Tonight, another season of Michigan basketball begins. But this promises to be anything but another typical year. The conversation has to begin with John Beilein, the innovative and passionate head coach who debuts at the end of the Michigan bench tonight. But there are more reasons for optimism this year. A talented freshman class features Manny Harris, the Mr. Basketball award winner who wowed the Maize Rage with his offensive moves and high-flying rebounds in the exhibition game last week. Zack Gibson and K’Len Morris, former high school teammates, join the team after sitting out last year. The future looks bright, and it begins now.

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Radford Highlanders (0-0, 0-0 Big South):

- **11 Amir Johnson** 5’9”  G  Sophomore is a full foot shorter than the Pistons forward of the same name
- **24 Kenny Thomas** 6’3”  G  Middle name is Laverrall; favorite midnight snack is ‘just ice cold water’; only four inches shorter than the Kings forward of the same name
- **4 Martell McDuffy** 6’4”  G  Enjoys reading about relationships and cooking in funny hats (see below)
- **40 Joey Lynch-Flohr** 6’8”  F  JoJo, as he’s called by teammates, is majoring in Geography and, when no one is looking, he likes to ‘pretend that someone is’
- **31 Duane Ricks** 6’9”  C  Aspiring rapper calls himself Lil Ricks and throws down such tracks as ‘Who Am I’; he also works as a cashier at Family Dollar and was once caught by his former coach falling asleep at halftime of a game

*BUM OF THE GAME:* Give Duane Ricks an especially difficult time, as he’s our Bum of the Game. Boo whenever he touches the ball and if the center section asks “What’s the matter with Duane?” respond: “He’s a bum. Bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum-bum!

**Breakfast with Martell:** Junior Martell McDuffy (#4) apparently likes to make chocolate chip pancakes in the morning while wearing a sombrero. Has he been feeding them to Colby Trent? (See below).

**If the Name Fits...**: The Highlanders call senior Colby Trent (#54) a few different things, all centering around a single theme: the man is large. Big C, Fat Rock, or Fats, whichever you prefer, is currently listed at 278 pounds and 6’9” tall. That’s actually down from last season, when he tipped the scales at 294 pounds (if you believe the RU Media Guide—many observers thought he was easily 300 pounds). Fats lived up to his nicknames so well that he faced an ultimatum from his new coach last spring: lose 35 pounds in the offseason. Sadly, he didn’t quite meet his goal. (We blame too many of McDuffy’s pancakes).

**King Kleck?**: It might come as no surprise that Tyler Kleckner (#22), a senior forward, is not as good as LeBron James. But TKleck, also known as “6’8n,” really feels inadequate compared to King James: “He’s 22 years old. He is only eight months older than me, and he is a man! I’m just a boy,” Kleckner lamented.

**The Doctor is In:** Eric Hall (#33) calls Colby Trent “Radford University’s Dr. Phil” because “he will fix any problem you come to him with or don’t come to him with.”

**Briefly:** Ironically, Tyler Kleckner’s favorite movie is “White Men Can’t Jump.” … Chris McEachin’s (#1) favorite movies include an odd combination: “Katt Williams Pimp Chronicles” and “The Lion King.” … The Rage Page has received an unconfirmed report that freshman forward Nick McFarlin (#12) tripped and fell down Monday night at a Radford-area Wendy’s.

**THE REST OF THE RADFORD ROSTER:** #3 Alex Gynes, #10 Cole Wilder, #23 Jamar Jenkins, #30 Phillip Martin

**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.

**Radford’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”)
- Goooooo!! Bluuuuuuue!! (with the rest of the crowd)
- Absolute silence, and then scream just as the player shoots
- Sing The Victors (listen for the “1, 2, you know what to do!”)
- Upon a made free throw, listen for the “It doesn’t matter!” prompt and yell “You still suck!”
Here is the projected starting lineup for YOUR Michigan Wolverines (0-0, 0-0 Big Ten):

1 Jerret Smith 6’3” G High expectations for the junior to run the new offense efficiently
5 K’Len Morris 6’4” G After a shoulder injury ended his freshman campaign, Special K is back
24 Ron Coleman 6’6” F One of two seniors on the roster, R.C. looks to be more of a leader this year
34 DeShawn Sims 6’8” F Did not make a three-pointer last year, but drained 3-of-6 vs. Ferris State
32 Zack Gibson 6’10” F Transfer from Rutgers will surprise this year, Beilein says

Coach John Beilein

And the rest of the 2007-2008 Wolverines:

20 Adam Block 6’1” G Walk-on from Allentown, PA, shot 91% from the FT line in high school
44 Kelvin Grady 5’11” G Speedy freshman can beat even the quickest defenders off the dribble
3 Manny Harris 6’5” G Freshman scored 15 points and grabbed nine rebounds in exhibition game
2 C.J. Lee 6’0” G Transfer from Manhattan can shoot three-pointers with the best
11 David Merritt 5’10” G Senior from West Bloomfield made the team last year at open tryouts
30 Eric Puls 6’10” F Freshman Alpena-native is a typical Beilein recruit: a big man with range
15 Jevo John Shepherd 6’5” W Look for ‘Air Canada’ to be used much more extensively than in past years
22 Ekpe Udoh 6’10” F Sophomore with 7’3” wingspan had four blocks and five rebounds vs. Ferris
12 Anthony Wright 6’6” F Redshirted last year, but has an excellent chance of regularly contributing

In Case you Missed it:
The exhibition game against Ferris State last Thursday was a success by all standards. Michigan won, 78-40, all except two Michigan players scored, and the players seemed to have a good handle of John Beilein’s new offense. Freshman Manny Harris, Michigan’s Mr. Basketball last year, led the team with 15 points on 4-of-9 shooting and also snagged nine rebounds in 20 minutes. DeShawn Sims connected on 3-of-6 three-pointers despite not being known as a three-point shooting threat.

PLAYER INTROS: When the Radford starting lineup is introduced, stand up and face backwards, waving your hat in the air and yelling as if it were a kickoff at a football game. Then, when the announcer says each player’s name, turn around, point at them, and yell: “YOU SUCK!”

H-BOMB: When Manny Harris, our new H-Bomber, hits a three, drop back in your seats as if a bomb has violently shaken Crisler Arena. Simultaneously yell “Freshhhh” (Manny’s nickname).

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) -De-fense! (clap clap) -Let’s Go Michigan! (clap, clap, clap, clap) -D-D-D-Defense! -Go, Blue, Go! (clap clap) -Popcorn (Jump up and down while screaming OHHHH!!) -Let’s Go Blue! (clap) -Bounce! Bounce! Pass! (Yell “bounce” when the opposition dribbles, and “pass” when they pass) -Go Blue! (clap clap)

Turnovers: -To the Bench! (while pointing finger at the player and the bench)

Fouls: -Bonehead! Bonehead! Bonehead! (while pointing finger at the player)

Foul Out: -Kick Him Out! Kick Him Out! Kick Him Out!

Bum of the Game goes to the bench: -NaNaNaNaNa! NaNaNaNa! Hey Hey, You Suck!

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 vinnyc@umich.edu requesting that your name be added.

Visit MaizeRage.org

Have questions, comments, or potential future Rage Page material? Contact Craig Johnson, Rage Page Editor, at craigjoh@umich.edu