

# The State News

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Four win and ensuing celebration  
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## SHOOTING FOR THREE

Win over No. 1 UNC would be Spartan's third top-seeded victim, earn MSU a third NCAA title

By Cash Kruth  
THE STATE NEWS

**D**etroit — Tom Izzo is a realist. The MSU men's basketball head coach knows that if both MSU and North Carolina play "good" in tonight's NCAA national championship game, then the trophy is going to the Tar Heels. "That's the way I look at it," Izzo said at his press conference on Sunday at Ford Field. "I mean, I don't look at that in the negative. They are the best team in the country, and have been that. (They) have earned that rank probably over a year and a half. But we found a way to have some teams not play as good against us.

"We've just got to play good and have them play a little less than good. That's how we hope to beat them."

When the Spartans and Tar Heels tip off at 9:21 p.m. tonight at Ford Field for the national title, a lot of the attention will focus on what happened the last time the two teams played each other.

On Dec. 3, 2008, North Carolina dismantled the Spartans by 35 points in the same venue in front of a national television audience. Although the Spartans were playing their fourth game in seven days, with-out senior center Goran Suton (knee) and with two other players, freshman forward Delvon Roe (knee) and sophomore guard Kalin Lucas (back) suffering injuries, Izzo said Sunday the Spartans still would have lost to North Carolina by 20 points because of how well the Tar Heels were playing.

North Carolina head coach Roy Williams isn't so sure.

"Tommy can sell. Doesn't mean I have to buy," Williams said. "We caught them at an absolute perfect time. ... But the bottom line is, I personally don't think that that game will have much, if anything, to do with the game that we play Monday night."

On Sunday, senior guard Travis Walton said even after the 35-point loss in December, "I wouldn't mind playing Detroit a second time if they had a chance to make it where they will be Monday night."

### Title game

No. 2-seed MSU vs. No. 1-seed North Carolina  
Tipoff: 9:21 p.m.

Television: CBS

Radio: WJIM (240-AM), WMMQ (94.9-FM)

Viewing: On campus — Breslin Center doors open for a watching party at 8:15 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

In Detroit — The Big Dance outdoor party near the Renaissance Center will have food, activities and a live broadcast of the game.

"We believe in ourselves," Walton said. "We knew we had a great team. We got a great coaching staff. We work hard. This was our goal all along. Even though we had some ups and downs, we still believed we were a great team, even though nobody else believed in us."

Finding anyone outside the MSU locker room and fan base who believe the Spartans can pull off the upset will be difficult yet again Monday. Even though MSU has already beaten the defending national champions in Kansas, the No. 1 overall seed in Louisville and another No. 1 seed in UConn, it seems the Spartans have been perpetual underdogs since the early rounds of the tournament.

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North Carolina forward Deon Thompson blocks freshman forward Delvon Roe's layup attempt on Dec. 3, 2008, at Ford Field in Detroit. UNC kept a then-inexperienced and injury-hampered Roe in check, and the Tar Heels beat the Spartans 98-63.

Spartans surprise all  
ALEX ALTMAN

### MSU's ascent unexpected, meaningful



**Detroit** — After watching North Carolina embarrass MSU during the ACC-Big Ten Challenge in Decem-

ber, I left Ford Field absolutely convinced of two things.

1) The Tar Heels would be back here for the national championship game.

2) They wouldn't be playing MSU.

Hey, one-for-two ain't too shabby.

North Carolina's 98-63 victory over MSU was more than just a beatdown — it was a malicious, 40-minute assault that left the Spartans battered and bruised. The Spartans shot 48 percent from the field, committed 22 turnovers and were outbounded 46-40.

Only two players — junior forward Raymar Morgan (21 points) and sophomore guard Chris Allen (16 points) — finished in double figures. Sophomore guard Kalin Lucas mustered just six points on 2-of-10 shooting.

"You didn't see our real team tonight, but our real team might have lost by 20," Izzo said after the game.

"They're definitely one of the best teams I've seen in my 25 years at Michigan State."

When the game ended, I was convinced North Carolina won't return the table next year to the national championship.

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### MOTOWN

## MSU fans flock to Detroit to cheer on Spartans

By Joey Nowak  
THE STATE NEWS

As a Final Four record crowd filled Ford Field on Saturday, thousands more filled the streets, restaurants and viewing sites for the MSU-Connecticut national semifinal game giving Detroit a succinct state of green.

