

Kalin Lucas is down with a sprained ankle

Spartans are down, but not out in 67- 49 drubbing by Wisconsin

By Ernie Boone

MADISON WIS. - Down, but certainly not out!

That was the word for the Michigan State University basketball team as it left the Kohl Center here with heads down following a 67-49 rout by Wisconsin.

More important than the game is the potential loss of reigning Big Ten Player of the Year, Kalin Lucas. The Spartan co-captain went down with a sprained ankle with a little more than 10 minutes remaining in the

contest and the Spartans trailing.

It was the season's first conference loss for the Spartans who have not won here since 2001. The loss drops MSU to 9-1 in the conference and cuts the Spartans' lead to two games. The Spartans are 19-4 overall. Wisconsin improves to 7-3 in the conference and remains in a tie for second place. The Badgers are 17-5 overall.

MSU now must travel to Champagne for a Saturday contest against Illinois, then return to East Lansing to host Purdue. It's too soon to know whether or not Lucas will be available for those two games.

MSU topped the Illini, 73-63, in East Lansing earlier this season. It will be the first meeting with Purdue. Wisconsin led throughout, quickly erasing a brief 1-0



Kalin Lucas

Spartan lead with a 9-0 run to go ahead 9-1 and never looked back. Jordon Taylor scored 10 of the Badgers' first 13 points.

MSU never got closer than eight points, while the Badgers stretched their advantage to as many as 20 points. The Badgers did it with deadly shooting accuracy, especially from beyond the 3-

point arc, and smothering defense that held MSU to 37 per cent shooting, 22.2 from three point range.

Wisconsin shot 55 percent in the first half and finished at 50.9, 34.6 from behind the arc.

Wisconsin also battled the Spartans almost even on the boards. MSU, which has posted double digit advantages rebounding over most opponents, managed just a 31-25 edge. Wisconsin's 8 turnover advantage (13 to 5) more than made up the difference.

Raymar Morgan led all rebounders with 10, to go along with his 8 points.

Jason Bohannon led Wisconsin with 19 points, followed by Taylor with 17. Durrell Summers was the only MSU player in double figures. The junior guard tallied 11 points.

Lucas sprained his ankle

when he came down on the foot of Wisconsin's Keaton Nankivil. He scored only seven points, snapping a string of 33 games in which he scored in double figures.

The injury to Lucas comes at the worst possible point in the season for MSU. After going 9-0 in a stretch that saw them face only two contenders, both at Breslin, MSU will now play three of the teams locked in a tie for second place in a span of seven days.

Two of those games are on the road in the most hostile of environments.

And Lucas is playing the best basketball of his career. He hit game winning shots in back-to-back one-point victories over Minnesota and Michigan, and tallied 23 points and four assists in a 79-70 victory over Northwestern.

"He was limping badly, but it doesn't seem to be broken," said coach Tom Izzo as MSU prepared to return to East Lansing.

His leadership skills and clutch play will be needed in the deciding half of the

conference schedule as the Spartans prepare to face all of the conference leaders.

Izzo and Spartan fans are anxious to see how the team responds to such a lopsided loss. Much may depend upon whether Lucas just went down against Wisconsin or he is out for the games against conference contenders Illinois and Purdue in the next week.

Spartans expect a solid recruiting class

EAST LANSING - Michigan State University football coach, Mark Dantonio, and Spartan fans throughout the world wait patiently for official word from what is expected to be a solid 2010 recruiting class slated to sign official letters of intent on Wednesday, February 4.

The class, expected to be headed by a 6-7 245-pound defensive end ranked by one service as the nation's 21st best prospect, the fourth in a line of Spartan gridders (already enrolled and taking classes in preparation for spring practice), and a running back who rushed for more than 7,000 yards in his high school career, won't be atop the Big Ten chart, but it should be solid and able to help MSU continue its upward movement in the conference.

Barring some last minute backsliding, MSU expects to land Detroit Southeastern defensive end, William Gholston, Traverse City St Francis linebacker, Max Bullough, and Chelsea running back, Nick Hill.

Dantonio continued to do well in the state, getting verbal commitments from seven of the players listed by the Lansing State Journal as the top 22 prospects in Michigan.

Other Journal Catch 22 players committed to MSU are quarterback, Joe Boisture, Saline; Jeremy Langford, running back, Westland John Glen; cornerback, Mylan Hicks, Detroit Renaissance; and wide receiver, Tony Lippett, Detroit Crockett.

As usual, the former Cincinnati head man and Ohio State defensive coordinator did well in the Buckeye state. Dantonio has the word of some impressive prospects from Ohio. Skyler Schofner, a 6-6 275-pound offensive tackle;

DeHaan named Big 10 Player of the Week in win over NW

EAST LANSING, Mich. - Michigan State women's basketball senior Allyssa DeHaan earned her second Big Ten Conference Player of the Week recognition of the season on Monday, as announced by the conference office. DeHaan carried the Spartans (14-7, 5-5) to a 56-52 victory at Northwestern on Thursday, posting her third double-double of the season with 24 points and 10 rebounds, and also added five blocks.

DeHaan received the weekly conference honor for an MSU record eighth time in her career.

DeHaan came through in the clutch on Thursday, knocking down a pair of baskets in the final two minutes with the game tied to put the Spartans up for good at 53-49. DeHaan's 24 points on Thursday were the most by a Spartan this season, as she went 10-of-18 from the field and 4-of-7 from the free throw line. Her double-double was the 18th of her career.

It was the third straight victory for the Spartans and evened their Big Ten mark at 5-5. Kalisha Keane was the

only other Spartan in double figures, adding 11 points, and Lykendra Johnson was major help on the boards, grabbing six rebounds. Brittney Thomas dished out six assists. MSU took an early, 10-2, lead, but Northwestern quickly countered to close to 10-8. It was MSU, 26-25 at halftime, things see-sawed with the teams alternating runs until DeHaan put MSU in final control with her key free throws.

MSU got a week off following the victory, with its next action set for 7 p.m. at the Breslin Center, Thursday, February 4 when they take on Penn State. The break comes at just the right time according to head coach Suzy Merchant since she says that MSU is playing well and could use the rest and time to heal a few physical ailments.


DeHaan is steadily climbing the Michigan State career record books, currently ranking sixth all-time with 1,558 points and moved into fourth place on Thursday with 861 rebounds. She is also third all-time with 600 field goals and 330 free throws made. Already the

conference's blocked shots record holder, DeHaan is second on the NCAA Division I career blocked shots list with 468 and is 13 blocks away from surpassing Sandora Irvin for the NCAA record.

With just two points Aisha Jefferson moved into 16th on the Spartans' career scoring list with 1,089 points.

This season, DeHaan leads the Spartans with 12.4 points, ranking her 14th in the Big Ten, and 3.1 blocks, second in the league and eighth nationally. She is also second on the team and ninth in the conference with 6.4 rebounds, and has hit 81.3% of her free throw attempts to rank eighth in the Big Ten.

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