

MEN'S SOCCER

FIND OUT THE SECRET TO THE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM'S SUCCESS THIS SEASON, PAGE 1B

The State News

MSU NOT YET ELITE

Spartans fall to Penn State; possibly will head to either Capital One or Outback bowl

By Jacob Carpenter
THE STATE NEWS

State College, Pa. — In a few days, when the sting of Saturday's 49-18 beat-down in Beaver Stadium wears off, the MSU football team will be able to reflect on its 9-3 season. The No. 22 Spartans (9-3 overall, 6-2 Big Ten) can take pride in likely becoming the first MSU team to reach a New Year's Day bowl game since 2000, when the Spartans stunned Florida with a 37-34 win in the Citrus Bowl (now known as the Capital One Bowl). MSU will either receive a berth in the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla., or the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Fla.

"We just kind of let it slip away (today), so that's a negative," senior running back Javon Ringer said after Saturday's game.

PSU 49
MSU 18

"But on a positive outlook, we still accomplished some great things this season and we're still blessed to be playing in a January bowl."

MSU's bowl position hinges on whether No. 10 Ohio State (10-2, 7-1) receives a Bowl Championship Series at-large bid. The Buckeyes' fate, in turn, hinges on whether No. 17 Oregon State wins its final game, which would make the Beavers champions of the Pac-10 and likely push No. 5 Southern Cal into the final BCS at-large slot.

See GAME on page 2A



Penn State linebackers Josh Hull (43) and Tyrell Sales (46) tackle freshman running back Glenn Winston in his attempt to run the ball Saturday at Beaver Stadium. MSU lost the Big Ten title to Penn State 49-18.

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Javon Ringer,
senior running back



Senior running back Javon Ringer walks off the field at Beaver Stadium on Saturday evening after suffering a 49-18 loss to Penn State in State College, Pa. The Nittany Lions held Ringer to 42 total rushing yards and 27 receiving yards.

SAM RUIZ/THE STATE NEWS

MSU football

CASH KRUTH

Dantonio has many faces as head of team



State College, Pa. — Mark Dantonio can be described many ways. He can be called old-school,

perhaps a traditionalist. Or he can be defined by any one of his Dantonioisms, such as "Stay the course" and "They all count one."

No matter how you describe or define the second-year MSU head coach, if there's one thing I've come to rely on from Dantonio this season, it's that he's a straight-shooter who will answer almost anything (except questions about injuries).

He does it with the same intense glare that you see Saturdays, but he also can do it with a coy, sly smile that lets you catch a little glimpse of his personality.

Oddly, neither of those Dantonios were on display Saturday after the 49-18 throttling of Dantonio's No. 17 Spartans by No. 7 Penn State in what amounted as the Big Ten Championship game.

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CRIME

Police: Woman attacked near Hubbard Hall

A 19-year-old student was assaulted in Lot 91 near Hubbard Hall Friday, MSU police reported. The student parked her car and was crossing the railroad tracks at 9:45 p.m. when two men hit her and started tearing her clothes, police said.

She suffered minor injuries to her hands, but declined medical attention, MSU police Sgt. Jill Geile said. The student did not see or hear anything before the men hit her and she could not describe the assailants, Geile said. Police are looking for suspects.

The sidewalk between Lot 91 and Hubbard Hall is not very well lit and the area near the railroad tracks is surrounded by bushes, said criminal justice and psychology junior Simone Terfa. She walks between the parking lot and the dorm two or three times a week.

"I always look in the corner by the bushes to see if anyone is lurking there or coming across from Hannah Plaza," she said.

But the best way students can be safe on campus is to walk with other people and know the surroundings, Geile said.

"Know where you're going — have a plan," she said. "Know where the nearest help is so if you have a chance to run away, you can run to (help) as soon as possible."

ABBY LUBBERS

POLITICS

Obama's health care plan faces challenges, promises reforms

By Kayla Habermehl
THE STATE NEWS

The uninsured. Rising health care costs. Prescription medications. On Jan. 20, President-elect Barack Obama will begin working toward numerous changes, including vast reforms to the health care system. Of the many issues Obama is going to tackle

in office, health care ranked third most important behind the economy and terrorism/national security, according to a CBS News and New York Times poll last month.

Obama's health care plan, and how fast it's implemented, has implications for everyone, including students. He aims to allow people up to age 25 to remain on their parents' insurance, according to

"(Obama) may find that the economy is likely to worsen through 2009. If that happens, then the particular consequence is that many individuals will lose their jobs and insurance, which may lead to health care reform."

Leonard Fleck,
professor of philosophy and medical ethics

Obama's Web site.

"It's going to be real difficult to tell what will happen," said Brent Bowditch, assistant vice president for human resources at MSU.

People 18 or 19 years old often represent the cut-off age for young adults who could be covered under their parents' insurance, according to ConsumerAffairs.com. However, many companies or employers allow young people enrolled in college to remain on their parents' plans.

Although the majority of MSU students aren't required by the university to be insured, international,

medical and veterinary students are required to be, said Alice Smith, a communications manager in the MSU Human Resources Benefits office.

Students who don't have insurance through their parents can get it through MSU.

MSU's student insurance is provided through Aetna Student Health. The insurance covers students nationwide, as well as when they go abroad, said Matt Wiggin, an Aetna spokesman.

"It's important to keep students healthy so that they can focus on their studies and

safeguard them from illness," Wiggin said.

Other health care reforms Obama wants to implement include switching to electronic medical records to increase efficiency and save money on paper processing, improving emphasis on disease prevention and making the pharmaceutical and insurance companies more competitive to lower prices.

"I think it's realistic enough. He has a reasonable chance of accomplishing something significant, but it will take time," said Leonard Fleck, a professor of philosophy and medical ethics.

Fleck said predicting how fast these changes will occur is difficult, especially with the struggling economy.

"(Obama) may find that the economy is likely to worsen through 2009," Fleck said.

"If that happens, then the particular consequence is that many individuals will lose their jobs and insurance, which may lead to health care reform."

JUST DANCE

Almost 300 people take part in the third annual International Dance Extravaganza; various cultures on display as part of event, page 3A

ASMSU

MSU's student government looks to get a rock climbing wall installed on campus for people to scale. MSU is the only major Michigan college without one for students to use, page 3A.



Weather

Snow
High 34° | Low 31°

Three-day forecast, page 2A