## MD hate week bordering on offensive

**By Stephen Hennessey** 

OU would've thought Penn State fans would've learned their lesson.

It's now Maryland hate week — or #MDHateWeek if you're on Twitter - leading up to tonight's Big Ten/ACC Challenge clash with the



**MY OPINION** 

Terrapins at 9:15 at the Bryce Jordan Center. Nittany Lions basketball fans have blown up Twitter and college basketball forums with pointed hatred toward Maryland.

After an interracial couple donning Michigan clothes was harassed by fans in Beaver Stadium during the Oct. 30 game, with the wife being called a "n-- loving bitch," it's apparent some Lions fans haven't learned from a classless act.

The beginning of the week started with some simple back-

and-forth between Terps and Lions fans. (Not to mention that Maryland knocked Penn State out of the NCAA men's soccer tournament for the second straight year Sunday.)

Then, things turned in an unnecessary direction.

Justin Casavant -- or 'CasaNoVApsu" — is a 2007 Penn State graduate and is the founder of the Penn State student section.

Nittany Nation. He tweeted about a death that reaches far beyond the borders of

College Park. Former Maryland basketball player Len Bias died from a cocaine overdose after being drafted as the No. 2 pick in the 1986 NBA Draft, never playing a game in the NBA. It's one of the most tragic stories in the history of basketball, showcasing the consequences of cocaine use, which

wasn't entirely known at the time. The founder of Nittany Nation apparently thinks that Bias' death is worth making fun of, making a play on a line from the movie Wedding Crashers.

His tweet: "CRAB CAKES AND COCAINE... THAT'S WHAT M\*RYL\*ND DOES!

#Mdhateweek. Another one:

"Len Bias wishes **#FourLoko** were around back in his day as a nice alternative, #MDhateweek

Too soon? It hurt me to copy and paste

both these comments. Casavant wouldn't comment on any specific tweets when reached by telephone Tuesday evening, and wanted to make it clear that his comments are not indicative of how anybody in Nittany Nation

thinks The efforts of Nittany Nation attempting to make Penn State's can section relevant are worthwhile. School spirit is always a

laudable effort. But what happened to Success with Honor, the Penn State athleties motto?

Posting ignorant comments about a kid who died, while exposing the culture of cocaine around all college campuses in the United States, is not **OK**.

Michael Weinreb, a 1994 Penn State graduate, wrote a long-form E-TICKET article titled "The day innocence died," on ESPN.com, about Bias' death.

In this age of Twitter and the Internet, Weinreb knows that people can post things that are ugly. without much thought going behind the effect of these messages.

When told about these tweets, he called the comments "repre-

'That doesn't really reflect well on Penn State basketball fans, Weinreb said. "I assume most of those kids weren't alive when Bias' death happened and don't know how big his death was. It extended far beyond Maryland,

There's a lot more to rip on Maryland about, so why was it necessary to bring Bias into play?

The four-year graduation rate for Penn State men's basketball players is 82 percent, compared to Maryland's eight percent rate. Penn State football is 35-1-1 alltime against the Terps.

To be fair, Maryland students rebuttaled the hate week with their own hashtag against Penn State, but their comments haven't

carried nearly as much weight. There are some funny ones: #mdhateweek I'm kinda mad that beating PSU will do nothing

for our RPI. Although Casavant didn't see anything wrong with his tweets, those with a little more foresight know this is not a good reflection

on Penn State. Basketball fans should encourage school spirit by showing

class. Some of the biggest and best basketball schools. Duke and North Carolina, have intense fan sections, but they conduct themselves properly.

These Penn State fans, apparently for football and basketball alike, need to take a class in showing class.

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## James on Cavs: 'Lot of thanks to those fans'

**By Tim Reynolds** ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — There's not much LeBron James can absolutely say about what awaits when he returns to Cleveland as an opponent on Thursday night.

Fun, weird, tough, draining. James cites them all as expectations

He's likely right on each count. and who knows how many more ways the emotional gamut will swing on Thursday when the Miami Heat visit Cleveland, the city James scorned on July 8 when he announced in a nationally televised special that he was to the arena, play the game, head taking my talents to South

been waiting months to not welcome him home.

"It's going to be tough, but I'm there to win a basketball game," James said after Tuesday's Heat that city. So many times, from ups practice and preparing for and downs, and a lot of things that . Wednesday's game

the magnitude of what looms those fans for giving me the oppor-Thursday. "I understand. I understand to not only showcase my talstand how passionate fans are about sports. I'm ready for whatever response that I'm going to get. It's going to be very emotion-

True, for all parties involved. But the NBA might have helped James out a bit with this trip.

