

Wildcats snap Spartans 15 game win streak, 81-74

By Ernie Boone

EAST LANSING - Michigan State left its back door ajar, and John Shurna and those pesky Northwestern Wildcats sneaked through it time and time again for easy lay-ups to post an 81-74 victory and snap the Spartans' 15-game winning streak at Evanston Saturday, January 14.

Out scrapping the Spartans for loose balls and errant rebounds, Northwestern bounced MSU from the ranks of Big Ten unbeaten.

Northwestern took full advantage of MSU defensive lapses to get into the paint to

score and used deadly outside shooting to erase an early 9-point MSU advantage and lead at halftime by two.

They capitalized on Spartan turnovers and fouls to build a double digit lead early in the second period and fought off a couple of MSU rallies with accurate free throw shooting, timely rebounding and solid defense after the intermission to post the victory.

Northwestern's 32-28 scoring advantage in the paint, and 21-17 edge from the free throw line proved to be the difference.

MSU remains on top of the

conference standings, however, tied with Illinois with identical 4-1 records.

They'll have to rebound quickly, however, with a Tuesday night visit to Ann Arbor to face Michigan staring them in the face.

Michigan will be loaded for bear having dropped a stunning, 75-59, contest to Iowa. It was the Wolverine's second conference loss.

Shurna, always a pain in the Spartans' rear, led all scorers with 22 points, grabbed 5 rebounds and dealt 5 assists to lead the way, but he got plenty of help from Drew Crawford, 20 points, and



Draymond Green

Davide Curletti, 17 points, 6 rebounds and four assists.

Keith Appling paced the Spartans with 17 points, 3 rebounds and 3 assists. Draymond Green was the only other Spartan in double

figures, scoring 14 points. He grabbed 14 rebounds and dished 4 assists.

Brandon Wood added 9 points and 5 assists.

The Spartans earned their 4-1 conference mark with Breslin Center wins over Indiana, 80-65, and Iowa, 95-61, and road victories over Nebraska, 68-55, and Wisconsin, 63-60.

The Wisconsin victory, an overtime thriller, was coach Tom Izzo's first win over Badgers mentor, Bo Ryan, in Madison, ending an eight game losing streak at the Kohl Center.

The Spartans hit 9 of 12 free throws in overtime and

survived when a Ryan Evans three-pointer was ruled too late to beat the clock.

Green and Appling led scorers in that contest, Green tallied 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and Appling totaled 16, 11 after the intermission.

Everybody got into the act into the scoring column, five reaching double figures.

Green led with 22 points, followed by Appling, 15, and Wood, 12. Travis Trice and Derrick Nix each had 10.

Green posted his ninth double-double adding 10 rebounds. Appling just missed joining the doubles club with 9 assists.

Spartans graduate winningest football senior class in school history

By Ernie Boone

EAST LANSING - One would think that Michigan State football coach, Mark Dantonio, could sit back and relax a little these days and feel a little vindication.

When he was hired five years ago, many snickered under their sleeves and whispered, "Same old Spartans," as they blew a lead and lost to Mike Hart and Michigan in his first meeting with the Wolverines.

"They'll show some promise, but they'll always lose the big ones. They'll never catch up with Michigan."

Well, he's done it. Mission accomplished. The Spartans just graduated the winningest senior class in school history, his recruits.

They never lost to Michigan, beating the Wolverines soundly four years in a row, shared a Big Ten championship, won the

Big 10's first Legends Division championship, played in two New Years Day bowl games, winning one, and finished tenth in the final USA Today coaches poll. Michigan finished 12th.

Despite having capped things off with a thrilling 33-30 triple overtime victory over SEC division champion, Georgia, the Spartan mentor will get no rest, however.

He's had to jump right into the thick of the recruiting wars, fighting to hold together a solid class as newly hired Ohio State head coach, Urban Meyer and others continue to seek top candidates up until the final February signing date.

He's battled his way to the top in this race for in-state and thus national elite supremacy, but no the really difficult job begins - STAYING THERE!

That's the real test. They've been there before.

Biggie Munn did it in the

1950's with national championships in 51 and 52; Duffy Daugherty sustained it through the 1960's with national titles in 65 and 66; George Perles got back there in the 1980's winning a pair of Big 10 titles ending with Rose Bowl win in 88.

Now the hard work of staying there begins.

That Outback Bowl victory was either the climax of a climb to the top or the beginning of a sustained stay among college football's elite programs.

Take your pick.

