turned-basketball players: junior guards **Danny Peters (#13)** and **Mark Titus (#34)**. OSU's media guide describes Titus's switch from the bench to, well, still the bench by saying that he "soon decided playing more to his liking." (1. Yeah, I'm sure it was totally his decision, and 2. Does playing two minutes this season really count as "playing"?). The real reason was clearly his superior writing skills. Titus started a blog called "Club Trillion: Life Views from the End of the Bench," in which he discusses his unique position on the team. Some highlights:

- He is infatuated with ESPN sideline reporter Erin Andrews, and calls her "the only two reasons why I watch some games." Andrews's decision to interview team captain **David Lighty (#23)** at the Indiana game instead of the perennial benchwarmer induced Titus to "break up" with "Erin Andrews-Titus," to whom we are fairly certain he has never actually spoken.
- He alternates between extreme hubris (calling himself "the face of the program") and shocking realism (when he injured his foot about a week ago, he said: "I'm even more useless to the basketball team than I was before I got hurt").
- During OSU's recent game at MSU, he claims to have "spent the entire game playing eye tag with one of the members of the MSU dance team. And yes, it was a girl." And Titus even finds a silver lining despite OSU's loss that dropped them to 1-2 in the Big Ten: "Michigan State may have won the game on the court, but my performance in eye tag was one for the ages."

Briefly: Junior guard **P.J. Hill (#4)**—not the Wisconsin running back—lists his hobby as "reading about space" and aspires to become the spokesperson for NASA ... **Nikola Kecman (#24)**, a sophomore forward, transferred from Eastern Arizona University, where he played for the *Gila Monsters*. (Wouldn't you like to see a Gila Monsters vs. Cornjerkers matchup?).

THE REST OF THE BUCKEYE ROSTER: #3 Walter Offutt, #15 Kyle Madsen, #32 B.J. Mullens, #45 Zisis Sarikopoulos

- OSU's Free Throws: Listen in to the center of the Rage where the chant will be started, and follow along with one of these:
- You Will Miss! You Will Miss! You Will Miss! (And upon a miss, yell "Thank you")
 - Gooooo!! Bluuuuuuue!! (with the rest of the crowd)
 - Absolute silence, and then scream just as the player shoots
 - Upon a made free throw, listen for the "It doesn't matter!" prompt and yell "You still suck!"

Keep it classy, Rage: As we work toward becoming a great student section, it's important that we refrain from swearing and making other negative slurs throughout the game. The University of Michigan is an institution of class, and as a collective representative of the University, we need to uphold this standard. It's cool to razz the opposition, but keep it clean, Ragers.

The Rage Page is produced by the Maize Rage, an independent student group, for University of Michigan students only. It is funded by the Michigan Student Assembly and does not reflect the views of the Michigan Athletic Department or the University of Michigan.

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