

SPORTS EVENTS

Player of the week

David Cheza
The redshirt freshman 149-pounder carried the weight of the team on his shoulders Friday and pulled out a win for the Spartans, pinning Wisconsin's Greg Burke to give MSU the 25-17 victory, its first in the Big Ten this season.

RESULTS

- Thursday**
Men's basketball 71, Iowa 56
Women's basketball 68, Iowa 56
- Friday**
Wrestling 25, Wisconsin 17
Lake Superior 2, hockey 0
- Saturday**
Lake Superior 4, hockey 2
Gymnastics, third place 194.500
Men's tennis 7, Western Illinois 0
Men's tennis 7, Valparaiso 0
Southern Cal 4, women's tennis 0

THIS WEEK

- Monday**
Women's basketball at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Men's basketball vs. Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday**
Women's basketball at Illinois, 9 p.m.
- Friday**
Women's tennis vs. Toledo, 2 p.m.
Women's tennis vs. Detroit Mercy, 6 p.m.
Wrestling vs. Iowa, 7 p.m.
Hockey vs. Ferris State, 7:35 p.m.
- Saturday**
Men's tennis vs. Toledo, noon
Men's basketball vs. Indiana, 4 p.m.
Hockey at Ferris State, 7:05 p.m.
- Sunday**
Women's basketball vs. Ohio State, 2 p.m.
Wrestling vs. Michigan, 1 p.m.
Men's swimming & diving vs. Michigan, 3 p.m.

David Bergland, father

BASEBALL

MSU opened practice for the season early Sunday, page 3B.

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BASKETBALL

The Penn State men's basketball team had lost its only 16 games in East Lansing prior to Sunday's upset win. For more, see pages 1A and 3B.

SPORTS

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Monday



MSU gymnastics student coach and junior Megan Bergland, center, encourages her teammates during the Flip for the Cure competition Jan. 17 at Jenison Field House.

JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

A New Chapter

After back injury ends her career, Megan Bergland begins anew as a student coach

"It was hard for us to see her fight through injury and knowing that it was, each time, getting more long term."

Dave Bergland, father

By Joey Nowak
THE STATE NEWS

Head coach Kathy Klages always tells her gymnasts if they've ever worried about the sport jeopardizing their future, it's time to get out. So when Megan Bergland realized she couldn't bend down to pick up her younger brother, she knew her career was over. Bergland is spending her third season with the MSU gymnastics team, but her first as a student coach. Last year, an accumulation of back injuries took its toll and forced the two-time Academic All-American out of the sport forever.

Bergland still stands in the huddle, arms draped around the teammates she has become sisters with, but now she wears sweat pants and a sweater instead of a leotard. She still has goals for herself and the team, but they've changed drastically.

The end

Bergland recalls competing through on-and-off back injuries since high school, enduring pain all the way to landing a spot on MSU's team. Doctors could never determine the root of the problem; they told her she had alignment issues, which they'd correct before sending her on her way while everyone hoped for the best. "I had to play a game of 'This is too much, this is not enough,'" Bergland said. "The doctors kept telling me all along, 'It's not a good idea for you to keep doing it.' I kept pushing because

I wanted to do it so bad." In her sophomore year at MSU, years of anguish and pushing the limits finally caused her body to say no. Standing against a balance beam one day, not doing much of anything, Bergland stood up and "everything happened." Feeling a sharp pain shoot through her back, her legs gave out. "Tears came to my eyes," she remembered. "I didn't actually cry, but I just knew something bad had happened."

See BERGLAND on page 2B

HOCKEY

Spartans swept by Lakers

By Alex DiFilippo
THE STATE NEWS

Sault Ste. Marie — For the first time since 1995-96, the MSU hockey team lost twice in a single season to Lake Superior. The 2-0 loss on Friday coupled with the 4-2 loss on Saturday extended the Spartans' losing streak to five games.

In Saturday's defeat, the Spartans were able to record a season-high 38 shots — something MSU head

coach Rick Comley said his team can build from.

"I'm encouraged by a lot of things but frustrated by losing," Comley said. "I thought our young kids responded very well. They are tough lessons right now but we just have to stay with them."

Saturday, the Spartans (7-18-3 overall, 4-13-2-2 CCHA) had a 2-0 lead with 52 seconds remaining in the first period, but saw the lead dwindle in the second and third frames.

"We were feeling so good," freshman forward Ben Warda said.

"Then, I'm not sure what happened. We had a two-goal lead and everyone was excited. But they just seemed to have so many lucky bounces on their goals."

Freshman defenseman Matt Crandell was out of the lineup after reinjuring his shoulder on Friday night, and freshman



JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

Senior goaltender Jeff Lerg blocks Lake Superior from scoring Friday night at Taftiy Abel Arena. The Spartans lost 2-0 on Friday and 4-2 on Saturday.

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