

SPORTS EVENTS

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Blair White, junior wide receiver; four catches, 143 yards, touchdown

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Purdue, MSU and Wisconsin were predicted to finish in the top three for the 2008-09 Big Ten season, according to a 22-member media panel at the annual Big Ten Media Day in Chicago.

Purdue sophomore Robbie Hummel was selected as the Big Ten Preseason Player of the Year after averaging 11.4 points, 6.1 rebounds and 2.6 assists per games last season en route to earning All-Conference and All-Freshman Team honors.

MSU junior forward Raymar Morgan, Michigan guard Manny Harris, Purdue's E'Twaun Moore and Wisconsin's Marcus Landry joined Hummel on the Big Ten Preseason All-Conference Team.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The MSU women's basketball team was predicted to finish third in the Big Ten this season, according to both the preseason coaches and media poll at the annual Big Ten Media Day in Chicago. The coaches tabbed Purdue as the preseason favorite, with Ohio State selected to finish second. The media had it the other way around.

Ohio State sophomore Jantel Lavender was selected as the Big Ten Preseason Player of the Year by both the coaches and media. Joining Lavender on the Preseason All-Big Ten team are MSU junior center Allyssa DeHaan, Purdue's Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton, Illinois' Jenna Smith and Minnesota's Emily Fox.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY

Women's soccer vs. Michigan, 3 p.m.

Field hockey vs. Penn State, 4 p.m.

Hockey vs. Western Michigan, 7:05 p.m.

Volleyball at Wisconsin, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Football vs. Wisconsin, noon

Hockey at Western Michigan, 7:05 p.m.

Volleyball at Northwestern, 8 p.m.

Wrestling, Eastern Michigan Open in Ypsilanti, all day

SUNDAY

Field hockey at Central Michigan, noon

Women's basketball, Green & White game, 1 p.m.

Men's soccer vs. Northwestern, 1 p.m.

Cross country, Big Ten Championship in Ann Arbor, all day

ON THE WEB

Visit statenews.com for more photos from this weekend's games

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FOOTBALL

In less than two seasons as MSU head coach, Mark Dantonio has helped bring all four rivalry trophies — Land Grant (Penn State), Paul Bunyan (Michigan), Megaphone (Notre Dame) and Old Brass Spittoon (Indiana) — to East Lansing. For more football coverage, see page 1A.

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Monday

GO GREEN



JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

Junior wide receiver Blair White, left, evades the defense of Michigan linebacker Jonas Mouton for a 50-yard run. The Spartans won 35-21.

GO WHITE

"Seeing his performance today — I knew he was capable of doing it. I feel so honored to be on the same team as Whitey and play on the same field as someone who works as hard as he does."

Javon Ringer, senior running back

By Cash Kruth
THE STATE NEWS

Ann Arbor — One year ago, Blair White was a walk-on at MSU, stuck on special teams while occasionally seeing time at wide receiver. Saturday morning, he was an afterthought — just another wide receiver filling a role as the No. 3 man on the MSU depth chart. But by Saturday evening, Blair White was a household name for MSU football fans across the country, as the junior hauled in four catches for 143 yards and a touchdown — the first of his career — in MSU's 35-21 victory over Michigan.

"You don't know who are going to be the stars in this game," MSU head coach Mark Dantonio said. "Blair came in and had a huge play on the first third down and then he goes 60-plus yards on a slant — it was a big play. ... Blair is a gamer and a tremendous person."

Although Saturday's performance transformed White from an unknown to the latest star to be remem-

bered for what he did in an MSU/U-M game, it's how he got there that his teammates remember most.

After being a walk-on for three years, White, a 2005 graduate of Nouvel Catholic Central High in Saginaw, earned a scholarship from Dantonio and the MSU coaching staff.

When it was announced that White had earned a scholarship following the 2007 season, senior quarterback Brian Hoyer said the Spartans reacted with loud applause — and some players even teared up. "Blair is, he's actually an inspiration to me," sophomore wide receiver Mark Deil said. "He came so far. He came as a walk-on here, he earned himself a scholarship — we actually gave him a standing (ovation) when they announced he was on scholarship because he deserved it."

"He's one of the hardest workers on the team. He's the first in almost

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For a photo gallery and video from the press conference, visit statenews.com/multimedia.

HOCKEY

Spartans take 3-of-4 points from Northern Michigan

By Alex DiFilippo
THE STATE NEWS

The horn sounded throughout the latter half of Saturday night's MSU hockey game at Munn Ice Arena, but it wasn't the horn to signify a goal being scored — it was the horn to signify a fire.

Thankfully Munn didn't go up in smoke, and despite a few stoppages, the errant false alarm didn't disrupt the No. 12 Spartans' performance as they won Saturday's game 2-0 and took 3-of-4 points during the weekend series against No. 18 Northern Michigan.

Senior goaltender Jeff Lerg recorded his first shutout of the season after stopping all

28 shots he faced, and freshman forward Daultan Leveille recorded his first collegiate goal, which turned out to be the game winner.

"We blocked a lot of shots and played hard," MSU head coach Rick Comley said. "A lot of young kids stepped up for us and to get two wins against that team this early in the year (is something) I'm very happy about."

Leveille's goal put the Spartans up 1-0 with 11:12 left in the second period. The Spartans were on their fourth power play of the game when junior defenseman Ryan Turek found Leveille near the right

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Senior forward Matt Schepke hugs fellow senior forward Kurt Kivisto after Schepke scored the final goal of the game Saturday night at Munn Ice Arena. The Spartans defeated Northern Michigan 2-0.

SAM RUIZ/THE STATE NEWS

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