

# TWO MORE!

By Ernie Boone

INDIANAPOLIS - Mission accomplished! Almost.

No sooner than the Michigan State University basketball team had dispatched top seeded Louisville, 64-52, former Spartan great, Magic Johnson wrapped his arms around point guard Kalen Lucas saying, "You did your thing. That's why you came here."

Then he uttered the words already on the minds of every celebrating Spartan player and fan.

"Two more!"

"Yes sir, two more," Lucas replied.

MSU had just achieved the goal stated by the Spartans all season; play in the Final Four in Detroit. Izzo and company quickly moved the goalpost. Now they won't be satisfied unless they get the whole enchilada.

The NCAA Championship is now the stated goal.

Standing in the way, however, is an outstanding Connecticut team led by 7-3 center Hasheem Thabeet. The Huskies (31-4) were seeded No.1 in the West regional and defeated Missouri, 82-75, to earn their spot in the big dance.

Waiting the wings if MSU passes the Connecticut test is the winner of the Villanova/North Carolina contest. Should UNC and MSU reach the finals it would mean a rematch from a December Ford Field contest that saw UNC rout the Spartans, 98-63.

To accomplish such a task Lucas will have to heed his final admonition from Magic. "You're the leader, so lead. Like you been doin'." There's been no shortage of advice and encouragement for Lucas.

In the wee hours Saturday



**Kalin Lucas**

Morning he got a text from another point guard who had led the Spartans to a National title. Mateen Cleaves texted him a not of congratulations on his play in Friday's 67-62 victory over Kansas and to remind him to stay focused because the job wasn't done. Almost the entire Spartan playing group has gotten phones calls and text messages from a variety of former Spartan stars throughout the season, giving



**Travis Walton**

Izzo a host of assistant coaches who often have more impact in key areas than Izzo and his staff.

Izzo often points out that when Cleaves, or Morris Peterson or Jason Richardson or Shannon Brown is saying the same things he and his staff are saying it means more to players.

Those contacts also serve as an ever present reminder that today's players are not in this struggle alone. All those Spartans who came before them are out there, all over the world, pulling for them.

Ever since the Detroit Final Four site was announced in 2003, MSU has dreamed of competing for a national title in front of a largely Michigan crowd.

That dream has come true. It'll take more than Spartan pride and spirit to fulfill the MSU dream. It will take even better play than MSU has displayed thus far in the tournament and that will be tough to top.

This MSU team has seldom played better than it played here. Lucas displayed skill and grit in leading MSU's come from behind victory over Kansas, and the whole

team played like national champions against Louisville. Goron Sutton and Travis Walton provided the kind of senior leadership that makes champions. Duplicating the Indianapolis performance in Detroit may not be enough. Sutton followed a 20-point 9 rebound performance against Kansas with an 18-point 10 rebound effort against Louisville, earning the Most Outstanding Player award in the regional.

The former Everett High School all-stator will have his hands full, drawing the primary defense assignment against Thabeet.

The Spartans will not ask Sutton to handle the job alone, however. He'll get plenty of help from teammates whenever he touches the ball, and Idong Ibok, Marquise Gray and perhaps even Tom Herzog will be utilized to give him help.

Thabeet isn't the Spartans' biggest problem, however. That honor may go to A.J. Price who hung 18 points on Missouri and was named Most Outstanding Player in the West or freshman Kemba Walker who pumped in 23 points against Mizzou.

While Lucas, Sutton and Walton have been the leaders, all of the Spartans stepped up

their game during the regional finals.

Durrell Summers regained his shooting touch. He scored 9 points with 2 of 3 three-pointers against Kansas and broke Louisville's back with 12 points, most coming during a key second half stretch which saw MSU take control.

Chris Allen discovered that defense and hustle pays as much as scoring. He was more effective scoring just 2 points against Louisville than hitting double figures in other contests. He grabbed 4 rebounds (3 on offense), dished 3 assists and picked up a number of loose balls that enabled MSU to retain possessions down the stretch. Freshman Dramond Green grew up with 10 rebounds, 6 points 3 assists and 2 steals against Louisville.

