

Player of the week

Jeff Lerg

MSU's star senior goalie made 76 total saves and allowed just two goals during the weekend, as the MSU hockey team finished 1-0-1 during its weekend series with Ferris State. Lerg made several critical saves throughout the game to help the Spartans get their first win since Jan. 16.

Track and field

Junior Leah Elenbaas, Junior Shane Knoll and senior Jeremy Orr shattered MSU track and field records during this weekend's Mayo Invitational in South Bend, Ind.

Elenbaas broke the MSU record in the 1,000m run, Knoll smashed the record in the mile run, while Orr set the mark in the 400m dash.

Women's tennis

The No. 66 MSU women's tennis team defeated Toledo and Detroit on Friday in East Lansing. The Spartans dominated both schools 6-1. With the sweep, MSU improved to 3-3 on the season and 3-0 at home.

RESULTS

Saturday

Men's basketball 75, Indiana 47

Men's tennis 5, Toledo 2
Hockey 1, Ferris State 0

Friday

Women's tennis 6, Toledo 1
Women's tennis 6, Detroit 1
Gymnastics third place out of four
Wrestling Iowa 22, MSU 15
Hockey 2, Ferris State 2

Thursday

Women's basketball 63, Illinois 50

Wednesday

Men's basketball 76, Minnesota 47

Monday

Minnesota 60, women's basketball 44

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

Wrestling vs. Penn State, 7 p.m.
Hockey vs. Ohio State, 7:05 p.m.

Saturday

Women's gymnastics vs. Florida, 2 p.m.

Hockey vs. Ohio State, 5:05 p.m.

Men's golf at Big Ten Match Play Championship, all day

Sunday

Women's tennis at Indiana State, noon

Wrestling vs. Oklahoma, 1 p.m.

WRESTLING

The Spartans fell short against a tough U-M squad Sunday, page 3B

SPORTS

76

HOCKEY

The amount of saves senior goaltender Jeff Lerg made this weekend, including 32 in a 1-0 shutout of Ferris State on Saturday.

Monday

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Sophomore forward Dustin Gazley begins to hit the puck away from Ferris State defenseman Evan Case after falling on the ice during Saturday's game at Ewigleben Ice Arena in Big Rapids. The Spartans defeated the Bulldogs 1-0.

ANGELI WRIGHT/THE STATE NEWS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FRESHMAN'S CAREER DAY PACES MSU IN 75-47 VICTORY

By Cash Kruth
THE STATE NEWS

All Draymond Green did Saturday was take advantage of an opportunity. With the MSU men's basketball team in a closer-than-expected Big Ten battle with last-place Indiana and senior center Goran Suton struggling early, the freshman forward brought energy and tenacity to the floor, scoring 15 points and grabbing 12 rebounds to lead the Spartans to a 75-47 victory over the Hoosiers at Breslin Center.

"We didn't have a lot of energy coming out — it's not that we underestimated them or anything — that's just sometimes how it is," said Green, whose double-double helped improve MSU to 19-4 overall and 9-2 in the Big Ten.

Checking into the game shortly after the first media timeout, Green instantly brought the energy Izzo was looking for, pulling down strong rebounds and hanging hard in the paint en route to eight points and six rebounds in nine first-half minutes.

There was no drop-off in the second half, as Green — who entered the contest averaging 8.2 minutes a game — never missed a shot in his career-high 20 minutes, shooting 5-for-5 from the field and 5-for-5 from the free-throw line.

The only mistake the freshman made was midway through the second half when he was called for a charge, turning the ball over to Indiana (6-16, 1-0).

"We were a little mad at Draymond, he charged that one time or else he would have had a perfect game," Izzo said jokingly afterward. "He's been playing better ... so he helped us a lot in there."

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GOING ALL OUT

Gritty efforts lead MSU hockey team to crucial 3-point weekend

"Jeff Lerg, obviously, is special. The only chance we have to win right now is when he plays absolutely great, and he did."

Rick Comley, head coach

By Matt Bishop
THE STATE NEWS

Big Rapids — It's no secret the MSU hockey team hasn't caught many breaks this season. So Saturday, the team did what it needed to — scratching and clawing its way to a gritty 1-0 win over Ferris State at Ewigleben Ice Arena.

The grittiness was no better displayed than late in the third period when freshman forward Trevor Nill blocked three Bulldogs shots on the same shift. The first shot hurt him, but nevertheless, the hobbling Nill managed to block two more, the third going up the net-

ting behind the goal for a stoppage.

"He went down, laying on the ice, (and) blocked three or four shots that, if he didn't go down, could've gone in the net, could've gone through for a shot," senior forward Matt Schepke said. "That just gets everybody on the bench up and ready to go and it's very energizing."

MSU blocked 19 shots on the night. "With all the scrambles at the end we were sacrificing bodies," senior goaltender Jeff Lerg said. "I think we're learning what it takes to get it done and that's the type of playoff hockey the team needs to play in the second half."

While the team made plays in front of him, Lerg had his second straight solid performance, stopping all 32 shots he faced. He made 76 saves in the series, helping the Spartans (8-18-4 over-

See HOCKEY on page 2B

For more photos from this weekend's games, visit stateneews.com.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Thomas tears ACL in practice Friday; will miss season

By Joseph Terry
THE STATE NEWS

The MSU women's basketball team took a big hit Friday when sophomore guard Britney Thomas went down for the season, tearing the anterior cruciate ligament, or ACL, in her left knee during practice, head coach Suzy Merchant announced.



Thomas

"She's done for the year and the prognosis will take place here in the next couple of days," Merchant said. "She's worked really hard because

she came off an injury at the beginning of the year, so I'm sure it was disappointing for her. I feel like she wanted to be out there."

The injury left MSU short-handed and with little time to prepare for a strong Ohio State team on Sunday, Merchant said.

"When it happened late Friday, certainly you have some reservations, especially going into Ohio State," Merchant said. "I think our kids, as disappointed as they were under the circumstances, they believed that they could find a way to make it happen. But I think it's an effort by everybody to step up and say, 'I think we can make this happen.' I give a whole lot of

credit to our defense and a whole lot of credit to everyone that played and doing the little things to make it happen."

Since returning from a hand injury earlier this season, Thomas has been a workhorse for the Spartans, averaging 32.5 minutes per game. But it's that absence that may be the saving grace for this team, as several different players were tried out at the point.

"I think it helped because it wasn't as foreign as it could have been," sophomore Kalisha Keane said. Keane started Sunday's game against Ohio State at point guard after playing much of the season as a power forward.

Keane, who will split most of the minutes left vacant by Thomas with freshman guard Porsche Poole, approached Merchant shortly after Thomas was injured and told the coach she could take the open position.

"I think I'm the kind of person that thinks about what's next rather than dwelling," Keane said. "I just went up and talked to coach and I was like, 'OK, what are we going to do? I know these plays at the point guard position, I need to know some others, can you get me together a package of the plays?'"

Through it all, Thomas is taking it well, Keane said. "Brittney's a tough person, so you can tell out there

on the court," Keane said. "I think it really reflects her personality and her attitude to win with a positive attitude."

Even though the team is left without its point guard, junior center Allyssa DeHaan said the Spartans have more to rely on.

"(Thomas) is a big part of our team, especially on the defensive end, but she's not the whole team," DeHaan said. "There's many components that make up what Michigan State basketball is ... I think everybody came out and stepped it up. We had to replace the effort and the minutes she brought for us, but she was still coaching us from the bench, so we had everybody with us for this game."