

The State News

Revisit classic horror flick 'Poltergeist'

LIFESTYLE, PAGE 6A

Spartans take down rivals in the Big House, defeating Wolverines 35-21 in Ann Arbor

Spartan football

JACOB CARPENTER

Hoyer's skills take MSU to 35-21 win over in-state rival



Ann Arbor — With seven yards to the end zone, three minutes on the clock and the weight of a state's expectations on his shoulders Saturday against Michigan, the call came in for Brian Hoyer to throw the ball on third-and-a-career.

U-M, the down-and-out rival trailing by a touchdown in the defining game of its season, needed one stop to force a field goal.

After three botched kicks earlier in the game, three MSU points were as reliable as U-M defensive end Brandon Graham's victory guarantee.

MSU senior running back Javon Ringer, who had fiercely bulled his way up the middle on eight consecutive plays and an iffy hamstring healed by heavenly bodies, could have taken another carry to waste the Wolverines' final timeout.

But even with 37 carries, 194 yards, two touchdowns and the blessing of higher beings to his name, this wasn't Ringer's game to win.

It belonged to Hoyer — his longtime senior counterpart who has undergone a better vetting from MSU fans in the past year and a half than a certain vice presidential nominee.

The Spartans lined up in a run formation. Hoyer squatted under center. He took the snap, turned around and looked to hand to Ringer for the safe, albeit conservative, play.

The give to Ringer wouldn't have been out of the ordinary given MSU's hesitancy to throw in the red zone this season.

But here was Hoyer, maligned his entire career and lambasted for lack of playmaking ability, faking the handoff to MSU's best player.

Down went fullback Jeff McPherson to make a low backfield block. Up came Ringer from his play-action crouch, looking to hit a Wolverine. Out came junior fullback Josh Rouse (Josh who?), sidestepping into the left flat.

Hoyer fell back to throw to

See HOYER on page 2A



JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

Junior linebacker Brandon Denson (34) and sophomore safety Jesse Johnson, beyond trophy, hold up the Paul Bunyan Trophy after defeating the Wolverines 35-21 on Saturday at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor. The trophy returns to the Spartans after seven years. Their last victory against the Wolverines was in 2001.

ALL GROWN UP

"Being able to go out our senior year with a victory over Michigan to, Lord willing, help (start) a tradition of us beating those guys is great."

Javon Ringer, MSU running back

By Cash Kruth
THE STATE NEWS

Ann Arbor — After Michigan's 35-21 victory over Michigan on Saturday, Brian Hoyer and Javon Ringer entered the postgame media room, a square cement area under Michigan Stadium. The room was filled with cameras, media members and a table with three chairs set up under the only decoration in the room: a black, vinyl covering with the U-M block "M" and Big Ten Network logos scattered all over it. "Take

it down!" said someone in the media.

Hoyer and Ringer quickly looked at two MSU Athletic Communications directors, who lowered their heads and slowly shook them sideways, in a "Don't even think about it" manner.

The banner stayed up, mainly because everything else that symbolized U-M in the in-state rivalry had come crashing down.

"Eighteen years of coming down here — this is my first time and it's my last time," said Hoyer, a senior quarterback who threw for 282 yards and three touchdowns on 17-for-29 passing.

"That's pretty special. It's a great accomplishment to do this in my last chance."

See FOOTBALL on page 2A

Quick Hits

Hero of the game: Blair White

The former walk-on wide receiver from Saginaw had the biggest game of his career on the biggest stage, hauling in four catches for 143 yards and one touchdown. White (or "Whitey" to his teammates) broke a 61-yard slant pass for the game's first touchdown and had two key receptions on MSU's go-ahead touchdown drive.

Goat of the game: Michigan secondary

The U-M secondary, which was touted as part of the Wolverines' strong defense entering the season, surrendered three passes of 40 yards or more and allowed MSU quarterback Brian Hoyer to go 8-of-12 passing on third down. All eight completions were completed either for first downs or touchdowns.

Turning point

With the score tied at 21 midway through the fourth

quarter, the Spartans faced a third-and-five with the ball on their own 35-yard line. Hoyer dropped back and hit White over the middle for a clutch 17-yard first down that led to MSU's fourth touchdown five plays later.

Quotable

"(Michigan defenders) called me Uncle Roland a couple times... Uncle Roland just gave you a spanking."

