

**October 29, 2009**



An interview with:

## **ILLINOIS COACH BRUCE WEBER**

THE MODERATOR: The first coach up this morning is Illinois head coach Bruce Weber. Weber enters his seventh year at the helm of the Fighting Illini program and welcomes back eight letter winners from last year's team that finished tied for second in the conference.

Opening statement from Coach Weber, and then we'll open it up to questions.

COACH WEBER: I think we're I guess cautiously excited about the upcoming season. We finished second last year. Kind of had a great deal of improvement, but maybe faltered a little bit at the end of the season.

The majority of our team is back and we've added some quality freshmen group, but I think -- at the same time I think the cautiousness comes because of the depth of the league. It seems like not only do we have a lot of people back, but everybody else does. And I think for the first time in a while our league is getting some great national publicity, as maybe possibly the strongest league in the country.

We're led by our group of juniors would be our mainstays of our team, Demetri McCamey, Mike Davis, Mike Tisdale. We also have only one senior, Dominique Keller, but a group of eight upperclassmen.

We feel great about it, but at the same time we'll be a little cautious until we see how everything unfolds.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. Coach, with all of the leagues, some of you having to play people twice, some people once, would you be in favor of 20 Big Ten games so everyone plays twice?**

COACH WEBER: I think it's probably coming down the road. I'm not sure as a coach -- I think we all don't feel great about it. I think it's a good thing for having a true league champion.

Your problem is you don't have the opportunity then to play the non conference games, some of the national games, possibly the exempt events, some of those things. You would have some limitations with that.

For our fans, there's no doubt. But we're trying to win games. The question, too, comes down to the RPI. They always say it doesn't mean anything, but we have a pretty good RPI as a league last year. We have more teams in.

So I'm not sure which way to go, but it will come in the future.

**Q. Coach, I know you had a couple of bouts with Indiana in the past. With both of the teams getting a little better this year, what do you expect from that match-up?**

COACH WEBER: I think Tom Crean did an excellent job last year coming in, trying to reenergize the program, did it with a bunch of young players. Added some more young guys. I think they'll take a step forward. But how big a step will probably be determined by the rest of the league. And that's the problem.

We think we're improved, but everybody else has improved in the league. And the quality of your players, I think the quality of coaching, just makes the league so tough.

So I think that's Tom's biggest dilemma right now. He could have come in the league at a different time when it was a little bit down, he might have been able to make a bigger step. But they were very competitive. Played everybody close. And now I'm sure -- I think with all of us, can you win a close game early? And when you win the close games early, now you start getting confidence and then maybe you win when you're not supposed to.

It's probably the key to who ends up winning the league at the end.



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**B\_Weber\_-\_10.29.09**

**Q. Can you talk about D.J. Richardson and the impact that he might be able to have with this team in the upcoming season?**

COACH WEBER: Our whole freshmen group has shown signs of being very, very productive players. D.J. is the one that's maybe gotten the most publicity. Nationally he was from Peoria, went to Findlay Prep. That experience of being out at a prep school out in Vegas, being away from home, I think his maturity, the travel, the playing on national TV, they win the national -- so-called national ESPN championship, prep school championship, I think it's all helped him.

He replaces what Chester Frazier gave us, that tough, hard-nosed guy that has great intensity and just gets after it as soon as he steps on the court. He has shot the ball better in practice than we maybe anticipated.

To go along with that, Brandon Paul was Mr. Basketball in our state, a high-flying kid that cannot only get to the basket, can jump up and shoot even a 3. He gets off the floor when he shoots the ball.

And then another young man, Joseph Bertrand from Sterling, Illinois, has good athleticism. They -- all three of those guys kind of mix guards. They really push each other.

And then maybe the biggest surprise might be Tyler Griffey, the young man we got from St. Louis, showed some better toughness than we anticipated. Our whole freshman group has pushed our upperclassmen. So it's been great for us in practice.

**Q. Can you just talk about the value of playing tough non conference teams at home? Do you think there's any advantage there to get some of those early competition?**

COACH WEBER: I don't think there's any doubt. It's that fine mix. Obviously we have to have a certain number of home games to provide income for our athletic department. At the same time, we have to mix in some games that are going to prepare us.

We try to get -- not only for the Big Ten, but hopefully for the post-season play also. So we try to play teams from a variety of leagues, variety of styles, even venues.

If you can get in the venues, the neutral venues which possibly might be NCAA sites in the future. But you want to be ready. You want some close games. You want to play against pressing teams, just a variety of things that will help prepare you.

And you hope you win games, too. That's the biggest thing. And last year that was what our league did. We won not only a lot of non conference games, but we won big games in the conference also.

So I hope that trend continues this year and that will determine what our conference ends up at the end.

**Q. Bruce, the 38-33 game last year got a lot of strange press all around the country. And it really was seemed to be disregarded how tough the game was and really just how unsightly it was. It got a lot of negative press. Did you hear that? Did you see it? And do you think it affects the whole league at large? It seems like people wanted it to.**

COACH WEBER: Well, I don't think there's any doubt it got some national attention. I don't know how many of the national guys called me the next day. I probably had six, seven calls. And I'm like -- to be honest, I'm wondering why the heck they're calling me, but they were looking for I guess a negative story, a story kind of what's wrong with the league and the whole bit.

I just think it was one of those games where we couldn't make a shot. They couldn't make a shot. Now it got -- guys get a little tight. The defense picks up, and it just becomes a hard-fought game down to the end.

Obviously I wish it wouldn't have happened. I wish we would have won the game. But I think it was just one of those situations. We played them at the end of the season. It was one of our better offensive outputs. We seemed to get down the court better and score baskets and they ended up beating us on a buzzer beater there. And I think it was exaggerated, to be honest, and maybe gave a little bit of a tough light on our league.

**Q. Coach Izzo talks often about you. You're friends. Can you talk about when you have to go head to head and compete against friends? Some guys like it. It's enjoyable. Some don't. I know for him he's talked before he doesn't like going against his friends.**

COACH WEBER: I don't think it's any fun for anybody. But at the same time now in the league, not only Tom, Matt Painter was my assistant, and you get to know different guys.

I think once it's before and after is the

toughest time. Once the game starts, I don't look down. We're playing Michigan State, they're in green, we're in whatever, we're in white, and you're just competing.

But the before factor, you know, a little bit -- you know, not looking forward to it after, depending if you win or lose. It's a tough thing. And Tom wants to beat us, Matt wants to beat us but we want to beat them. I think there is a very good respect between us, and that's what kind of keeps us together.

We're able to compete in recruiting. We're able to compete on the court. But at the same time stay friends and I think it's because of the respect that we have for each other.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

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**October 29, 2009**



An interview with:

## **INDIANA COACH TOM CREAN**

THE MODERATOR: Indiana head coach Tom Crean. Crean enters his second season with the Hoosiers and returns nine letter winners from last year's team.

Coach, if you'd like to start with an opening statement, and then we'll open it up for questions.

COACH CREAN: Hello, everyone. I think right now the best thing for all Indiana is that we're on the upswing. When we're in practice, when we're recruiting, when we're planning, we really feel good about the direction, and the team is getting better. The program's moving forward. The program has always been in great shape. It's just that our teams are going to take a little time to get back up to speed.

But we're really trying to be focused I think for the most part on three things right now as we start our season. And number one, the biggest thing for us right now is to sustain energy, effort, a level of competition. That's the stuff that you have to work so hard with, with a young team.

And they have great attitudes, but they just don't know how hard they have to work for how long they have to work and at the level they have to work. So that's definitely taken some time.

I think, number two, we're trying to focus on them trying to understand exactly what Indiana basketball means to us in the sense of how we want it to be on the court, the style of play that we want to have, the ability to be up-tempo, the ability to get the ball up the court after misses and makes on the break, the relentlessness that goes into being an excellent rebounding team and a steadfast defensive team and the ball movement that has to go on the offensive end. So we're working hard on that.

I think another big thing we never want to lose sight of, and this was the one thing that

became very apparent last year to our guys, is that it's a constant quest and desire for improvement. And irregardless if it's practice, individual instruction sessions right now that we're using with them and during the mornings or at night, that they are constantly being monitored and measured and pushed and prodded to get better.

