

Spartans pound Purdue, face "One and Done"

By Ernie Boone

One and done time comes early for the MSU basketball team this year!

Long accustomed to facing win or go home scenes in post season tournaments, coach Tom Izzo's men find themselves confronted with a pair of do or die contests March 4 and 7 to wind up the Big Ten regular season.

MSU is locked in a loss column tie with Ohio State and Purdue, and must win Breslin Center dates with Penn State, Thursday at 7 p.m. and Michigan, Sunday at 4 p.m.

Victories in the contests assure the Spartans of a share of the conference title. A loss would require losses by both the Buckeyes and Boilermakers in their final games - most unlikely.

After losing four games to fall to second place, MSU outfought a short-handed Purdue squad to post a 53-44 victory at Lafayette Sunday, February 28.

The Boilermakers were without their star forward,

McDonald's All-American signs with MSU

EAST LANSING, Mich. - Keith Appling, who signed his National Letter of Intent to attend Michigan State in November 2009, was named to the 2010 McDonald's All-American Team on Feb. 11. Appling, a 6-2 guard from Detroit, is the ninth McDonald's All-American to sign with Michigan State under Tom Izzo, and the first since 2003. Appling is currently averaging 27 points per game for Detroit Pershing High School. The game will be played on March 31 at Value City Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

Robbie Hummel. Hummel suffered a season ending injury in Purdue's one-point victory over Minnesota earlier in the week.

Senior forward, Raymar Morgan led the way for the Spartans, scoring 16 points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

It was bruising, mistake filled battle that MSU finally put away on the strength of overwhelming rebounding and air tight team defense.

"It was the prettiest ugly win I've ever had," said Izzo, "Or the ugliest pretty win."

MSU committed 23 turnovers and shot poorly from the outside. Guards Kalin Lucas, Chris Allen, Durrell Summers and Korie Lucas were a combined 6 for 22 from the field. Lucas had 8 turnovers and just one assist. But MSU dominated 46-20 on the boards.

The Spartans grabbed more rebounds, 46, than Purdue had points, 44. It is the first time MSU has accomplished that feat since 2007 when it toppled San Jose State.

Defensively MSU limited Purdue to 15 of 50 shooting from the floor, 30 percent.

Purdue was led by E'Twaun Moore and JaJuan Johnson with 12 and 11 points respectively.

While the Spartans have claimed road victories over both Penn State and Michigan, Izzo is extremely wary. The Nittany Lions topped MSU at Breslin last season, and star guard, Taylor Battle appears to have the Spartan's number, averaging more than 30 points against MSU during his career.

Penn State held second half leads over both Ohio State and Purdue before losing and rates as one of the hottest teams in the conference at the moment.

If MSU takes care of business on Thursday, waiting in the

wings is arch-rival Michigan who would like nothing better than to spoil the MSU season.

Michigan is a three-point shooting team, and such teams are always a threat to catch fire from behind the arc and spring an upset.

The victory over Purdue set the table, but the Spartans must curb the turnovers and continue to play tough help defense in order to enjoy the meal.

Morgan, who has been notable for his inconsistent play as a senior, is approaching career milestone unmatched by all but a few Spartans. With just 16 points he'll become just the fifth MSU player to score 1500 points and grab 700 rebounds in a career.

His play at Purdue earned him Big Ten Player of the Week honors along with Ohio State's Evan Turner.

Morgan has stepped up his play of late, averaging 12.5

Lady Spartans ready for Big 10 Tournament

Winning 10 of its final 11 regular season games, Michigan State's women's basketball team warmed up for the March 4 through 7 Big Ten Basketball Tournament with a 70-50 victory over Minnesota at Breslin Center Sunday February 28.

The victory cinched second place in the conference and thus second seed in the conference tournament. That means the Spartans get a first round bye and take on the winner of Thursday's Michigan vs. Northwestern game.

It also means that MSU would not face conference champion, Ohio State or Wisconsin (which beat MSU twice during the regular season) until the finals.



Raymar Morgan

points and 12.5 rebounds the last two games. He'll need to continue that stellar play if MSU is going to grab a share of the regular season title, capture the Big Ten Tournament crown and make a deep run in the NCAA tournament.

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