

# HOOPS HEAVEN

Saturday: No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 3 Duke

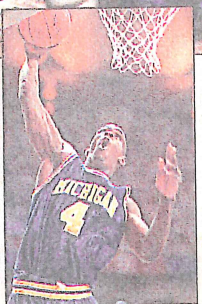


ONE MORE TIME: Michigan's Jalen Rose vs. Duke's Bobby Hurley, above, will be a key matchup in Saturday's rematch. Chris Webber, right, says the game 'is just for bragging rights for now. It won't have any bearing on who will win in March.'

REMATCH AT A GLANCE		
	Duke	Michigan
Last meeting:	71	51
National title game, April 6		
Series record:	9	4
Starters lost:	2	0
Where: Durham, N.C. TV: Raycom, 9 p.m. ET.		

1 - Regular season

By Cliff Vancura, USA TODAY



Photos by Anne Ryan, USA TODAY

## COVER STORY

# Hype meter turned up for rematch

### ON 2C:

Before Duke and Michigan take center stage, No. 1 Indiana plays host to No. 4 Kansas (3:45 p.m. ET/CBS) Saturday in a weekend of basketball that could be a preview of next spring's NCAA Final Four.

By Harry Blauvelt  
USA TODAY

Along North Carolina's Tobacco Road, where fans consider basketball a life-or-death matter, Saturday's Duke-Michigan matchup qualifies as hoops heaven.

Two-time defending NCAA champion Duke (1-0), No. 3 in the USA TODAY/CNN Top 25 Coaches' Poll, hosts No. 2 Michigan (1-0) in Cameron Indoor Stadium at Durham, N.C. (9 p.m.

ET, Raycom) in a rematch of last season's national championship game.

Enthusiastic Duke students, known as "Cameron Crazyies," began camping outside the 9,314-seat arena last Friday in tents, hoping to be first for the 2,500 student tickets.

"It'll be a war," says Rice coach Willis Wilson, whose team lost to Michigan 75-71 Tuesday night. "I think the Michigan players want to prove to Duke and to the nation that they are as good as their billing."

Nine of 10 starters return from the championship game, which Duke won 71-51, although Michigan led 31-30 at the half. Last December, Duke defeated the Wolverines 88-85

in overtime at Ann Arbor, Mich.

"We'd like to give them a little payback," says Ray Jackson, Michigan's 6-6 forward. "They're always in the back of our minds, because they kept us from the national championship."

The Duke-Michigan title game at Minneapolis drew the largest television audience ever for a college contest, and their December meeting tops the regular-season list.

Saturday's rematch will be carried by 120 TV stations in 46 of the USA's 50 markets, covering more than 90% of the nation.

"It stands a very good chance of being the highest-rated regular-season game of the year," says Raycom executive vice president Ken Haines.

Duke-Michigan III is the second nationally syndicated regular-season college basketball game. The first — Virginia-Georgetown, Dec. 11, 1982, carried by WTBS — was sold to 112 stations and featured Georgetown's Patrick Ewing vs. Virginia's Ralph Sampson.

"The neatest thing about Duke-Michigan is it's not a matchup of two players," says Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, whose team was 34-2 last season. "The hype is for two teams, and I like that."

The first syndicated game, which Virginia won 68-63, reached 7,660,000 households. Pregame interest was so high that a rejected radio station tried to obtain access by requesting a photo pass.

Duke has issued a school-record 220 media credentials, including representatives from 12 of the USA's 20 largest newspapers. Nine NBA scouts will be on hand.

"Too much will be made of this game, no matter who wins," says Michigan coach Steve Fisher. "It'll make you feel good if you win and awfully bad if you don't. But beyond that, it will have no great impact."

Nevertheless, the honeymoon is over for the Wolverines' Fab Five, those precocious freshman starters who led Michigan to a 25-9 record. This season, nothing short of an NCAA championship will satisfy fans of the super sophs.

"The Fab Five is such a Hollywood nickname," says Bill Raftery, one of Raycom's announcers. "Fans expect an Oscar performance from all five every time out."

Joining Jackson are guards Jalen Rose (6-8) and Jimmy King (6-5), 6-9 forward Chris Webber and 6-9 center Juwan Howard.

"Fisher did a masterful job last year of blending five new guys with three others, all of whom had been starters," says CBS broadcaster Billy Packer. "Now, greatness is expected. How will they react to that?"

Webber recorded 20 points, 19 rebounds, six blocked shots and three steals in Tuesday's win against Rice.

"The Duke game is just for brag-

VIA SATELLITE



# Sports

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1992

USA's most underrated players.

"The time they've spent playing together really shows," says Canisius coach John Beilein. "Hurley has a sixth sense about where the others are. It's like they're reading each other's minds. On defense, they're reading your minds."

Although some coaches prefer lopsided wins in December, Krzyzewski and Fisher agree that tough games early are important, both as a measuring stick and for improvement.

"This game will show us where we stand against maybe the most talented team in the country," says Krzyzewski, whose teams have five consecutive Final Four appearances, six in the last seven seasons.

"Playing top-quality teams is the best way to be an NCAA tournament team. The tournament committee rewards people who play tough schedules."

Saturday, Duke puts two school-record home winning streaks on the line:

► 30 overall, dating to a 1990 loss to North Carolina.

► 73 against non-Atlantic Coast Conference competition, dating to a 1983 loss to Louisville.

"Duke is going to be every bit as difficult to beat this year as they have been in the past," says Packer.

As for those "Cameron Crazyies," Krzyzewski is supportive of the team's "sixth man." In the past, he has sent pizzas to students camping out for tickets. And he has invited them in to watch game films.

During games, the "Crazies" entertain with verbal abuse directed at opposing players, inventive chants and wild waving, making Cameron one of college basketball's most entertaining arenas.

The Wolverines have been forewarned. Grant Hill told Webber "the crowd will get on him pretty bad," because Webber at one time considered attending Duke.

"This game has a fantastic look to it," says Vitale. "It eliminates all those Cupcake City games most teams play early in the season."

Hoops heaven, baby.