And not only improve as a team on the practice court, and hopefully in the games, but improve as individual players throughout the season.

So those are the three biggest things that we're focused on. We see competition at every position right now. And unfortunately Jeremiah Rivers is not on this trip. I'm sure J.D. might have made that clear. He sustained an injury yesterday in his face in a pick-and-roll situation. He ran into an elbow and we decided to keep him back, let him fully recover.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. For a team on the upswing, how difficult is it to move up in this league, given the state of it right now?**

COACH CREAN: Well, I think upswing in relevance to us is that we feel like every part of it is better. But that really may not be relevant to where the rest of the league is. When you look this morning there's five teams in the U.S.A. Today top 25 that are in the top 20, and then we look at the teams we're playing in the non conference, there's no question it's going to be a challenge to move forward.

Everybody is well coached. Everybody has players back or teams back that are incredibly balanced or have that style power.

So there's no question that it's going to be hard to move up. But that's not our focus right now. The focus is how much better we can improve and let's see where that takes us.

**Q. Kind of following up on that, you were in the Big East for a while. Does it feel somewhat similar to that in the ability to move up and kind of the struggle there?**



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*T. Crean - 10.29.09*

COACH CREAN: They're two different leagues, and really I haven't been in this league long enough to compare the two. So it wouldn't be relevant from where I sit.

But the Big East was outstanding, is outstanding, with a lot of excellent basketball teams and certainly the big ten. This year especially on paper as we go into the season looks to be as good as any league with what you look at in the form of coaches, returners, pass successes, things of that nature.

**Q. Would you be in favor of a 20-game Big Ten schedule so everyone just plays each other twice and no one gets an advantage of having to play one person once?**

COACH CREAN: I never really thought of that. So I really couldn't answer that at this point.

**Q. Can you describe the relationship you have now with the high school coaches, how have you been received and how do you feel your recruiting in the state of Indiana is coming along?**

COACH CREAN: I think it's really growing. I think it goes without saying that over a period of time we might have lost a generation not only of fans but of recruits. And I think we were products of this at Marquette in our recruiting of Dominic James. Good, bad or indifferent, a lot of very good players have left the state. And that's still happening to a degree.

There were a few players in the '10 class that we really never had an opportunity to recruit for one reason or another. There were some others that chose to go other places, some that we chose not to recruit. But what we're trying to do in the classes of '11, '12, '13, moving forward, is really be factors in their recruiting and their lives and getting them on campus and being in to see them.

I mean, there were numerous ninth and tenth graders last year that we maxed out our seven looks on. And a lot of those cases I personally made those seven looks. So we're trying to really get it established between myself as the head coach, outstanding staff that I have, that we really want to be -- we want it to be the Indiana that their coaches and the high school coaches that you referenced to have grown up on, that their parents are used to seeing.

And it's going to take some time to get that because some other programs have come into the state and done an outstanding job. Purdue's done

an outstanding job. Notre Dame's done an outstanding job. Look at what Butler and some of the other schools in the state have done, and then you've got people all across the country that have come into the state.

So we're certainly not going to get them all, but I think as time goes on I have no doubt that we'll be a major factor again in the state and people will want to have their players at Indiana.

**Q. Bruce Weber talked about the league being a little bit better this year, and it seems like a lot of that strength is at the guard position. So what do you expect to see?**

COACH CREAN: Bruce Weber said what about the league?

**Q. He's talking about the league getting a little bit better this year and it seems like a lot of that strength is at the guard position. What do you expect to see from that?**

COACH CREAN: I think again it's a balanced league. I think it's balanced with teams. I think it's balanced with front line and guard play, and certainly when you look at some of the guards in this league, you know, and he's got one and certainly Michigan State with Kalin Lucas and Manny Harris, we can go down the line.

I don't have enough time to go down every guard with the next coach coming on. But there's no question there's great guard play. You've got as good a swing man in the country as there is in Evan Turner, and the front lines get a lot of credit probably in the Midwest from year to year in the Big Ten, but they probably don't get enough credit nationally.

So I think from top to bottom this league is full of star power. It's full of the balance that we're talking about, and it's hard to look on the schedule and see any team that doesn't have a guard that can't carry their team.

**Q. How bad is Jeremiah's injury? And is this another one you can blame on Tijan or --**

COACH CREAN: No, this just happened in practice. Actually it's the other part, Bawa Muniru got hit himself, so he's learning from Tijan. They're buddies, but, no, it was -- he was on his own team. He was setting a pick and roll in the corner and it just was a very tightly contested play and it was just an accident.

But Tijan's made enormous strides. He

really has. He's challenging for a spot in the rotation and that will surprise those of you that saw us play last year. But once you see him play some more this year, it may not surprise you as well. And Bawa continues to learn a great deal. And, again, it's all part of the competition of the team. And it's part of that tough play in practice. But this was totally an accident.

**Q. The fact that all the First Team members were all sophomores last year and they all came back for their junior season, are we starting to see a change in the tide as far as kids staying in school longer instead of going pro early?**

COACH CREAN: No, I think every case is different. I think as soon as you start to think that it's going to be one way or it's going to be -- it's going to be status quo, it will change in a heartbeat.

Every case is different. And I'm sure that every player that stayed in college, whether it's the Big Ten or other places, that were considering going pro, you can certainly say that academics probably played a part in some of it.

But I'm sure draft status and opportunity to move up and that probably had something to do with it as well.

**Q. In terms of Devan Dumes, how does he look and what are you looking for from him?**

COACH CREAN: He's banged up. We had five guards out at one point in time yesterday in practice, including Verdell who rolled his ankle but is still here today.

Devan tweaked his leg the other day. Maybe the practices are more physical than I realized. But he's made improvements. His ball handling is not what I hoped it would be at this point. But he missed some time in the summer when he had knee surgery.

But it's a great learning experience for our players right now that it's a 365-day-a-year improvement task. And if you're not up to it, somebody is.

And with that being said, Devan has made strides. He's made strides in trying to understand what we want. But it's really a matter of everybody really being on the same page, knowing that we're going to move the basketball. We're going to share the basketball. We're not going to overdribble.

We had a situation Sunday night at the end of practice, and then all through Monday -- you

know, some coaches take the practice jerseys away, some coaches take the locker room away when they're not playing well, we took the dribble away because we were a dribbling-abusive team at that point, and not just Devan but numerous guys.

And we just have to learn how to play. And Devan's in the same position. But he's capable. He can defend at a high level. He's proven that he can get points in this league. He can make shots. And we just need our entire team to stay really focused on how the team gets better.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

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**October 29, 2009**



An interview with:

## **IOWA COACH TODD LICKLITER**

THE MODERATOR: Up next is head coach Todd Lickliter. Lickliter enters his third season with the Hawkeyes and returns four starters from last year's team.

Coach, if you'd like to start with an opening statement, and then open up to questions.

COACH LICKLITER: Good morning. It's an exciting time. It's always exciting to start a new season fresh and have new opportunity.

Without even needing to be said, it's an incredible league. We have I think 22 out of the top 30 scorers back, we've got the All-Conference team, All-Members back from the First Team. The systems are incredible.

And the coaching is fantastic. It's a terrific challenge and one that really, if you love the game, you appreciate it. So we're excited about the opportunity. This year our veterans are still young, but it's fun.

At least we have individuals that have a good understanding and a true commitment that is necessary. I can see the results of their work in the off-season just by the strength they've gained, and we have terrific leadership.

And you have to have leadership. And those leaders have to have an understanding of what you want. And Jarryd Cole and Devan Bawinkel, Jarryd's a junior and Devan's a senior, I think will provide the leadership we need. And the sophomores we have returning that have a lot of game experience will actually be veterans, and we've added to that a good recruiting class.

So we're excited about the opportunities. We know that the expectations are low, but if predictions always came true, then there would be no need to play the games. And so that's the beauty of the sport. So we're looking forward to the season and to the opportunities ahead.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. Tom Izzo has said that the best thing for basketball in the Big Ten is for football programs to do well, that's why he's been such a fan of Spartan football. How much does Kirk Ferentz' 8-0 start help getting kids excited about Iowa basketball?**

COACH LICKLITER: I love it because Kirk Ferentz does things. He's a great coach, great program, and he makes you proud to be a Hawkeye. I think our players appreciate the way they play, and so there's definitely excitement and we just keep pulling for them. Keep playing. I just love their approach.

