

SPORTS EVENTS

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Floor Rijpma, junior midfielder, field hockey five goals in two games

VOLLEYBALL

The MSU volleyball team took a slide this weekend, losing two conference matches to drop its record to 10-5 overall and 2-2 in the Big Ten.

On their first conference road trip of the season, the Spartans lost to Indiana (9-7, 1-3) 3-1 and No. 1 Penn State (16-0, 4-0) 3-0. The losses snap a 10-match winning streak for the team.

Freshman Kyndra Abron recorded a career-high 12 kills and sophomore Allyson Karaba notched a career-high 27 digs in the loss to Indiana.

The Spartans play Northwestern and No. 20 Wisconsin this weekend at Jenison Field House.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The MSU women's soccer team dropped both of its Big Ten road games this weekend — falling to 10-3 overall and 2-2 in the conference.

On Friday, the Spartans dropped a 3-0 decision to Illinois, and they failed to score again Sunday, losing 2-0 to Purdue — the program's first back-to-back loss since Oct. 14, 2007.

THIS WEEKEND

Friday

Hockey vs. Massachusetts (Ice Breaker Tournament), 4:30 p.m. in Boston

Women's soccer vs. Ohio State, 4 p.m.

Field hockey at Northwestern, 3 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Northwestern, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday

Football at Northwestern, 3:30 p.m.

Hockey at Boston University (Ice Breaker Tournament), 7:30 p.m.

Field hockey vs. Wake Forest (at Northwestern), 2 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Wisconsin, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday

Women's soccer vs. Penn State, noon

Men's soccer vs. Indiana, 2:30 p.m.

MEN'S SOCCER

The Spartans knocked off Wisconsin 1-0 and dedicated DeMartin Stadium, page 3B

SPORTS

COUNTDOWN
Days until the MSU hockey team meets Massachusetts in the opening game of the Ice Breaker Tournament in Boston.



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Monday

WIN THE TRENCHES



JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

Iowa wide receiver Andy Brodell is taken down by junior safety Danny Fortener (33), freshman corner back Johnny Adams (5) and junior linebacker Adam Decker (55) after completing a pass from Iowa quarterback Ricky Stanzi in the first quarter Saturday at Spartan Stadium.

By Jacob Carpenter
THE STATE NEWS

Be it rushing or protecting the quarterback, MSU's offensive and defensive lines were pass-happy against Iowa. With the ball in their hands, the Spartans' offensive line has given up two sacks through six games, one of which came Saturday when Iowa defensive tackle Mitch King brought MSU senior quarterback Brian Hoyer down in the third quarter. Despite the single blemish, Hoyer has been able to set up camp, pitch a tent and start a bonfire in the pocket this year, and in no game was it more evident than against a strong Hawkeyes front seven.

"It's kind of hard to get used to, because you can just sit back there and look and find things," Hoyer said. "There's definitely a lot of time to throw and two sacks in six games is pretty impressive."

The MSU offensive line has yielded the fourth-fewest sacks per game in the nation and the fewest sacks among teams that have played six games.

"When we run the ball, we have to be tough and

when we throw the ball we also have to be tough," senior guard Roland Martin said. "It is something that I think we have improved on, and we need to keep it that way as our opponents are only going to get tougher." Martin's counterparts on the other side of the ball have picked up their production after three sacks of Iowa quarterback Ricky Stanzi on Saturday.

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We're ranked

With Saturday's 16-13 win over Iowa, MSU has been voted into the Associated Press Top 25 poll for the first time since October 2005.

MSU (5-1 overall, 2-0 Big Ten) jumped from unranked to No. 23 in the weekly poll after four teams all lost and fell out of the poll this week. The Spartans also went from unranked to No. 19 in the USA Today Coaches' Poll.

"We're a 5-1 football team and that's a good thing," MSU head coach Mark Dantonio said Sunday. "There's got to be some maturity in that too. There are enough things that we don't do well that we can point to that indicate that could be a fleeting moment for us."

The ranking is MSU's first since 2005, when MSU started 4-0 but lost six of its final seven games. The Spartans went as high as No. 11 that year.

JACOB CARPENTER

For a video of the post-game press conference, a photo gallery and more game notes and information in the MSU Football Blog, visit statenews.com.

FIELD HOCKEY

Offense scores 18 times as Spartans win weekend pair

By Joseph Terry
THE STATE NEWS

The No. 8 MSU field hockey team mowed through its competition this weekend, scoring 18 goals in two games.

The Spartans, who have won eight straight, recorded their second shutout of the season Sunday by beating Temple 9-0.

"It was pretty relieving to finally get the second shutout," junior goalkeeper Elissa Unger said. "It's been a point of mine that's been a little frustrating. As long as we're winning I'm not concerned, but it's always nice to get those."

The team started off the game on a fast note, scoring two goals in the first two minutes, with junior midfielder Floor Rijpma scoring her fifth goal of the weekend.



JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

Sophomore forward Jantine Steinmetz leaps over Temple senior goalkeeper Erin Hanshue during the first half of Sunday's game. MSU won, 9-0.

The defense stepped up big for the Spartans, stopping eight shots and six pen-

alty corners in the first half alone. For the game, Temple had 12 shots on goal

"We're connecting well and our forwards were pressing well up front."

Jeamie Deacon,
junior midfielder

and 10 penalty corners.

"I think Unger came up big with some plays today," head coach Rolf van de Kerkhof said. "Also (our defenders) did some good things in our defensive circle to lock the goal cage up today. It was a big plus for my entire defensive unit. I'm excited to see them perform like today next Friday at Northwestern."

Sophomore forward Jantine Steinmetz helped the effort, scoring the fourth goal of the game with 10:23

to play in the half and assisting on two earlier goals, leading the Spartans to a 4-0 lead at the break.

The Owls forced the tempo early in the second half, earning two penalty corners in the first few minutes, but MSU ended any hopes of a comeback when junior midfielder Jeamie Deacon fired a rocket through a crowd of Temple defenders into the back of the cage to put the Spartans ahead 5-0.

Deacon assisted on the next goal by freshman back Angie Lucik and scored the seventh goal off a penalty shot. Senior back Geraldine Raynor added the final two scores.

"We were connecting well and our forwards were pressing well up front," Deacon said. "We

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