Perhaps the lone exception has been Raymar Morgan who suffered a broken nose against Kansas and was clearly bothered by a hastily fitted mask and saw only limited action against Louisville.

He'll have a week to practice with a newly fitted mask and should be more comfortable. MSU will need Morgan performing at or near his peak to go all the way.

## Magic, Bird to present championship ball

INDIANAPOLIS - - - Legendary NCAA and NBA basketball stars Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Larry Bird will present the game ball at the 2009 NCAA national championship game, scheduled for April 6 at Ford Field in Detroit. Johnson and Bird, both members of the Naismith Hall of Fame, are famous in part for leading their teams to legendary games against one another, beginning with the 1979 national title game between Johnson's Michigan State Spartans and the Bird-led Sycamores of Indiana State.

The 30th anniversary of that game, the highest-rated game in the storied history of the NCAA championship, will be a focal point of celebrations throughout Final Four weekend, culminating with Bird and Johnson presenting the game ball to team captains and officials.

"The NCAA men's basketball tournament is one of the world's most popular sporting events, and a great deal of that can be contributed to Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, two of the greatest players the sport has ever seen," said Mike Slive, commissioner of the Southeastern Conference and

chair of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee. "The popularity of the tournament, and specifically the Final Four, soared when a young man with an infectious smile and a skill set never seen before by someone with his size led his team to a national championship over a sharp-shooting Indiana kid, from a small town and at a small university, with an unparalleled fire and competitive nature. It was a classic matchup that somehow managed to live up to the hype.

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### Lansing First! and Supplier Diversity Program

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The City of Lansing gives preference to Lansing-based job providers in the procurement of all goods and services.

A Lansing-based firm is an incorporated business entity that owns or leases an office, warehouse, distribution center, or wholesale or retail store located within the corporate limits of the City of Lansing.

To take advantage of Lansing First! and be considered for procurement services, firms must be registered. Once you are a registered vendor you may select the notification option that best suits your needs.

The City of Lansing participates in the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN). This system allows vendors to register on-line with the City of Lansing and all the participating agencies in the MITN system. In addition, the City of Lansing posts Request for Bids, Request for Proposals, addendums and results on the MITN system.

To register as a vendor, please visit the following Web-site: <http://www.mitn.info>

For a list of what the City procures, please visit: [www.lansingmi.gov/purchasing](http://www.lansingmi.gov/purchasing)

**Supplier Diversity Program**

The City created a self-certification application for Minority-owned, Women-owned or Persons with a Disability-owned business.

Eligible firms are asked to complete the application and return it to the City of Lansing Purchasing Office. To be eligible, firms must document at least 51% minority, women or person with a disability-ownership and the owner participates in the day-to-day operation of the business. Falsification of information can result in the vendor's removal from the city's list of eligible vendors.

If you are already certified as a Minority, Woman or Persons with a Disabled-owned firm, we ask that you complete questions 1-4 on the application and submit a copy of your firm's certification. The City will accept certification from a third party such as the Federal Government, State of Michigan, Michigan Minority Business Development Council (MMBDC), Native American Business Owners, Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce or the Michigan Woman's Business Council. The City is also registered with the MMBDC and participates in numerous seminars related to minority businesses.

The certification form can be accessed visiting: [www.lansingmi.gov/purchasing](http://www.lansingmi.gov/purchasing)

In compliance with Proposal 2, being registered as a Minority-owned, Women-owned or Person's with a Disability-owned business with the City does not allow any preferences in the selection of a vendor submitting a bid, quote or proposal.

Michigan Recovery & Reinvestment Plan

For information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - our nation's aggressive new economic recovery plan designed to jumpstart our economy, create jobs, and help Americans struggling to provide for their families, you may visit the following State of Michigan Website: <http://www.michigan.gov/recovery>

City of Lansing - 124 W. Michigan Avenue - Lansing, MI 48933  
For more information on Lansing First and the Supplier Diversity Program, please contact the City of Lansing Purchasing Office at 517.483.4124 or visit [www.lansingmi.gov](http://www.lansingmi.gov)

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