



WEEKENDER

Michigan State University's independent voice | www.statenews.com | East Lansing, Mich. | Wednesday, November 26, 2008

CASHING OUT

December graduates face employment woes, struggling market heading into new year

Michigan unemployment
Michigan's unemployment rate rose from 8.7 percent in September to 9.3 percent in October.
The unemployment rate in October 2007 was 7.5 percent.
Total employment fell by 22,000 jobs in October.
Michigan's year-to-date average jobless rate is 8.1 percent, which is up from 2007's average rate of 7.2 percent.
Since January, 13,000 retail jobs have been lost in the state.
Michigan's total number of unemployed labor force workers is about 457,000.
SOURCE: MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

By Justin Harris and Jeff Kanan
THE STATE NEWS

Mandy Moran is going home. When the marketing senior graduates in a week and a half, she won't be heading off to Chicago or San Francisco to begin her career. Rather, she'll head home to Rochester Hills in hopes of getting a seasonal job until the summer, when she said she hopes to get hired by a company. "I feel like it's harder (to get a job). I'm trying to concentrate on applying to companies with some security, like I'm not applying to any automotive companies," Moran said. "It's definitely different. I feel like there are less jobs now." Like many college graduates, Moran will enter the workforce at a time when unemployment rates are higher than they've been in decades and hiring rates are stagnant or decreasing.

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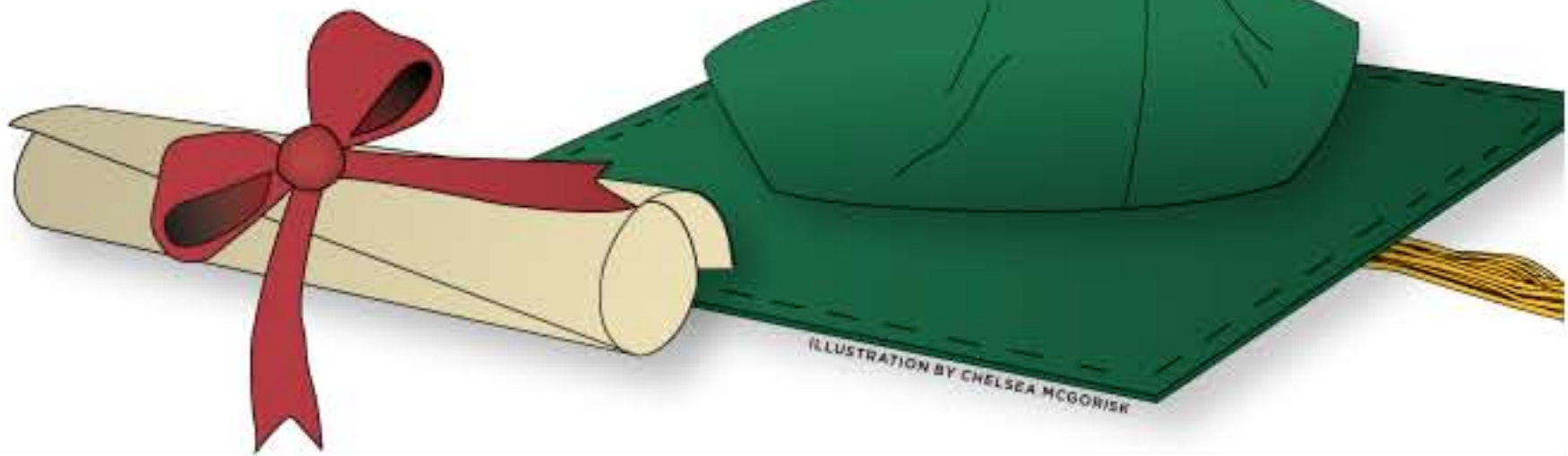


ILLUSTRATION BY CHELSEA MCGORISK

SPORTS

Men's soccer defeated on penalty kicks by Illinois-Chicago

By Alex DiFilippo
THE STATE NEWS

Illinois-Chicago was the 5 a.m. alarm clock that awoke the fourth-seeded MSU men's soccer team from the most vivid of dreams.

And it came in the worst and most abrupt way possible.

The Spartans' season ended in heartbreaking fashion as they battled Illinois-Chicago to a 0-0 draw through regulation and overtime, but fell 3-2 after penalty kicks.

MSU head coach Joe Baum was disappointed the game had to go to a shootout, where luck often prevails. But he said the scoreless draw accurately portrayed how tightly the match was played.

"I want to look back and be happy about it. But right now it's tough with the loss we just took."

Zac Scaffidi, senior midfielder

"The game was dead-even and maybe it's justice it went to penalties," Baum said. "But I'm very proud of this team and I thought we fought and fought."

The Spartans (13-5-2 overall) defense kept up its solid work and finished the season without allowing a goal in 812 consecutive minutes.

"Isn't it just amazing?" Baum said of the defensive effort. "They did everything

we asked them. I'm so proud of this defense."

Senior forward Doug DeMartin expected the defensive battle, especially with the cold weather.

"It was a tight game with limited chances — we knew that coming in," DeMartin said. "That's the way they play and that's the way we play. We had a couple chances and didn't finish."

DeMartin had the best

opportunity of the game with only three seconds remaining in the second overtime. He looped a header over Illinois-Chicago goalkeeper Jovan Bubonja that hit off the top of the crossbar and went over the goal.

"It was weird," DeMartin said.

"It was just kind of spinning and it stuck through the air. I thought it had a chance toward the end."

Senior midfielder Zac Scaffidi thought Illinois-Chicago had an advantage in the penalty kicks because of its past experience in the first round of the NCAA Tournament when the team defeated Dayton 3-1

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JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

Senior defender Josh Rogers tucks his head in his jersey after missing the final penalty kick against Illinois-Chicago Tuesday at DeMartin Stadium at Old College Field.