

SPORTS EVENTS

HOCKEY

MSU senior goaltender Jeff Lerg was awarded the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award on Thursday night in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the NCAA Men's Frozen Four.

Coaches, media and fans vote on the award, which is issued annually to college hockey's outstanding NCAA Division I senior student-athlete for displaying merit in athletics, academics and civic excellence.

A finance major, Lerg has posted a 3.75 grade-point average and was named CCHA's Scholar Athlete of the Year at the end of this season. Lerg is second all-time nationally in saves (3,996) and led the country in saves during his senior year (1,050).

RESULTS

Friday

Baseball 1, Ohio State 6

Saturday

Baseball 3, Ohio State 5

Softball 1, Indiana 3

Women's crew 39, Wisconsin 30

Women's crew 44, Iowa 25

Men's tennis 2, Purdue 5

Sunday

Baseball 1, Ohio State, 6

Softball 2, Indiana 5

Women's tennis 3, Purdue 4

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

Softball vs. Bowling Green, 4 p.m.

Wednesday

Baseball vs. Western Michigan, 3:05 p.m.

Softball vs. Central Michigan, 4 p.m.

Thursday

Baseball vs. Lansing Lugnuts, 7:05 p.m.

Friday

Baseball vs. Michigan, 3:05 p.m.

Saturday

Baseball at Michigan, 1 p.m.

Softball at Iowa, 3 p.m.

Women's tennis at Illinois, 11 a.m.

Men's tennis vs. Indiana, noon

Men's golf at Purdue, all day

Women's golf at Ohio State, all day

Sunday

Baseball vs. Michigan, 1:05 p.m.

Softball at Iowa, 3 p.m.

Women's tennis at Indiana, 11 a.m.

Men's tennis vs. Illinois, noon

Men's golf at Purdue, all day

Women's golf at Ohio State, all day

MORE ONLINE ...

For softball and women's tennis photo galleries, visit statenews.com

SPORTS

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GOLF

MSU junior Jack Newman finished in a tie for 65th place at the Masters this weekend. He finished at four-over par.

Monday

LETTING IT GET AWAY

Spartans have no-hitter through nearly 5 innings but can't close game in 5-2 loss



GABRIELLE MOORE/THE STATE NEWS

Freshman pitcher Lauren Kramer ducks away from a pitch at the MSU vs. Indiana softball game on Sunday. MSU lost twice to Indiana during the weekend.



GABRIELLE MOORE/THE STATE NEWS

Catcher Kara Weigle runs out a ground ball at the MSU vs. Indiana softball game on Sunday. MSU lost the game 5-2 to remain winless in the Big Ten.

By Joseph Terry
THE STATE NEWS

The MSU softball team nearly captured its first Big Ten victory Sunday but lost control in the last few innings, losing to Indiana 5-2 in extra innings, its seventh-straight loss. The Spartans were bolstered early by strong pitching by senior Megan Hair. Hair was nearly flawless through the first four innings, not giving up a hit and allowing only three Hoosiers to reach base.

MSU got on the board in the bottom of the fourth inning. Freshman catcher Brett Williams roped a line drive to left field with the bases loaded, scoring two runs and giving the Spartans their first lead of the Big Ten season 2-0.

The Spartans got two easy outs in the top of the fifth inning, but then started to implode as the Ho-

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BASKETBALL

IOWA STATE LOSS STILL TROUBLES MSU COACH

By Alex Altman
THE STATE NEWS

About 10 minutes after her team's season-ending loss to Iowa State, MSU women's basketball head coach Suzanne Merchant located a TV backstage at Haas Pavilion.



Merchant

For the first of what would prove to be many times, Merchant relived the anguish of final 87 seconds of the game. Since the March 28 loss, Merchant estimates she's replayed the conclusion of the game at least 500 times. Each time, the loss stings just as much as the time before.

"We feel we should have gotten through that one," Merchant said Thursday during her end-of-season press conference.

"I think that leaves a little bit of a bad taste in your mouth, given we had that game in control." With a spot in the Elite Eight on the line, No. 9-seed MSU led No. 4-seed Iowa State 68-61 with 1:27 left. But the Spartans failed to score and committed two crucial turnovers down the stretch, allowing the Cyclones to mount a big comeback and win 69-68.

Merchant said her team collapsed mentally.

"I saw kids not finish the job. I saw kids very tentative. I saw a little bit of frustration, surprise and shock," Merchant said. "But at the same time, hopefully a little growth."

Rather than despair about the opportunity her team abandoned in Berkeley, Calif., Merchant hopes her team will consider the loss a learning experience and motivation to make another deep tournament run next season.

Given the talent and experience returning next season, overcoming the mental trauma of that loss could

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WOMEN'S TENNIS

Spartans lose in final match, 4-3 to Purdue, on Senior Day

By Alex DiFilippo
THE STATE NEWS

The MSU women's tennis team had a chance to send its seniors out with one final home win.

With Purdue and MSU tied 3-3 overall on Senior Day, the win would be decided at No. 1 singles, where the match went deep into the third set.

MSU's No. 1, senior Stephanie Kebler, lost the first set 6-2 before battling back to win the second set — much to the thanks of her teammates who came over to her court and cheered her on. But Purdue's Michelle Sammons proved to be too

much in the third set and broke Kebler's serve at 6-5 to win the match and give the Boilermakers the overall victory 4-3 on Sunday at the MSU Indoor Tennis Facility.

Although Kebler and fellow senior Ana Milosavljevic both lost their singles matches, freshman Dana Guentert said the senior class, which also includes Marianne Felens, had a big impact on the underclassmen.

"The seniors have shown a lot of leadership and have really helped on and off the court," Guentert said. "They have been incredible and we are going to really miss them next year."

The loss lowers the Spartans to 1-7 in the Big Ten. MSU has lost four of its last five matches.

Despite the loss, MSU head coach Simone Jardim said she was impressed with the way her team competed and forced the match to be decided in the last singles game.

"It came down to some tough matches and it didn't turn out the best it could have," Jardim said.

"But they did well as far as fighting and that's the thing we've been talking about."

The Spartans swept the doubles matches to start

See W-TENNIS on page 4B



SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS

Assistant women's tennis coach Marliuz Adamski talks to senior Stephanie Kebler, left, and sophomore Whitney Wilson between games Sunday at the MSU Indoor Tennis Facility.