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MSU football

CHRIS VANNINI

Tough, hard-fought loss will provide boost



You know when your parents tell you "You got mad, I'm just disappointed?" That phrase fits the MSU football team.

The Spartans blew yet another opportunity to take a huge step forward Saturday night, losing a heart-breaker to No. 7 Iowa in the final play of the game.

It might have not been a step forward, but it wasn't a step back. The Spartans played with passion, fed off of the crowd's energy and came within one play of taking control of the Big Ten. But with Iowa's winning touchdown, the entire complexion of the football season changed.

Had the Spartans won, they would have had a real chance of going to their first Rose Bowl in more than 20 years. Instead, they most likely need to win at least three of their final four games to finish 7-5 and just make a bowl appearance.

There have been two staples of the Mark Dantonio era thus far. First, the Spartans lose big games in heart-breaking fashion. Second, they bounce back from them. The Spartans were able to win their final two games to finish at 7-5 and make a bowl game for the first time since 2003.

In 2008, following a tough loss to California to open the season, the team rattled off six consecutive victories. After a blowout loss in a highly anticipated matchup against Ohio State, the team rebounded to beat Michigan in Ann Arbor for the first time in 18 years.

And this year, following three close losses early in the season, the team responded by winning three straight, including a 28-20 victory against U-M, the Spartans' first win against a top 25 team under Dantonio. Before Saturday's game against Iowa, Dantonio said he tells his players to enjoy the big games

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CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS: PART 1

Beard seeks 2nd council term



East Lansing City Councilman Kevin Beard poses in the office of his East Lansing home, the "headquarters" of his election campaign. Beard has been involved in East Lansing government for more than a decade.

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles profiling the candidates for the two open City Council seats in Nov. 3 election.

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

Kevin Beard is a problem solver. He solved problems for more than 30 years in the human resources department at General Motors and has resolved conflicts in local government for the past four years as a member of the East Lansing City Council. Now, Beard hopes to continue seeking resolutions between the city of East Lansing and its residents.

Early beginnings

Raised in Grand Ledge, Beard has lived in Greater Lansing his entire life. In addition to serving on City Council, he participated in the community as a Boy Scout leader and neighborhood representative, and served on various boards and commissions. Beard, a 1983 graduate of MSU, received his bachelor's degree in English. When Beard moved to the Marble Neighborhood in the 1990s, he became involved in a dispute between permanent residents and a landlord. Beard said although he never intended to be the leader for his neighbors, many looked to him to be a neighborhood representative.

"I kind of got thrust out front," he said. "I think folks relied on me to articulate their concerns and issues. One thing led to another and I was invited to apply for the Planning Commission in 1995 and I served eight years." Since then, Beard has continued to serve on various boards and even ran for council in the early 2000s, but he was not elected until 2005. "I have never seen anybody who cared more," said Fred Bauries, chair of the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals and a friend of Beard for more than 12 years.

Beard's involvement with various planning boards has given him the experience needed to help plan East Lansing's future, Bauries said.

"He is a visionary and he is tenacious," Bauries said. "All of that background, that was great training ground for serving on council."

On the council

Serving as a council member since 2005, Beard said he has felt strongly about downtown development, nonmotorized transportation and student housing.

Beard has voted in favor of the East Village development, which would revitalize the area surrounding Cedar Village Apartments, and the City Center II development, slated for the corner of Abbot Road and Grand River and Evergreen avenues. He has voted for all four extensions of the City Center II project's financing.

City Center II recently has seen controversy because of the financial woes of its developer, Strathmore Development Company. Although Beard has supported the project through the financial troubles, he was in favor of the council's efforts to collect back taxes from the developer before moving forward with the project, which is required in the city's charter.

"It's right to target to redevelop the most prominent corner in our community," Beard said. "It's real estate that desperately needs to be redeveloped."

Beard also has supported nonmotorized transportation plans and regional planning. He is a member of the Tri-County Region-

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ARREST

17-YEAR-OLD CHARGED WITH THREATENING TERRORISM

By Brittany Shammah
THE STATE NEWS

A former MSU freshman no longer is enrolled in the university and is in jail on a \$50,000 bond following his Tuesday arrest for making a terrorist threat or false report of terrorism.

Zachariah M. Aslam, a 17-year-old from South Rockwood, Mich., was arrested after police were informed he was making threats, according to a statement from the MSU Police.

Aslam was an enrolled student before the arrest. MSU spokesman Terry Denbow said, declining to comment further. The FBI was involved in investigating. FBI spokeswoman Sandra Berchtold said Aslam was arrested Friday in East Lansing's 54-B District Court before Judge Richard Ball.

Berchtold referred all questions regarding the case to the MSU police. MSU police Sgt. Shaun Mills said police could not comment on the case.

Aslam's neighbors and acquaintances said they were shocked by the arrest. History sophomore Chris Rivard, Aslam's former roommate, said he had a hard time believing the charges could be true.

Aslam was a "very nice guy" who brought home extra snacks from an event with the crew team he was on, Rivard said.

"Just from living with him for a couple of months, it doesn't seem like he had a violent bone in his body," he said.

Rivard said he did not see anything in Aslam to make him anticipate the arrest.

"He was known for making some outrageous comments, but it's definitely just ... and you'd go, 'Well, that's just Zach,'" he said.

Aslam's profile on Facebook listed his academic programs as computer engineering, physics and math. It included many updates, some including references to chemicals and weapons.

Fisheries and wildlife senior Zach Darter, who lives on Aslam's former floor, said Aslam was friendly but a loner and many floormates did not know him. "You never heard anything about him," Darter said.

Aslam currently is being held in the Ingham County Jail, although that could change, Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III said. Dunning said he expects Aslam's pretrial exam to take place sometime in December.

DONATIONS

MSU creates scholarship challenge

By Meredith Skrzypczak
THE STATE NEWS

An anonymous \$10 million gift the university received last spring could lead to millions more dollars for student scholarships if donors respond well to a university initiative to match donations.

The Spartan Scholarship Challenge, announced by MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon this weekend, could raise up to \$14 million in new endowments in addition to the \$7 million the gift's donor specified to be used for scholarships.

MSU will match every \$2 donation with one of its anonymous donor's gift, said Robert

Groves, vice president for University Advancement, MSU's fundraising branch.

"If you give us \$20,000 under this program, we'll put \$30,000 with it and there's your \$50,000 worth of a scholarship," he said.

The possible \$21 million that could result from the effort would generate more than \$1 million every year in new scholarship funds, Groves said.

Rick Shipman, director of the MSU Office of Financial Aid, wrote in an e-mail he expects scholarships to range from \$500 to several thousands of dollars for hundreds of students.

Hard economic times make it more difficult to find university money for scholarships, making

this drive for donations important, said Robert Thomas, Director of Advancement Marketing & Communications for University Advancement.

Last year, MSU experienced a 20 percent decline in donations, but this challenge is not meant to make up for losses experienced in the past, Groves said. "We are doing this because Michigan State needs to increase the funds available for students with financial need and the anonymous gift provided an excellent opportunity to create this challenge," he said.

The decline in donations last year largely was due to the econ-

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SWINE FLU

By David Barker
THE STATE NEWS

President Barack Obama declaring the H1N1 virus a national emergency hasn't sent local hospitals and agencies scrambling, but officials are concerned about the amount of H1N1 vaccine available in Ingham County.

According to flu.gov, the declaration gives the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the ability to waive certain regulatory requirements that might interfere with "certain rapid triage or sorting activities and prevent the estab-

lishment of off-site, alternate care facilities that could off-load emergency department demand."

But representatives for a service providers, such as Lansing's Sparrow Hospital, said the declaration has little immediate effect on how patients displaying flu-like symptoms are handled.

"It's not changing how we're treating patients," Sparrow spokesman John Berg said. "The declaration would allow us the ability to activate emergency plans or crisis plans. We have plans to respond to different types of emergencies and sometimes they call for opening other locations that are not at

our hospital. It would allow us the ability to do that."

Berg said any such response by Sparrow would be part of a larger action by Ingham County.

The number of students with flu-like symptoms has been increasing, MSU University Physician Beth Alexander said, but she could not give specific numbers about how many cases have been reported at MSU.

Statistics from the Michigan Department of Community Health show 250 cases of flu-like illness were reported between Oct. 11 and 17 in Ingham County.

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