So I don't know that it helps as far as the way we're going to play or anything. Although, it gives you a vision of what needs to be done, there's no question about that.

If we could emulate their approach, I'd gladly do that.

**Q. Last year IU (Indiana) got its only Big Ten win against you guys, and obviously you guys did a little bit better. What do you expect from that match-up this year?**

COACH LICKLITER: I think every match-up is something that is so demanding, and I told time last year I was really impressed with the way that his kids just continued to fight and play. And you knew they were dangerous.

We were a team that had very little margin of error. We won a few close ones. But we had to play at a very -- at our highest level to be able to compete. And so I give Indiana a lot of credit for the way they played that night. They were a better team, without question.

I think there were other games that they were in that they were very dangerous. So I thought Tom did a great job with them. I think that that's a game that we see it as just another challenge, just like the rest of the opportunities in the Big Ten.



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**T. Lickliter - 10.29.09**

**Q. I was wondering about Devon Archie. First, exactly how did he hurt his shoulder and how is his progress and how does this kind of prevent him from grasping your system?**

COACH LICKLITER: Well, it's too bad, because you're always disappointed when somebody's injured. It's so frustrating for them. And you're thankful that it's not more serious, obviously.

It goes to show how fragile it was. Because it was really a non-contact drill and he just happened to lose his footing and fell back on his shoulder and had -- I always hesitate to go into medical terms or aspects because I don't fully understand everything that's happened, but the way I understand it is he dislocated or separated his clavicle, which is pretty unique.

They had to go back and set it. And now they've got to watch and make sure that it stays without having to pin it or anything. And right now that's the hope, and we don't have any reason to think it won't happen that way.

Obviously it sets him back. He's going to be out four to six, maybe seven weeks. But he's an eager learner, very bright, pays attention. And I know he'll catch up. And I also know it's frustrating, disappointing for him. And we miss him.

But it's something that you deal with, and we've dealt with a lot of injuries in the last couple of years, and that's something that I'm hoping this is the last one for the year. That's for sure.

**Q. Is there any thought that you might have to redshirt him? I mean if this lingers on past seven weeks?**

COACH LICKLITER: You can always -- that's not a decision we have to make right now. And as long as he doesn't play, it's a decision that we can make. And we'll just have to evaluate as we go.

He is a player that his best years are ahead of him. He just keeps improving every year. And so an extra year of college would not be detrimental to him, but we're just going to have to see how quickly he progresses. And obviously we'd have to talk with him about it and it's not something that we made a decision on at this point.

**Q. With the way the Big Ten schedule falls off, some teams you play twice, some**

**once. Would you be in favor of just 20 games, play everyone twice?**

COACH LICKLITER: It's not something that I've done a lot of -- given a lot of thought to, because it's not pressing. I've got bigger issues, to be honest with you.

But if we did that, then you've got to look at your non conference schedule and make sure that things fit accordingly. But I don't know that that's a problem. Although I do think with the Big Ten conference tournament, 18 games, it's a demanding schedule. Last year our schedule was ranked in one ranking 32nd in the nation. When you're playing the best league, it is demanding.

So it really almost doesn't matter what I think. If they decide to go to 20, they'll go to 20. Right now it's 18. And we just accept it and prepare the best we can. So it's not something I've given a lot of thought to.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**

**October 29, 2009**



An interview with:

## **MICHIGAN COACH JOHN BEILEIN**

THE MODERATOR: Next up, Michigan head coach John Beilein. He welcomes back four starters from last year's squad, including Pre-Season All-Big Ten selection Manny Harris. Coach, we'll start with an opening statement and then open the floor for questions.

COACH BEILEIN: We're excited to get the season going. I think we're really playing an attractive schedule that will be demanding out of conference, and then when we have the 18 Big Ten games now and the depth of talent in returning players in the Big Ten, it may be one of the most challenging schedules I personally have ever played and maybe Michigan's ever played in a long time.

But we're going after it. And we're excited about it.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. You've been able to rebuild the program just by letting the guys know they can trust in you. They talk about your influence on them and several Michigan high school coaches have talked about that. Would you talk about the trust factor that you've built back at Michigan?**

COACH BEILEIN: I think it's the way we've tried to coach for a long time that really if you have a relationship, really strong relationships with your players, that they will, they'll usually -- adds a lot of credibility.

You use those old adages. I hate to use the cliches, but they don't care how much they know until they know how much you care. Rules without relationships equals rebellion. Those are two that we use all the time. But you have to build those relationships and then you have that trust.

So it's just the thing that we've always done as a coach. And hopefully it's one of the things that can make our program special. And I don't think we're alone in this. I think a lot of coaches, successful coaches do the same thing.

**Q. One of the kids on your team, Zack Novak, could you talk about his development from when he came on campus. He was suspended one game and all that just talk about how he's developed not only on the court but as a person.**

COACH BEILEIN: First of all, he's in the business school. He's been admitted to the business school at the University of Michigan, which is a great honor to him.

He is a wonderful kid whose body has really changed from probably being a 225-pound probably just slightly overweight, small forward, whatever position is, he's sort of a hybrid of doing a lot of things. He played the two-man and four-man for us last year. Not too many people get to do those two tasks.

And he's really just -- he's done a great job of being a leader. As a sophomore I would say he's one of our leaders, and it gives us a great combination of a kid who can shoot and a kid who can really do a lot of the glue-type of things to keep a team going.

He dives on the floor probably more than anybody. Takes charges as much as anybody. Those are winning plays that win games. Everybody looks at the scores and the rebounds and all those type of things. Sometimes there's a lot of winning plays in there that separate us from the other team.

**Q. You obviously have this program turning in the right direction. There's a lot of positives, a lot of high expectations this year. Because of the recent past and the struggles this program went through to get to this point, have you told the kids: You know, let's not get too high on this thing, let's be a little cautious going into this season?**



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**J. Beilein - 10.29.09**

COACH BEILEIN: You know, I wrote them a letter at the beginning of the year or just before we got here about how this was -- we're still hunting. Until we can get Michigan to point where they're in the NCAA tournament, this is normal to be in the NCAA tournament, we haven't turned anything around yet. I think that's where Michigan belongs. If you're in the tournament every year, dang it, you've got a chance of winning it.

That's where we want to go, sustain the program. So this is the second year with a very aggressive schedule, that's what we have to do. So I don't think we've lost that hunger or anybody's thinking about last year as much as saying, hey, hopefully we have a good team and we're going to be playing with the big boys all year long and let's see what we can do.

**Q. With the ethics committee stuff and the board of directors voting today, kind of what's your take on what has initially been proposed?**

COACH BEILEIN: Boy, there's so many things. Overall, I was in favor of many of the things that they're going to vote about today, but I can't be too specific. But I think we're making progress in some pretty significant areas, I think, according to what we'll see what happens to that.

**Q. You played a tough schedule last year with UCLA and Duke. Could you just talk about the value of playing some of those tough teams in the non conference portion of the schedule?**

COACH BEILEIN: I think when you have the right team, there's great value in it. When you don't have the right team, it can really ruin the confidence of your team. I think teams have to be very careful about when they do schedule like this.

And it usually comes down to the last couple of games who you're going to play. Are you going to bring in a guaranteed game or are you going to take on another difficult team?

And really one of the reasons we do it to make sure that we get -- we've had UCLA at Crisler. Duke at Crisler. Now it's UConn at Crisler and the following year it will be Kansas at Crisler.

That's the back end of things. And in the meantime you have to go to Allen Fieldhouse and try to get a W. But I think we have enough of those games that it gives our kids a great taste. It's just difficult that we've had to space one in the second semester.

It looks like we may continue to do that. But we've got to be very careful of that because of how tough the Big Ten schedule is in the second semester.

