

Lucas, Summers return, vow to engineer Spartan 2011 Final Four basketball run

EAST LANSING, MI - Durrell Summers played well enough in the NCAA tournament to make entering the NBA draft a possibility. He chose to put his hoop dreams on hold. Summers and Kalin Lucas declared they will return for their senior seasons to chase a championship and continue their education. "I've got dreams of playing in the NBA, but I would rather win a national championship and graduate first," Summers said in a telephone interview. "I want to accomplish all those dreams instead of just one." The 6-foot-4 shooting guard with 3-point range, a mid-range game and jaw-dropping hops averaged nearly 19 points a game during the NCAA tournament to help lead the Spartans to their sixth Final Four in a dozen years. "Durrell could've left for sure," Lucas said. "But we both talked about coming back to win a national championship and to graduate." Lucas ruptured his left Achilles' tendon last month, ending his second straight All-Big Ten season, and had surgery.

"I think my guys were good enough to go and could've put their names in like everybody else," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo told the AP. "Even though I offered to do some checking for them, they had their mind made up to come back. I think it's neat that they made educated, mature decisions." Lucas' father told the Lansing State Journal on Tuesday his son was returning for his senior season. A slew of underclassmen have entered the NBA draft in part because of fears there will be a lockout after the 2010-11 season. "It's crazy," Lucas said. "With some of the guys, I've thought, 'Why are they putting their name in the draft?' But I wasn't tempted to do that." The last time a pair of Michigan State standouts chose to stay in school instead of turning pro, the school won a national championship. Mateen Cleaves and Morris Peterson returned for the 1999-2000 season and as seniors lifted the Spartans to their first NCAA title since Earvin "Magic" Johnson led them to their first in 1979.

"We want to follow the same path Mateen and Morris did," Summers said. Michigan State started last season ranked No. 2 in the AP preseason poll and likely will have a similar ranking heading into the 2010-11 season, losing only departing senior Raymar Morgan from its 10-man rotation and welcoming a highly touted recruiting class. "We have a great team, but we have to stay hungry," Lucas said. The Spartans won the past two Big Ten titles and will be a favorite to repeat, especially if Purdue juniors Jajuan Johnson and guard E'Twaun Moore don't withdraw their names from consideration for the draft. Michigan State will have three seniors leading the way next season: Lucas, Summers and Chris Allen. Lucas scored a career-high 14.8 points a game and had his best shooting season, making 45 percent of his shots, while averaging four assists. He scored a career-high 25 points against New Mexico State in the first round of the NCAA tournament

before being injured in the next game. "If Kalin wouldn't have gotten hurt and kept playing like he was, he probably would've left," Izzo said. Lucas said he had a cast removed recently, ahead of schedule, hopes to be jogging by June and doing drills with teammates by September. "The doctors say I'm healing fast," he said. The 6-1 guard from Detroit was the Big Ten player of the year as a sophomore when he averaged 14.7 points and 4.6 assists and made a career-high 39 percent of his 3-point shots. Lucas said he is on pace to graduate with a sociology degree at this time next year. Summers averaged a career-high 11.3 points last season and was wildly inconsistent. He scored 20-plus points three times and was held scoreless twice. He was focused enough in the



Kalin Lucas (left) and Durrell Summers both decide to return for the 2011 season

NCAA tourney, though, to averaged 10 points a game match a career high with 26 last year in the NCAAs, points in the second round helping Michigan State to the national title game in his hometown of Detroit against Maryland and to score 21 versus Tennessee in the regional finals. He

Spartan spring football, Green squad beats White 17 - 10

E. LANSING, MI - Kirk Cousins is showing midseason form, hitting Mark Dell, B.J. Cunningham and Dion Sims for big plays as the Green team beat the White squad 17-10 in Michigan State's spring game. Cousins, just the eighth sophomore to lead the Spartans in passing in the last 60 years, found Dell for 58, 44

and 27 yards. He also connected with Cunningham for the game's first score, an 18-yard catch-and-vault, and hit Sims for 37 yards. Freshman Nick Hill had the game-winning score on a 3-yard run with 6:30 left. He also had the day's long run, a 31-yard dash, but fumbled the ball to White team cornerback Johnny Adams.

Edwin Baker brought the White team back within a touchdown on a nifty 17-yard catch-and-run on a pass from Andrew Maxwell with 1:43 left. But a potential tying drive ended at the Green 22. Michigan State begins the 2010 season against Western Michigan on Sept. 4 and plays its first six games in the state.



ASSISTING FIRE VICTIMS - Prior to Tuesday's practice, Michigan State head coach Mark Dantonio and members of the football team, including Kirk Cousins, Jon Misch and Greg Jones, presented gift boxes, containing shoes, T-shirts, sweats and other apparel collected from Spartan athletic teams, to the 11 MSU students whose East Lansing rental home was destroyed by fire last Friday. Photo by Matthew Mitchell, MSU Athletic Communications.

Odds of winning the jackpot:

1 in 175,711,536

Odds of holding a royal flush:

1 in 649,740

Odds of missing a mortgage payment after last night's loss:

1 in 1

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