

SPORTS EVENTS

Big Ten men's basketball standings

Purdue (23-3 overall, 11-3 Big Ten)
Ohio State (21-7, 11-4)
MSU (21-7, 11-4)
Wisconsin (20-7, 10-5)
Illinois (17-10, 9-5)
Minnesota (16-10, 7-7)
Michigan (13-13, 6-8)
Northwestern (17-10, 6-9)
Iowa (9-18, 3-11)
Indiana (9-17, 3-11)
Penn State (10-16, 2-12)

Big Ten women's basketball standings

Ohio State (26-4 overall, 14-3 Big Ten)
MSU (19-8, 10-6)
Purdue (14-12, 9-6)
Wisconsin (19-8, 9-7)
Iowa (15-12, 8-8)
Penn State (16-10, 8-8)
Northwestern (16-11, 7-9)
Michigan (14-12, 6-10)
Indiana (13-14, 6-10)
Minnesota (13-14, 6-10)
Illinois (13-13, 5-11)

RESULTS

Friday

Baseball 8, Furman 6
Softball 10, Wright State 2
USF 2, softball 1
Nebraska 6, men's tennis 1
Ferris State 4, hockey 1

Saturday

Clemson 10, baseball 2
North Dakota State 2, softball 1
Hofstra 2, softball 1
Gymnastics 194.175, New Hampshire 192.400
Hockey 3, Ferris State 2

Sunday

Ohio State 74, men's basketball 67
Women's basketball 71, Ohio State 68
Baseball 11, Miami (Ohio) 5
North Carolina State 4, softball 0
Indiana 24, wrestling 15

THIS WEEK

Thursday

Women's basketball at Purdue, 7 p.m.

Friday

Baseball vs. Seton Hall in St. Petersburg, Fla., 10 a.m.
Hockey vs. Bowling Green, 6:05 p.m.

Saturday

Baseball vs. Louisville in Clearwater, Fla., 4:30 p.m.
Softball at Cal State Northridge, 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Hockey at Bowling Green, 7:05 p.m.

Sunday

Men's basketball at Purdue, 4 p.m.
Women's basketball vs. Minnesota, 2 p.m.

SPORTS

4

WRESTLING, PAGE 4B

The number of MSU senior wrestlers who competed in their last home match Sunday at Jenison Field House.

'Making it happen'



ANGELI WRIGHT/THE STATE NEWS

Junior guard Brittney Thomas drives the ball around Ohio State guard Amber Stokes during Sunday's game at Value City Arena in Columbus, Ohio. Thomas was the leading scorer for the Spartans with 19 points in the 71-68 overtime victory over the Buckeyes.

For a photo gallery from Sunday's game, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

Buckeyes fight back, but MSU hangs on for 71-68 road victory at Value City Arena

By Matt Bishop
THE STATE NEWS

Columbus, Ohio — After seeing its 13-point lead turn into a three-point deficit, the MSU women's basketball team was on the verge of a crushing defeat to No. 7 Ohio State. In front of a raucous crowd of 11,827 at Value City Arena, the Spartans turned to junior guard Brittney Thomas.

Thomas sent the game to overtime with a pull-up jumper with five seconds to play, then scored five of her career-high 19 points in the extra session to lead MSU to a 71-68 win against the Buckeyes on Sunday.

The win is MSU's third against a top-10 team this season.

"Throughout the whole year, it's been a slow

See RECAP on page 2B

Thomas finally shows scorers' mentality, aggressiveness in win

By Matt Bishop
THE STATE NEWS

Columbus, Ohio — This time last year, junior guard Brittney Thomas was on the sidelines after tearing her anterior cruciate ligament.

While she was injured, Mia Johnson stepped in and assumed the point guard duties, bringing an aggressive mentality to the position.

When watching film this week, MSU head coach Suzy Merchant, a former point guard herself, drove that fact home to Thomas.

"Before the Illinois game, I called her in and said, 'Remember when you got hurt? Our last six games, we put Mia at the PG. What was the difference there?'" Merchant asked.

"She was a scorer," Thomas responded.

See NOTEBOOK on page 2B

HOCKEY

Icers' weekend split key for CCHA Tournament seeding

By Alex DiFilippo

THE STATE NEWS

Friday's bus ride home from Big Rapids wasn't fun for the No. 12 MSU hockey team.

The Spartans had just played one of their worst games of the season, losing 4-1 to No. 14 Ferris State. MSU looked completely out of sync, and after the game, head coach Rick Comley called out his team's work ethic.

Maybe last weekend's bye week was to blame, or maybe it was the new line combinations Comley tried at the start of the game.

Either way, the pressure was on MSU to earn the victory on Saturday night to keep the two teams tied in second place in the CCHA standings. Surely it wasn't the Spar-

tans' best performance on Saturday night. But it was enough to get the job done, defeating the Bulldogs 3-2 on a late game-winning goal from junior forward Dustin Gazley.

MSU now needs only one point in its final week of the season to secure a first-round bye in the CCHA Tournament.

The weekend split was huge for the Spartans, who were winless in four games entering Saturday and had scored two goals in their last three games.

"I think this young team has felt the pressure a little bit," Comley said. "We haven't played as sharp the last couple weeks. It's a grind right now. (Friday) night was a tough game, and (Saturday) we had a few people really struggle. But we had other people really pick

it up. We need to win games, and we found a way to win this one."

From the first shift of Saturday's game, it was clear the Spartans were out to avenge Friday's sloppy loss. MSU came out of the gates with the jump it was lacking Friday night and junior forward Andrew Rowe netted the first MSU goal five minutes into the game.

Ferris State responded with a power-play goal to tie up the game. But, in his first game of the season, senior forward Jay Sprague unexpectedly gave MSU the lead midway through the second period.

The Bulldogs notched the score at two thanks to a shorthanded goal near

See HOCKEY on page 2B



GEORGIA RHODES/THE STATE NEWS

Junior forward Dustin Gazley celebrates scoring the game-winning goal Saturday night against Ferris State at Munn Ice Arena.