**Q. Do you worry about the NBA talk with Manny Harris and a little bit with DeShawn Sims being a distraction? Or have those guys handled that stuff well?**

COACH BEILEIN: I think if you frame that correctly it could be a great motivator for them that you want to -- we want our guys, if they're going to be going to the NBA want to have careers in the NBA. In order to have careers in the NBA there's a lot of things that you need to be able to do, whether it's getting all your assignments in on time and doing all the tests that you have to do off the court of handling your personal business is a big thing.

So you use that as part of this. This is going to help you if you're fortunate enough to have that opportunity. So we try to use it as a positive there. And some days you want them to practice like there's NBA scouts all over your practice. But, then again, in games you may want them to play like there is no NBA.

This is your only opportunity to play basketball, make the most of it because it's right here and right now is really what's most important.

**Q. Can you talk about what you feel the conference schedule is like right now? Is there too many games? Too few games with the 18-game schedule?**

COACH BEILEIN: It's been difficult for us, because we have -- the opportunity to be on CBS TV with a big game in the second semester has really cramped ours together. I particularly am not in favor of the times where you play. I think this year we have -- let me see how does it go again.

It starts on a Sunday and then it's a Wednesday, then it's a Saturday, and then it's a Tuesday. There's like five games in a row. And it's very difficult to go through those stretches with the amount of travel that we have to do.

At the same time, everybody's doing it. And everybody has -- you know sometimes when you're playing somebody, it's not who you're playing, it's where you're playing them and when you're playing them that really will make a difference in some games.

So it is difficult. But thank goodness we

have -- I was with Gene Keady last night and they're talking about playing a Thursday-Saturday game, leaving on Wednesday and coming back Sunday. So those are tough days, too.

It's part of this league with the footprint that we have that there's a lot of travel involved. We're very fortunate to be able to do it mostly with charter planes and quick bus trips.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**

**October 29, 2009**



An interview with:

## **MICHIGAN STATE COACH TOM IZZO**

THE MODERATOR: Up next is Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo. The dean of the Big Ten's coaches, Izzo enters his 15th season with the Spartans and returns three starters from last year's team that went 31-7 and finished as the national runner-up.

Coach, we'll start with an opening statement and then open the floor for questions.

COACH IZZO: I wish last year were still here. But it's not. It's time to move on. And you know hopefully we learned something from last year. We went through a lot of adversity. Had three major illness or injuries during the year that kind of set us back and yet if a team ever learned how to persevere and kind of hang with it, with a lot of pressure on them to get to Detroit, I think this team did.

My biggest fears are two-fold. Number one, we lost more than I think people give us credit for. When you lose the best defensive player in the year in Travis Walton, who was also your best leader since maybe Mateen Cleaves, that's a big loss.

We had a walk-on defender who could guard anybody from six foot to six-six.

And two, Sutton was a loss because of his play, but he averaged nine points, or ten points, nine rebounds, whatever, but he was a glue guy, he was a chemistry guy.

Maybe the third factor on that would be we lose Idong and Gray and in big games when you needed a lot of bodies against big guys, they were great backup guys that all of a sudden Idong plays 17 minutes against Pittman or Texas or plays against the beat. Nothing else we had 10 follows to give, that was worthwhile.

So we lost 15 years of experience with those three guys, because all three of those

centers were fifth-year seniors. But I like what we have back, too. The other issue would be I think the league's gotten three times better.

I've been in the league now 26, 27th year as a GA on up. And I definitely thought early it was great when I first got in with all those great coaches, and then maybe we had a little bit of a lull. And then in '99, 2000, we had two teams in the Final Four and I thought it was really good but I think this is the best it's been since maybe that date.

And because of that, I honestly see nine or 10, eight, nine teams that realistically could win the league. And, yeah, some are better than others right now. When you look at Purdue, Ohio State. I think Michigan is going to be much improved. I think Illinois will be much improved. And Purdue, with everybody back, we won it by four games last year, but understand Robbie Hummel made a lot of that possible.

And he's back healthy and Matt's done an incredible job with that program. And you just start looking around. Bo's teams are always going to be good. Northwestern, I mean, Bill's -- I told him I was going to put pressure on him. This is his year to get there. And I think it is. I really honestly do.

So top to bottom, the league is the best it's been in a long time and that's going to leave a lot of great games and a lot of pressure on everybody night in, night out.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. How is it going with finding a way to replace Sutton and the guys that backed him up?**

COACH IZZO: It continues to go. I'm just not sure if it's in a good way or bad way. We have 100 minutes. Tom Herzog has played 100 minutes in two years. So our experience went from the 15 years to 100 minutes.

And yet he's improved. He's up to 250, seven-foot frame that doesn't look great but it looks a lot better than it was when he was at 220 and 225. He's made some progress. He's athletic and can shoot the ball.



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Derrick Nix, 340-pounder a year and a half ago; he's down to 277 and has made incredible sides, especially since summer.

And Garrick Sherman is a kid who you'd think you'd redshirt him most years, we don't have that luxury, and yet every practice he's a very smart kid, he's gotten better and better.

So I think adequate, maybe. Find out a little bit more. But do have the ability to go small some. But we'll have to go big, especially with some of the teams we play early in the non conference. I think that's one of our negatives. We've always had the versatility to go big or small. And now our bigs are completely unproven. And only time will tell.

I can't even answer it yet because we haven't played against anybody or scrimmaged even much ourselves.

**Q. You've always had the attitude play anybody, anywhere, anytime, and it's hurt you from time to time that you only play some teams twice and others do once. Would you just be in favor if everyone just played each other twice and settle it on the court?**

COACH IZZO: You know, I do -- I look in this crowd and I see Steve Bartle back there and I saw Jimmy Jackson. Back then when it was a true champion, I think we all liked it better, to be honest with you. I just don't know if you could play 22 conference games and get it done or 20, whatever it is. And 20 I guess, and get it done and still be able to schedule some great non conference. It's a problem.

I mean, it's an issue. I think we're better off now than we were from the standpoint of only two games' difference, when it was four games difference somebody could get a huge advantage.

And so I think we're better off in that way but it's hard playing 18 games. I thought the last year or so when you play 18 from 16, those two games seem like 10 sometimes, especially late in the year. These conference games are just more grinding. There's more you do.

I'd like to see a true champion, but I don't know if I could even vote for it because I think we'd be beating ourselves up and I still think when you play in a league like this, wins are important, too, at the end of the year, because you're going to play so many good teams and it's so hard to win on the road in this conference.

**Q. You said that you started as a GA 26 years ago. And now you're at the top of your**



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**profession. Was the goal to get to this point in your career, or when you got into it, did you say: Let me see where this takes me? What were you thinking back then?**

COACH IZZO: Survival. I was thinking of getting through the first year or two. Survival. I worked for Jud for 12 years. That's survival in itself (laughter). And I was with Bruce Weber last night, and the Jud and Gene days, you know, us two became great friends just out of survival there, too.

But that taught me a lot because I had no dreams of getting it where it was at right now or where we've gotten to. I just dreamed of trying to get it to be a better program. And then as we had some success, I mean, now the goal is what everybody's goal that had success, can you sustain it.

And I've had 50 coaches tell me it's harder to get there than it is to stay there. And I would have to -- I mean harder to stay there than get there, excuse me. And I would have to agree with that. It is harder. And yet it's a challenge that it's fun to meet and now our deal is try to grow a program, not just a team.

And I kind of like that. As evident by the 200-some guys we had come back for the Final Four last year, former players.

I look at the great programs and you see it even more in football. That's what I love about it. When you've got people coming back and you realize that it's not for one team, but it's for your program. That's the next goal. That's the next step. And still somewhere in there I'd like to win another championship for our university.

**Q. You yourself just talked up the Big Ten and on paper we have all these teams that are ranked. We've got all these players coming back. Good season or bad season to be picked No. 1 in the league?**

COACH IZZO: (Chuckling) You know, I like being picked high, because that's where I'd like to end up. So I probably would complain about you guys orphans picking us high. I look at it, I love Purdue right now. They've got everybody back. I think Matt's done a great job. I think some of those other teams have more back than we have.

But I like the fact that maybe some of it is respect for the program. Maybe some of it is somebody's got to be picked 1. I could see

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somebody picked 1 or 5 and not be much different.

