“We have to forget about last year. Not in the sense that we forget about what we learned, but we can’t think about it and focus on it…. This year is not going to be like last year.” … Sophomore guard Kelvin Grady

“Change we can believe in.” It worked for Barack Obama, but perhaps it is a phrase also applicable to Michigan basketball. With one more year of experience in John Beilein’s system for the veterans and the addition of three great freshmen and a transfer from Arizona, this season promises to be anything but “more of the same.” The Wolverines open the year with an exhibition matchup against the SVSU Cardinals, a GLIAC team that comes off a year in which—get this—they struggled in their new head coach’s first year. They finished 12-14, and brought in a slew of new players this year. Let’s not make their debut easy. Just as we expect our players to raise their game this year relative to last season, so too must the Rage up the intensity, the volume, and the passion. Bring your friends to the next game (they can get in free with their M-Card). Be loud, get pumped, and Go Blue!

Here is the projected starting lineup for the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals (0-0, 0-0 GLIAC):

10 Dante Williams 6'1” G SVSU claims the senior “helped lead [Romulus High] to a State Runner-Up season in 2005,” but we all know Jerret Smith was the real leader of that team

55 Greg Foster* 6'2” G True freshman says that he played AAU basketball since the first grade

1 Lawrence Ross 6'2” G Senior from Battle Creek couldn’t get playing time at Miami (OH); now, in his third season at SVSU, he’s on the preseason All-GLIAC North Division team

21 Eli Redman 6'7” F Hit 11 of 14 shots for 26 points for Bath HS in the state semifinals as a junior

35 Adam Gries 6'8” F Passed Charles Woodson for third on Freemont (OH) Ross High School’s career scoring list (however, we are told Gries still has not won the Heisman Trophy)

Coach Frankie Smith

Begun his coaching career at Tug Valley High School in Naugatuck, WV

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

He’s an animal: Junior guard Daniel Genther (#20), a pre-veterinarian medicine major, doesn’t leave his studies in the classroom, taking them to his television set as well. He is passionate about his favorite TV shows: “Animal Planet: ranging from meerkat manor to jeff corwin experience to steve irwin memories.” His Facebook interests include “animals, Animal Planet, [and] Steve Irwin before he died,” and his About Me is “animal planet is the best channel ever invented and for neone in the svsu its channel 68” [sic]. In fact, he created the group “Animal Planet is the best station ever invented” and urges people to “just join cause you know its the truth” [sic]. We wonder where the Wolverine ranks on his list of favorite animals.

Let’s go M.R.A.P.H.S.: The award for the most unnecessarily complicated high school name goes to freshman forward Josh Eisenga (#32), who went to McBain Rural Agricultural Public High School in McBain, MI. We’re guessing that the school is named for either The Simpsons’s parody of Arnold Schwarzenegger or a typo by the John McCain campaign.

Briefly: Genther says his favorite books are “da vinci code, harry potter and thats all ive ever read with the occidental dr seuss book” [sic]. … Every player has an official bio on the SVSU athletics website except for Ryan Jayne (#33), whose bio is “coming soon.”

THE REST OF THE SVSU ROSTER: #2 Zac Wilhelm, #12 Kieondre Arkwright, #13 Avery Stephenson, #22 Matt Kiley, #24 Chris Johnston, #30 Kyle Morgan, #40 Adam Roberts, #50 Tyler Brule

Upcoming events:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri, November 7</td>
<td>Fan Night</td>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>Free – Enter through Gate A or E beginning at 6:45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, November 11</td>
<td>vs. Michigan Tech</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Gates open one hour prior to tipoff</strong></td>
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Meet the New Wolverines:

#31 – Laval Lucas-Perry – G – 6'3” – Transferred from Arizona midway through last season, the guard with a slick shooting touch will sit out until mid-December.

#35 – Ben Cronin – C – 7'0” – The Syracuse, NY native with a 7'5” wingspan and size 17 shoes was an avid hockey player in his youth. Now he looks to fill the hole in the middle left by the departure of Ekpe Udoh.

#1 – Stu Douglass – G – 6'3” – An excellent shooter, Douglass led Carmel (IN) HS to a 22-3 record, averaging 14.5 points, 3.1 rebounds, 1.4 assists, and 1.4 steals per game.

#0 – Zack Novak – G – 6'5” – Averaged 26.9 ppg his senior season, good for third-best in the state of Indiana, and made the 2008 Indiana all-star team.