

SPORTS EVENTS

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Delvon Roe
freshman forward
men's basketball

Roe scored in double digits against both Iowa and Illinois, helping the Spartans clinch at least a share of the Big Ten title.

SOFTBALL

The MSU softball team won two games Saturday in the Magic City Classic in Birmingham, Ala., before the remainder of the tournament was canceled due to inclement weather. The team beat Northern Illinois during its first game 10-2. It defeated Samford during the late afternoon 13-6. Unusual snowfall in Alabama caused the Sunday games against Pittsburgh and Alabama-Birmingham to be canceled and will not be rescheduled. The MSU softball team is 6-6 overall this season.

RESULTS

Sunday
Men's basketball 74, Illinois 66
Women's basketball 57, Purdue 55
Women's tennis 3, Marshall 4

Saturday

Baseball 8, UNC-Wilmington 9
Softball 20, Northern Illinois 2
Softball 13, Samford 6
Women's tennis 6, Illinois State 1
Men's tennis 7, Indiana-Purdue Indianapolis 0
Hockey 1, Notre Dame 2

Friday

Baseball 2, UNC-Wilmington 7
Baseball 3, UNC-Wilmington 4
Women's tennis 3, Western Michigan 4

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

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

Friday

Baseball vs. Georgia State at Daytona Beach, Fla., 3 p.m.
Gymnastics vs. Auburn, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Baseball vs. Xavier at Daytona Beach, 11 a.m.
Baseball at Bethune-Cookman, 7 p.m.
Softball vs. Princeton at Chapel Hill, N.C., 12:30 p.m.
Softball at North Carolina, 5:30 p.m.
Women's tennis vs. Northwestern, noon

Sunday

Men's basketball vs. Purdue, noon
Baseball at Bethune-Cookman, noon
Softball vs. Georgetown at Chapel Hill, 1:30 p.m.
Softball vs. Elon at Chapel Hill, 4 p.m.
Gymnastics vs. California and Ball State, 2 p.m.

HOCKEY

Jeff Lerg sets CCHA all-time saves record, but Spartans swept, page 6B

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BASKETBALL

The MSU men's basketball team has won at least a share of five Big Ten titles. For more men's basketball, see page 1A.

Monday

SPARTANS SHOCK PURDUE



JOSH RADTKE/THE STATE NEWS

Senior guard Mia Johnson and junior center Lauren Aitch embrace while farewell videos are played on the Jumbotron after the team's 57-55 victory Sunday afternoon at Breslin Center.

Aitch scores winning basket with 1 second left

By Joseph Terry
THE STATE NEWS

It was all a giant screwup. With 19 seconds on the clock in a 55-55 basketball game against Purdue, MSU senior guard Mia Johnson brought the ball up the court to run the final play for the Spartans.

Called "Stacie," the play was supposed to have Johnson pass the ball to a flashing Lykendra

Johnson who would find junior center Alyssa DeHaan in the post for an open layup. Instead, junior center Lauren Aitch flashed, freshman forward Lykendra Johnson flared and DeHaan was double covered.

When Lykendra Johnson got the ball, she noticed the double team and passed the ball to Aitch, who was left wide open and fired a high-arcing shot. The ball went straight through the net, giving MSU a 57-55 victory and locking the team into the No. 2 seed

in the Big Ten Tournament. "That's a shot I've practiced for a long time," Aitch said. "I took it in rhythm, which is a big thing when you're shooting. When you take the shot if you wait for a second, sometimes you miss it. So, I took it and shot it. It felt good too, coming off my hand. Either it was going to be an air ball or it was going to be a miss, from how high it was." The game wasn't always as exciting. It started slow and methodical, as both

teams tried to figure out the opposing defense. MSU got out to an early lead behind the inspired play of DeHaan. She opened the scoring with a turnaround jumper in the paint, then called for a pass in transition and hit another turnaround to give MSU a 4-0 lead. The game quickly came back to even as Purdue forward Lindsay Wisdom-Hyl-

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Johnson leads Spartans to victory on Senior Day

By Joey Nowak
THE STATE NEWS

Senior guard Mia Johnson is a self-proclaimed feisty Spartan warrior — a "go-getter." But the one thing the senior guard won't do is cry. Except on Senior Day. Johnson led the Spartans with 36 minutes in Sunday's 57-55 win against Purdue and was responsible for tackling her teammate, redshirt junior center Lauren Aitch, at mid-court after the game-winning shot dropped. With family and friends in attendance — including her brother, who paid for a plane ticket and flew from Minneapolis to surprise her — Johnson couldn't help but becoming emotional after the team's final regular season game.

"Normally I don't cry unless I'm hurt," she said. "But I've been here four years and been through a lot. I've seen a lot these girls grow up. It's been remarkable to see it all and go through it all as a leader." The team's floor leader, Johnson finished with seven points, three rebounds and a team-high six assists. Handling the ball nearly the entire game, Johnson finished with only two of MSU's 20 turnovers. MSU head coach Sary Merchant went to Johnson in the must-win game with hopes of the veteran leader remaining poised and finishing the team's regular season on a high note. "We needed people out there



JOSH RADTKE/THE STATE NEWS

Senior guard Mia Johnson pushes the ball past Purdue's Lakisha Freeman on Sunday. Johnson scored seven points.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Morgan getting healthy at right time for MSU

By Alex Altman
THE STATE NEWS

Champaign, Ill. — Junior forward Raymar Morgan's health is still a concern, but his play on Sunday was a sign that it might not be for much longer. Morgan played his best game in nearly six weeks against Illinois, scoring 14 points and adding six rebounds off the bench to help the Spartans defeat Illinois 74-66 at Assembly Hall. Since the first meeting of the season between the schools on Jan. 17, Morgan has been battling walking pneumonia and a mild form of mononucleosis. The illness kept him out of three games and hampered him for several others. But Morgan's stamina is finally improving and consequently, so is his production. "My mind is starting to come back, and I'm starting to feel healthy," Morgan said. "It's been a while since I've felt this good."

Although it wasn't indicative of his play, MSU head coach Tom Izzo said Morgan, who played 22 minutes, was fatigued for much of the game. During the last few games, Izzo was only able to use Morgan in two-or three-minute intervals because he didn't have the stamina to stay at peak condition for longer stretches. But on Sunday, Izzo left Morgan on the court for longer stints and told him he would simply have to deal with his exhaustion. "Ray was punting a few times and during timeouts I said, 'Forget it, you're playing,'" Izzo said. "And my mind credit because he did suck it up a few times."

Back in form

Amid a sea of radiant orange uniforms, MSU sophomore guard Kalin Lucas was the brightest person in the building Sunday. Despite a thumb injury that he said has affected his shooting stroke, Lucas finished with a game-high 18 points and four assists for the Spartans. "It still hurts a little bit," Lucas said about his thumb. "But one thing I had to do was come out there tonight and grind." Lucas' big game came on the heels of his worst-scoring game of the season, when he scored just four points against Iowa. Early in the first half, he looked like he was destined for another low-scoring night. He struggled from the perimeter and even threw an air ball, a moderately easy floater. But with a renewed focus of making plays off the dribble, he played much better down the stretch of the first half and even better in the second. "Coach told me to attack, to try to draw fouls, and I listened to him," said Lucas, who finished 7-of-14 from the field. "He's a great coach and he knows what he's talking about." After the game, those feelings of respect between Lucas and Izzo proved to be reciprocal. "I thought today he showed

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