

Cross country

Senior Nicole Bush soared past from the competition at Saturday's NCAA Great Lakes Regional meet, taking first place with a time of 20:48.5 — nearly nine seconds faster than the second place time.

As a team the Spartans finished third, just missing the automatic bid that goes to the top two teams at the regional. MSU still has a chance to earn an at-large bid when the field is announced early this week.

Wrestling

The MSU wrestling team went 2-1 during the weekend in the ACC-Big Ten Clash in Chapel Hill, N.C., beating North Carolina 18-12 and North Carolina State 23-13 before falling to No. 21 Virginia 23-15.

Junior Franklin Gomez, ranked No. 3 nationally in the 133-pound weight class, and freshman Eric Olanowski, 125 pounds, each went 3-0 on the weekend.

RESULTS

Friday

Women's basketball 116, Niagara 50

Men's soccer 1, Northwestern 0

Women's soccer 2, Wisconsin-Milwaukee 1

Volleyball 1, Michigan 3

Hockey 1, Miami (Ohio) 5

Saturday

Wrestling 18, North Carolina 12

Field hockey 3, North Carolina 2

Wrestling 23, North Carolina State 13

Wrestling 15, Virginia 23

Volleyball 3, Ohio State 1

Hockey 1, Miami (Ohio) 3

Sunday

Men's basketball 100, Idaho 62

Women's basketball 73, Stony Brook 42

Men's soccer 1, Indiana 0

Women's soccer 0, Notre Dame 1

Field hockey vs. Iowa, postponed.

THIS WEEKEND

Friday

Volleyball at Purdue 7 p.m.

Hockey at Nebraska-Omaha 8:05 p.m.

Saturday

Football at Penn State 3:30 p.m.

Women's basketball vs. Dartmouth (in Burlington, Vt.) 3 p.m.

Volleyball at Illinois 8 p.m.

Hockey at Nebraska-Omaha 8:05 p.m.

Sunday

Women's basketball vs. Vermont/Guinnipiac TBA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MSU routs both Niagara and Stony Brook to start season 2-0, page 3B

SPORTS

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COUNTDOWN

Days until the MSU football team meets Penn State with a share of the Big Ten title on the line. MSU will go to the Rose Bowl with a win and an Ohio State loss to Michigan.



Monday

Breakout season ended by Irish



Freshman forward Laura Heyboer trips and falls chasing the ball during the second round of the NCAA women's soccer tournament Sunday at Notre Dame.

'Extraordinary' defense kept MSU in game

By Alex DiFilippo
THE STATE NEWS

South Bend, Ind. — The MSU women's soccer defense held No. 1 ranked and undefeated Notre Dame off the board until the 72nd minute.

But the lone goal for the Fighting Irish was enough for them to earn the 1-0 victory and end the Spartans' season.

MSU head coach Tom Saxton stressed to the team how important defense would be if they were going to have a chance in the game. They were going to have to find a way to shut down Notre Dame's high-powered offense, which had recorded 77 goals heading into the match.

"We knew we had to defend collectively as a unit, and in the international level they talk about bunkering and surround your goal," Saxton said. "With the talent they have up top, it was the right strategy to have. I think our kids did it well."

The staunch MSU back line did everything to prevent the ball from going into the back of the net, whether it was laying out to block shots or sacrificing everything to win 50-50 balls.

But Notre Dame's offense was just too much for the Spartans to handle and they peppered freshman goaltender Jill Flietstra with 29 shots.

Despite the bombardment, Flietstra felt her defense played great in front of her and didn't allow the Fighting Irish any easy scoring opportunities.

"My defense was extraordinary today," Flietstra said. "I give them a lot of credit for how well they defended. They kept players out of the box and forced them to take outside shots."

Along with the hard work from the back line, Sax-

See DEFENSE on page 2B

Spartans play No. 1 Notre Dame tough, but can't find net in 1-0 loss

By Sean Ely
THE STATE NEWS

South Bend, Ind. — Blistering cold winds whipped through Notre Dame's Alumni Field as the MSU women's soccer team waited for someone to start heating up. But the only source of warmth that smashed through the ice cold tundra was Notre Dame's Rose Augustin, who scored the contest's game winning — and only — goal of the afternoon en route to a 1-0 victory Sunday, knocking the Spartans out of the NCAA Tournament in the second round.

"We knew we had to take a defensive game plan," MSU head coach Tom Saxton said.

"We strategized for that (Saturday) and Notre Dame

See GAME on page 2B



The MSU women's soccer team huddles for a quick pep talk before the second round of the women's soccer NCAA Tournament at Notre Dame on Sunday. The Spartans lost to Notre Dame 1-0.

For a photo gallery from MSU's NCAA Tournament loss to the Irish, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

MEN'S SOCCER

DEMARTIN, STEINLAGE LEAD MSU TO TOURNAMENT TITLE

By Cash Kruth
THE STATE NEWS

It's official. The MSU men's soccer team is the class of the Big Ten.



Baum

Two weeks after clinching the first regular season Big Ten championship in MSU history, the Spartans defeated Indiana 1-0 in the championship game of the Big Ten Tournament in Madison, Wis., to win their first Big Ten Tournament championship since 2004.

The Spartans scored the game's lone goal 11 minutes into the second half, when sophomore midfielder Jeff

Ricondo passed to senior forward Louis Stephens III from the right side of the net. Stephens, in the center of the box, kicked a quick touch-pass to senior forward Doug DeMartin, who knocked the eventual game-winning goal through the left side of the net.

"It was tough all game; we didn't get a ton of looks but we knew we had to keep grinding, keep playing all 90 minutes," said DeMartin, whose goal was his nation-leading 17th of the season. "We knew we were going to get some chances and we just had to finish them."

Indiana kept fighting throughout the rest of the game, getting nine shots in the remaining 23 minutes of play, but sophomore goalkeeper Avery Steinlage and the MSU defense kept the

Hoosiers at bay for MSU's 12th shutout of the season.

"We thought we had a chance because we've been playing really good defense lately," MSU head coach Joe Baum said.

"Indiana's a good team and we knew the longer we could hang in there the better chance we had."

With the win, MSU earns an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Spartans will find out when and who they play tonight when the men's soccer NCAA Selection Show is televised on ESPNEWS between 6 and 6:30 p.m.

This is the second straight season the Spartans have qualified for the NCAA Tournament, losing 2-0 to Oakland in the opening round

of the tournament last year in East Lansing.

"We're going to get a first round bye, I guess that's what they're saying now," Baum said of where his team will end up.

"Right now, we're a little beat up physically and mentally, but I think if we can regroup physically and emotionally we can advance."

Both DeMartin and Steinlage said the Spartans' disappointing end to last season is in the past, also saying MSU is confident heading into the NCAA Tournament. Although the team pointed before the season to a regular season and Big Ten Tournament championship as goals, Steinlage said the only goal in the postseason is to play as long as possible.

See TITLE on page 2B

MSU vs. Indiana

Scoring
MSU — DeMartin 17
(Stephens III, Ricondo)
56:01

Shots
MSU — 6
Indiana — 19

Saves
MSU — 6
Indiana — 1

Corner kicks
MSU — 2
Indiana — 11

Fouls
MSU — 18
Indiana — 11

SOURCE: MSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS