

the game

**Men's basketball
vs. Purdue**

Tipoff at noon Sunday

Follow the gameTV CBS
Radio WJIM (1270-AM)
and WMMQ (94.9-FM)**In the paint**

The Senior Day ceremony for MSU's four seniors will begin at about 11:40 a.m. Fans are encouraged to wear white on Sunday for the annual "whitout."

Players to watch

Seniors forward Marquise Gray, center Idong Ibok, center Goran Suton and guard Travis Walton will play their final home game at Breslin Center.

WHO'S G?



NICK DENTAMARO/THE STATE NEWS

Senior center Goran Suton waits with his team before getting into a pregame huddle at Mackey Arena in West Lafayette, Ind.

As his MSU career nears an end, Suton hopes he's a player whose best memories are yet to come

By Cash Kruth
THE STATE NEWS**A foreigner**

Goran Suton had no idea what to expect when he first came to MSU in the summer of 2004. Although the now-senior center on the MSU men's basketball team had attended Lansing Everett during the previous four years, the native of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina admitted he is still learning his way around the American lifestyle, let alone the college life. "I didn't know what to expect coming in," Suton said. "I was a foreign kid and I didn't know a lot about college basketball, really. But it's been great. It's been up and down and at the bottom of the sea and I've had my struggles and my doubts with (MSU head coach Tom Izzo), but I think he made me mentally tougher and it's helped out."

A basketball player

Suton came to East Lansing as an out-of-shape big man who needed to improve his skills and conditioning to become an impact player. When he and fellow seniors Marquise Gray, Idong Ibok and Travis Walton play their final home game at Breslin Center at noon Sunday against Purdue, Suton will leave as exactly that.

"He's improved his shooting, he's improved his strength — he's always been a good passer and now he's a real good passer," Izzo said. "He's improved in a lot of areas." This season, Suton — who is called "G" by coaches and teammates — is averaging 9.8 points and 7.7 rebounds a game, while also leading the Big Ten in rebounding in conference games. With solid, fundamen-

tal post moves and a smooth 3-point shot, Suton has become one of the key players for the No. 8 Spartans, who are 24-5 overall and Big Ten Champions with a 14-3 conference record.

The team suffered two of its worst losses of the season — an 18-point loss to Maryland and a 35-point blow-out to North Carolina — when Suton missed six games due to a knee injury in November and December.

A "pretty boy"

Suton's "pretty boy" status is only one of the many stories of the senior center floating around the MSU locker room.

"G tends to be the pretty boy and everyone knows it," Ibok said. "He

See SUTON on page 2B



JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

Senior center Goran Suton fights for the rebound against Ohio State forward Dallas Lauderdale, center, and guard Evan Turner in the second half at Value City Arena in Columbus, Ohio in January.

"There are so many good times that you share with your teammates, your brothers, that are sometimes not even part of basketball. Just being a part of this family has been incredible."

Goran Suton, senior center

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