Today marks the final home game of the year for our Michigan Wolverines, and the final home game for Wolverine senior J.C. Mathis. J.C. has scored 133 points so far in the two years of his Michigan career. Who can forget his enthusiasm and hustle on the court? Who can forget the sharp-looking designer suits in which J.C. dressed when he came to Crisler for every game during his transfer sit-out season in 2002-2003? Thanks to you, J.C. Well, it’s been a very tough season here at Crisler Arena, but we made it. Surviving seasons as tough as the 2004-2005 campaign, plagued with injuries, off-the-court problems, and on-the-court errors, will only make a return to the top of the Big Ten and to national prominence sweeter. Hope isn’t gone for this year though. Let’s help the Maize and Blue start a winning streak off right so they can seal up a bid to the NCAA Tournament this weekend in Chicago, IL.

Here is the starting lineup for the Iowa Hawkeyes (18-10, 6-9 Big Ten Conference):

1 Adam Haluska 6’5” G Mysteriously transferred from rival Iowa State after scoring 4 points in an NIT loss to the Hawkeyes in 2003
2 Jeff Horner 6’3” G “J-Ho”, who committed to UI in 9th grade, is still haunted by his 3-15 job from the field in last year’s Big Ten Tournament against Michigan
3 Pierre Pierce 6’4” G One of the greatest basketball players ever and a real model citizen
34 Erek Hansen 6’11” C Had to transfer to Kirkwood CC in 2002-03 after a redshirt year at Iowa because he was academically ineligible; scored 2 vs. Michigan in January
35 Mike Henderson 6’2” G This art major scored just 6 against Ohio State on Wednesday night
44 Greg Brunner 6’7” F An avid Frisbee golfer along with teammates Erek Hansen and Alex Thompson

Coach Steve Alford The slick-haired Bobby Knight protégé can’t seem to get a win in Crisler

Big Ten Tournament: Michigan will likely play in the BTT’s 8-9 game on Thursday at 12:00 PM.

Yeah, real famous: Justin Wieck (#13), a community college transfer forward, lists former Iowa kicker Nate Kaeding as the most famous person he has ever met. Justin either has a crush, or doesn’t get out much.

You thought Trannon was bad: Here are some excerpts from former Iowa basketball hero Pierre Pierce’s January 28 e-mail to a female friend. The original e-mail was 394 words long and was basically two long run-on sentences. Question: Who’s Chad?

“i am upset that you would lie to me and tell me you are going to sleep when in actuality you were headed elsewhere, as soon as you figure out their is no other girl in my life that i luv as much as you the better we will be”

“do you want to be with chad? obviously so because you havent been with me, and I thought last weekend we established everything and were working on making things well again, but once again your phone never lies, youve been texting him u luv him”

“yo uneed to make a decision and im going to have to see your actios change big time, but for now call me asap luv P”

Just like Tony: “You don’t just sit around and watch the tube.” Jack Brownlee (#15), a senior guard, lists television criticism as his favorite class, taking a page from the book of Tony, a character in the hit 1994 movie Blue Chips.

Big feet: Doug Thomas (#23), whose nickname is “Jungle”, has the largest feet on the Iowa team, wearing a size 19 shoe. Jack Brownlee brings up the rear with the smallest kicks, a pair of size 10s.

Interesting monikers: Carleton Reed (#25) is nicknamed Stormy. Seth Gorney (#53) is affectionately called Lotag.

The rest of the roster: 4 – J.R. Angle, 5 – Alex Thompson

Histo’s Corner: Michigan is 4-0 against Iowa at Crisler Arena in the Steve Alford era.

Michigan is 6-2 in its final home game in years ending in “5”.

Michigan is 27-6 all-time against Iowa at Crisler Arena, and 46-19 all-time at home.

Michigan is 51-24 in games played in March of presidential inauguration years, a mark which is accentuated by the fact that Michigan has won 33 of their last 41 in this situation.

The last time that Michigan closed out its home regular season slate against Iowa was in 2000, with Michigan prevailing as an 87-78 winner. This has happened two other times in the history of Crisler Arena, with Michigan beating Iowa both times. (127-96, 1990; 82-76, 1978)