

(11/18):<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/entertainment/music/2016/11/18/country-act-tucker-beathard-re-lives-cj-beathard-iowa-hawkeyes-nerve-wracking-michigan-upset/94070078/>

## **Country act Tucker Beathard relives C.J.'s 'nerve-wracking' Michigan upset**

Saturday's gig in Iowa City wasn't the run-of-the-mill club show for rising country star Tucker Beathard.

The sold out crowd at Blue Moose Tap House experienced Beathard's older brother, C.J., lead the Iowa Hawkeyes to a last-second victory over the then-undefeated No. 3 Michigan Wolverines just before Tucker took the stage. The last day of a sold out tour hitting major college cities, Tucker Beathard said the show (which started a little later than planned, considering the circumstances) was 'legendary.'

The country star, who's gaining more radio success with each single, is familiar to the Iowa stage: He played a support slot at Back Porch Revival — the first-ever concert at Kinnick Stadium — and opened for Dierks Bentley at the Iowa State Fair Grandstand earlier this year. His latest EP, "Fight Like Hell," dropped in October and the lead single from the release, "Rock On," has logged more than 15 million plays on Spotify.

Having the rare opportunity to play a sold out show the same night his brother lead the Hawkeyes to victory over Michigan, Tucker Beathard discussed the experience in an interview with the Register.



**DMR: What was Saturday’s Michigan game like for you?**

Tucker Beathard: Yeah, the game was — just the energy and the atmosphere — shoot. Any night game at Kinnick Stadium is a good time to be at Kinnick Stadium, for sure. You could just tell going into that game — I know Iowa hasn’t been having the season they wanted and they were playing undefeated Michigan and all that — but you could just feel that it wasn’t going to be a blowout by any means. Everybody was hyped up and ready to watch a good game. Iowa came out just fired up.

**How was it watching your brother quarterback that kind of an upset?**

When I first started watching him play it was always the most nerve-wracking thing for me. As a brother, you get nervous for him. But now, I feel more confident. And I think something about that Michigan game, for me, that helped. They needed to just go out and play fired up and have fun ... and they did that. Any game watching my brother I’m going to be a little uptight and nervous but I had a good feeling about that game, honestly.

Were you able to stay at Kinnick for the whole game?

No, I had to tap out early and go get ready for the show. We left at halftime, which is really early, (but we) sat on the bus and watched the rest of it. We were all huddled up (during) that last field

goal, (saying), 'Dude, if he makes this ... this show is going to be crazy. This is going to be a legendary experience.'

The show was supposed to start around 10:30, the same time the game ended.

It was supposed to, yeah (laughs).

**So it didn't?**

Heck no, man. We pushed it back (laughs). We didn't even go on until 12:30 (a.m.).

**And how was it?**

It was awesome. That whole night couldn't of lined up more perfectly. It was 12:15 a.m. and we were walking off the bus ... to go into the Blue Moose and while we were walking down the alley C.J. was walking up.

**He made the gig?**

Yeah, perfect timing, as we were walking to it. It was perfect. (It) gives you a lot more confidence and energy when you get on stage and the Hawks just beat No. 3 Michigan. The whole night turned out to be awesome.



**That's pretty cool that he was able to actually dig out from the pile and make it to the show. You played the first show at Kinnick back in August, Back Porch Revival. What was that like?**

That was an awesome show. Just to be able to be one of the first artists to play in Kinnick Stadium is one of the coolest things. Iowa, seriously, it feels like a second home to me. Going up there, I always feel like I'm at home. To be able to play anywhere in Iowa is awesome but I couldn't think of a better place to play than Kinnick Stadium, ya know?

**How are things going with the new release? What's next in your world?**

Just touring a whole bunch. Going out with Brantley Gilbert on tour early next year. Going to keep on touring and hopefully put out new music. Keep on keepin' on, really. I've got a new single, called "Momma and Jesus," that's coming out on the radio and starting to get on the charts. We'll see how far that thing climbs. (I'll) keep on touring, playing and trying to build the fan base.