The Spartans demonstrated a resilience, determination and good luck in the see-saw battle that bodes well.

They began like losers, completing a pass in their end zone that resulted in a safety on their first play from scrimmage, and falling behind, 16-0 in the first half.

But they righted things after the intermission, using a pair of Darqueze Dennard interceptions to score two touchdowns on their way to taking a 20-19 fourth quarter lead.

When game MVP, Brandon Boykin scored to complete an 81 yard drive to give Georgia a 27-20 lead, it looked like MSU was in for another near miss and more cries of "same old Spartans."

MSU came back with a 10-play 80 yard drive capped by a Leveon Bell rushing touchdown to end regulation in a 27-27 deadlock.

Things looked mighty dim when Kirk Cousins threw an interception to end the Spartan's first overtime possession, as luck would have it, Georgia's Blair Walsh, the SEC career scoring leader,

missed a 42-yard field goal attempt to end the first overtime deadlocked.

Blair and Dan Conroy traded field goals in the second overtime before Conroy gave MSU a 33-30 lead with a 28-yard field goal in the third extra period. Reserve defensive tackle, Anthony Rashad White, starting in place of the injured, Kevin Pickelman, settled the affair with a block of Blair's final field goal attempt.

The victory contained all the ingredients the Spartans will need to remain ahead or on par with Michigan and take a permanent place among the elite.

Dantonio appears to have commitments for a solid recruiting class, and his efforts were bolstered by the NCAA agreeing to the transfer of former Tennessee wide receiver, DeAnthony Arnett.



(31) MSU defensive back, Darqueze Dennard, races to the end zone with an interception against Georgia in the Outback Bowl. Photo by Adia Boone



24) LeVeon Bell, MSU (24) heads toward the end zone in Spartans' 33-30 Outback Bowl victory over Georgia. Photo by Adia Boone



Sophomore Max Bullough (40) knocks down a Georgia pass. The 6-3 line backer made a leaping defensive contribution to the Outback Bowl victory for MSU. Photo by Adia Boone

Lady Spartans shine, remain undefeated in the Big Ten

EAST LANSING - Penn State and Ohio State were pre-season picks to battle for the Big Ten women's basketball title, and defending champion Michigan State was expected to trail the leaders in rebuilding mode.

Attempting to replace the production of three seniors who had been mainstays for four seasons with a group dominated by freshmen and sophomores was a task most observers considered too difficult to contemplate a repeat title run.

It's early in the conference season, but the young Spartans have the conference sitting up and taking notice.

The Spartans put together a 12-0 run late in the second half Thursday, January 12 at the Breslin Center to top Indiana, 67-47, and post their fourth straight Big Ten conference victory and

remain undefeated in league play.

Coupled with victories over arch-rival, Michigan, 60-55, and 19th ranked Penn State, 75-65, the Spartans sit atop the conference standings along side Nebraska and Purdue.

Using a blend of seniors and upperclassmen and youngsters, coach Suzy Merchant has the team in the thick of the title race with Ohio State coming to town.

Porsche Poole led the attack against the Hoosiers with 16 points, and fellow senior, Taylor Alton tallied 20 against Penn State. Freshman point guard, Klana Johnson had 18 points at Penn State, and posted a career high 10 assists against Indiana.

Ohio State, ranked 11th and trailing in the standings at 3-1, comes to town Sunday, January 15 for a 4 p.m. game.

The Lansing Area Hispanic Business Association, The Lansing Black Chamber of Commerce, and Meijer invite you to this unique networking opportunity. Come learn how your local supercenter is connecting with your community through health and wellness initiatives, employment opportunities, product localization and more.

La Asociación Hispana de Negocios de Lansing y Meijer les invita a esta oportunidad única. Venga y aprenda cómo su supercentro local conecta con la comunidad hispana a través de iniciativas de salud y bienestar, las oportunidades de empleo, la localización de productos y más.

Date:	January 18, 2012
Fecha:	el 18 de enero del 2012
Location:	Meijer Okemos Store
Locación:	2055 W. Grand River Avenue
	Okemos, MI 48864
Agenda:	Programa:
5:00pm to 5:30pm	Networking
	Hora Social
5:30pm to 6:30pm	Healthy Living and Community Programs
	Vida Saludable y Programas de la Comunidad
6:30pm to 7:00pm	Careers at Meijer
	Carreras en Meijer
7:00pm to 7:30pm	Product Localization
	La localización de productos

Refreshments will be served.
Se servirán refrescos.