



# WEEKEND

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## RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

"When I leave, it has the 'hope' on it — I see it and it reminds me of more important things," social relations and policy sophomore Bryce Colquitt says about seeing the Barack Obama poster on his door every morning. Colquitt attended the Democratic National Convention in August.

Obama victory could be milestone for black community; supporters know it wouldn't be a cure-all

Editor's note: This is the final story in a five-part series.

By Zack Colman  
THE STATE NEWS

Bryce Colquitt stands over his North Case Hall dorm room futon, ironing a white T-shirt. The home to residential James Madison College, Case Hall houses many politically active students. As the political theory and constitutional democracy sophomore meticulously runs the iron over his T-shirt, he talks about the campaign he volunteers for. Then he flips the T-shirt over to work on the front side, revealing a logo for Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. Colquitt, like many black voters, has been captivated by Obama's run for president.

He said he knows having a black president represents change, but that doesn't mean change will be produced.

"I do think that he would be a little more sympathetic to black people on issues than John McCain would," he said. "But it's not like he can take care of every problem black people or any people have."

### Symbolic presidency

Black voters aren't disillusioned by the possibility of Obama, or any black man, in office. Civil rights infractions and discrimination won't end if Obama places his left

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### WORD ON THE STREET

As an African American, how do you feel about Barack Obama — a black man — coming so close to the presidency?



"I'm proud to even ... be here to witness such a history-making moment. I'm excited. I'm overwhelmed."

**Christian Perkins,**  
elementary education senior



"No matter if he wins or loses, he's the closest that ever got to the presidency."

**Stephen Harris,**  
pre-law junior



"I believe it's a good step towards making progress in this country. This is monumental; it's never happened before."

**Keira Bell,**  
packaging junior



"We are closing in to this moment in history that I think most of the people that I know — that I've grown up with — have waited for for a very long time."

**Nastassja Whitman,**  
theater senior



"I feel he has a pretty good shot and he's doing a lot of good things, but he still seems a little inexperienced."

**Miles Martin,**  
no-preference freshmen

### In case you missed it ...

**Barack Obama has made history,** becoming the first major black presidential nominee. In five days, the country will decide if he will make history again as the first black president of the United States. The State News interviewed five black MSU students to hear their thoughts about what this means for them and the black community.

— Compiled by Dan Foas, The State News



To hear the audio interviews of what these students have to say about a potential Obama presidency, visit [www.statenews.com/multimedia](http://www.statenews.com/multimedia)

### MEN'S SOCCER

## Spartans shoot for Big Ten title in Baum's final home game

By Alex DiFilippo  
THE STATE NEWS

In MSU soccer head coach Joe Baum's last home game, the No. 25 Spartans have the opportunity to do something that has never been done in the program's history.

With a win over No. 6 Northwestern Sunday, Baum's squad can lock up the regular season Big Ten title for the very first time.

The Spartans (10-5-1 overall, 4-1-0 Big Ten) are pumped up for the opportunity to send their coach out on the right note in front of the home crowd at DeMartin Stadium at Old College Field.

"I don't want to overmagnify

fy the situation, but I think this could be the biggest game of my college career," senior midfielder Zac Scaffidi said. "Winning a Big Ten regular season championship in coach Baum's last season and my last season would be the perfect cap on my career."



Baum

In his 32nd season as head coach, Baum is excited to finally have an opportunity to win a title.

"(This) is something we didn't quite envision," Baum said Tuesday at his weekly press conference. "We thought we would be

respectable, but we didn't know if we could get to the level of playing for the Big Ten Championship. It's really a dream come true."

Baum has stressed his team all season to take things one game at a time. His motto won't change this game, in which the winner will likely win the Big Ten title.

Northwestern's (12-1-2, 3-1-0) solid defense has proven they have what it takes to win close games — it has allowed only five goals in the last 12 games and lead the Big Ten with the fewest goals allowed and shutouts.

But the Spartans defense isn't a slouch either.

Sophomore goalkeeper Avery Steinlage has recorded four straight shutouts, and the oppo-

sition has only been able to score one goal in the last six games.

Steinlage expects the game to be a defensive battle, but said he's very comfortable with the four guys playing in front of him.

"You can't ask for much more than our defense," Steinlage said. "Defense is what we have been preaching all year long and our defense is what generates our offense."

After a shaky start in which the Spartans gave up nine goals in their first four games, Scaffidi is proud of his team's transformation to a rock-solid defensive unit.

"We had a really tough start and we knew we were better," Scaffidi said. "We were under-

performing and underachieving — but we didn't give up. We kept grinding it out and we kept building wins."

Offense hasn't been hard to come by for the Spartans, as senior forward Doug DeMartin has scored a conference best 15 goals. The total also ranks him second nationally.

Northwestern's staunch defense doesn't worry DeMartin, who plans on leaving every last ounce of energy on the field.

"I've played against these guys before and I know how they play and their style," DeMartin said. "I'm not going to change anything I've done."

The Spartans are riding a six-game unbeaten streak (5-0-1) and

after stomping Bowling Green 4-0 on Wednesday, Scaffidi feels his team confident.

"We really dominated the game," Scaffidi said. "It was an important game because we didn't give up a goal and we really take pride in that."

Baum's coaching tenure will be honored during Sunday's 1 p.m. game and DeMartin hopes his team can check off its first goal of the season — winning the Big Ten title.

"It's crazy how all of this has worked out," DeMartin said.

"It was our goal to be in this position at the beginning of the season, and we have a lot of motivation to win this one for coach."