

the game

MSU vs. Ohio State

Kickoff at 3:30 p.m. Saturday

Follow the game
TV ABC
Radio WJR (760-AM)**Forecast**
Sunny
High 58° | Low 36°
Precipitation 10 percent**Extra point**
Ohio State has won 11
straight road games
against Big Ten opponents**For more online ...**
Visit statenews.com for live blog-
ging throughout the game**KNOW YOUR COLORS** Students wear white, public wears green, and no one wears red at the game!

“He’s fun to be around. I don’t think he takes the little things in life seriously. He doesn’t let them get to him. He just really enjoys people.”

Jim Place, former Chaminade-Julienne High football coach



JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

Senior running back Javon Ringer runs the ball against Northwestern Oct. 11 at Ryan Field in Evanston, Ill.

“He never has a bad day. I’ve never had to say ‘Hey Javon, you’ve got to pick it up.’ Not once. That’s different than everybody I’ve ever seen around.”

Dan Enos, MSU running backs coach



ANGELI WRIGHT/THE STATE NEWS

Senior running back Javon Ringer is congratulated by Sparty after the game against Indiana on Sept. 27 at Memorial Stadium. The Spartans beat the Hoosiers 42-29. Ringer scored one touchdown during the game.



KATIE RAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS

Senior running back Javon Ringer and sophomore wide receiver Mark Dell give and receive high-fives from the student section at Spartan Stadium after MSU’s Homecoming victory over Iowa. Ringer netted 91 yards during the game.

“It’s really rewarding to have a guy like that on your team. Javon is always deflecting all the praise. That’s just the guy he is.”

Jeff McPherson, MSU senior fullback

THREE OF A KIND

A tough man on the field and a cartoon-loving kid at heart, Javon Ringer isn’t your average football star

“He’s able to get focused when he needs to, but he’s got a lot of that little kid where he wants to go play football in the backyard.”

Dan Enos, MSU running backs coach

**More online**

For a video with Javon Ringer’s thoughts about Saturday’s game, visit statenews.com/multimedia.

By Jacob Carpenter
THE STATE NEWS

It’s a mystery how Javon Ringer can be three different people on any given MSU football Saturday. First he’s a kid, waking up in a hotel room to watch Saturday morning cartoons before going out to play football with his friends. Give him a few hours and he’s an athlete — 5 feet 9 inches of muscle, heart and motor standing tall in the Spartans’ backfield. When the game ends and most fans have piled into their cars, he’s a humble adult: shaking every hand, signing every autograph, taking every picture before leaving for the night.

In a world of coddled athletes with egos the size of stadiums, the three faces of Ringer on a football Saturday are as fresh as the morning air in the heart of football season. And whether it’s the athlete, the adult or the adolescent in Ringer, each face continues to show itself Sunday through Friday.

The athlete

When coaches at Chaminade-Julienne High in

Dayton, Ohio, Ringer’s alma mater, would forget to blow the whistle to stop a running play during practice, Ringer’s teammates would come to a standstill.

He wouldn’t. He would keep running. Off the field. Through the parking lot. Through the high school campus.

“Coach, you forgot to blow the whistle,” players would say before retrieving the star athlete.

Ringer is a dream tailback. He sprints the 40-yard dash in 4.3 seconds, bench presses 400 pounds — levels typically reserved for linemen — keeps playing until he hears the high-pitched squeal of a coach’s whistle, and, according to MSU running backs coach Dan Enos,

never has an off day. Never.

During the summer, when other teammates are running the steps of Spartan Stadium, Ringer is in tow with a 20-pound vest smothering his shoulders and another 20 pounds clinging to his waist.

This year, Ringer is also carrying the extra weight of more carries and expectations on his broad shoulders. But through seven games, his rushing numbers are so far off the charts, they can’t be contained by axes.

Ringer’s 1,112 yards on the ground and 14 touchdowns are both tops in the nation, making him arguably the best collegiate running back in the country.

See RINGER on page 3B

Getting to know MSU running back Javon Ringer:

Earned a black belt in karate.

Can do a roundhouse kick over teammates’ heads while in full pads.

Enjoys watching cartoons, including “Family Guy,” “Batman,” “Dragon Ball Z” and “Tom and Jerry.”

Often drinks coffee during position meetings.

Likes to sneak up behind friends and spook them.

Known as a daydreamer.

Is a devout Christian.

Parents Eugene and Darlene are both ministers.

Expecting to graduate with a sociology degree at the end of the academic year.

Joined teammates working with children this summer at Michigan GEAR UP/College Day Program.

SOURCE: THE STATE NEWS