— Senior offensive guard

Roland Martin on the trash talk between teams during Saturday's game

Ranked again

The Spartans have returned to the polls after this weekend's win, coming in at No. 22 in the Associated Press Top 25. MSU (7-2 overall, 4-1 Big Ten) dropped out of the AP poll last week after its 45-7 blowout loss against Ohio State, but jumped Pittsburgh, Kansas, Georgia Tech and Boston College into the top 25 again.

BOARD

General fund covers tuition increase

By Justin Harris
THE STATE NEWS

After receiving lower than expected appropriations from the state this year, the MSU Board of Trustees voted Friday to increase tuition for spring semester.

Tuition will increase 1.2 percent in the spring, but students won't notice a difference on their bills until the summer semester. MSU will cover the tuition increase in the spring with money from its general fund.

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dents," MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon said. "There will be an offset in the spring tuition bill to cover that increase for both graduates and undergraduate students."

In June, tuition increased 6.8 percent for the current semester. The 2008-09 MSU budget assumed a 3 percent increase in state appropriations from the

previous year. However, the state only increased funding by 1 percent, resulting in a \$5.8 million discrepancy between the expected funds and the actual appropriations. Of that deficit, \$2.9 million will be covered by the tuition increase.

Simon said board action in July allowed tuition changes for the spring semester if state appro-

priations were more or less than expected. Since funding was lower than planned, the board approved the tuition increase.

"Unfortunately, it was something we had to do," MSU Trustee Don Nugent said.

Right now, an in-state freshman taking 15 credits pays \$10,264 in tuition and fees for two semesters. With the increase, tuition will cost \$10,387.17 or about \$61.59 more per semester.

Although the university will provide an offset for spring tuition increases, parks and recreation junior Jessica Vandeveld said any tuition increase isn't good.

"I think they have already increased (tuition) enough," she

said. "I think they might be able to slow down spending on new buildings they don't really need."

Simon said the university will have to tighten its financial belt in order to cover the tuition offset in the spring. However, higher-than-expected enrollment numbers have provided the university with additional revenue.

"(Enrollments) produced some revenue," Simon said. "Rather than use that as a cushion against the next storm, or to use it for deferred maintenance or other things, we applied it so that the students benefited this year from that increase in students."

CRIME

POLICE NAME SUSPECT, KEEP LEADS OPEN IN MURDER CASE

By Abby Lubbers
THE STATE NEWS

The four-week investigation of a Wright Township quadruple homicide involving an MSU student has turned a corner, but is far from being finished, Ottawa County sheriff's Lt. Mark Bennett said.

Troy Brake, a 31-year-old Grant man, was officially named a suspect Friday in the murder of Katherine A. Brown, 18, an agribusiness sophomore, and three others.

Brake is the primary suspect in the quadruple homicide, but police have not stopped investigating other tips, Bennett said.

"I don't want to close up any other leads," he said.

"We would open it up to other (suspects) given further information."

Brown, her 20-year-old boyfriend Jeremy Zimmer; his mother Sharmaine Zimmer, 53; and brother Tyler Zimmer, 17; were found dead in the Zimmers' home Sept. 29.

A neighbor reported the Zimmers' house was on fire at about 12:45 a.m., but autopsies later showed the four victims were dead before the blaze was set.

Brown died of blunt force trauma, and the Zimmers were shot, police said.

Brake was arrested Oct. 16 for two unrelated incidents in Grand Rapids.

He was charged Oct. 17 with assault with intent to murder and first degree criminal sexual conduct. Brake also was charged with assault with intent to murder and felony firearm for a Sept. 1 incident, Grand Rapids police Sgt. Chris Postma said.

Brake had no criminal record before the Sept. 1 incident, Postma said.

But his connection to the Zimmer family remains unclear.

The Grand Rapids Press reported that Brake once lived next door to the Zimmers' Eighth Avenue home, but police would not confirm that information.

Matt Schwartz, who was a friend of Jeremy Zimmer, had never heard Brake's name before police announced his possible connection to the

See BROWN on page 2A

FOOD

Sushi Ya opens its doors to new eatery, hungry customers Friday, page 3A.

MINORITY REPORT

Part one of a five-part series examines the concerns of gay voters in the upcoming presidential election, page 3A.



Weather

Showers

High 39° | Low 30°

Three-day forecast, page 2A