

SPORTS EVENTS

Player of the week

Kalin Lucas
sophomore guard,
men's basketball
Averaged 21 points
per game in contests
against Ohio State and
Kansas, while shooting
15-for-17 from the free-
throw line in the two
games.

Track and field

After a month-long
hiatus, the MSU
track and field teams
captured 10 event
titles this weekend at
the Chippewa Open,
competing against
Central Michigan
and Hillsdale. Junior
Anthony Agrusa was
among the headliners,
setting a school record
with an 18.74-meter
toss in the weight
throw. MSU throwers
Jay Gillespie and Kyle
Strotbaum, a freshman
and senior, respectively,
rounded out the top
three in the event.

Gymnastics

The MSU gymnastics
team took third in
its season opener
on Friday. No. 8 U-M
finished in first with
a score of 194.850,
while No. 16 Illinois had
193.950. The Spartans
scored 192.325 and
Western Michigan
finished fourth with
187.900. The Spartans
have never lost to the
Broncos in 54 meetings.

MSU did not place in the
top three for any of the
events.

For the complete story,
visit statenews.com/sports.

RESULTS

Tuesday

Men's basketball 67,
Ohio State 58

Thursday

Women's basketball 64,
Northwestern 52

Friday

Gymnastics, third place

Saturday

Men's basketball 75,
Kansas 62

THIS WEEK

Wednesday

Men's basketball at
Penn State, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Women's basketball at
Michigan, 7 p.m.

Friday

Hockey at Miami (Ohio),
8:05 p.m.

Saturday

Men's basketball vs.
Illinois, 4 p.m.

Hockey at Miami (Ohio),
5:05 p.m.

Wrestling at West
Virginia, 7 p.m.

Gymnastics vs. Iowa,
Illinois State, West
Virginia, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday

Wrestling at Ohio, 1 p.m.

Women's basketball vs.
Penn State, 4 p.m.

FOOTBALL

How will the Capital One Bowl affect
the 2009 football team? Page 5B

SPORTS

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HOCKEY

The amount of
games it took
the MSU hockey
team to reach
35 goals this
season. The
previous high
was 15 games.
For more hockey,
see page 3B.

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Monday

EVOLUTION OF ALLYSSA



JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

Junior forward Alyssa DeHaan, right, cheers with junior center Allyssa DeHaan after being fouled and scoring in the second half against Northwestern on Thursday at Breslin Center.

After a subpar season, Allyssa DeHaan is letting go of others' expectations

By Cash Kruth
THE STATE NEWS

There wasn't one instant or one specific moment that it clicked for Allyssa DeHaan. It just happened. The 2007-08 season had been tough on the 6-foot-9 junior center, who struggled to find herself on the court, in the classroom and in her relationship with God.

Individually, it would be hard to call DeHaan's sophomore season a struggle. She averaged 14.4 points, 7.3 rebounds and 4.1 blocks a game as she was named first team All-Big Ten by the media. But as a team, the Spartans failed to make the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2002 and DeHaan — the most recognizable and most popular Spartan — shouldered most

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Junior center Allyssa DeHaan snickers during the pregame huddle against Northwestern at center court Thursday at Breslin Center. DeHaan carried the Spartans with the 64-52 win over the Wildcats by scoring 19 points.

Men's basketball

ALEX ALTMAN

Maturation of Morgan moves MSU forward



During his first two seasons with the Spartans, Raymar Morgan was an enigma trapped inside a puzzle muddled by a riddle.

One game, he'd play so well you'd worry about him leaving school early to take his shot at the NBA. The next, you'd wonder if he was good enough to play on your intramural team.

Despite possessing all the talent of an All-American, Morgan's play was mired his freshman and sophomore seasons by the kind of miscues you'd expect from the sixth man on a junior varsity team: mental lapses at the free-throw line, prolonged shooting funks and traveling violations that would make a bad pilot blush.

Nearly two months into his junior season, Morgan hasn't come close to correcting all the flaws that have stained his legend. But if Saturday's game against Kansas is any indication, he's certainly making strides.

Despite playing his worst game in about two weeks against the defending national champs — a game No. 8 MSU won 75-62 at Breslin Center — Morgan showed signs of the improved mental toughness and maturity that have elevated his play this season.

After missing his first five shots (two missed free throws included) of the game, Morgan looked ripe for one of his patented lackluster performances.

But instead of crashing like a paper plane, he continued to fly, continued to fight and continued to shoot, and he wound up scoring eight points in the last 11 minutes of the period to help MSU extend its halftime lead to 37-18.

Morgan finished the game with a respectable 13 points and eight rebounds. Although he fell two boards short of netting his fourth straight double-double, he helped MSU (13-2 overall, 3-0 Big Ten) extend its winning streak to nine games.

For Morgan, it was the third time this season he missed each of at least his first three shots, but still finished the game in double figures. For the Spartans, it's a sign that their notoriously sensitive yet uber-talented player is shedding his soft skin and developing a tougher coat.

Every player in the nation experiences his share of doldrums offensively, but the best

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Sports podcast

The SN sports desk debuts its Monday Sports Podcast. Visit statenews.com/multimedia to listen to the first episode about men's basketball.