



The Rage Page



As the Wolverines opened conference play last Tuesday by welcoming the Purdue Boilermakers to Crisler Arena, emotions were riding high off Michigan's seven game winning streak. Alas, Purdue jumped all over Michigan at the start of both halves, and the young Wolverines were unable to mount another comeback in the second half. The 80-53 loss suffered that day makes this game that much more important, as Michigan welcomes in the Nittany Lions from Pennsylvania State University. Penn State makes the 390-mile trip to Ann Arbor after dispatching of Indiana in Bloomington last Monday by a score of 69-60. While "must-win" may be a bit strong in this situation, this game is about as close as possible to a "must-win" if the Wolverines are to keep their postseason hopes alive with a tough schedule looming ahead. Help our guys on to a victory today in the last game before the students get back from Winter Break by cheering loudly and proudly for Michigan! Go Blue!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Penn State Nittany Lions (8-4, 1-0 Big Ten):

12	Talor Battle	6'0" G	The All-Everything senior guard is leading the team with 36.2 minutes and 20.5 points per game.
23	Tim Frazier	6'1" G	160-pound sophomore from Houston, Texas is a freak athlete, boasting a Petway-esque 34-inch vertical leap but shoots only 12.5% from downtown.
22	Andrew Jones	6'10" F	Redshirt senior from Philadelphia came into Penn State having only played three years of organized basketball; Jones also is an only child.
25	Jeff Brooks	6'8" F	The senior is having a breakout season with averages of 13.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game to complement Battle.
15	David Jackson	6'7" F	Redshirt senior is the brother of Amir Johnson, formerly of the Pistons; averaging 10.6 points per game.
Coach	Ed DeChellis		Aptly nicknamed the Unicorn for his curious small patch of hair right about the center of his forehead, DeChellis was the 2009 Big Ten Coach of the Year.

To comply with the new Big Ten Sportsmanship code, the Bum of the Game has been removed from the Rage Page. Instead, **Jeff Brooks is now the "Player to Watch"**.

Bench Production (or lack thereof): It's no secret that Penn State is going to rely heavily on Talor Battle and Jeff Brooks for scoring, but looking at the numbers shows just how much the Nittany Lions depend on these two starters. Two of Penn State's starters (Jones and Frazier) have yet to reach double digits in the scoring column on a single night, and only two players coming off the bench, **Taran Buie (#2)** and **Billy Oliver (#35)** have reached the 10-point plateau, combining to do it three times. Unfortunately for Penn State, Buie, Battle's half-brother, is suspended indefinitely. If Battle and Brooks struggle on any given night, the whole team is certainly placed in a messy situation. Michigan must look to key in on these two players and force the rest of the team to beat them; so far they have not proven capable of doing so.

Michigan Connection: Penn State is not without a token Michigander on their team. True freshman walk-on **Alan Wisniewski (#11)** is a product of Bishop Foley Catholic High School in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Don't think that the Michigan coaches missed out on a potential prospect, however; Wisniewski averaged merely 7.9 points and 4.5 rebounds per game in high school for a not-so-good 11-14 club.

Staying Home: With relatively little in-state recruiting competition from other large universities, it would seem that Penn State should be able to recruit fairly well within Pennsylvania. The roster might say otherwise. While six of the 15 men listed on the roster do hail from Pennsylvania, only two of them, Jackson and Jones, are starters and significant contributors. The remaining four, freshman **Tre Bowman (#10)**, junior **Nick Colella (#20)**, senior **Steve Kirkpatrick (#41)**, and redshirt freshman **Jermaine Marshall (#3)**, have all failed to reach the dreaded double digit scoring mark this season for Penn State. In fact, only two of them, Marshall and Bowman, have scored at all, combining for just 21 points. Certainly Philadelphia itself produces a lot of basketball talent, but Penn State is struggling to find a way to lure these guys away from hometown favorites Villanova and Drexel.

THE REST OF THE NITTANY LIONS: #21 Sasa Borovnjak, #24 Cammeron Woodyard, #34 Jonathan Graham

- Penn State'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)
 - Upon a made free throw, listen for the "It doesn't matter!" prompt and yell "You still suck!"

