

SPORTS EVENTS

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Player of the week

Jeff Lerg
The superstar goaltender showed up big again this weekend for the MSU hockey team. In leading the Spartans to their first four-point weekend since Nov. 1, Lerg allowed two goals on 71 shots.

Track & field

The MSU track and field team continues to set records as it broke four school records over the weekend.

The men's 4x400-meter relay team placed first overall at the Grand Valley Big Meet with a time of 3 minutes, 9.59 seconds, beating a school record that has stood since 1983. On Friday, sophomore Jay Gillespie, senior Lisa Senakewich and junior Shane Knoll all broke school records. In the men's weight throw, women's mile and men's 800-meter run, respectively.

RESULTS

Sunday

Softball 2, Temple 0
Wrestling 8, Oklahoma 21

Saturday

Softball 4, St. John's 3
Softball 10, Georgetown 2

Men's golf 1.5, Indiana 4.5

Men's golf 4, Illinois 2
Men's tennis 1, Notre Dame 6

Gymnastics 194.775, Florida 196.850

Hockey 2, Ohio State 1

Friday

Softball 7, Florida Gulf Coast 11

Softball 5, Florida International 5

Wrestling 12, Penn State 28

Hockey 1, Ohio State 1

Men's golf 3.5, Wisconsin 2.5

THIS WEEK

Friday

Gymnastics at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Hockey vs. Bowling Green, 7:05 p.m.

Saturday

Women's tennis vs. Bowling Green, noon
Women's tennis vs. Cleveland State, 5 p.m.
Hockey at Bowling Green, 5:05 p.m.

Sunday

Men's basketball vs. Wisconsin, 3 p.m.
Women's basketball at Wisconsin, 2:30 p.m.
Wrestling at Illinois, 2 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Raymar Morgan could play Tuesday against Purdue, page 3B.

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HOCKEY
The amount of games in a row senior goaltender Jeff Lerg has stopped 29 or more shots.

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Monday

Icers unbeaten in 4 games



Senior goaltender Jeff Lerg, middle left, and senior defenseman Brandon Gentile protect the goal from Ohio State on Friday night at Munn Ice Arena. The Spartans won after overtime and a shootout. Friday's tie was Lerg's 13th consecutive game with more than 29 saves.

JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

Lerg shines in goal for Spartans, who take 4 points in weekend for first time since Oct. 31-Nov. 1

"All of a sudden you get two wins against a nationally ranked team and a team in the top four in your league and you get excited for another week."

Rick Comley, MSU head coach

By Alex DiFilippo
THE STATE NEWS

As the losses have piled up this season, the MSU hockey team has become accustomed to returning to the locker room after a game in poor spirits. But after Saturday's 2-1 win and Friday's 1-1 tie and shootout victory against No. 16 Ohio State, the Spartans had a reason to celebrate on Valentine's Day. And they did it the way they always have when earning four points in a weekend series — by singing the fight song at the top of their lungs in the locker room.

"It caught me off guard, actually," senior goaltender Jeff Lerg

said of the Spartans post-game choir — the first time the Spartans tuned up their voices since the Nov. 1 series against Western Michigan.

"It was a good feeling for the guys. We need some positive feelings to come back to this rink so we can keep fighting toward the playoffs."

While the fight song rang out in the locker room, it didn't echo through the halls like it might have in the past — mainly because there are fewer bodies than ever in the Spartans locker room.

The Spartans (9-18-5 overall, 6-14-4-3 CCHA) have been beat up physically and mentally this season and the numbers have become so slim that MSU head coach Rick Comley doesn't have enough bodies to dress a full fourth line.

"This was a really depleted lineup," Comley said. "But it's reinforcement. All of a sudden you get two wins against a nationally ranked team and a team in the top four in your league and you get

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WRESTLING

Loss to No. 12 Oklahoma caps tough weekend for MSU

By Joey Nowak
THE STATE NEWS

With what MSU wrestling coach Tom Minkel calls "the youngest team in the history of college wrestling," there are likely to be a number of shortfalls — especially wrestling against ranked opponents in nearly every competition.

But Minkel says when all of his young wrestlers compete at their best, it's easy to find a silver lining in those shortfalls. Amid a tumultuous schedule that includes ranked opponent after ranked opponent and a Spartans starting lineup comprised of more than half underclassmen, the Spar-

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Tom Minkel, MSU head coach

tans dropped their fifth meet in their last six, 21-8 against No. 12 Oklahoma on Sunday at Jenison Field House. "The task for us is to not be intimidated, to not wrestle reputation or national ranking and to just go out and wrestle as hard as we can every guy," Minkel said. "It's taken a long way to get here, but today was the first time we had

an all-out performance from every guy... It's hard to do sometimes when you're wrestling a guy who is nationally ranked and maybe technically better than you, more experienced and more powerful. But I tell the guys to go out there and not be afraid and just let it happen, and take some risks

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KATIE RAUSCH/THE STATE NEWS

Nick Palmieri manages to elude Oklahoma's No. 19 ranked Pat Flynn during their match Sunday afternoon at Jenison Field House. Palmieri pulled off an upset, beating Flynn 9-6. The Spartans didn't fare as well overall, losing 21-8.