But I kind of like it. I kind of like it because it means that our program's in the right spot. And the pressure, even though I complain about all you or all our fans, you don't put as much on as I do. So it's good. It's good and I think it's good for our league that we've got five, six teams ranked in the top 25, maybe seven or even eight in the top 35, 40.

One thing I learned from the guys, I mean, it was Knight and Keady and Heathcote and Henson and Davis and Clem Haskins. Those guys were all 15-year-plus guys when I first got in the league and they believed in the Big Ten. And it's hard when you have a lot of transitions.

I think the coaches we have right now in this league, I'm prejudiced, but I think are the best any league can put together anywhere. If you look to the top to bottom. And so being a Big Ten guy, too, I think it's good, and I think it's good for Michigan State.

I'm probably going to have after five losses somewhere just when we get to the non conference, I'll probably say it's awful. But just take that for a grain of salt.

**Q. You raised your eyebrows when the moderator said you were the dean of Big Ten coaches. Does that surprise you sometimes when you think of it that way? It doesn't seem like it's been that long?**

COACH IZZO: I think what's amazing is to me. I've had some incredible things happen since I've been a head coach here. At our own university, we've had a lot of ADs and football coaches and in the league there's been more teams that have had three new coaches. Not two, three. And there's 13, 14 years I've been a head coach. So I guess I appreciate surviving.

But I don't look at it as I'm definitely not any more experienced than some, and I don't really -- I've just been in the same league. There's some guys in this league now when you bring Tubby in and John Beilein in that have done it in the other leagues that have had experience more than I do as a head coach.

I've just got more years in the Big Ten, and I have to say I'm proud of that and excited about it. But it doesn't put me in any different place. Bruce Weber, like I said, we've been friends for 20-some years, and he knows more about the league than I do. He was in it a couple years longer.

**Q. Pick your brain as a coach and historian. Five juniors are on the Pre-Season All-Big Ten team. Where does this junior class rate from not just Michigan State but in the Big Ten as a class?**

COACH IZZO: I think it rates high. But I think we always look to the present. As I look back at some of the teams and look at some of the guys in this room that were on some of those teams, you know, there were times, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, seemed like they had five on their own team that were that good.

There were just incredible teams and we have a tendency to look at what we have now. I mean, I definitely feel good about it as far as for a league. I feel bad about it as far as a coach because they've got to play against four of those other guys.

But I think it's great for the league and yet it's hard for me to put it in perspective because I feel like I've been here and, man, I could name some great players back 20 years ago, 25 years ago when I first was a GA, there were some incredible teams.

But to keep five sophomores and now have five juniors that all stayed, that was getting to be a problem, too, everybody was leaving. I think it speaks volumes for what guys want to accomplish. I think guys are starting to look at -- one thing I loved about Cleaves and Peterson when I had them, we had the big run last year and we had the big cause of Detroit in the state of Michigan.

But if I was a fan, North Carolina had the best cause. Guys stayed in school to win a basketball championship. Cleaves and Peterson stayed in school to win a championship. They want to be like Magic, win one in college, win one in the NBA, win one in the Olympics.

We don't have a lot of that anymore. So right now I hope our fans enjoy these guys because a lot of them are doing that and that's being here for the right reason, winning a championship, getting closer to your degree and I'm proud of all five of those guys, even the ones I don't like much which are the other four.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**

October 29, 2009



An interview with:

## NORTHWESTERN COACH BILL CARMODY

THE MODERATOR: Coach Bill Carmody is entering his 10th season with the Wildcats and welcomes back four starters from last year and earned a berth into the post-season NIT.

Coach, we'll start with an opening statement and then questions.

COACH CARMODY: It's nice being back, seeing some familiar faces, some unfamiliar ones. But we've had almost two weeks of practice. And November's a funny time, because you start doing one thing, you're working on defense and then you want to move to the next thing but you don't know if you really have it down.

So it's a screwy time, actually. We do have a veteran team. We lost Craig Moore, who led the Big Ten in 3-point shooting a couple of years in a row. But we have some young guys who I think are improved. And we had a positive year last year. People are excited about it because we beat some pretty good teams. But those teams also beat us. And now we have to back it up and do better than splitting with teams.

We were 8-10 in the conference. And you have to do better than that. You shoot for winning your home games and stealing some on the road, and I think that's a pretty good formula for success. And going from post-season NIT to finally making it to the NCAA.

So we're excited. The guys look pretty good so far. And just getting going, trying to take care of business day to day.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. How are the sophomores and the freshmen looking now that you're a couple weeks into official practice?**

COACH CARMODY: We started two freshmen last year, Kyle Rowley and Johnny

Shurna. Rowley broke a bone in his foot in the summer and he's just getting back now. But he played a lot this summer, and I think he's really going to help us.

Shurna, as some of you may know, made the Under-19 team that went to New Zealand and won the gold medal. He is confident about his ability, looks good. And Luka Mirkovic added about 15, 18 pounds and is playing that way, much more physically than he did last year. And then go along with those guys and Kevin Coble, Mike Thompson, and Jeremy Nash. Things look pretty decent. There's some depth there.

I think in years before this maybe our ninth guy wasn't -- there was a big drop-off between 5, 8 and 9, and I don't think that's the case this year. I think we can go a little deeper this year, and so I'm looking forward to that.

**Q. I know you have a lot of kids from Chicago, as does Bruce Weber. But a lot of them get away. How hard is it to recruit and keep kids in state?**

COACH CARMODY: Well, I mean, years ago when I came here, I don't think we had any Chicago kids. I'm trying to think. I don't think so. And so we sort of made it a priority to try to get Chicago kids and also the suburbs, because you're getting good players in the near suburbs now.

I don't think the teams are quite as good, generally speaking, but the players are. There's one or two players that are very good. So we sort of -- we're trying to mine that a little bit.

And Chicago is a hotbed of basketball. So you're not keeping other coaches out of it. So you just have to show them what you have and try and get on them early, like any kind of recruiting.

And you hope they see the benefits of your school over other schools that come in usually a little later than you do because you've had access to them earlier, probably.

**Q. Bill, it used to be that kids were being recruited as juniors and seniors. Now they're being recruited as eighth graders, ninth**



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**graders. Is this a healthy thing for the NCAA for them to step in and do something about that? Or do you think that this is just the way that it's going?**

COACH CARMODY: I don't think it's healthy. And it is the way it's going. And I'm not sure the solution, I mean, what to do. But can you limit it to high school kids? Because you have to recruit freshmen.

You have to at least introduce them to your schools. Things have accelerated over the last ten years, five years, even three years. You're playing so much AAU basketball now you play 25 games. In your high school schedule probably in the summer they play, summer and spring they play 75 games. So kids are getting better sooner.

And they're playing against different, better competition. And just playing more games. And so I don't know what the answer is. But like I said I don't think it is healthy. I don't really think it's healthy to recruit freshmen. But it's just the way it's gone.

**Q. Tom Izzo just said this is the year for you guys to make the tournament. There's a lot of that talk. Do you welcome that pressure?**

COACH CARMODY: Yeah, I don't think it's that much pressure. If you have some good players, which I think we do, we look forward to it. That's why you're here. There's 330 Division I teams and that's everyone's goal right now to get in the NCAA. And we're just really looking forward to it. It's going to be a tough year in the conference. That's the only thing.

I think we have probably one of our better teams coming up. But just looking around from top to bottom that the league is very strong and so it's going to be difficult. But I don't see it's really pressure. I think the guys sort of embrace that.

**Q. Where does Drew Crawford factor into the rotation at this point?**

COACH CARMODY: Drew Crawford is a true freshman from Naperville. We lost Moore who is a long-range shooter. Drew makes shots, but he's not the kind of shooter that Craig is. But I think I'm going to throw him in there because he's a pretty athletic kid. He can score -- makes a jump shot. Gets to the basket a little bit. Gets a few rebounds, couple blocked shots.

I think he's going to be a very good player for us. So might have to live with a few mistakes here and there early, but I like the way he goes

about his business. Smart kid, tough kid, and I think he's going to help us.

