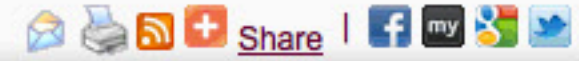


## Clash at Comerica a Chance for Father, Son to Show Talents

Courtesy: Chris Schanz/CMU Athletics Release: 04/19/2011



**MOUNT PLEASANT** -- When success runs in the family, there's no other choice than to be supportive.

"I would have loved to have been an athlete to experience those things so there's a real vicarious sense that I get from his life," said Rik Emmett when talking about his son, senior infielder [Brendan Emmett](#). "I'm intensely proud of what Brendan's accomplished."

Brendan reciprocates the feeling.

"It's cool when people tell me they're a fan of my dad's music and how it has changed their lives for the better," Brendan said. "So that's a cool thing that I definitely feel special growing up with."

The elder Emmett isn't just any ordinary musician.

Along with Gil Moore and Mike Levine, Rik formed the Canadian heavy metal band "Triumph" in 1975. Triumph gained fame in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, and have had eight albums certified at least gold.

Rik decided to leave Triumph and go solo in 1988, the same year his wife Jeannette gave birth to Brendan, their fourth child. The Emmett's three other children are 28-year-old Shannon and 25-year-old twins Casey and Ashley.

"Part of the thinking was that I had missed a fair bit of my daughters when they were small because the touring had been very heavy," he said. "I was trying to make sure I was going to be around a little bit more."

"When Brendan was little I was able to coach and spend more time with him than I had with my daughters and I was a bit guilty about that for sure. It was tough on my wife, and you need a certain breed of character for someone to be able to do that with a family with four kids, so kudos to her."

So where exactly does Jeannette fit into the equation?

"I guess my role is to try and keep these guys focused and on an even keel," she said. "I would say that they would probably agree on that."

"She's our rock," Brendan added. "She's steady."

However, a life of music just wasn't in the cards for Brendan. In high school, he had to choose between sports and music, Rik said.

"He was a really good trumpet player," Rik said. "We let him leave the band because baseball was going to start eating up more and more of his time."

But, their two careers have never been more intertwined than this season. The elder Emmett's music can be heard during home baseball games this season since he created a few tracks for Brendan's walk-up music for his final season. The gesture, however, was neither Brendan's nor Rik's idea.

"Actually, that was (junior infielder) [Nate Theunissen](#)'s idea," Brendan said. "I was already thinking I was going to have some Triumph songs for my last year, but Nate said I should get my dad to write some new ones."

Theunissen's idea was initially met with skepticism from Brendan.

"At first I thought it was a stupid idea, but then I thought about it and thought it might be cool," he said. "I brought it up to my dad and he thought it was a great idea. We got help from his friend Mike Shotton."

At The Underground, Shotton's studio in Burlington, Ontario, Rik and Mike let Brendan produce the three tracks, one for each day of a weekend series.

"It was cool for me because I had never been there before and I was able to see what the process is like for my dad," the younger Emmett said. "I was sitting up at the front bouncing off my ideas. They worked with me and I got what I wanted. I'm pretty happy; I get pretty pumped up as I walk to the plate."

Rik said he's grateful for the honor to get to make Brendan's walk-up songs for his senior season and looks forward to hearing it in Theunissen Stadium.

But Theunissen Stadium won't be the only place Rik gets to hear his custom tracks played as his son approaches the plate. When Central Michigan hosts Michigan State Wednesday for the Clash at Comerica, Rik's music will be screaming through the Comerica Park speakers.

Rik will also sing the national anthem prior to the Clash at Comerica.

"Certainly it's an honor," Rik said.

In addition to supporting one another, mutual admirations for each other's success is what bring the father and son closer together.

"I tend to look at his life and think, 'Geez, he's smarter than me and a little more talented than I am,'" Rik said of his son. "He still has a really nice, rich life ahead of him but he's already had incredible experiences."

But Brendan is a little more modest in describing his father.

"Of course I think it's cool my dad is a former rock star," he said. "But at the same time, he's just my dad. He's the guy that played catch with me in the backyard when I was five or six."

For tickets to Wednesday's Clash at Comerica, call Tickets Central at 1-888-FIRE-UP-2. First pitch is scheduled for 6:35 p.m.

### Clash at Comerica Additional Links

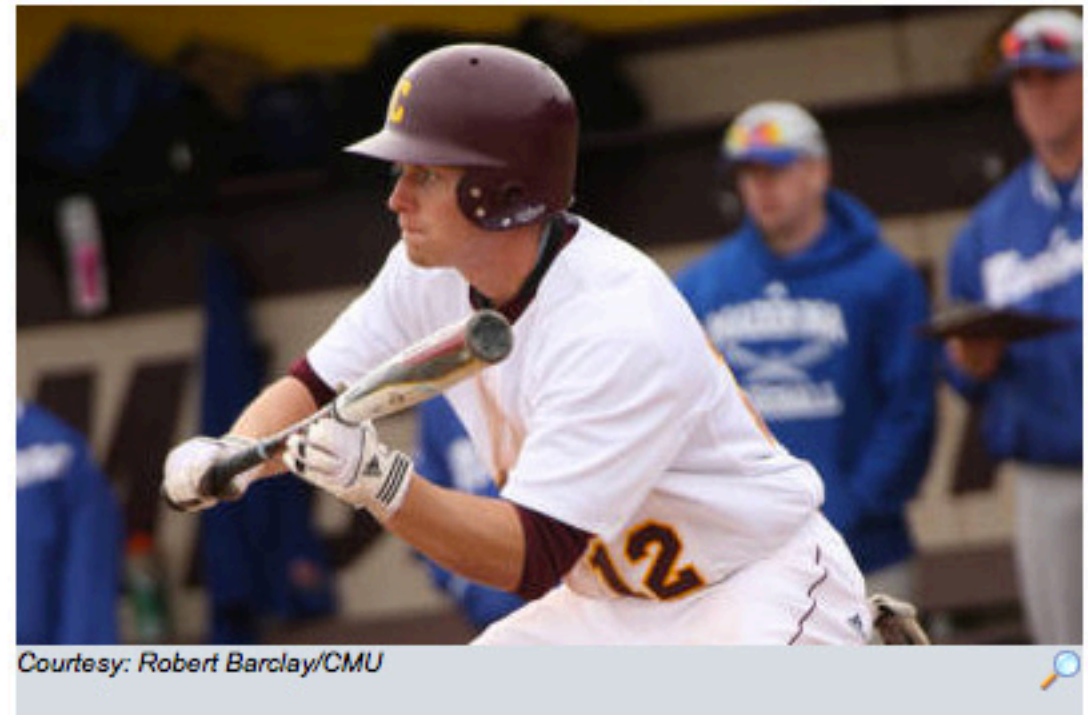
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[Back](#)

