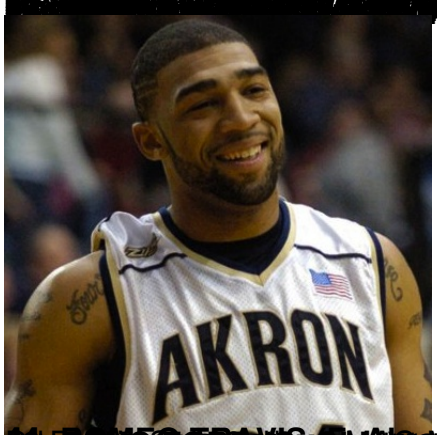
Call it “mid-major” if you will, but the Mid-American Conference has rarely been short on first-rate talent. Over the past 20 years, in particular, the MAC has earned a new level of respect for its output of NFL Pro Bowlers and—to a less publicized but perhaps even more impressive extent— outstanding basketball players. There have been so many great MAC hoopsters in recent years, in fact, that I might as well rank them all in a tidy Top 50 list-- with optimal levels of subjectivity and faux-controversy for your obsessive-compulsive enjoyment.

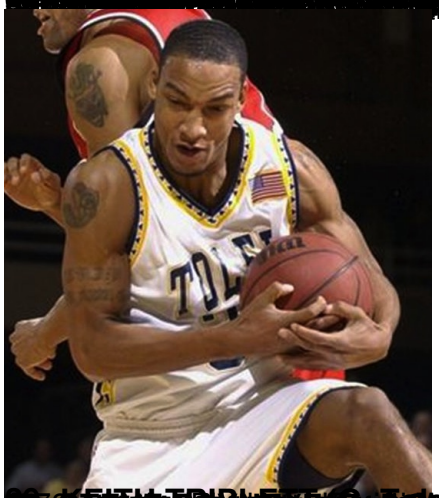
WARNING: Due to the inescapable limitations of time and memory, this particular list of the Greatest MAC Basketball Players will keep the focus firmly on this past generation: 1991-2011, with all due respect to the Wayne Embrys, Nate Thurmonds, Dan Majerles, and Ron Harpers of the past. In truth, though, it could easily be argued that it was in the ‘90s-- as schools like Akron, Northern Illinois, and Buffalo joined the fold—that the Mid-American Conference seemed to enter a new golden age, anyway. New rivalries developed, recruiting improved, and a parade of blue chip, pro-ready stars began crashing the NCAA’s Big Dance on an annual basis, waving the proud (albeit somewhat generic) MAC flag.

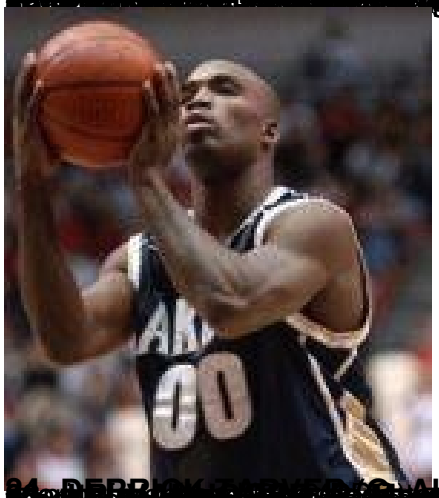
So, at the happy expense of any further focus on another laughable BCS harvest, belated NBA regular season yawns, or Cleveland Browns’ December death marches, let us unveil the list... ***now slightly updated thanks to much appreciated reader feedback (whining).***

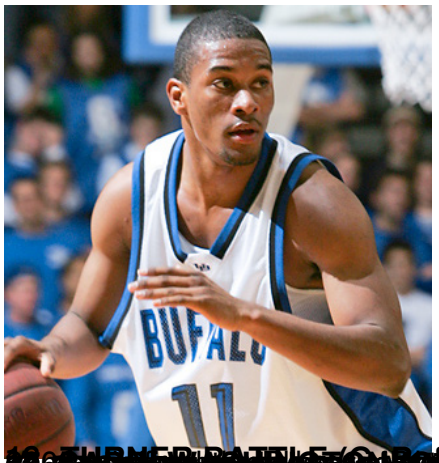
The 50 Greatest MAC Basketball Players: 1991-2011

MIAMI


AKRON

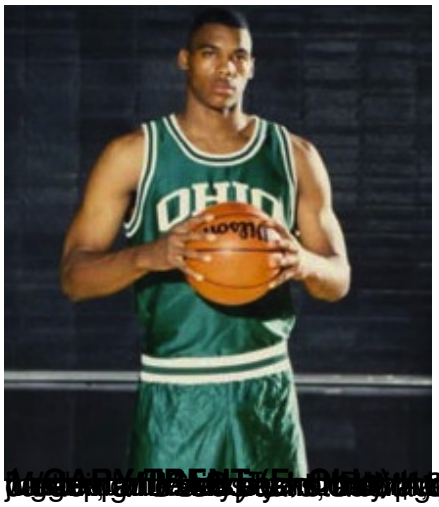





BUFFALO
11

23

44


OHIO