**Q. After missing the tournament last season, did you feel like your non conference schedule you could have used maybe some tougher opponents or do you think you put together a schedule properly?**

COACH CARMODY: I don't think that it matters. I think we had a pretty tough out of conference schedule. You play 30 games and 19 or 20 of them -- 19 are against -- if you just play one game in the Big Ten tournament against conference foes and then you have the Big Ten-ACC challenge, and we had DePaul last year and Stanford. We had some pretty decent teams in there, and Florida State in the challenge.

I think we lost a couple of games that we sort of gave away and that was the difference.

But you try to -- every program is at a different stage. So you're trying to balance that out wins and tough schedule and RPI and all that kind of stuff.

But I think that last year we hit it just about right. And I think if we held on to a couple of leads, I think we would have gotten into the tournament last year.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

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An interview with:

## **OHIO STATE COACH THAD MATTA**

THE MODERATOR: Joining us now at the podium is Ohio State head coach Thad Matta. Matta enters his sixth year with the Buckeyes and welcomes back the squad that went 22-11.

Opening statement and then questions.

COACH MATTA: I think it's an exciting time as we near. I think our players are getting tired of banging on each other, and for us we open up college basketball on November 9th. So trying to get ourselves as ready as we possibly can is very important to us.

As you look at the schedule -- I was just sitting in my hotel room changing and a friend of mine texted me and said, geez, I saw you're playing five of the top 10 teams this year. I said, yeah, we've heard something about that.

So I think as we continue to move forward and you take your non conference schedule and get yourself ready for the Big Ten, and for us we open up with four of our first five games on the road in the Big Ten, which is going to be a tremendous challenge for us.

And I think that this season, as you look at the Big Ten and just the parity in it, it's going to be the team that catches a break here or there, stays injury-free and gets on a roll at the right time.

So, like I said, it's an exciting time for us.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. Now that you recently moved Evan Turner to the point guard spot and a lot of guards within the league that people know about, what do you expect from the guard position in the Big Ten?**

COACH MATTA: Well, I think that you're looking at a league that is very guard heavy. You've got some great guards, some great wings. And you look and say those are the guys that

make plays for their teams. And as you look down the rosters, and you're looking at guys that have the ability to make plays, there's a lot of them. And there's multiple guys on a lot of teams as well.

So I think it's where the defense is going to come into play. I think in regards to Evan, what he is in my mind is a play-maker. Would I call him the perfect point guard, I don't think that, but I don't want him to be that. I think the way that we're trying to play is maybe a little different where it's not like a few years ago where you've got a true great point guard and you put the ball in his hands and let him go from a certain spot on the floor.

I think we want to do that with Evan because he has I think made major improvements in his game over the course of the summer.

**Q. You're picked third in the pre-season voting behind Michigan State and Purdue. What do you think your team has to do or maybe some key aspects of the game or some key positions that have to come through for you to challenge for the title?**

COACH MATTA: Well, I think that we have to -- in those regards, I think, number one, you've got to be a great road team. You're going to have to get some wins on the road that maybe you're not projected to get.

I think that we've talked about we're going to have to rebound the basketball at a high level. We're going to have to take care of the basketball. We're going to have to be a team that is very sound and very disciplined with what we're trying to do offensively.

And then I think in regards to staying together as a team and as you look at this season for I think any team, there's a possibility for some highs and some lows. And I think really just keeping the focus on exactly what our job is and what we have to do every single time we take the court.

**Q. Coach, you said that you heard about playing that tougher schedule, five out of the top 10 teams. Could you elaborate? Did**

**you feel you had to play a tougher schedule? Or did it come from some circles where you had to beef up your schedule? What did that mean?**

COACH MATTA: I think, first of all, a few of them are Big Ten teams, which I think says how good this league is. And, like I said, we open up Coaches vs. Cancer on November 9th, we play two games and we go to Madison Square Garden, we play North Carolina and then either Cal or Syracuse. And we have to go to West Virginia this year in a return game in the course of the Big Ten season.

I didn't feel that we had to -- I think we've always played a pretty competitive schedule and this just is one of those years where everybody's going to be really good on our schedule.

**Q. Back to that Evan Turner thing, how much is based on what you saw in late games last year when you did that and how much of it has to do with Lighty and Buford who may be able to play the forward positions? Are they healthy at all?**

COACH MATTA: Both. I think to answer your question, I think seeing the things that Evan can do in watching him this summer and with a foreign trip that we had, you know, getting David Lighty back is huge for this basketball team.

And I thought last year right at the time when he went down we were playing some great basketball. We were undefeated. Had the No. 1 defense in the country. And I think we're 13th in the country. And I think that speaks volumes to what David is, what he brings to our team. And he's a guy a lot of times that you may not see it on the stat sheet, but he's a guy I know that I need on the floor as much as we can possibly have him on there.

And having a guy like William Buford coming into a second season, I thought Will last year, as he got thrust into when David went down into a position of saying we need you to play and we need you to produce, I was very pleased with what he brought to the table.

**Q. Talk about your center position and the injury there and the loss of Mullins?**

COACH MATTA: I think that's the great thing. I don't have to sit up here and talk about one-and-dones because I have no freshmen. I think in regards to our center position, I think that Dallas Lauderdale with the break in his hand has set us back a little bit. I think Dallas was -- had a

great off-season. But I do hope the surgery went well. It will be three weeks I think next Tuesday, the surgery has happened.

We've got him in doing things in practice. We put a quarterback jersey on him where nobody can hit him. He's able to condition. The hand therapy is going great. So hopefully we have him right around the opening of the season or shortly thereafter.

Kyle Madsen being a fifth-year senior, he knows the system. He knows his role on the team and have been very pleased with his play and also adding a seven-foot Zisis Sarikopoulos who sat out last year but has been able to practice with us, we're pleased with what he brings to the table. Very cerebral basketball player and knows what he needs to do to help us.

**Q. Can you talk a little bit more about just the impact of having David Lighty back and what that adds to this team?**

COACH MATTA: As you look at David, and he's a guy that has won a Big Ten championship, he's played for a national championship, a key role in a run to the national championship game. He's a guy who has been in your program now for four years.

I think this: I think David Lighty is a strong candidate for Defender of the Year. I think he's a great defender. The thing that I like is he started this year he's really shooting the ball well and just he's a glue to a team that's been through a lot of different situations in the time, in the games that he's played at Ohio State.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.  
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**October 29, 2009**



An interview with:

## **PENN STATE COACH ED DECHELLIS**

THE MODERATOR: Up next is Penn State head coach Ed DeChellis. DeChellis enters his seventh year at the helm of the Lions and welcomes back three starters from last year's team that won the National Invitational Tournament.

If you'd like to start with an opening statement, then we'll open it up to questions.

COACH DECHELLIS: Another year. Great league. Everybody back. We have four, five teams back in the top 20 today. Very competitive, it's -- in my seven years probably as it's ever been.

We're very, very excited about it and looking forward to it and it will be here shortly.

THE MODERATOR: Questions.

**Q. Nowadays in college athletics some coaches only get three years to rebuild a program. Congratulations on the off-season for you, but could you talk about the fact that Penn State is letting you build and let you build up?**

COACH DECHELLIS: Well, yeah, everybody's philosophy's a little bit different, I guess, and where you start from.

We started from ground zero. We think we've made progress every year. We like the direction we're going. Our recruiting efforts have been much better. We're finally recruiting players in the 2011-2012 classes that we were never able to do before because we were always trying to play catch-up. Now we feel we're on solid ground and moving forward.

We like the direction we're going and obviously the university likes the direction we're going in.

**Q. Do you have particular guys who are going to replace Pringle and Cornley, or is it more by committee?**

COACH DECHELLIS: I don't know if you replace, Cornley's numbers were very good, but more important for us, Jamelle's presence, his toughness, his spirit, the command of the locker room that he had is most important. I'm hoping Talor Battle can provide that leadership that Jamelle provided in the past.

I think the U.S.A. Basketball experience for Talor, he's playing with a lot of confidence. So I'm hoping that he can be that spiritual emotional leader that Jamelle was.

The numbers on the floor, we think that our front line's improved. We think our players have improved in Andrew Jones, Jeff Brooks, David Jackson, we think all those three guys have improved.