Because Miami plays at home Wednesday night, the Heat will not arrive in Cleveland until early Thursday morning. The team won't practice that day, just have meetings and a walkthrough at its hotel, which will be teeming with security - like always. They'll bus to the airport and leave for Miami

No time to visit old haunts or old It'll be James' first time back as friends. A business trip, nothing a visitor, and Cavaliers fans have more, nothing less, and James. seems relieved by that.

"I think it's going to be very emotional for myself," James said. "I've got a lot of great memories in against I've done in my life. I give a lot of Detroit - almost forgotten given thanks to that city, lot of thanks to and see as a fan, but I'm involved former Cavs center Zydrunas deal, but it's one game.

ent but grow from a young boy to a man

s not from Cleveland, but Akron, about 40 miles south. The Cavallors franchise was reborn in it. It's going to be entertainment when they won the right to pick James No. 1 overall in the 2003 draft, and together, they soared. Cleveland won 349 games during James seven seasons, secondmost in the Eastern Conference over that span, and the Cavaliers' 107 wins in 2008-09 and 2009-10 -James MVP years - topped the NBA charts

So when he became a free agent, there was angst in eveland understandably.

Assist formed to anger at 9:27 plat on July 8, when James revealed his decision.

I think it's going to be something that none of us have ever secrabefore," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said of what's coming on Thursday. If we can be a fan and watch it from afar, we all would, first," Bosh said. and not 20. I would love to watch it.

"It's going to be very emotional for myself."

LeBron James Miami Heat forward

for everyone to watch.

Some Heat fans will gather to watch, at a team-sponsored event known as a "road rally."

Of course, it'll happen at the Clevelander - on South Beach. At least the Heat will be cheered somewhere on Thursday.

"I'm sure a lot of people are going to show their support for the Cavaliers in their own kind of way," Heat forward Chris Bosh said. "I don't think we know what to expect, but I'm sure it's going to be something like we've never seen before.

He'll see something like it on Feb. 16, when he returns to Toronto, his former home, for the first time as an opponent.

"I'm glad LeBron breaks the ice

Ilgauskas as well, and while he said the trip will be "a unique situation," he's almost certain not to face the level of venom that'll be directed at James.

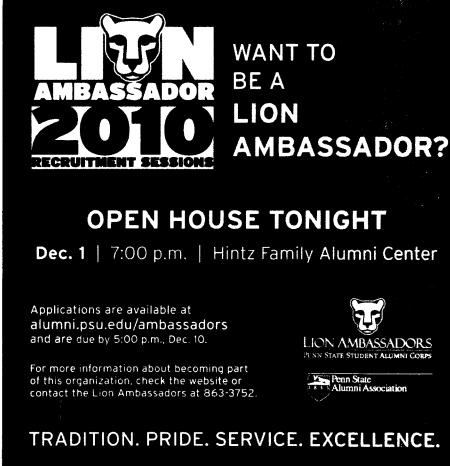
Wade said he'll give James simple advice beforehand.

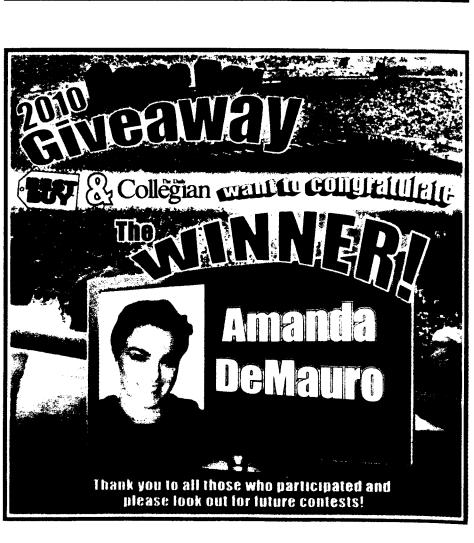
"The only thing I would say to him is not try to go out to get 100 points," Wade said. "Play the game. Let the game flow to you. I know he wants to play great, but sometimes you can force it too much. Just play basketball like LeBron James

Which is what James says he'll

He won't break from his normal routine for this game, though he noted that he remains "very respectful" of the people who cheered him for seven years.

"It's one game," James said. "I It's a Cleveland homecoming for know everyone is making it a huge







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