

### Clutch 3-pointer by MSU's Johnson advances Spartans to second-round matchup against former head coach

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Sophomore forward Cetera Washington, left, and senior guard Mia Johnson talk between plays during the Spartans' first-round tournament win against Middle Tennessee State.

# The State News

## COUNSELING Community copes with grief after MSU-related deaths

By Britanny Shammus  
THE STATE NEWS

For friends of Josh Parks, a kinesiology sophomore who died Wednesday, coming together to share memories has been one of the most effective ways to deal with grief, friend Linda Verema said.

"I think it helps that you're not alone," said Venema, a social work sophomore.

With three MSU-related deaths last week and at least seven deaths this semester, students might be left wondering how to cope with the sadness that accompanies the loss of a friend, colleague or professor.

People often struggle to express grief—to admit they're still hurting, to bring it up to friends—because of a fear of making others uncomfortable, said Scott Becker, associate director at the MSU Counseling Center.

"The modern idea is that you have a funeral one day and then go back to work the next day, cry for a couple days and then feel better," he said. "But it's normal for grief to take months or even longer."

And students should not feel they need to move on or put the past behind them, he said, as the goal should be not to let go of the person, but to keep them close.

"If you cared about the person, why would you let go and move on?" Becker said.

For Venema, Parks remains a part of her life in the pictures she has hung in her room, a cell phone banner that reads, "I love you Josh Parks," and in memories, such as the time they camped for the Notre Dame football game.

"The cliché is the stages of grieving: denial, anger ... and then eventually accepting it," said Gary Stollak, MSU psychology professor emeritus.

"The process is really one in which we remember this person. Hopefully we have a memory with that person—a laugh shared, or just the way they

**MSU-related deaths**

**Jan. 28**  
**Don Ausman**, a 22-year-old interdisciplinary studies in social science and international studies senior, is found dead by police in his Spartan Village apartment.

**Feb. 6**  
**Kevin Boskey**, a 21-year-old finance senior, is found dead at his home on Woodmere Avenue.

**Feb. 15**  
**Tao Li**, a 44-year-old visiting scholar from China, is struck by a vehicle and killed while crossing Mount Hope Road, walking north along Harrison Avenue.

**Feb. 24**  
**Jeremy Watson**, a 21-year-old interdisciplinary studies in social science and health services junior, dies after losing control and driving off the Cedar Street bridge in Lansing.

**March 13**  
**Shane Collins**, a 20-year-old accounting student, dies after falling eight stories from a hotel balcony while on vacation with friends in Miami Beach, Fla.

**March 14**  
**Tom Luster**, a 55-year-old MSU family and child ecology professor, dies of a heart ailment while in Chicago.

**March 18**  
**Josh Parks**, a 20-year-old kinesiology sophomore, dies after his vehicle veered off the road and collided with a tree on Bennett Road near the College Road Intersection.

(SOURCE: STATE NEWS ARCHIVES)

laughed. We have a duty and a responsibility to remember and share."

"This grieving process is an important part of life, not some

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## SWEET RELIEF



Sophomore guard Kalin Lucas hugs head coach Tom Izzo after MSU defeated Southern Cal 74-69 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament Sunday at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. With the win, the Spartans advanced to the Sweet 16. JASON CHOU/THE STATE NEWS

## Walton scores career-high 18 to lead Spartans

By Cash Kruth  
THE STATE NEWS

**M**inneapolis — By no one's surprise, Travis Walton once again played a key role in a MSU men's basketball team victory. Only this time it wasn't by his stingy, lockdown defense.

Walton brought his offensive repertoire, complete with his jump shot, to the Metrodome on Sunday, as the senior guard scored a career-high 18 points in the Spartans' 74-69 win over USC. MSU advanced to the Sweet 16 for the eighth time in 12 years.

"We always talk about a scouting report for another team can be hard because you have to prepare for (sophomore guard) Chris Allen, (sophomore guard) Kalin Lucas, (junior forward) Raymar Morgan, (sophomore guard) Durrell Summers; go on and on," Walton said.

"I practiced my shot, and Kalin put the ball in my hands

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## Freshmen Green, Roe step up in pivotal stretch

By Alex Altman  
THE STATE NEWS

**W**ith nine minutes left and the season hanging in the balance, the MSU men's basketball could have run its offense through a number of players. There was sophomore guard Kalin Lucas, the Big Ten Player of the Year who has been MSU's Mr. Clutch throughout the season.

There was junior forward Raymar Morgan, who despite his struggles on Sunday, is MSU's most versatile offensive weapon.

There even was senior guard Travis Walton, who sometimes in the last 48 hours had channeled the shooting stroke of Morris Peterson circa 2000.

Instead, MSU ran its offense through freshmen forwards Delvon Roe and Draymond Green. As has been the case for much of the season, the duo didn't disappoint.

Roe and Green combined to score eight straight points for the

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CHAMPIONSHIP

## Gomez wrestles to MSU's 1st NCAA title in 14 years

**MSU junior Franklin Gomez celebrates his victory over Ohio State's Reece Humphrey in a championship bout in the 133-pound weight class at the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships Saturday in St. Louis.**



By Joseph Terry  
THE STATE NEWS

After falling short as a favorite in the NCAA Championships just a year ago, junior wrestler Franklin Gomez vowed to learn from his mistakes this season.

Gomez did just that, taking charge in the finals and winning the national championship in the 133-pound weight class with a 4-4 win over Ohio State's Reece Humphrey on Saturday at Scottrade Center in St. Louis.

"I'm so blessed. That's pretty much the best way to describe it," Gomez said, still speechless from winning the match just an hour earlier.

"It's like a learning experience. It was hard to win last year, and as I'm sure you know, you learn from your mistakes and you better yourself. Now this year, winning, it feels good man. I believe that God has a purpose for everyone, and on his time, if it's on God's time, I was

going to be the champion."

The two-time All-American Gomez entered the season ranked No. 3 at 133 pounds before fighting his way back to a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Championships, a spot he earned last season.

Gomez faced off against Humphrey, the No. 2 seed, who he defeated earlier this month in a tiebreaker during the Big Ten Tournament on the way to winning a top ranking.

The match started off in a deadlock, as Gomez tried to push the tempo halfway through the first set. Gomez got the leg of Humphrey but was unable to score a takedown before the two were separated. The first set ended scoreless.

Gomez scored the first points of the match on an escape in the second set, followed by an explosive takedown in which he lifted Humphrey into the air before dropping him to the mat.

Humphrey got on the scoreboard with an escape late in the

second and another early in the third, closing the match to 3-2.

Gomez sealed the win with a takedown with 45 seconds remaining in the match, taking Humphrey's back and slamming the Buckeye to the ground.

Humphrey scored a reversal in the closing seconds to bring the match to 5-4 but was unable to overcome the deficit.

"Humphrey has got a couple of really good attacks, so we had to stay low, and (Humphrey) is left handed so we had to check our left side," MSU head coach Tom Minkel said. "Franklin wanted to make sure that he wasn't just defensive, we needed to attack and stay on the offense ourselves. ... Franklin did a great job of really managing the match and staying with his game

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SPRING BREAK

For an interactive graphic showing how students spent their spring break, visit [stateneews.com/multimedia](http://stateneews.com/multimedia)

RUNWAY DAY

MSU's Project Runway featured some of the best work of future fashion designers on campus, page 3A

Weather  
Mostly sunny  
High 48° | Low 31°  
Three-day forecast, Page 2A