

# MSU to host Big Ten Track Meet

By Ernie Boone

Mid-Michigan sports fans are in for an unusual treat May 12-14. The Big 10 Track and Field Championships are coming to Michigan State University's Ralph H. Young Field.

And at \$15.00 for all three sessions, \$10.00 for youth under

18 and seniors 55 and older, there's no better show for the money.

While the Big 10 has only one team, defending champion Wisconsin, ranked among the nation's top 25 teams, the conference boasts plenty of top flight performers among both

the men and women who have a chance to challenge for national honors and some highly competitive events scheduled.

While both Spartan groups lack the depth to challenge for the team titles, each has enough performers likely to be in the thick of battles for individual honors to add local interest to

the competition.

All-American pole-vaulter, Brad Gebauer is perhaps the Spartan's best hop for individual honors.

Gebauer leaped 5.42 meters in the Georgia Bulldog Invitational meet April 22. That's the best mark posted in the conference this season and just short of the

mark that won the NCAA title last season.

Phil Marlatt elbowed his way into a place among conference elite in the 800 meters, with a time of 1:50.00 to take first in the Georgia meet.

The time qualifies Marlatt for the NCAA Regional meet and is the third best performance in the conference this year. Minnesota's Trent Ritter (1:49.75) and Illinois' Aaron King (1:49.00) are the leaders.

Jim Pancoast won the 1,500-meter run in Georgia with a time of 3:48.16, fourth best in the league and qualifying for the regional meet.

The best mark at the distance is Michigan's Mike Woods' 3:46.62. The 1,500 should make for a hotly contested race with Wisconsin's Ben Gregory (3:36.65) and Ohio State's Jeff See (3:46.77) in the mix.

Former Sexton standout, Jon Allen, won his third straight

triple-jump event, leaping 15.21 meters in Georgia despite fouling on all but one attempt.

Wisconsin will be the favorite to repeat as men's champion.

The Badgers have plenty of depth, with 14 regional qualifiers including one relay team.

Demi Omole, the Badger's senior sprinter who placed third in the 100 meters in the NCAA finals last season leads the Badgers. He's posted a 10.11 in the event this year.

Best bets for the Spartan women are middle distance runners Nicole Bush and Aimee Keenan. Both runners qualified for NCAA Regional competition with times posted at the Eastern Michigan University Twilight Relays April 22.

Bush's 4:24.84 in the 1,500 meters puts her in the thick of the conference race. Keenan went 2:08.92 in the 800 meters.

## Shannon Brown to explore NBA draft

They'll be no more speculation. By mid June we'll know for certain whether or not Shannon Brown we will be slammin' and jammin' at Breslin Center or flexing his muscles in front of

NBA fans.

Brown announced Monday, April 24 that he will submit his name for the NBA draft.

He will not employ an agent, however, allowing him to

withdraw his name and remain eligible for his final college season.

"My lifelong dream has been to be an NBA player," Brown said in a prepared statement.

"By testing the draft waters I am allowing myself to make a more informed decision while keeping my options open.

"This really is a win-win decision for me. I can fulfill a dream of becoming an NBA player this season, or I can return for my senior season and fulfill my dream of graduating, establishing myself in the Spartan record books while competing for a championship and reach the NBA next season.

"It's a process that's been made easier by the great support I've received from my teammates, coaches and family," he said.

MSU head coach, Tom Izzo, expressed total support for the decision.

"For the past three years Shannon has done everything asked of him," Izzo said.

"During his time here Shannon and I have forged a relationship based upon mutual trust. We made a deal when I recruited him, and he's more than fulfilled his part.

"Shannon owes it to himself and his family to make the most

## Spartans end spring drills

It was just spring football. They weren't up against the likes of Michigan, Ohio State or even Northwestern.

against the number one offense in a controlled scrimmage for the second straight week.

They limited the unit led by quarterback Drew Stanton to a pair of 52-yard field goals by walk-on Todd Boleski.

"We're faster and more athletic back there," said senior cornerback Demond Williams about the Spartan secondary.

MSU made several changes in its defensive backfield to replace graduates and to shore up a area major concern.

Greg Cooper, a 5-11 190-pound senior moved from safety to corner to replace graduated Ashton Watson.

Nehemiah Warrick replaced strong safety Eric Smith; and sophomore Otis Wiley moved up from nickel back to replace Cooper at safety.

But the MSU football team gave coaches and fans something to look forward to as they ended spring football with their second open scrimmage Friday April 21.

The Spartans displayed a more athletic, more aggressive and more effective defense, a productive kicking game, and the same explosive offense that averaged 497.3 yards and 33.8 points last season.

Head coach John L. Smith was particularly encouraged by the attitude of his defenders.

"We've started to play with more attitude..." Smith said.

"Attitude on that defensive side is maybe as important as anything," Smith said.

The Spartans' top defenders more than held their own

informed decision he can possibly make, and this is just the next step in a continuing process."

Brown led the Spartans in Big 10 scoring with an 18.8 average. He was third on the team and sixth in the conference in total scoring with a 17.2 average.

He was named to the Big 10 All-Defensive Team. He was also a second team all-conference selection.

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