And Andrew Ott, the young guy that transferred in last year, has probably had the best camp of almost anybody on our team other than Talor this fall so far. So we hope he's showing improvement.

So I don't know who the one guy is, but we're hoping by committee that we can take care of the front line. The back court, Chris Babb has played well, our freshman last year, sophomore, who played at times. We think he's done a nice job in the summer and in the fall he's practiced pretty well.

We like our freshman guard Tim Frazier from Texas. I see him playing quite a number of minutes, if things go and he continues to play how he's played in the fall so far. He's done a nice job.

And with him and Battle on the back court together you have two very, very fast athletic players who we feel can spread the floor, hopefully and make it a little easier for the other guys offensively.

**Q. Ed, Jamelle gets a lot of the we're going to miss him, but Pringle, Pringle did so many different things really well or maybe the best on the team for your on-ball defense and**

**3-point shooting, and he was the one guy who could break the press and just everything, did the pull-up shot. Is there any conceivable way you can replace all that stuff, even with all -- tell me about Frazier, his ability to do some of those things, maybe.**

COACH DECHELLIS: Pringle was such a solid guy for us. He was a guy, kind of an unsung hero. He just played hard every night. Worked hard every day in practice. Tremendous 3-point shooter, very athletic, very fast, could defend on the ball. He did some great things for us.

I think Tim Frazier, the freshman, it's not fair to compare, but he has the ability to do that. He is probably faster than Stanley with the ball. He's probably more athletic than Stanley. Hard to believe. He's not the shooter that Stanley is. And he's not defensively he's not there because he's a freshman.

But offensively he can really push the ball. He can use ball screens very well. He's a better drive/kick guy than Stanley was passing the ball. But Stanley made so many big shots for us and big defensive stops that Tim will be able to do in time. Just as a freshman he's not there yet defensively.

**Q. How difficult is it to make headway in this league especially in a year like this where it looks so tough top to bottom?**

COACH DECHELLIS: Making headway is -- I was talking to coaches last night, and you could be an 8-and-10 team in this league this year and be very, very good in terms of a conference record.

Moving up, you know, you kind of look at it in the spring and summer, okay, who are we going to jump over? But I think you continue to do what you gotta do and work hard and stay the course. I think this year it will be like every other year, the team who you play and when you play them, who has the flu, who has got some sickness, who has got some injuries, and you get by somebody because maybe somebody wasn't at full speed.

All those things, unfortunately, are part of the game. But the league is as good as it's been from top to bottom. Good players. So to making that jump, you just never know how you're going to jump. Can't get too high. Can't get too low. And there's nobody to point to that says I think we can get them at home or here's a win here. There's none of those. So you better be ready 18 nights.

**Q. You've got a schedule this year that a non conference schedule that makes a lot**

**more sense than the one last year. What did you go through with your new guy? He's not your old guy, not your old schedule-maker, and how much input did you have in that?**

COACH DECHELLIS: Well, we tried to upgrade. But I know the year before we didn't make the schedule not to make the tournament. We thought some teams were going to be better, they just weren't. And we played the odds again. We scheduled some teams who were pretty good last year and have good RPIs and we expect them to hopefully do the same thing that they did last year or play a little better.

If they do, the schedule looks pretty good. If we have some teams that don't, they get some guys hurt, they have some difficulties, then all that can change.

But I think we're playing a good schedule. I think the tournament in Charleston will be good for us as well, playing hopefully a Miami team and a South Carolina team, a Tulane, South Florida, some good teams in that as well. Virginia, Virginia Tech, Temple. And we think our schedule is solid. It will be more challenging, the teams are better and hopefully we can come out of it with a positive non conference record and head into the Big Ten season.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.  
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E. DeChellis - 10.29.09

**October 29, 2009**



An interview with:

## **PURDUE COACH MATT PAINTER**

THE MODERATOR: We'll jump forward to Purdue. Up next is Purdue head coach Matt Painter. Painter begins his fifth year with the Boilermakers and welcomes back all five starters from last year's team that went 27-10, won its first Big Ten tournament title and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

Coach, we'll start with an opening statement and go with questions.

COACH PAINTER: I thought I should have been batting instead of -- in front of Ed DeChellis, anyways, and he could bump me over. But these guys didn't think so. They're the manager.

Obviously we're very excited about this year's team and really looking forward to getting into non conference play. I think when you finish the season on a good note and you're able to win the Big Ten tournament, go to the Sweet 16, you're excited about the season starting. You want it to start immediately.

And having everybody back, having guys that are healthy and the thing that we've really tried to encourage with our guys and explain to our guys is that injuries are part of the game. And you can't use them as excuses, and last year we did not. And we got better as the year went on.

We also got better as we were healthier. But we didn't use that as an excuse. We kept plugging. I thought we had a strong finish and our guys embraced it, which was something that was great for our team instead of making those excuses like I talked about.

And now I think we're stronger because of it. So we're really looking forward to playing this year and hopefully getting some breaks in terms of health issues, and just staying -- I think from

sickness to injury, I think you get that at the wrong time, it really hurts you.

With all that being said, Coach Izzo's team won the league by four games, and his best all-around player was really in and out the whole season. So they were able to overcome it and then do some things that are special. Hopefully we can do some things that are special this year.

But we've got a great league and every game is going to be a challenge, and that's probably something that's different in the Big Ten this year. You can't grab your schedule and say: Well, I think we can win these two or three games and have some wins on your schedule.

There are absolutely zero wins on the Big Ten schedule this year. Anybody can beat anybody else on the road, home, and I think that means you have a great conference.

THE MODERATOR: We'll take questions.

**Q. Could you describe how your players embraced all that hardship and was that organic or did you have anything to do with it or did it happen by itself?**

COACH PAINTER: The issue really was the uncertainty if Rob was going to play or not. And I think it would have been better for us if he was just going to be out two to four weeks, three to five weeks, and we would have adjusted to that. The uncertainty of whether he was going to be in the lineup on a Wednesday when it was Tuesday night is difficult as a coach because you just want time to prepare.

Obviously we would play small without him at times even smaller than we do. And at times we would play bigger. We would use Chris Kramer as a 4, we would slide JaJuan Johnson down to the 4 and bring in Calasan. But these were some lineups we didn't work on. We really wanted to keep it consistent and we weren't able to do that because you want to put your best guys on the court.

But our guys didn't -- they didn't bat an eye. We lost some games through that and nobody pointed fingers and nobody made excuses.

Like I said, I just felt we became a stronger team because of it.

With that being said, I don't want to go through it again. I think we've learned our lesson through it. You don't have to do it twice. But I was just proud of our guys for sticking with it.

**Q. You returned a lot of guys. What road do you think returning players have had to do with the parity of the Big Ten?**

COACH PAINTER: I think with our team, just the returning guys, just the leadership and their experience of being through the grind, I think, is very important to future success.

In terms of our league, we just have an unbelievable junior class in college basketball. And it's evident, obviously, in the Big Ten. There's a lot of juniors in that class that are stars. And when we have some guys that had opportunities I think to go in the draft that stayed I think that really strengthened our league.

And I think we'll have the opportunity now to grow and be one of the premier leagues if not the premiere league in the country.

**Q. What can you tell us about the guys who are going to be backing up Johnson and Hummel in terms of size and power in the post?**

COACH PAINTER: I think that's a big question for us. I really like the guys that we've signed. Sandi Marcus and D.J. Byrd and Patrick Bade.

With that being said, they're all freshmen and unproven. Sandi gives us more of a true post. Six-ten, 260. Patrick kind of gives us that 4-5, probably more leaning towards the 5, at a six-eight, six-nine, 235, 240, a lefty, a guy that can score the ball a little bit. Can shoot 3s, can stress the defense but can play inside. He was probably more heavily recruited in the Big Ten as a football player as a tight end than he was a power forward.

D.J. Byrd is a big strong kid at six-five, 220, kind of a combo forward play small with him backing up Rob, where we can push him over to the small forward. And he's a skilled kid.

