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October 5, 2010

Hoops: Oklahoma junior will visit

Chris Balas
TheWolverine.com Senior Editor

Michigan coaches continue to extend offers and invitations for visitors. An Oklahoma junior big man recently visited Notre Dame and will take in U-M, Penn State and others in the weeks to come.

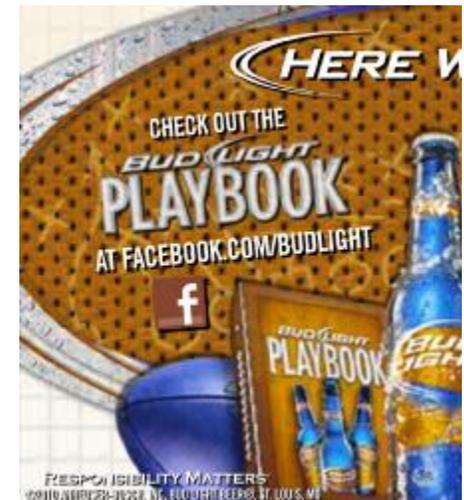
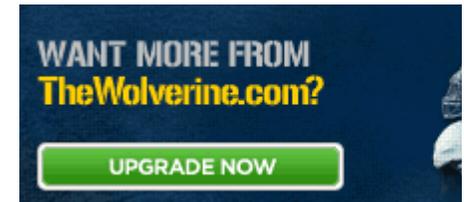
[Talk about it in The Fort](#)

Oklahoma City Bishop McGuiness 6-8, 230-pounder Matt Christiansen spent the summer with Athletes First on the AAU circuit, earning his way on to some services' top-100 lists. He'll visit Ann Arbor this weekend, State College Oct. 30 and Colorado Nov. 13.

"I've had some draw to Michigan for a while now, ever since I went there for a football game [vs. Notre Dame in 2007]," he said. "I was obsessed with it... the weather, the campus, Ann Arbor. It's a good academic school like Notre Dame with All-American tradition. They've had good athletics for a long time ... I like everything about the school and what it represents."

Christiansen started showing interest in Michigan a few weeks ago, contacting the coaches and sending film. The U-M coaches invited him to visit days later.

UPGRADE





U-M head coach John Beilein

"I'm trying to build on my game," he said. "I'm known for my big body, banging, back to basket, but I want to build on that and be more versatile. At the college level I'm going to have to be a forward, so I'll need work on my jump shot and face-up game, my agility, my ball handling and my lateral movement."

Christiansen said he currently has two tiers of programs recruiting him - the first consisting of his four fall visits, the others Davidson, Holy Cross and Princeton, among others.

Should the Irish continue their pursuit, he said, they'd be hard to beat.

"When it comes down to it, it's just interest and where I feel most comfortable," Christiansen said. "I think it'll be easier definitely when I get through all these visits that I'm about to go through. I think it'll be easier to compare and contrast everything. So far Notre Dame has been amazing. It's going to be hard to compete with as far as I'm concerned."

Watch TheWolverine.com for more on Christiansen and other targets in the days and weeks to come ...

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