

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Women's tennis senior Stephanie Kebler went 4-0 in two matches against Bowling Green and Cleveland State on Saturday. The No. 70 Spartans picked up two 7-0 wins on the day.

RESULTS

Sunday

Men's basketball 61, Wisconsin 50
Women's basketball 51, Wisconsin 54
Baseball 2, Minnesota 7
Softball 5, Florida Gulf State 6

Saturday

Baseball 4, Seton Hall 8
Softball 1, Fairfield 5
Softball 0, DePaul 8
Women's tennis 7, Bowling Green 0
Men's tennis 5, Ball State 2
Women's tennis 7, Cleveland State 0
Hockey 0, Bowling Green 4

Friday

Baseball 4, Connecticut 2
Softball 10, Bethune-Cookman 2
Softball 2, DePaul 7
Gymnastics 194.900, Pittsburgh 194.600
Hockey 3, Bowling Green 2

THIS WEEK

Friday

Baseball at UNC-Wilmington, 4 p.m.
Women's tennis at Western Michigan, 6 p.m.
Gymnastics at Missouri, 6:30 p.m.
Hockey at Notre Dame, 7:05 p.m.

Men's swimming and diving at Purdue, All day

Saturday
Baseball at UNC-Wilmington, 1 p.m.
Baseball at UNC-Wilmington, 5 p.m.
Softball at Samford, 11 a.m.
Softball at Samford, 3 p.m.

Men's track at Penn State, 9 a.m.

Women's track at Indiana, 9 a.m.

Men's tennis vs. Illinois State, 10 a.m.

Men's tennis vs. IUPUI, 4 p.m.

Hockey vs. Notre Dame, 5:05 p.m.

Men's swimming and diving at Indiana, All day

Sunday
Men's basketball at Illinois, 4 p.m.

Women's basketball vs. Purdue, noon

Baseball at UNC-Wilmington, 10 a.m.

Softball at UAB, 11 a.m.

Softball at UAB, 1:30 p.m.

Women's tennis vs. Marshall, 11 a.m.

HOCKEY

Bowling Green snapped MSU's five-game unbeaten streak, page 3B

SPORTS

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BASKETBALL

MSU outscored Wisconsin by 23 points during a 32-9 run in the final 12:31 of Sunday's game. MSU turned a 41-29 deficit into a 61-50 win. For more, see page 1A.

Monday

SLIDING INTO SECOND



SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Wisconsin guard Jade Davis stretches to battle freshman guard Porsché Pool for possession of a loose ball Sunday at the Kohl Center in Madison, Wis. The Spartans lost Sunday's effort in the final moments of the game 54-51, despite Peole's nine points.

Spartans fall from 1st place tie in Big Ten with tough road loss to struggling Badgers

By Joseph Terry
THE STATE NEWS

Madison, Wis. — The MSU women's basketball team took a hit to its Big Ten championship chances Sunday, losing 54-51 at Wisconsin. That, combined with Ohio State's win against Indiana on Sunday, put the Spartans one game back with two to go.

"I definitely felt like we played on our heels, we played intimidated," MSU head coach Suzy Merchant said. "Give Wisconsin a lot of credit, especially on the defensive end. I thought they were more aggressive. ... I definitely feel they came out of the gates, and we knew that they would. We just didn't respond too well."

Kohl Center was packed, as a season-high 14,657 filled the arena to watch the Badgers, who had lost 7-of-8 games coming in, face the Spartans.

MSU fell down early 10-2, as Wisconsin (16-12 overall, 6-11 Big Ten) came out feisty, looking to gain some momen-

See W-HOOPS on page 2B



SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Sophomore forward Kalisha Keane fades back to evade Wisconsin defenders Jade Davis and Liz Zastrow in Sunday's losing effort at Kohl Center in Madison, Wis.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Suton comes up big in second half

By Alex Altman
THE STATE NEWS

To characterize Goran Suton's performance Sunday as a tale of two halves would be a colossal understatement.

In the first half, the senior center scored just two points and drew the ire of MSU head coach Tom Izzo for camping out on the perimeter and settling for outside shots.

During the second half, he scored 14 points to lead his team back from a 12-point deficit and help it defeat Wisconsin 61-50.

"Coach told (Suton) at half-time he's got to be more aggressive, he wasn't playing that aggressive in the first half," sophomore guard Kalin Lucas said. "In the second half he came out playing very aggressively and he played harder and it showed."

Suton's performance in the second half was borderline heroic. He rescued

several MSU possessions with offensive rebounds, made a pair of three-point plays and hit big shots to get MSU over the hump.

His layup with 5:13 left tied the game at 45 and his free throws a minute later gave MSU its first lead since 2-0. Suton finished the game with 16 points and a game-high 10 rebounds. Four of his rebounds came on the offensive glass.

Despite his second half renaissance, Izzo said he still wasn't thrilled with Suton.

"As happy as I am for him, don't think G's off the hook," Izzo said. "He's got skills and the ability to do a lot of things, and somehow I'm gonna get that out of him."

Herzog starts

After Tuesday's loss to Purdue, Izzo crossed paths with sophomore center Tom Herzog in the hallway. Immediately, Izzo real-



ANGELI WRIGHT/THE STATE NEWS

Senior center Goran Suton starts to shoot the ball while Wisconsin forward Marcus Landry attempts to block him during Sunday's game at Breslin Center. Suton was the second leading scorer on the team with 16 points. The Spartans defeated the Badgers 61-50.

ized he had made a mistake. Despite clearing nearly his entire bench during the blowout loss, he had

forgotten to summon his 7-footer into the game.

See M-HOOPS on page 2B

ATHLETICS

Van Pelt honored Sunday

By Joey Nowak
THE STATE NEWS

Owosso — More than 40 middle-aged men gathered near a podium Sunday afternoon, all sharing one common bond: The men, typically known outside this setting for their achievements in helmets and shoulder pads, were dressed in suits and ties.

The former teammates of late MSU athletic icon Brad Van Pelt were a few dozen in a group of hundreds who gathered at Owosso High School on Sunday to pay tribute to the Spartan and New York Giant who died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack in Owosso. He was 57.

"I want all of you to know that while this is a sad and solemn time, it's also a time to celebrate the life of Brad Van Pelt," said Harry Carson, a member of the College and Pro Football halls of fame and a former Giants teammate of Van Pelt.

"You look at titles — All-State, All-Pro, Pro-Bowler, No. 10 — but all these guys standing here are part of his extended family. We're all part of a fraternity of men who played together. It's not so much about the tackles, interceptions or touchdowns. It's about the relationships, and that's what I value."

Carson closed by paying tribute to the family that so many friends and family said Van Pelt loved and cared for dearly.

"Mom," he said to Van Pelt's mother, Betty. "I want to tell you — I want to tell you a really good son."

Former teammates of the three-sport letter winner gathered in the school's gymnasium where Van Pelt allegedly once pulled down 42 rebounds and began his illustrious career that would ultimately land him a pro football contract and in the College Football Hall of Fame.

Referred to as a modern-day Jim Thorpe, Van Pelt was a three-year starter on the MSU football team, played two seasons for Gus Ganas on the MSU basketball team and had a 3-career record with a 2.10 ERA in 64.1 career innings in two seasons with the MSU baseball team.

A member of the 1971 Big Ten Championship baseball team, Van Pelt was a second-team All-Big Ten selection in 1972 after striking out 40 batters and becoming the first defensive back to ever receive

See VAN PELT on page 2B