Keep it classy, Rage: As one of the premiere student sections in the country, 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.

Here is the projected starting lineup for YOUR Michigan Wolverines (10-3, 0-1 Big Ten):

4	Darius Morris	6'4"	G	D-Mo did not start the Purdue game due to disciplinary reasons, but expect to see a big game from him today right off the bat.
0	Zack Novak	6'4"	G	Continues to struggle from the field, shooting just 33.3% from the field, including only 29.6% from downtown.
10	Tim Hardaway Jr.	6'5"	G	Starting to get it going again, averaging 13.4 points over his last five games while shooting 39.3% from 3-point land over that same time frame.
23	Evan Smotrycz	6'9"	F	Has yet to record back-to-back double-digit scoring performances and only scored six points before fouling out against Purdue....
52	Jordan Morgan	6'8"	F	Will have to live and learn how to guard the behemoths of the post in Big Ten play. Hasn't reached 10 points in past four games.
Coach	John Beilein			Called Michigan's performance against Purdue easily the most disappointing of the young season, but often warns that the young team will be on a roller coaster ride from here on out.

Tough Stretch: The importance of this game becomes even more important after looking at the upcoming schedule. Michigan did well in their December home-stand, winning six of seven games with only one in single digits, but Big Ten season means much more travelling. There is a such a small sample size so far of Michigan playing on the road that it is impossible to know how the young team will react when travelling all over Big Ten country, but the opponents will not be easy. After the game today against Penn State, Michigan's next seven games look like this: at Wisconsin (1/5), vs. Kansas (1/9), vs. Ohio State (1/12), at Indiana (1/15), at Northwestern (1/18), vs. Minnesota (1/22), and at Michigan State (1/27). Michigan must have some momentum coming from today if they are to win any number of these future games.

Jayhawks come to Crisler: Speaking of Kansas, the Jayhawks will be Michigan's last non-conference test (in the middle of conference play, no less) when they come to Crisler Arena to finish out the home-and-home series next Sunday. The game, which will be aired nationally on CBS, will tip off at either 1:30pm or 4:30pm. Be sure to pick up your ticket in advance, as you will soon get an email from the Athletic Department when it is available. Also playing next Sunday will be the Lady Wolverines, as they take on Michigan State in what is always a fun matchup to watch. Depending on when the men's game starts, the women will play either before in an afternoon game or after in a night game. Be sure to either come early or stick around late to cheer Michigan on to two huge victories.

***H-BOMB:** When Tim Hardaway Jr. hits a three, drop back in your seats as if a bomb has violently shaken Crisler Arena. Simultaneously, yell "Timmy" (like Timmy from South Park).

Chants: Be steady and don't speed up, or the chants will become disorganized and ineffective...

Offense:

- Here we go Michigan, here we go! (clap clap)
- Let's Go Michigan! (clap, clap, clap clap clap)
- Go, Blue, Go! (clap clap clap)
- Let's Go Blue! (clap)
- Go Blue! (clap clap)

Defense:

- De-fense! (clap clap)
- D-D-D-Defense! D-D-D-Defense!
- Popcorn (Jump up and down while screaming OHHHH!!)
- Bounce! Bounce! Pass! (Yell "bounce" when the opposition dribbles, and "pass" when they pass)

Upcoming games:

January 5	at Wisconsin	7:30pm	First Big Ten road game of the season.
January 9	vs. Kansas	1:30/4:30pm	Second leg of the home-and-home series with the #2 Jayhawks.
January 12	vs Ohio State	6:30pm	First chance to beat some Buckeyes in the new year.



STUDENTS! E-MAIL LIST: To sign up for weekly newsletters and important Rage tidbits, go to MaizeRage.org and click the link on the left side of the page, or send an email to grantsea@umich.edu requesting that your name be added.

The Histo and Bacari Corner

Did you know...

- Michigan is 259-198 in seasons when the World Cup had taken place the summer before.

Coach BA's tweets of the week!

Jan. 1 "I spent the first day of 2011 with my extended family, our basketball team. What a fun group of guys to be around. We laugh a lot! HALOL!!!"

Dec. 31 "Happy New Year wishes to the largest living alumni on earth. Go Blue!"