

Spartans earn four top Big Ten Conference honors

By Ernie Boone

EAST LANSING - Michigan State's men's basketball team headed for Indianapolis and the Big Ten Tournament March 11 with a basket full of individual and team honors.

After topping Purdue 62-51 to claim the regular season championship with an impressive 15-3 mark, MSU walked away with the conference's top three individual post season honors.

Sophomore point guard, Kalin Lucas was a unanimous choice as Big Ten Player of the Year, and fellow back court running mate, Travis Walton was tapped by the coaches as the conference Defensive Player of the Year.

Conference coaches also named MSU's Tom Izzo Coach of the Year. "Maybe to win the Big Ten by four games like we did, somebody must have thought we did something," Izzo said. "Usually the MVP of a league leads a team somewhere, and that's why we preach that



Kalin Lucas

team goals lead to individual goals."

Every member of the Spartan starting five earned an honor. In addition to MVP, Lucas was named the conference first team along with U-M's Manny Harris; Evan Turner, Ohio State; Taylor Battle, Penn State; and JaJuan Johnson, Purdue.

Walton was joined on the All Defensive team by Purdue's Chris Kramer, Chester Frazier, Illinois; Damian Johnson, Minnesota; and JuJuan Johnson of Purdue.

Spartan Goron Sutton, who led the conference in



Travis Walton

rebounding, was named to the second team. He was joined by Kevin Coble of Northwestern; E'Twaun Moore, Purdue; U-M's DeShawn Sims (media); Janelle Cornley, Penn State (media); Marcus Landry, Wisconsin (media); Mike Davis, Illinois (coaches).

Delvon Roe was named to the All-Freshman team along with Ohio State's William Buford and B.J. Mullens; Matt Gatens of Iowa; and Lewis Jackson, Purdue.

Forward Raymar Morgan, slowed much of the season by illness, was named Honorable

Mention.

"My goal wasn't to be Big Ten Player of the Year," said Lucas, "My goal was to win. It feels great...It's an honor and a blessing.

"I have to give a lot of credit to the coaches and Coach Izzo for just pushing me to be the best player I can be. I have to give a whole bunch of credit to my teammates. I give them all the credit."

Walton, on the other hand, had been pursuing the defensive honor his entire career.

"This is a goal I had when I first came here," said Walton.

"Coach told me that I was one of the best defensive players he had ever recruited. I think I made it a goal as a freshman that before I left I'd be the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year..."

"It was one of the top goals that I set for myself and it was one of the top goals that the coaching staff set for me at the beginning of the year. To win it was a blessing."

In the Big Ten Lucas finished second in scoring with a 16.5 average. On the road, where MSU set a conference record going 8-1, he raised his average to 18.0.

Walton finished third in the league in steals and was primarily responsible for shutting down several of the league's top scorers.

Lucas became the third Spartan to earn Player of the Year honors in the Izzo era, following Mateen Cleaves (1998 and 1999); Morris Peterson (2000).

Walton, a three-time conference All Defensive team honoree, is just the third Spartan to earn the conference Defensive Player of the Year Award. Others to win it were Ken Redfield (1990) and Eric Snow (1995).

Five Spartan women cagers earn Big Ten post season recognition

EAST LANSING, Mich. - The Big Ten Conference office released the women's basketball postseason awards on Monday night, with five Spartan student-athletes taking home recognition.

Junior Allyssa DeHaan highlighted the MSU selections, being named to the All-Big Ten Second Team by both the coaches and media. DeHaan, who earns All-Big Ten honors for the third-straight season, is second on the team with 10.7 points per game, but leads the Spartans with 6.4 rebounds, 3.0 blocks and a 46.3% field goal

percentage. DeHaan was picked to the first team by the media and to the second team by the coaches last season, and was a second team choice by both as a freshman. In all, it is the eighth consecutive season that a MSU student-athlete was named to the first or second team.

DeHaan was also named to the All-Defensive Team, an honor she has also received in each of her three seasons in green and white.

Redshirt junior Aisha Jefferson was one of four Spartans to garner honorable mention All-Big Ten, as she

was selected by both the coaches and media. Jefferson is the team's leading scorer at 11.0 points per game, while adding 5.0 rebounds and 1.0 steals, both third on the squad. Jefferson was also an honorable mention choice by both the coaches and media after the 2006-07 season as a sophomore.

Joining Jefferson on the coaches' ballot was sophomore Kalisha Keane, and on the media selections was sophomore Brittney Thomas and redshirt freshman Lykendra Johnson.

continued on page 6

SPECIAL OFFER



THE LION KING
BROADWAY'S AWARD-WINNING BEST MUSICAL
RETURNS TO EAST LANSING'S WHARTON CENTER
MARCH 19 - APRIL 19, 2009

**FAMILY 4 PACK
FOR ONLY \$100***
FOR SELECT PERFORMANCES.

Limit of 8 tickets per order. Facility fee and service/handling fees apply on all orders. Offer not valid on prior purchases and may not be combined with any other offer. Offer good while supplies last. ALL SALES FINAL. No exchanges or refunds. Other restrictions may apply.

MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION BROADWAY AT WHARTON CENTER



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

It is a tremendous honor to recognize the vast historical achievements of women from all cultural backgrounds in America.

For centuries, women from Harriet Tubman to Maya Angelou to Jane Addams have made vital contributions to literature, art, business, politics, music, civil rights and a myriad other accomplishments that have enriched the cultural tapestry of the United States. Today, they continue to provide inspiration to new generations of young women.



Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently.

- Maya Angelou



Virg Bemero & Staff

Mayor of Lansing

Jerry Ambrose
Randy Han nan
Joe McDonald
Renee Freeman
Emma Koppelman
Nicholas Soucy

Phone: (517) 483-4141

mayor@lansingmi.gov

www.lansingmi.gov

"Believe in Lansing"



DICK LETTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF COMMITTEE INC.

"T-N-T" ICEBREAKER
- (Tee-time and Taxes)-

GREGORY'S Ice and Smoke

2510 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

- FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009 -

6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Munchies: 6:00 - 8:00pm

Donation: \$10

For more information, please contact:

Deborah Garland
(517) 886-6294

Marquis Hudson
(517) 321-7982

R L Hester
(517) 372-4075

- SAVE THE DATE -
12th Annual Scholarship Tournament
- 2009 Event - Saturday, July 25 -
MSU Forest Akers East Golf Course
... Golf fliers to follow ...