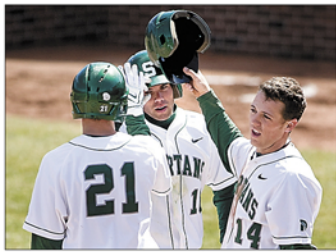


MSU baseball goes back on the road this week, where they've had little success this season

SPORTS, PAGE 5A



JASON CHIOU/THE STATE NEWS

Junior infielder Chris Roberts (21) and sophomore outfielder Brandon Eckerle (14) congratulate junior outfielder Eli Boike after Boike hit a home run against Northwestern on Saturday at McLane Baseball Stadium.

The State News

CHEERS, NO TEARS

Tear gas, 'Riot' declarations absent from Final Four celebrations; police point to shift in strategy since '05



STATE NEWS PHOTO

Fans congregate after the MSU men's basketball victory over the Connecticut on Saturday night at the intersection of Cedar Street and Waters Edge Drive. Police arrested about 80 revelers following MSU basketball games Saturday and Monday.

By Kyle Feldscher
THE STATE NEWS
C-2

The arrival of spring and deep NCAA Tournament runs by the MSU men's basketball team used to be signs of impending disturbances in East Lansing. However, police and university officials are hoping two celebrations within the last week they deemed as "peaceful" might signal progress in their efforts to improve a reputation tarnished by riots in years past.

Despite a total of about 80 arrests following MSU basketball games Saturday and Monday, area police said they are satisfied with the behavior of most revelers who took to the streets to celebrate the team's Final Four win over Connecticut and championship game loss to North Carolina. Minimal damage occurred around East Lansing, police said, despite 12 fire-related incidents reported immediately after Monday's game.

Loud and proud

In the first few minutes after MSU's win over Connecticut on Saturday, hundreds of fans sprinted from the Cedar Village apartments to the corner of Cedar Street and Waters Edge Drive. The crowd peaked at



STATE NEWS FILE PHOTO

A man is arrested in downtown East Lansing by police in April 2005 after MSU's loss to North Carolina in the Final Four.

Let's do that again

ALEX ALTMAN

Spartans have talent for 2010 Final Four run



The MSU men's basketball team fell one game short of the mountaintop Monday, losing to North Carolina 89-72

in the National Championship at Ford Field.

But don't despair, Spartans fans, because MSU will be back on college basketball's biggest stage next season. With a talented nucleus of players set to return, MSU should enter the 2009 campaign as a top-five team in the nation and a fool-proof favorite (I'm looking at you, Diggy Phelps) to return to the Final Four.

Assuming sophomore guard Kalin Lucas and junior forward Raymar Morgan stick around, here are four reasons the Spartans will be back in Indianapolis next season for the Final Four:

1. Herzog will stand tall

With seniors Goran Suton, Marquise Gray and Idong Ibok out of eligibility, sophomore center Tom Herzog will emerge as a quality big man for the Spartans.

It's unlikely Herzog will fill Suton's vacancy in the starting lineup, but he will develop into a quality reserve that can give the Spartans at least 15 minutes per game.

Herzog's biggest impact will come on the defensive end, where as a true 7-footer with extremely long arms, he possesses the physical attributes to be an elite shot blocker and shot changer. As he continues to add muscle to his wiry frame, his abilities and confidence should only improve.

2. Freshman forwards Draymond Green and Delvon Roe each will develop jumpers

Throughout the season, Green and Roe established themselves as budding stars in the paint, but neither showcased much of

See COLUMN on page 2A

See CROWD CONTROL on page 2A

COUNCIL

City attempts to reach deal with property owners for project

By Jeff Kanan

THE STATE NEWS
C-4

After tabling a scheduled vote on whether to use public right-of-way to acquire a property for its Avondale Square project, East Lansing City Council members will have to wait to complete construction of the project's west alley.

The city had been in discussions to buy property from the landowner at 607 Virginia Ave., but discussions ceased after no solutions were reached.

"The city's trying to buy, but (the property owner) doesn't want to sell," Mayor Vic Loomis

said. The owner of the property declined comment.

Community development analyst Tim Schmitt said aside from the property at 607 Virginia Ave., the city has acquired all but two of the other properties located in the area of the project along Virginia Avenue.

The block previously was inhabited by many student renters. The city is in discussion with the owner who maintains the two remaining properties.

The Avondale Square project will consist of 30 new homes when construction is complete. Four homes have been constructed to date.

Online video...

Watch an interview with E.L. Mayor Vic Loomis

The city has been in discussions with property owners in the area on a loose basis since 2006, Schmitt said.

The property owner at 637 Virginia Ave., which the city previously attempted to acquire for the project, will remain in his house, Schmitt said.

The second phase of construction, which involves the creation of single-family homes, is expected to begin this summer, Schmitt said.

Rental licenses

In other business, the council deferred until Oct. 20 an ordinance that would make it easier for homeowners to rent out their homes while the property is for sale, following the housing commission's recommendation.

The council has discussed the ordinance at past meetings, and questions arose about whether the ordinance was worthwhile.

"There's a question as to whether it's needed or not based upon the housing market in our city," Loomis said.

"And once you get past that question, there's the

question of what should be done."

The fact that the housing market has improved in the past six months also has made the ordinance less appealing, said Joanne Russell, president of the Red Cedar Community Association.

The group sent a letter to the council several weeks ago opposing the ordinance.

"We had eight or nine homes for sale in an area at one time, but within the past six months, the market's just about taken care of them," Russell said.

BIDDER COLD

A state department auctioned off items Tuesday from Flats Grille, which closed in February due to \$8,800 in unpaid taxes, page 3A

Weather

Sunny
High 52° | Low 30°
Three-day forecast, Page 2A