But that's a question because you haven't seen those guys in games yet. You've seen them a lot in AAU. And you've seen them a lot in high school. But they are unproven. If we get an injury like we did last year they're going to have to step up and play major minutes. With backing those guys up and giving us that depth and the bodies, I think they're going to be great in those roles.

But if they have to step out of those roles, there's some uncertainty there. Not in their ability, but just in their experience.

**Q. How is Lewis getting along after his deal? Is he showing you what you would like to see off and on the court and then on the court? What are your expectations for him in this second season?**

COACH PAINTER: Lewis is, he's done a good job. But I'd rather not comment after somebody does something five, six months later. He has time -- he has this time to prove himself and it's just not through the course of the season, it's his career and it's the rest of his life. Great kids make mistakes. And I think he falls into that category.

If you continue to make those mistakes and it's a pattern of behavior, then that's another deal. I don't think this is a pattern of behavior. I think he made a mistake. So hopefully he can improve and learn from this mistake.

He's been out of practice a little bit. He's had kind of a hip flexor or something in his thigh, strain. Then he scratched his cornea the other day in practice. So he's been out a little bit but he's not going to be in the first three games, two exhibition and the first game. So we'll have to learn to play without him, but he gives us a great spark.

We have some good athletic combo guards in Kramer and Grant and Moore. And he gives us a different look. He gives us that quintessential point guard that can pressure the basketball, that can push the basketball, and he allows us to steal some points in transition.

He was All-Freshman Team last year. People don't really talk about that. But to get that experience as a true freshman at that position, those guys always seem to make a big jump their sophomore year after getting that experience as a point.

**Q. How does Keaton Grant look to you? Last year he admitted he was just kind of cautious coming off the injury. But in the pre-season he's been saying, you know, I will not be that way.**

COACH PAINTER: Well, he had a surgery. And he didn't play for five months. And our team went to Australia. He wasn't able to play on that trip or practice. And then he did his best last year, didn't make excuses and fought through

it. And now he's had a great off-season. Had a great spring, summer, here in the fall he worked hard. He's in the best shape of his life. He put a lot of time into his game.

And I think he'll shoot the ball like he did his sophomore year. But he needs to do other things. I think at the end of the year I always point to the Washington game. He had 12 rebounds against Washington when we advanced to the Sweet 16.

It was just a huge boost to our team when he was able to get those 12 rebounds. But, no, I think he's going to have a great senior year. He's worked very hard academically. He'll need one class in the spring to graduate. Both with him and Kramer. I expect them to have very good senior years.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

**FastScripts by ASAP Sports**

**October 29, 2009**



An interview with:

## **WISCONSIN COACH BO RYAN**

THE MODERATOR: We have Wisconsin head coach Bo Ryan. Ryan is in his ninth year with the Badgers and welcomes back three starters from last year's squad to finish 20-13 on the season.

Coach, we'll begin with an opening statement, and then questions.

COACH RYAN: First of all, I was delayed downstairs, we were a little behind. I didn't want you to think I was slow in getting up here.

I'm excited about this year, like the rest of the coaches, we know how good the league is going to be, we know we have a lot of work to do. We have some players that have to grow up in a hurry.

And that's our challenge right now with our practices and our non conference schedule. Will definitely prepare us for the Big Ten.

**Q. Coach, can you talk about how competitive the league is? Some of the coaches talked about this might be as strong as it's been top to bottom?**

COACH RYAN: Well, I think it's going to be tough for the obvious reasons when you look at a stat sheet, when you look at rosters, you look at what's returning. People did not lose -- I don't know about other teams' total stat sheet, but for us Krabbenhoft and Landry, if you look at their lines straight across, we lost a lot with those two guys.

And on the defensive end where there's a lot of stats that aren't even kept on how they helped and recovered and how they blocked out or how they did some other things, but I think when you look at the rosters and the stats and the experience that's back, that's why I think the Big Ten top to bottom is going to be that competitive, and you can have a pretty good team and maybe

not make a whole lot of noise in the league. And that's happened before.

**Q. Talk about you've had big, strong people up front and tough rebounders. Are you going to be able to do that this year? Do you have that kind of talent to be strong in the center and power forward positions?**

COACH RYAN: There's no question that was a weakness for us last year. Physicality up front, but mainly because two of the guys that played a lot of minutes were just sophomores and young sophomores.

There are older players, sometimes, depending on their age when they graduate from high school, and there's also players who have already matured while they're in high school. Well, both Keaton Nankivil and Jon Leuer were still guys growing and filling out and maturing even after high school.

So that's one of the things that I thought, one of the areas I felt we could definitely get better this year is the fact they were going to be older in a physical sense, a mental sense, and they certainly seemed that way right now because we're going to need that.

And also hopefully a player like Jared Berggren, a player that redshirted last year -- one thing when you redshirt, you can get into the weight room an extra day because you're not playing. So he's a little bit further ahead as a result of redshirting. So hopefully he can use that on the court and help us up front, because that's an area where we need it.

**Q. You said you had some guys that need to grow up in a hurry. Who are two of the three that you really need to grow up in a hurry?**

COACH RYAN: Well, I think a guy like Tim Jarmusz did grow up last year. He got some good minutes for us, and while he was hurt, and again you didn't see a lot made of it when we play. But in all fairness to him the only reason I mentioned the injury is because it did hold him



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**B. Ryan - 10.29.09**

back some.

But I think he'll be stronger and better. But Ryan Evans is another redshirted freshman who at times you don't know he's at practice and other days he has a great -- he dominates practice. But that's so typical of younger guys when they're raw.

And we've had in our program some guys who were raw coming in, and by the time they leave they've developed into pretty good players. So Ryan's one of those guys we need some help from. Jordan Taylor and Rob Wilson, both are guards that so far have been asked a lot about, Jason Bohannon and Trevon Hughes, but those guys played some pretty quality minutes. Jordan Taylor more so than Rob Wilson.

But those guys are really going to need to help us, because Bohannon and Hughes, it's great to have two senior guards like that, but you can't play through the non conference that we have and into the Big Ten with two guards. You've got to have four.

But Jared is the guy that has the ability to help us and he's got to get older as the season goes on, and by that I mean mentally pick up things. Seems like he picks things up rather quickly.

So that's where we are. We haven't had enough practices to really say too much. But a couple of the exhibition games and get into the non conference and we'll see who it is. But we definitely need some help.

**Q. What skills did Jared come to campus with last year and how has he amplified them through his redshirt year and so on in the summer?**

COACH RYAN: He likes to play. He likes to compete. And as a big man, he's pretty mobile. So he doesn't try to knock people over to get things done. He plays off of other people's bodies very well. And for those that have ever coached or maybe played as a big, that ability to play off of contact is so important, with your footwork, balance, things like that.

And he's got that. He's got jump hooks. He's got the up and under. He's got the bank shot, short jumper. And he's not a bad passer. He's developing in that area. But the one thing is if we just get guys who want to be good and who like to compete and can handle Wisconsin, the challenges, then those are the kind of guys we like. Jared is in that category.

**Q. You mentioned Ryan Evans as being a raw player, could you also talk about the development of Rob Wilson. You mentioned him a little bit before. But just what he's shown you so far this year?**

COACH RYAN: What we've got to get him to understand is sometimes there are younger players who kind of defer to the older guys. Well, that's okay. Until you get out on the court and start competing.

He just, at times, I just think he could be a lot more physical in his play and he can. It's being able to do it all the time. But there's so many players that would fit into that category over the years at a lot of places. So the turn that he has to make, the next step he has to make is really understanding that he should want to dominate the guy that's across from him in every drill.

I never ever have to worry about Jordan Taylor and Trevon Hughes on any drill or any possession. Those two go after each other like there's no tomorrow. That's where I have to get Rob to understand every, every time we get into a drill into a 4-on-4, 3-on-3, 5-on-5, you have got to want to dominate that guy across from you. That's the best way to show respect to him, is take it to him or stop him.

So that's the next hurdle for him. It doesn't mean he's not competitive. It's just sometimes younger players look at a senior and, oh, okay, I'm going to defer to him a little bit.

No way. I like those young guys that come in and just want to help make that older guy better. And if I can take some of his minutes, I'll take his minutes. And it's okay.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you, Coach.

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