

## the game

## Men's Basketball vs. Indiana

Tipoff at 4 p.m. Saturday

## Follow the game

TV ESPN  
Radio WJR (760-AM)

## Player to watch

Guard Devon Dumes: Dumes finished 5-of-5 from 3-point range on Wednesday

## In the paint

Indiana beat Iowa Wednesday to collect its first win of the Big Ten season.

Draymond Green isn't about getting pushed around — as a freshman, he's the team's...



NICOLE HOEJNER / THE STATE NEWS

Freshman forward Draymond Green dribbles around Kansas forward Quintrell Thomas during the Jan. 10 game at Breslin Center.

TOUGH  
GUUYBy Cash Kruth  
THE STATE NEWS

In the second half of a game between the MSU men's basketball team and Illinois earlier this year, an MSU jumper clanked off the rim. MSU freshman forward Draymond Green and Illinois forward Dominique Keller each jumped for the rebound, both coming down together with the ball. Quickly and swiftly, Green lifted the ball up — and with it the 6-foot-7, 230-pound Keller. Green body-slammed Keller to the ground.

A whistle blew, and the Spartans retained possession.

No offense to Keller, but it turns out that body-slam was a little payback for Green, who often found himself as the one getting tossed around by older players on the hardwood as a youngster.

"When I was little I always played with the older kids," said Green, who smiled and let out a chuckle when the play was brought up. "The grown men, they used to toss me around and I'd be out there trying to fight them. I figured if I played against them, once I played against kids my own age it'll be easy and I just kept gaining toughness from that."

Green's experience of playing in leagues with children two-to-three years older than him as a youngster at the Civitan Recreation Center in his hometown of Saginaw taught the now-6-foot-6, 235-pounder a valuable lesson: If he wanted to

hang with the big boys, he had to play tough and act even tougher.

Now in his first season with the Spartans, Green's toughness and competitiveness have revealed glimpses of potential from the young post player. Although he is only averaging 8.1 minutes a game in a crowded, experienced front court (the eligibility for seniors Goran Suton, Marquise Gray and Idong Ibok run out at the end of the season), Green's 2.4 rebounds a game show that he is an impressive candidate to see significant playing time next season, if not a starting role.

## A will to win

There is a lot to like about Green. For an 18-year-old kid, both MSU head coach Tom Izzo and Suton said

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**"You'd rather teach them how to shoot a jump shot than you would how to be tough."**

Tom Izzo, head coach

## Draymond Green

Position: Freshman forward

Height: 6-foot-6

Weight: 235 pounds

Hometown: Saginaw

**2008-09 season:** Green is averaging 1.9 points and 2.4 rebounds in a little more than eight minutes per game.

## Women's basketball

JOSEPH TERRY

## Spartans' hot streak stalled, team looks to track



The MSU women's basketball team has been cool down the stretch all season long, seemingly shrugging

off pressure in the last five minutes as just another fan yelling in the stands.

For example, in a home game against Wisconsin on Jan. 25, the Spartans watched as the Badgers found their stroke from behind the arc and pulled a 10-point lead to within two.

But without taking an extra breath, MSU just picked up the ball and locked down its defense, forcing three turnovers in the last minute and winning 59-50.

Believe it or not, it hasn't only been at Breslin Center where the team has been ice cold. The Spartans have been even better on the road.

In a New Year's Day game at Purdue, the then-top team in the league, the Spartans epitomized cool down the stretch.

The team was down eight points with nine minutes to play in regulation, but held Purdue scoreless for more than seven minutes, going on a 12-0 run over the span to go up 55-51. When the Boiler-makers sent the game to overtime, they again found a way to tie the MSU with only three minutes left in extra play.

The Spartans relied on their defense and held Purdue without a field goal for the rest of the game, winning the game 68-62.

In Ann Arbor earlier this season, the Spartans found themselves down 21-24 to Michigan with 10:43 on the clock.

They responded by holding U-M without a field goal for nearly 10 minutes and going on a 12-1 run that all but sealed the game for MSU.

So how can you blame me for thinking that when Minnesota got hot and erased an eight-point MSU half-time lead quickly, yet only led by three with eight minutes to play, that the Spartans would again find some way to tighten their defense and gut out another win?

After all, the Spartans had outscored their opponents 761-633 in the second half entering the game. I was prepared to write an article about how the Spartans can't be fazed and had a seven-game winning streak — the team's longest since last-place run to the national championship game in 2005.

Then I saw something that hadn't happened yet this year. The Gophers, fresh off a three-point squeaker against last-place Northwestern, looked just as calm. They scored down MSU's vaunted defense and continued to hit shot after

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