Although the crowd of 72,456 at Ford Field set a Final Four record for attendance, many of the thousands of fans who filled the local venues were without tickets. As nearby establishments such as Hockeystown Cafe and Cheli's Chili Bar provided a place to watch the game and socialize, doing so came with sacrifice — standing in line for upwards of an hour and a half to get in. And — as one fan remarked — the lines were "worse than Cedar Point."

"There's enough people-watching to do to make it keep us busy," said Jared Powers, a 30-year-old former Lansing Community College student who had been standing in line for Cheli's for 40 minutes. "I wouldn't mind coming, really. It was more of a spur-of-the-moment thing — once in a lifetime. This ain't gonna happen again. I figured it'd be more fun to be outside tonight for the game, being in Detroit."



Christy Johnson and interdisciplinary studies in social science senior Ryan Key cheer while watching the MSU-Connecticut game on Saturday at an outdoor viewing event in downtown Detroit.

Lines at Cheli's — the designated MSU bar — and other restaurants wrapped around blocks, tailgaters filled parking lots and street vendors pawned T-shirts, pennants, lanyards and tickets.

"Next time, they need a bigger bar than Cheli's," said Christina Zigulis, a 2009 MSU graduate and Westland, Mich. resident. "It's standing room only. It looks like the whole city's been taken over by Spartans."

Zigulis, standing in line with

friends, said the atmosphere in Detroit was electric, but nothing compared to being an MSU student at the time of a Final Four, as she was when the Spartans won the title in 2000.

"You still have the love here in Detroit," she said, "but when you're in East Lansing, it's different."

At The Big Dance outdoor See DETROIT on page 2A

### CEDAR VILLAGE

## Police: Crowd celebrated 'peacefully'

By Kyle Feldscher  
THE STATE NEWS

Despite an increase in arrests from last year's Cedar Fest riot, police said they are happy with the "peaceful" celebration that lasted until early Sunday morning in East Lansing following MSU's Final Four victory Saturday night.

East Lansing police Lt. Kevin Daley said police never considered declaring the gathering of about 2,000 people on Cedar Street an unlawful assembly due to the celebratory mood of the crowd. Police made 60 arrests during the night, but no felonies were committed.

"I'm pleased the kids had a very good time and they celebrated the Spartan win with very few issues," Daley said.

Daley said police used Saturday night and Sunday morning as a "dry run" for an anticipated gathering after Monday's national championship game.

The crowd that gathered in East Lansing after the Spartans claimed the national championship in 2000 was "humongous, but happy," East Lansing police Chief Tom Wibert said.

Revelers filled the streets Saturday in the Cedar Village area and downtown East Lansing shortly

after MSU defeated Connecticut 82-73. Police blocked off Cedar Street by 8:37 p.m., and cries of "Go Green, Go White!", "M-S-U," and "I Can who?" filled the air until police dispersed the crowd shortly before 2 a.m.

Wibert said the crowd peaked at about 2,000 people at 10 p.m. He said the final number of arrests is a citywide tally which, along with the longer time that streets were blocked, accounted for the increase in arrests compared to Cedar Fest in April 2008, when 52 were arrested.

"The people trying to do harm were doing harmful things to the crowd, punching people and throwing cans and bottles," Wibert said. "The majority of people saw who we arrested and understood why we were doing it and, I think, were happy to get those people out."

Wibert said police have not compiled an estimate of how much damage was caused by the celebration, but said he observed a minimal amount. The East Lansing Department of Public Works cleaned the areas where the crowd gathered shortly after the crowd dispersed.

Robert Frisk, a biochemistry and molecular biology and

See POLICE on page 2A

### Celebration time line

**8:35 p.m.:** Revelers begin rushing from Cedar Village area apartment buildings onto Cedar Street near Waters Edge Drive.

**8:46 p.m.:** Police leave positions around buildings and disappear from the crowd.

**8:54 p.m.:** Police return in helmets and assemble near buildings surrounding Cedar Street.

**9:28 p.m.:** First cans are lobbed from the crowd.

**9:33 p.m.:** ACLU observers arrive.

**10 p.m.:** The crowd reaches its peak size, about 2,000 people.

**11:16 p.m.:** A man in a green Teletubby costume begins crowd surfing.

**12:43 a.m.:** Firecrackers are lit in center of crowd. No one is injured.

**2 a.m.:** About 230 policemen enter the crowd and peacefully disperse the remaining 1,000 celebrants.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORTS