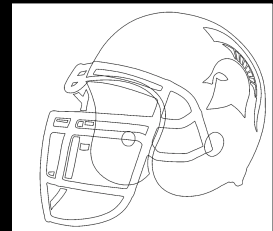


MICHIGAN STATE FOOTBALL 2003



MICHIGAN STATE (8-4, 5-3 Big Ten) vs. No. 22/21 NEBRASKA (9-3, 5-3 Big 12)

**MasterCard Alamo Bowl • Dec. 29, 2003 • 9:05 p.m. EST (ESPN)
The Alamodome (65,000/artificial turf) • San Antonio, Texas**

LAST GAME: Michigan State defeated Penn State, 41-10, on Nov. 22; No. 25 Nebraska won at Colorado, 31-22, on Nov. 28.

BROADCAST COVERAGE: **Radio** – The Spartan Radio Network, featuring veteran play-by-play announcer George Blaha, color analyst Bill Burke, sideline reporter Will Tieman and broadcast host Mike Kamin, will broadcast the game to 34 affiliates throughout the state. Michigan State football broadcasts can be heard locally on flagship station WJIM (AM 1240, FM 97.5). Westwood One will broadcast the MasterCard Alamo Bowl nationally with Joel Meyers and Allen Pinkett calling the action. **Television** – ESPN will televise the MasterCard Alamo Bowl live to a national audience, with Mike Tirico handling the play-by-play, Kirk Herbstreit and Lee Corso providing color commentary and Dr. Jerry Punch serving as the sideline reporter.

2003 SCHEDULES & SCOREBOARDS

MICHIGAN STATE (8-4, 5-3 Big Ten)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 30	WESTERN MICHIGAN (ESPN Plus)	W, 26-21
Sept. 6	RUTGERS (ESPN Plus)	W, 44-28
Sept. 13	LOUISIANA TECH (ESPN Plus)	L, 19-20
Sept. 20	at Notre Dame (NBC)	W, 22-16
Sept. 27	IOWA (ESPN Plus)	W, 20-10
Oct. 4	INDIANA (ESPN Plus)	W, 31-3
Oct. 11	at Illinois (ESPN2)	W, 49-14
Oct. 18	at Minnesota (ESPN2)	W, 44-38
Nov. 1	MICHIGAN (ABC)	L, 20-27
Nov. 8	at Ohio State (ABC)	L, 23-33
Nov. 15	at Wisconsin (ESPN2)	L, 21-56
Nov. 22	PENN STATE (ESPN)	W, 41-10
Dec. 29	vs. Nebraska (Alamo Bowl, ESPN)	9:05 p.m. EST

NEBRASKA (9-3, 5-3 Big 12)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Aug. 30	OKLAHOMA STATE	W, 17-7
Sept. 6	UTAH STATE	W, 31-7
Sept. 13	PENN STATE	W, 18-10
Sept. 25	at Southern Miss	W, 38-14
Oct. 4	TROY STATE	W, 30-0
Oct. 11	at Missouri	L, 24-41
Oct. 18	TEXAS A&M	W, 48-12
Oct. 25	IOWA STATE	W, 28-0
Nov. 1	at Texas	L, 7-31
Nov. 8	at Kansas	W, 24-3
Nov. 15	KANSAS STATE	L, 9-38
Nov. 28	at Colorado	W, 31-22
Dec. 29	vs. Michigan State (Alamo Bowl, ESPN)	8:05 p.m. CST

THE COACHES—

Michigan State's John L. Smith (Weber State 1971) is 8-4 (.667) in his first year with the Spartans and 118-64 (.648) in 15 seasons as a college head coach. He ranks No. 13 among active NCAA I-A football coaches with 118 career wins. Smith came to Michigan State following five seasons at Louisville (1998-2002) where he put together a 41-21 worksheet (.661), including five-straight bowl appearances and back-to-back C-USA titles in 2000-01. He posted a 16-18 ledger (.471) in three seasons at Utah State (1995-97) while leading the Aggies to consecutive Big West Conference crowns in 1996-97. His six-year mark of 53-21 (.716) at Idaho (1989-94) included five NCAA I-AA playoff appearances and five Top 20 finishes.

Nebraska's Bo Pelini (Ohio State 1990) makes his head coaching debut vs. Michigan State in the MasterCard Alamo Bowl. Pelini, who is in his first year as defensive coordinator for the Cornhuskers, was named interim head coach on Nov. 30 following the dismissal of Frank Solich. The 36-year-old Pelini came to Nebraska following a nine-year stint in the National Football League. He spent three seasons as line-backers coach for the Green Bay Packers from 2000-02. Pelini previously worked three years each with the New England Patriots (1997-99) and San Francisco 49ers (1994-96). He earned four letters as a free safety at Ohio State where he played for Earle Bruce (1987) and John Cooper (1988-90).

MICHIGAN STATE-NEBRASKA SERIES BREAKDOWN

SERIES RECORD: Nebraska leads 4-0

IN LINCOLN: Nebraska leads 3-0

IN EAST LANSING: Nebraska leads 1-0

LAST MEETING: Nebraska 55, MSU 14 (Sept. 7, 1996)

FIRST MEETING: Nebraska 24, MSU 0 (Oct. 24, 1914)

JOHN L. SMITH vs. NEBRASKA: 0-0

BO PELINI vs. MSU: 0-0

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**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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Assistant SID Matt Larson

Home Phone: (517) 485-5157

Intern Lindsay Carpenter

Intern Latonya Taylor

Office Assistant Paulette Martis

SPARTAN SPORTS ZONE

Spartan Sports Zone, a weekly 30-minute television show produced and distributed by the Michigan State Athletics Department, will air Mondays, beginning Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. (Eastern) on Fox Sports Net Detroit. The program will be replayed on Thursdays at 12 noon. The magazine-format show is dedicated to in-depth coverage of Michigan State football, men's basketball and ice hockey. Dave Ellis serves as host for the program.

TEAM COMPARISONS –

	Michigan State	Nebraska
Basic Offense	Spread	I-Formation
Basic Defense	Multiple 4-3	4-3
Offensive Starters Returning	6	5
Defensive Starters Returning	8	8
Specialists Returning	2	1

AVERAGE HEIGHTS & WEIGHTS (STARTERS) –

	Michigan State	Nebraska
Offensive Line & Tight End	6-4, 298	6-3, 299
Offensive Backs & Wide Receivers	6-1, 202	5-11, 207
Defensive Line	6-5, 278	6-3, 276
Linebackers	6-1, 245	6-1, 223
Defensive Backs	5-11, 189	6-0, 186

CLASS BREAKDOWN (STARTERS) –

Michigan State Offense: 4 seniors, 1 junior, 6 sophomores
 Michigan State Defense: 3 seniors, 5 juniors, 2 sophomores, 1 freshman
 Nebraska Offense: 4 seniors, 2 juniors, 4 sophomores, 1 freshman
 Nebraska Defense: 5 seniors, 2 juniors, 4 sophomores

STAT LEADERS –

Michigan State (after 12 games):

Rushing – Jaren Hayes (139 carries for 596 yards, 4.3 avg., 5 TDs)
 Passing – Jeff Smoker (281 of 449 for 3239 yards, 21 TDs, 11 INTs)
 Receiving – Agim Shabaj (53 catches for 661 yards, 12.5 avg., 5 TDs)
 Tackles – Jason Harmon (100 tackles, 58 solos, 42 assists, 3 interceptions)

Nebraska (after 12 games):

Rushing – Jammal Lord (205 carries for 869 yards, 4.2 avg., 10 TDs)
 Passing – Jammal Lord (77 of 159 for 1145 yards, 6 TDs, 8 INTs)
 Receiving – Matt Herian (22 catches for 484 yards, 22.0 avg., 3 TDs)
 Tackles – Barrett Ruud (140 tackles, 74 solos, 66 assists, 13 for losses)

STAT COMPARISON –

	Michigan State	Nebraska
Scoring	30.0	25.4
First Downs	20.0	18.0
Total Offense	383.5	341.3
Rushing Yards	104.0	236.2
Passing Yards	279.5	105.2
Time of Possession	28:52	31:47
Third Down Conversions	.368	.363
Points Allowed	23.0	15.4
Total Offense Allowed	379.2	307.4
Rushing Yards Allowed	116.1	127.8
Passing Yards Allowed	263.1	179.7

MSU/NEBRASKA SERIES NOTES –

The MasterCard Alamo Bowl marks the fifth meeting between Michigan State and Nebraska. The Cornhuskers lead the all-time series 4-0, including a 3-0 record in Lincoln, Neb., and a 1-0 mark in East Lansing, Mich. The last meeting in the series came on Sept. 7, 1996, with Nebraska winning at home, 55-14. The Cornhuskers posted a 50-10 victory in Spartan Stadium on Sept. 9, 1995. (Note: For a complete list of all-time series scores, please refer to page 188 in the 2003 MSU Football Media Guide.)

Nebraska has outscored Michigan State, 164-31, in the previous four meetings, for an average score of 41-8.

THE LAST MEETING –

Sept. 7, 1996, in Lincoln, Neb.: Scott Frost accounted for 132 total yards and two touchdowns to lead top-ranked Nebraska to a 55-14 victory over Michigan State in Memorial Stadium. Frost opened the scoring with an 11-yard run midway through the first quarter and threw a 35-yard TD pass to Brendan Holbein late in the third quarter. Nebraska's defense produced two scores, with Mike Minter (84 yards) and Grant Wistrom (9 yards) returning interceptions for TDs. The Cornhuskers' special teams also contributed big plays, with Mike Fullman returning a punt 62 yards for a score early in the second quarter and a blocked punt setting up Ahman Green's 1-yard TD run late in the third quarter. Nebraska forced four turnovers and outgained Michigan State in total yards, 298-246.

MSU/NEBRASKA COACHING CONNECTION –

Legendary Nebraska head coach Bob Devaney, who compiled a 101-20-2 record (.829) in 11 seasons from 1962-72 and won back-to-back national titles in 1970-71, broke into the collegiate coaching ranks as an assistant at Michigan State. In 1953, Devaney joined Biggie Munn's staff as an assistant coach and scout. The Saginaw, Mich., native spent the next three years (1954-56) as the Spartans' ends coach under Duffy Daugherty. During his four-year tenure as an assistant coach at Michigan State, the Spartans produced a 28-10 record (.737) and made two trips to the Rose Bowl (1953 and 1955).

SPARTAN BOWL HISTORY –

The 2003 MasterCard Alamo Bowl marks Michigan State's 17th postseason bowl appearance. The Spartans are 7-9 (.438) in bowl games, including consecutive wins over No. 9 Florida (37-34) in the 2000 Florida Citrus Bowl and No. 20 Fresno State (44-35) in the 2001 Silicon Valley Football Classic.

The 2003 Alamo Bowl also marks Michigan State's third trip to Texas for a bowl game, with the Spartans compiling a 1-1 record in two Sun Bowls (1990 and 1996).

Here's how Michigan State has fared in its 16 previous bowl games:

Date (Coach)	Bowl	Result
Jan. 1, 1938 (Charles Bachman)	Orange	Auburn 6, MSU 0
Jan. 1, 1954 (Biggie Munn)	Rose	MSU 28, UCLA 20
Jan. 2, 1956 (Duffy Daugherty)	Rose	MSU 17, UCLA 14
Jan. 1, 1966 (Duffy Daugherty)	Rose	UCLA 14, MSU 12
Dec. 22, 1984 (George Perles)	Cherry	Army 10, MSU 6
Dec. 31, 1985 (George Perles)	All-American	Georgia Tech 17, MSU 14
Jan. 1, 1988 (George Perles)	Rose	MSU 20, Southern Cal 17
Jan. 1, 1989 (George Perles)	Gator	Georgia 34, MSU 27
Dec. 25, 1989 (George Perles)	Aloha	MSU 33, Hawaii 13
Dec. 31, 1990 (George Perles)	Sun	MSU 17, Southern Cal 16
Dec. 28, 1993 (George Perles)	Liberty	Louisville 18, MSU 7
Dec. 29, 1995 (Nick Saban)	Independence	Louisiana State 45, MSU 26
Dec. 31, 1996 (Nick Saban)	Sun	Stanford 38, MSU 0
Dec. 25, 1997 (Nick Saban)	Aloha	Washington 51, MSU 23
Jan. 1, 2000 (Bobby Williams)	Florida Citrus	MSU 37, Florida 34
Dec. 31, 2001 (Bobby Williams)	Silicon Valley	MSU 44, Fresno State 35

2003 SPARTAN RADIO NETWORK AFFILIATES

City	Call Letters
Adrian	WABJ (AM 1490)
Alma	WQBX (FM 104.9)
Alpena	WATZ (AM 1450)
Bad Axe	WLEW (AM 1340)
Battle Creek	WBCK (AM 930)
Benton Harbor/ St. Joseph	WZBL (FM 103.7)
Cadillac	WKJF (AM 1370)
Caro	WKYO (AM 1360)
Coldwater	WTVB (AM 1590)
Detroit	WXYT (AM 1270)
Flint	WTRX (AM 1330)
Fremont	WSHN (AM 1550)
Gaylord	WAVC (FM 93.9)
Grand Rapids	WBBL (AM 1340)
Greenville	WSCG (AM 1380) WSCG (FM 106.3)
Iron Mountain	WMIQ (AM 1450)
Jackson	WIBM (AM 1450)
Kalamazoo	WQSN (AM 1660)
Lansing	WJIM (AM 1240) WJIM (FM 97.5)
Ludington	WKLA (AM 1450)
Manistee	WMTE (AM 1340)
Marquette	WDMJ (AM 1320)
Mt. Pleasant	WMMI (AM 830)
Muskegon	WUBR (AM 1490)
Newberry	WIHC (FM 97.9)
Petoskey	WWKK (AM 750)
Port Huron	WPHM (AM 1380)
Sault Ste. Marie	WKNW (AM 1400)
Saginaw	WSGW (AM 790)
Saint Ignace	WIDG (AM 940)
Tawas City	WKJC (FM 104.7)
Traverse City	WCCW (AM 1310)

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2003 BIG TEN FINAL STANDINGS

Team	Conf.	Overall
Michigan	7-1	10-2
Ohio State	6-2	10-2
Purdue	6-2	9-3
Michigan State	5-3	8-4
Iowa	5-3	9-3
Minnesota	5-3	9-3
Wisconsin	4-4	7-5
Northwestern	4-4	6-6
Penn State	1-7	3-9
Indiana	1-7	2-10
Illinois	0-8	1-11

2003-04 BIG TEN BOWL SCHEDULE

Dec. 26 – Motor City Bowl
Northwestern (6-6) vs.
Bowling Green (10-3)

Dec. 29 – Alamo Bowl
Michigan State (8-4) vs.
Nebraska (9-3)

Dec. 31 – Music City Bowl
Wisconsin (7-5) vs.
Auburn (7-5)

Dec. 31 – Sun Bowl
Minnesota (9-3) vs.
Oregon (8-4)

Jan. 1 – Outback Bowl
Iowa (9-3) vs.
Florida (8-4)

Jan. 1 – Capital One Bowl
Purdue (9-3) vs.
Georgia (10-3)

Jan. 1 – Rose Bowl
Michigan (10-2) vs.
Southern Cal (11-1)

Jan. 2 – Fiesta Bowl
Ohio State (10-2) vs.
Kansas State (11-3)

SPARTANS vs. BIG 12 TEAMS –

Michigan State has compiled a 23-9-1 record (.712) against current members of the Big 12 Conference (1-0 vs. Baylor, 3-0 vs. Colorado, 2-0 vs. Iowa State, 5-1 vs. Kansas, 5-0-1 vs. Kansas State, 5-3 vs. Missouri, 0-4 vs. Nebraska and 2-1 vs. Texas A&M). The Spartans are 5-3 vs. Big 12 teams since 1983, including back-to-back wins over Missouri in 2000 (13-10 in Columbia, Mo.) and 2001 (55-7 in Spartan Stadium). Here's a closer look at Michigan State's last eight games vs. Big 12 teams:

Date	Opponent	MSU Result	Site
Dec. 1, 2001	Missouri	W, 55-7	East Lansing
Sept. 16, 2000	Missouri	W, 13-10	Columbia
Sept. 7, 1996	Nebraska	L, 14-55	Lincoln
Sept. 9, 1995	Nebraska	L, 10-50	East Lansing
Sept. 10, 1994	Kansas	L, 10-17	Lawrence
Sept. 11, 1993	Kansas	W, 31-14	East Lansing
Sept. 8, 1984	Colorado	W, 24-21	Boulder
Sept. 10, 1983	Colorado	W, 23-17	East Lansing

SPARTANS TOUGH IN NON-CONFERENCE GAMES –

Since 1999, Michigan State has compiled a 16-3 record (.842) in games played against non-conference opponents. In 2002, the Spartans had a 15-game winning streak against non-conference foes snapped by California, 46-22.

Here's a look at Michigan State's non-conference results since 1999:

Date	Opponent	MSU Result	Site
Sept. 20, 2003	Notre Dame	W, 22-16	South Bend, Ind.
Sept. 13, 2003	Louisiana Tech	L, 19-20	Spartan Stadium
Sept. 6, 2003	Rutgers	W, 44-28	Spartan Stadium
Aug. 30, 2003	Western Michigan	W, 26-21	Spartan Stadium
Sept. 21, 2002	Notre Dame	L, 17-21	Spartan Stadium
Sept. 14, 2002	California	L, 22-46	Spartan Stadium
Sept. 7, 2002	Rice	W, 27-10	Spartan Stadium
Aug. 31, 2002	Eastern Michigan	W, 56-7	Spartan Stadium
Dec. 31, 2001	Fresno State	W, 44-35	San Jose, Calif.
Dec. 1, 2001	Missouri	W, 55-7	Spartan Stadium
Sept. 22, 2001	Notre Dame	W, 17-10	South Bend, Ind.
Sept. 8, 2001	Central Michigan	W, 35-21	Spartan Stadium
Sept. 23, 2000	Notre Dame	W, 27-21	Spartan Stadium
Sept. 16, 2000	Missouri	W, 13-10	Columbia, Mo.
Sept. 9, 2000	Marshall	W, 34-24	Spartan Stadium
Jan. 1, 2000	Florida	W, 37-34	Orlando, Fla.
Sept. 18, 1999	Notre Dame	W, 23-13	South Bend, Ind.
Sept. 11, 1999	Eastern Michigan	W, 51-7	Spartan Stadium
Sept. 2, 1999	Oregon	W, 27-20	Spartan Stadium

UPSET SPECIALS –

Michigan State is 15-14 (.517) in its last 29 games against teams ranked in the Associated Press Top 25, including a 9-3 record (.750) in games played in Spartan Stadium. Twelve of those 15 wins over ranked teams have come while Michigan State was unranked or ranked below its opponent. The Spartans are 2-2 vs. AP Top 25 teams in 2003, including victories over No. 13 Iowa (20-10) and No. 25 Minnesota (44-38) and losses to No. 11 Michigan (27-20) and No. 7 Ohio State (33-23).

The Spartans were 3-22 (.120) in their previous 25 games against ranked teams before their current 15-14 run.

Here's a look at Michigan State's last 29 games against AP Top 25 teams:

Date	Result (Associated Press Ranking)	Site
Nov. 8, 2003	No. 7 Ohio State 33, No. 14 MSU 23	Columbus
Nov. 1, 2003	No. 11 Michigan 27, No. 9 MSU 20	East Lansing
Oct. 18, 2003	No. 15 MSU 44, No. 25 Minnesota 38	Minneapolis
Sept. 27, 2003	MSU 20, No. 13 Iowa 10	East Lansing
Nov. 23, 2002	No. 15 Penn State 61, MSU 7	State College
Nov. 2, 2002	No. 15 Michigan 49, MSU 3	Ann Arbor
Oct. 12, 2002	No. 17 Iowa 44, MSU 16	Iowa City
Sept. 21, 2002	No. 12 Notre Dame 21, MSU 17	East Lansing
Dec. 31, 2001	MSU 44, No. 20 Fresno State 35	San Jose
Nov. 3, 2001	MSU 26, No. 6 Michigan 24	East Lansing
Sept. 29, 2001	No. 16 Northwestern 27, No. 23 MSU 26	Evanston
Sept. 22, 2001	MSU 17, No. 23 Notre Dame 10	South Bend
Nov. 11, 2000	MSU 30, No. 9 Purdue 10	East Lansing
Nov. 4, 2000	No. 16 Ohio State 27, MSU 13	Columbus
Oct. 21, 2000	No. 16 Michigan 14, MSU 0	Ann Arbor
Sept. 23, 2000	No. 23 MSU 27, No. 16 Notre Dame 21	East Lansing
Jan. 1, 2000	No. 9 MSU 37, No. 10 Florida 34	Orlando
Nov. 20, 1999	No. 15 MSU 35, No. 13 Penn State 28	East Lansing
Nov. 6, 1999	No. 19 MSU 23, No. 20 Ohio State 7	East Lansing
Oct. 23, 1999	No. 17 Wisconsin 40, No. 11 MSU 10	Madison
Oct. 16, 1999	No. 20 Purdue 52, No. 5 MSU 28	West Lafayette
Oct. 9, 1999	No. 11 MSU 34, No. 3 Michigan 31	East Lansing
Sept. 18, 1999	MSU 23, No. 24 Notre Dame 13	South Bend
Nov. 28, 1998	No. 23 Penn State 51, MSU 28	State College
Nov. 7, 1998	MSU 28, No. 1 Ohio State 24	Columbus
Sept. 12, 1998	MSU 45, No. 10 Notre Dame 23	East Lansing
Aug. 29, 1998	No. 15 Colorado State 23, No. 23 MSU 16	East Lansing
Dec. 25, 1997	No. 21 Washington 51, No. 25 MSU 23	Aloha Bowl
Nov. 29, 1997	MSU 49, No. 4 Penn State 14	East Lansing

SPARTANS MAKE RARE APPEARANCE IN TEXAS –

The 2003 MasterCard Alamo Bowl marks Michigan State's fourth football trip to Texas and its first since the 1996 Sun Bowl (vs. Stanford). The Spartans have a 2-1 record (.667) in games played in Texas. Here's a breakdown of Michigan State's three previous appearances in the Lone Star State:

Date	Opponent	MSU Result	Site
Dec. 31, 1996	Stanford	L, 0-38	El Paso (Sun Bowl)
Dec. 31, 1990	Southern Cal	W, 17-16	El Paso (Sun Bowl)
Dec. 8, 1934	Texas A&M	W, 26-13	College Station

LONE STAR SPARTAN –

Michigan State's 100-man travel roster for the 2003 MasterCard Alamo Bowl features only one player from Texas: walk-on offensive tackle **Gary Elmore** (Fort Worth/W.E. Boswell High School).

FINAL REGULAR-SEASON POLLS

Associated Press

1. Southern Cal (11-1)
2. Louisiana State (12-1)
3. Oklahoma (12-1)
4. Michigan (10-2)
5. Texas (10-2)
6. Tennessee (10-2)
7. Ohio State (10-2)
8. Kansas State (11-3)
9. Florida State (10-2)
10. Miami-Fla. (10-2)
11. Georgia (10-3)
12. Purdue (9-3)
13. Iowa (9-3)
14. Miami-Ohio (12-1)
15. Washington State (9-3)
16. Mississippi (9-3)
17. Florida (8-4)
18. Boise State (12-1)
19. Texas Christian (11-1)
20. West Virginia (8-4)
21. Oklahoma State (9-3)
- 22. Nebraska (9-3)**
23. Maryland (9-3)
24. Minnesota (9-3)
25. Utah (9-2)

USA Today/ESPN Coaches

1. Southern Cal (11-1)
2. Louisiana State (12-1)
3. Oklahoma (12-1)
4. Michigan (10-2)
5. Texas (10-2)
6. Ohio State (10-2)
7. Tennessee (10-2)
8. Florida State (10-2)
9. Miami-Fla. (10-2)
10. Kansas State (11-3)
11. Georgia (10-3)
12. Iowa (9-3)
13. Purdue (9-3)
14. Washington State (9-3)
15. Miami-Ohio (12-1)
16. Boise State (12-1)
17. Florida (8-4)
18. Mississippi (9-3)
19. Texas Christian (11-1)
20. Minnesota (9-3)
- 21. Nebraska (9-3)**
22. Oklahoma State (9-3)
23. West Virginia (8-4)
24. Maryland (9-3)
25. Utah (9-2)

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2003 NCAA DEFENSIVE STAT LEADERS

Sacks

1. Kansas State (345 yds.)	51
2. Southern Cal (346)	46
3. Hawaii (301)	45
4. Michigan State (298)	44
5. Washington State (281)	43
6. Texas (303)	41
7. Oklahoma (257)	40
8. Louisiana State (320)	39
Notre Dame (261)	39
10. Texas Christian (262)	38

Turnovers Gained

1. Washington State	45
2. Nebraska	44
3. Southern Cal	41
4. Miami-Ohio	39
5. West Virginia	36
6. UNLV	35
Troy State	35
8. North Texas	33
9. Florida	31
Northern Illinois	31
Tulane	31
Oklahoma	31
Louisiana State	31
18. Michigan State	29
Miami-Fla.	29
Nevada	29

Turnover Margin

1. Nebraska	+20
Southern Cal	+20
Miami-Ohio	+20
4. West Virginia	+18
5. Oklahoma	+16
6. Michigan State	+14
Missouri	+14
Northern Illinois	+14

LONE STAR SPARTANS, PART II –

The impact Texas players have had on Michigan State's football program has to be measured in terms of quality, not quantity. In 107 seasons, Texas has provided only a dozen letterwinners but that modest figure includes three All-Americans: defensive end **Charles "Bubba" Smith** (Beaumont), wide receiver **Gene Washington** (LaPorte) and guard **Earl Lattimer** (Dallas).

Smith, a two-time All-American, helped the Spartans win back-to-back national championships in 1965-66 while posting a combined record of 19-1-1 (.929). At 6-foot-8, 280 pounds, he anchored a defensive front that helped lead the nation in rushing defense, allowing just 47.3 yards per game. Selected No. 1 overall in the 1967 National Football League Draft by the Baltimore Colts, Smith earned All-Pro honors twice, in 1970-71.

Washington led the Spartans in receptions for three-straight seasons from 1964-66, finishing with 102 career catches for 1,857 yards and 16 touchdowns. The two-time All-American became a first-round draft pick for the Minnesota Vikings in 1967. Washington received All-Pro recognition in 1969-70.

Lattimer excelled as a two-way player for Duffy Daugherty in 1963, earning All-America honors as a guard. A crowd favorite, the 5-11, 218-pound Lattimer often turned a somersault when running up to his position on the line of scrimmage.

Most recently, Hitchcock native Greg Randall started 22 consecutive games at right tackle for the Spartans from 1998-99. He spent his first three seasons in the NFL with the New England Patriots, winning a Super Bowl ring in 2001. Now, Randall starts at right tackle for the Houston Texans.

SAN ANTONIO SPARTANS –

- San Antonio Spur center/forward Kevin Willis was a two-year starter at Michigan State for Coach Jud Heathcote (1982-83 and 1983-84). Willis led the Spartans in rebounding as both a junior (9.6 per game) and senior (7.7). The 19-year NBA veteran is one of only two active players with more than 16,000 career points and 11,000 career rebounds.

- Steve Smith, Michigan State's second all-time leading scorer with 2,263 career points, spent two years with the San Antonio Spurs (2001-03) before signing with the New Orleans Hornets prior to the 2003-04 season. A two-time All-American, Smith led the Spartans in scoring for three-straight seasons, averaging a career-best 25.1 points in 1990-91. The guard is in his 13th season in the NBA.

SMITH IN BOWL GAMES AND POSTSEASON PLAY –

Michigan State's John L. Smith is making his 12th appearance as a head coach in postseason play, including his seventh straight bowl game. Twelve of his 15 teams have participated in postseason play. Smith has compiled a 4-10 record (.286) in postseason action, including a 1-5 mark (.167) in bowl games.

Here are the results of Smith's previous postseason appearances.

School	Playoff/Bowl (Date)	Opponent (Result)
Idaho	1989 I-AA Playoffs (Nov. 25)	Eastern Illinois (L, 21-38)
Idaho	1990 I-AA Playoffs (Nov. 24)	SW Missouri State (W, 41-35)
	1990 I-AA Playoffs (Dec. 1)	Georgia Southern (L, 27-28)
Idaho	1992 I-AA Playoffs (Nov. 28)	McNeese State (L, 20-23)
Idaho	1993 I-AA Playoffs (Nov. 27)	Northeast Louisiana (W, 34-31)
	1993 I-AA Playoffs (Dec. 4)	Boston U. (W, 21-14)
	1993 I-AA Playoffs (Dec. 11)	Youngstown State (L, 16-35)
Idaho	1994 I-AA Playoffs (Nov. 26)	McNeese State (L, 21-38)
Utah State	1997 Humanitarian (Dec. 29)	Cincinnati (L, 19-35)
Louisville	1998 Motor City (Dec. 23)	Marshall (L, 29-48)
Louisville	1999 Humanitarian (Dec. 30)	Boise State (L, 31-34)
Louisville	2000 Liberty (Dec. 29)	Colorado State (L, 17-22)
Louisville	2001 Liberty (Dec. 31)	Brigham Young (W, 28-10)
Louisville	2002 GMAC (Dec. 18)	Marshall (L, 15-38)

SENIORS BID FAREWELL –

Sixteen seniors will make their final appearance in a Spartan uniform Dec. 29 vs. Nebraska in the MasterCard Alamo Bowl. This senior class has helped Michigan State to a combined record of 24-23 (.511) since 2000, including a 44-35 victory over No. 20 Fresno State in the 2001 Silicon Valley Football Classic.

The Class of 2003 includes placekicker **Mark Bojovic** (Warren, Mich.), offensive guard **Joe Brooks** (Milwaukee, Wis.), linebacker **Mark Goebel** (Milford, Mich.), offensive guard **Paul Harker** (Dayton, Ohio), wide receiver **Ziehl Kavanaght** (Brossard, Quebec), linebacker **Mike Labinjo** (Toronto, Ontario), cornerback **Jeremiah McLaurin** (Saginaw, Mich.), offensive lineman **DeMarco Monroe** (Evansville, Ind.), defensive lineman **Luc Mullinder** (Mississauga, Ontario), snapper **Andrew Petterson** (Denver, Colo.), defensive tackle **Kyle Rasmussen** (Hadley, Mich.), quarterback **Jeff Smoker** (Manheim, Pa.), offensive tackle **Steve Stewart** (Sandusky, Ohio), defensive end **Greg Taplin** (Hollywood, Fla.), offensive guard **Joe Tate** (Southfield, Mich.) and linebacker **Monquiz Wedlow** (Saginaw, Mich.).

SMITH NAMED BIG TEN COACH OF THE YEAR –

Michigan State first-year coach John L. Smith, who orchestrated the nation's fifth-biggest turnaround in 2003, earned the Dave McClain Coach of the Year award as selected by the Big Ten media panel. Smith, who inherited a team that went 4-8 a year ago and finished eighth in the league at 2-6, produced an 8-4 record in 2003 and climbed to fourth in the final Big Ten standings at 5-3. The 55-year-old Smith became just the fourth coach in Spartan history to earn Big Ten Coach of the Year honors, joining Denny Stolz (1974), Darryl Rogers (1978) and George Perles (1987).

His eight wins mark the most by a first-year coach in school history. Smith also becomes only the second first-year coach in Spartan history to earn a postseason bowl bid in his initial season, joining Nick Saban who guided the 1995 team to a 6-5-1 record including a trip to the Independence Bowl.

Michigan State opened the 2003 campaign with a 7-1 record – its best start since 1966. The Spartans put together a five-game winning streak that featured victories over three ranked opponents: Notre Dame (NR/No. 23), Iowa (No. 13/9) and Minnesota (No. 25/19). Following its 44-38 victory at Minnesota, Michigan State ascended to No. 9 in the Associated Press poll – its first appearance in the AP Top 10 since the 1999 season. In addition, the Spartans opened Big Ten play 4-0 for just the third time since joining the league in 1953.

Here's a closer look at the NCAA's (I-A) most improved teams in 2003 (regular season):

School	2002 Record	2003 Record	Improvement
1. Tulsa	1-11	8-4	+7.0
2. Navy	2-10	8-4	+6.0
3. Memphis	3-9	8-4	+5.0
4. Miami (Ohio)	7-5	12-1	+4.5
5. Michigan State	4-8	8-4	+4.0
Kansas	2-10	6-6	+4.0
Rutgers	1-11	5-7	+4.0

INJURY REPORT –

OUT: LB **Mitch Herrema** (knee vs. Iowa; underwent surgery Oct. 24); WR **Dave Lesmeister** (fractured clavicle in Oct. 29 practice); DT **Brandon McKinney** (foot – stress reaction; underwent surgery Dec. 15); SS **Eric Smith** (knee in Nov. 13 practice; underwent surgery Dec. 5); DT **Greg Yeaster** (knee vs. Michigan). **PROBABLE:** OT **Gordon Niebyski** (sprained knee vs. Wisconsin; DNP vs. Penn State); OT **Stefon Wheeler** (neck vs. Ohio State; DNP vs. Wisconsin and Penn State).

**FUTURE SCHEDULES
2004**

Sept. 4	at Rutgers
Sept. 11	CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Sept. 18	NOTRE DAME
Sept. 25	at Indiana
Oct. 2	at Iowa
Oct. 9	ILLINOIS
Oct. 16	MINNESOTA
Oct. 30	at Michigan
Nov. 6	OHIO STATE
Nov. 13	WISCONSIN
Nov. 20	at Penn State
Dec. 4	at Hawai'i

2005

Sept. 3	KENT STATE
Sept. 10	HAWAII
Sept. 17	at Notre Dame
Sept. 24	at Illinois
Oct. 1	MICHIGAN
Oct. 15	at Ohio State
Oct. 22	NORTHWESTERN
Oct. 29	INDIANA
Nov. 5	at Purdue
Nov. 12	at Minnesota
Nov. 19	PENN STATE

2006

Sept. 9	EASTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 16	at Pittsburgh
Sept. 23	NOTRE DAME
Sept. 30	ILLINOIS
Oct. 7	at Michigan
Oct. 14	OHIO STATE
Oct. 21	at Northwestern
Oct. 28	at Indiana
Nov. 4	PURDUE
Nov. 11	MINNESOTA
Nov. 18	at Penn State

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SPARTAN STREAKS

Consecutive Games Started

Steve Stewart, OT	36
Joe Tate, OG	22
Clifford Dukes, DE	21

TOP SINGLE-GAME PERFORMANCES

Jaren Hayes Rushing

Yds. Opponent (Att.) Date

140	Louisiana Tech (30)	9/13/03
113	Penn State (23)	11/23/02
109	Notre Dame (19)	9/20/03

Jeff Smoker Passing

Yds. Opponent (C-A) Date

376	Fresno State (22-32)	12/31/01
357	Penn State (29-50)	11/22/03
356	Penn State (24-36)	11/24/01
351	Ohio State (35-55)	11/8/03
351	Indiana (32-40)	10/4/03
351	Rutgers (21-32)	9/6/03
326	Wisconsin (13-20)	10/27/01
324	Western Mich. (21-34)	8/30/03
317	Illinois (23-31)	10/11/03
317	Missouri (14-17)	12/1/01
288	Indiana (20-30)	11/10/01
281	Notre Dame (19-34)	9/21/02
263	Northwestern (15-24)	9/28/02
258	Minnesota (21-33)	10/20/01
254	Michigan (21-40)	11/1/03
252	Minnesota (30-46)	10/18/03
233	Northwestern (17-35)	9/30/00
232	Eastern Mich. (14-24)	8/31/02
229	Minnesota (17-29)	10/19/02
218	Iowa (28-44)	9/27/03
213	Rice (16-26)	9/7/02
207	Wisconsin (16-31)	11/15/03
206	California (16-33)	9/14/02

Damon Dowdell Passing

Yds. Opponent (C-A) Date

304	Purdue (24-45)	11/17/01
253	Purdue (18-32)	11/16/02
203	Indiana (17-25)	11/9/02
193	Penn State (18-29)	11/23/02
178	Michigan (15-34)	11/2/02
162	Wisconsin (14-24)	10/26/02

Agim Shabaj Receiving

Yds. Opponent (Rec.) Date

145	Rutgers (7)	9/6/03
106	Michigan (4)	11/1/03

Greg Cooper Tackles

TM Opponent (S-A) Date

12	Wisconsin (4-8)	11/15/03
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BIG TEN/NCAA STAT LEADERS—

Here's a glance at how Michigan State ranks among the Big Ten and NCAA stat leaders in 2003:

Category	Stat Avg.	Big Ten	NCAA
Rushing Offense	104.0	11th	106th
Passing Offense	279.5	1st	19th
Total Offense	383.5	4th	57th
Scoring Offense	30.0	3rd	t-37th
Rushing Defense	116.1	4th	24th
Passing Defense	263.1	11th	104th
Pass Efficiency Defense	129.4	9th	80th
Total Defense	379.2	8th	62nd
Scoring Defense	23.0	7th	45th
Turnover Margin	+1.17	1st	t-6th
Net Punting	40.4	2nd	7th
Punt Returns	6.4	11th	108th
Kickoff Returns	24.2	1st	9th

NCAA STAT LEADERS—

Here's a glance at how Michigan State ranks among the NCAA stat leaders in 2003:

Team Statistics

Rushing Offense: 106th at 104.0 yards per game

Passing Offense: 19th at 279.5 yards per game

Passing Efficiency: 44th at 132.3 rating

Total Offense: 57th at 383.5 yards per game

Scoring Offense: t-37th at 30.0 points per game

Rushing Defense: 24th at 116.1 yards per game

Passing Defense: 104th at 263.1 yards per game

Pass Efficiency Defense: 80th at 129.4 rating

Total Defense: 62nd at 379.2 yards per game

Scoring Defense: 45th at 23.0 points per game

Turnover Margin: t-6th at +1.17 turnovers per game

Net Punting: 7th at 40.4 yards per punt

Punt Returns: 108th at 6.4 yards per return

Kickoff Returns: 9th at 24.2 yards per return

Individual Statistics (Top 50)

Passing Efficiency: Jeff Smoker (41st at 133.7 rating)

Total Offense: Jeff Smoker (24th at 262.4 yards per game)

Punting: Brandon Fields (2nd at 46.3 yards per punt)

Kickoff Returns: DeAndra Cobb (8th at 28.2 yards per return)

Field Goals: Dave Rayner (t-7th at 1.75 made per game)

Scoring: Dave Rayner (t-20th at 8.5 points per game)

Points Responsible For: Jeff Smoker (t-35th at 12.0 points per game)

TAKING CARE OF THE PIGSKIN—

Michigan State head coach John L. Smith and offensive coordinator Dave Baldwin have preached the importance of ball security in executing the spread offense, and the Spartans' skill position players have responded to the sermon. Through 12 games in 2003, Michigan State has committed just 15 turnovers – the NCAA's third-lowest total (tied with Oklahoma, Purdue and Wyoming). The Spartans have lost just three fumbles – the NCAA's best mark.

Michigan State has played five complete games without committing a turnover, including a streak of four straight contests (Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota). The Spartans came within three seconds of extending that streak to five games in a row, but Jeff Smoker's Hail Mary pass into the end zone against Michigan was intercepted by Scott McClintock as time expired.

TAKEAWAYS FUEL SPARTAN TURNAROUND—

Michigan State has generated nearly 27 percent of its scoring off turnovers in 2003 (8.0 points per game). The Spartans lead the Big Ten and rank sixth in the NCAA (tied with Missouri and Northern Illinois) in turnover margin (+14 overall). Michigan State has parlayed 29 takeaways into 96 points, while its opponents have converted 15 Spartan miscues into 45 points.

The Spartans have forced at least one turnover in all 12 games. Michigan State has failed to produce points off turnovers twice this season – in back-to-back games vs. Ohio State and Wisconsin.

By comparison, Michigan State ranked eighth in the Big Ten and No. 83 nationally in turnover margin (-7 overall; -0.58 per game) in 2002.

Here's a game-by-game look at MSU's takeaways and giveaways in 2003:

Michigan State	Takeaways	Points
Western Michigan	2 (2 interceptions)	6
Rutgers	2 (2 interceptions)	7
Louisiana Tech	5 (3 interceptions, 2 fumbles)	6
@ Notre Dame	3 (2 interceptions, fumble)	6
Iowa	4 (3 fumbles, interception)	13
Indiana	1 (fumble)	7
@ Illinois	3 (2 interceptions, fumble)	21
@ Minnesota	3 (3 fumbles)	17
Michigan	2 (interception, fumble)	7
@ Ohio State	1 (interception)	–
@ Wisconsin	1 (fumble)	–
Penn State	2 (fumble, interception)	6
Totals	29 (15 interceptions, 14 fumbles)	96

Opponent	Takeaways	Points
Western Michigan	2 (2 interceptions)	7
Rutgers	3 (2 interceptions, fumble)	14
Louisiana Tech	–	–
@ Notre Dame	3 (2 interceptions, fumble)	3
Iowa	–	–
Indiana	–	–
@ Illinois	–	–
@ Minnesota	–	–
Michigan	1 (1 interceptions)	–
@ Ohio State	2 (2 interceptions)	7
@ Wisconsin	3 (2 interceptions, fumble)	14
Penn State	1 (interception)	–
Totals	15 (12 interceptions, 3 fumbles)	45

MANY HAPPY SPARTAN RETURNS—

Michigan State has scored seven non-offensive touchdowns in 2003, including three kickoff, two fumble and two interception returns.

DeAndra Cobb has returned an NCAA-record tying three kickoffs for TDs, including a 93-yarder vs. Ohio State, a 100-yarder vs. Minnesota and a 94-yarder vs. Rutgers.

The Spartan defense has produced four TDs, with defensive end Clifford Dukes (65 yards vs. Michigan) and free safety Jason Harmon (52 yards vs. Illinois) returning fumbles for scores. Defensive end Greg Taplin (40 yards vs. Notre Dame) and BANDIT Monquiz Wedlow (29 yards vs. Rutgers) have returned interceptions for TDs.

TOP SINGLE-GAME PERFORMANCES

Jason Harmon Tackles

TM	Opponent (S-A)	Date
13	Michigan (5-8)	11/1/03
13	Minnesota (8-5)	10/19/02
13	Rice (10-3)	9/7/02
11	Minnesota (7-4)	10/18/03
10	Indiana (6-4)	10/4/03

Seth Mitchell Tackles

TM	Opponent (S-A)	Date
17	Ohio State (10-7)	11/8/03
15	Wisconsin (9-6)	11/15/03
15	Michigan (8-7)	11/1/03
11	Indiana (7-4)	10/4/03
10	Minnesota (5-5)	10/18/03

Mike Labinjo Tackles

TM	Opponent (S-A)	Date
16	Northwestern (11-5)	9/29/01
12	Western Mich. (9-3)	8/30/03
11	Minnesota (6-5)	10/18/03

Eric Smith Tackles

TM	Opponent (S-A)	Date
14	Indiana (5-9)	10/4/03
13	Wisconsin (12-1)	10/26/02
12	Illinois (10-2)	10/11/03
12	Notre Dame (7-5)	9/20/03

Ronald Stanley Tackles

TM	Opponent (S-A)	Date
16	Minnesota (6-10)	10/18/03
16	Michigan (10-6)	11/2/02
13	Michigan (7-6)	11/1/03
13	Minnesota (8-5)	10/19/02
12	Illinois (6-6)	10/11/03
10	Ohio State (6-4)	11/8/03
10	Notre Dame (5-5)	9/20/03
10	Indiana (6-4)	11/9/02

Monquiz Wedlow Tackles

TM	Opponent (S-A)	Date
16	Purdue (14-2)	11/16/02
11	Minnesota (8-3)	10/19/02
10	Notre Dame (6-4)	9/21/02
10	California (5-5)	9/14/02

Derron Ware Tackles

TM	Opponent (S-A)	Date
12	Michigan (5-7)	11/1/03

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MSU RECORD BOOK

Career Pass Attempts

1. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) 1111
2. Ed Smith (1976-78) 789
3. Dave Yarema (1982-86) 767

Career Pass Completions

1. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) 664
2. Jim Miller (1990-93) 467
3. Dave Yarema (1982-86) 464

Career Completion Pct.

1. Jim Miller (1990-93) .629
2. Dan Enos (1987-90) .621
3. Todd Schultz (1994-97) .607
4. Tony Banks (1994-95) .607
5. Dave Yarema (1982-86) .605
6. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) .598
7. Clark Brown (1983) .582

Career Passing Yards

1. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) 8776
2. Dave Yarema (1982-86) 5809
3. Ed Smith (1976-78) 5706

Career TD Passes

1. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) 61
2. Bill Burke (1996-99) 46
3. Dave Yarema (1982-86) 43
- Ed Smith (1976-78) 43

Career 200-Yard Games

1. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) 23
2. Bill Burke (1996-99) 12
- Ed Smith (1976-78) 12

Career 300-Yard Games

1. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) 10
2. Bill Burke (1996-99) 4
- Ed Smith (1976-78) 4

Career Total Offense Atts.

1. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) 1358
2. Lorenzo White (1984-87) 1083
3. Dave Yarema (1982-86) 960

Career Total Offense Yards

1. Jeff Smoker (2000-03) 8584
2. Ed Smith (1976-78) 5556

Career Punt Return Yards

1. Gari Scott (1996-99) 1088
2. Z. Kavanaght (2000-03) 635

Career Extra Points

1. John Langeloh (1987-90) 137
2. Morten Andersen (1978-81) 126
3. Chris Gardner (1994-97) 125
4. Dave Rayner (2001-03) 108

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES –

After 12 games in 2003, Michigan State ranks among the Big Ten (fourth) and NCAA (24th) leaders in rushing defense, allowing only 116.1 yards per game. Opposing ball carriers are averaging just 3.1 yards per rush. In addition, the Spartans have permitted just seven rushing touchdowns.

The Spartans shut down Penn State's ground game in the regular-season finale, limiting the Nittany Lions to 55 yards on 31 rushes (1.8 avg.). Michigan State has held four opponents under the 100-yard rushing mark in 2003 – something it accomplished only once during the 2002 season.

Prior to Penn State, eight-straight opponents eclipsed the century mark, including Wisconsin (39 rushes for 245 yards), Ohio State (49 for 182), Michigan (55 for 216), Minnesota (39 for 148), Illinois (43 for 158), Indiana (45 for 117), Iowa (39 for 107) and Notre Dame (37 for 100). Only four running backs have posted 100-yard games against the Spartans this season, including Michigan's Chris Perry (school-record 51 carries for 219 yards), Wisconsin's Dwayne Smith (21 for 207), Ohio State's Lydell Ross (24 for 125) and Iowa's Fred Russell (23 for 122).

Michigan State held Minnesota, the nation's No. 2 ranked rushing offense, to 148 yards (39 attempts) – 150 yards below its season average. The Spartans also kept the Big Ten's third-leading rusher Marion Barber III in check. Barber managed just 19 yards on 14 rushes – almost 87 yards below his season average.

The Spartans held each of their first three opponents under 100 yards rushing. It marked the first time Michigan State's defense put together that kind of streak since 1999, when the Spartans yielded less than 100 yards rushing in four-straight games (Illinois 42 yards, Iowa 7, Michigan 6 and Purdue 59).

The Spartans surrendered 61 yards on 19 carries vs. Louisiana Tech. Michigan State held Rutgers to minus 2 yards rushing (36 attempts). It marked the Spartans' best defensive effort since limiting Purdue to minus 18 yards on 14 rushes on Nov. 7, 1987. In the second half, Rutgers lost 23 yards on 15 carries. In the 2003 season opener vs. Western Michigan, the Spartans permitted only 6 yards rushing on 24 carries.

By contrast, Michigan State ranked ninth in the Big Ten and No. 110 nationally (out of 117) in rushing defense in 2002, permitting 213.8 yards per game. Last year, opponents gained 2,566 yards on the ground against the Spartans, the fourth-highest total allowed in school history, and scored 26 rushing TDs.

SURPRISE: SPARTANS LEAD THE BIG TEN IN SACKS –

Michigan State ranks fourth in the Big Ten and No. 24 nationally in rushing defense (116.1 yards allowed per game), thanks largely to its relentless pass rush. Through 12 games in 2003, the Spartans have produced a Big Ten-best 44 sacks for 298 yards. It marks the first time since 1999 that the Spartans have led the league in sacks (school-record 54 for 381 yards). By comparison, the Spartans finished ninth in the league in sacks in 2002, compiling only 19 (113 yards).

Michigan State ranks fourth in the NCAA in sacks, trailing only Kansas State (51 for 345), Southern Cal (46 for 346) and Hawaii (45 for 301).

The Spartans recorded six sacks (36 yards) against Indiana, including three (15 yards) by senior defensive end Greg Taplin.

The Spartans sacked Western Michigan's Chad Munson six times for 45 yards in the 2003 season opener, including four (28 yards) by junior defensive tackle Matthias Askew. He equaled the second-best single-game sack total in Spartan history, falling just one short of the record held by Travis Davis (five for 37 yards vs. Ohio State, 1987). In 22 previous games, the 6-foot-6, 294-pound Askew had produced only one sack (4 yards).

Michigan State produced five sacks each vs. Iowa (42 yards) and Rutgers (39) and four each vs. Penn State (28) and Minnesota (19). The Spartans recorded three sacks each vs. Ohio State (14 yards), Notre Dame (18) and Louisiana Tech (18) and two each vs. Wisconsin (13) and Illinois (13).

SMOKER REACHES 3,000-YARD PASSING MILESTONE –

Senior Jeff Smoker, a second-team All-Big Ten selection by the coaches and media, leads the league in passing (269.9 yards per game) and total offense (262.4 ypg.). Smoker, a semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, ranks second in the conference in touchdown passes (21) and fourth in passing efficiency (133.7 rating). His 281 pass completions, 449 pass attempts, 3,239 passing yards and 21 TD passes all represent the top single-season totals in Spartan history. He has recorded eight-straight 200-yard passing games, including four 300-yard performances.

In Big Ten games, he completed 64 percent (214-337) of his throws for 2,307 yards (288.4 ypg.), 15 TDs and six interceptions (better than a 2-to-1 ratio).

The 6-foot-3, 224-pound Smoker became the first quarterback in Michigan State history to reach the 3,000-yard passing milestone in a season, completing 29-of-50 throws for 357 yards and a school-record tying four touchdowns in the Spartans' 41-10 victory over Penn State in the home finale. His 357 passing yards marked the second best single-game total in his Spartan career. Smoker produced those totals against the nation's No. 2 pass defense that entered the game allowing an average of only 192 passing yards. He delivered scoring tosses of 80 yards to Kyle Brown, 14 yards to Eric Knott, 17 yards to Jerramy Scott and 5 yards to Jason Randall. Smoker completed seven-straight passes for 98 yards during a nine-play scoring drive in the second quarter.

He completed 16-of-31 passes for 207 yards vs. Wisconsin, including scoring strikes of 21 yards to Brown and 30 yards to Aaron Alexander.

Smoker threw for 351 yards and two scores vs. Ohio State. He set Michigan State single-game records for pass attempts (55) and completions (35) against the Buckeyes, breaking marks previously held by John Leister (54 attempts vs. Purdue, 1980; 32 completions vs. Michigan, 1982). Smoker completed passes to 12 different receivers, including scoring tosses of 22 yards to Agim Shabaj and 19 yards to Alexander.

Smoker hit 21-of-40 throws for 254 yards vs. Michigan, including a 73-yard TD strike to Shabaj late in the third quarter. His streak of 208 straight pass attempts without an interception (22 quarters) ended when Michigan's Scott McClintock picked off his Hail Mary pass – intended for Alexander – in the end zone as time expired.

With 252 passing yards (30-46) vs. Minnesota, he became just the 10th quarterback in Big Ten history to reach the 7,500-yard career milestone. His 6-yard TD run gave the Spartans a 24-10 lead with 4:59 left in the second quarter.

Smoker completed 23-of-31 passes for 317 yards and two scores vs. Illinois. It marked his fourth 300-yard passing game of the 2003 season and his 317 yards represent the best single-game total ever by a Spartan quarterback against Illinois. Smoker's 15-yard TD toss to Scott late in the second quarter gave Michigan State a 21-7 halftime lead over the Fighting Illini. He opened the fourth quarter with a 21-yard TD strike to Alexander and capped the next series with a 1-yard TD run. Smoker completed passes to nine different receivers while leading the Spartans to their fourth straight win.

He earned Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week honors after completing 32-of-40 throws (.800) for 351 yards and two scores in Michigan State's 31-3 victory over Indiana. His 32 completions tied MSU's single-game record (John Leister vs. Michigan, 1982). He threw TD passes of 12 yards to Randall and 31 yards to Jaren Hayes in the first half. Smoker, who completed 17-of-18 attempts during one stretch, also scored on a 2-yard keeper in the fourth quarter.

Smoker completed 28-of-44 throws for 218 yards and two scores to lead Michigan State to a 20-10 victory over No. 13 Iowa in the Big Ten opener. He connected on 11 of his first 12 attempts for 89 yards as the Spartans jumped out to a 14-0 lead. With his 17-yard touchdown strike to Ziehl Kavanaght at the 10:56 mark of the first quarter, Smoker became MSU's career leader with 47 TD passes, breaking the record he previously shared with Bill Burke (1996-99). He added his 48th career TD pass on the next series, a 7-yard toss to Knott. With a career-best 28 completions against the Hawkeyes, Smoker became the Spartans' all-time leader with 478 career comple-

MSU RECORD BOOK

Career Field Goals

1. John Langeloh (1987-90) 57
2. Chris Gardner (1994-97) 52
3. Paul Edinger (1996-99) 46
4. Morten Andersen (1978-81) 45
5. Hans Nielsen (1974-77) 44
6. **Dave Rayner (2001-03) 39**

Career Scoring (Points)

1. John Langeloh (1987-90) 308
2. Chris Gardner (1994-97) 281
3. Morten Andersen (1978-81) 261
4. Lorenzo White (1984-87) 258
5. Sedrick Irvin (1996-98) 252
6. Hans Nielsen (1974-77) 230
7. **Dave Rayner (2001-03) 226**

Career Tackles For Losses

1. Julian Peterson (1998-99) 48
2. Larry Bethea (1975-77) 43
3. Travis Davis (1986-89) 39
4. Robaire Smith (1997-99) 38
5. Josh Thornhill (1998-2001) 33
J. Hammonds (1991-94) 33
7. **Mike Labinjo (2000-03) 32.5**

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MSU RECORD BOOK

Season Pass Attempts

1. Jeff Smoker (2003) 449
2. Bill Burke (1998) 358
3. Jim Miller (1993) 336

Season Pass Completions

1. Jeff Smoker (2003) 281
2. Jim Miller (1993) 215
3. Dave Yarema (1986) 200

Season Completion Pct.

1. Dave Yarema (1986) .673
2. Jim Miller (1993) .640
3. Jim Miller (1992) .639
4. Dan Enos (1989) .638
5. Jeff Smoker (2001) .634
6. Todd Schultz (1995) .627
7. Jeff Smoker (2003) .626

Season Passing Yards

1. Jeff Smoker (2003) 3239
2. Bill Burke (1998) 2595
3. Dave Yarema (1986) 2581

Season TD Passes

1. Jeff Smoker (2003) 21
- Jeff Smoker (2001) 21
3. Bill Burke (1999) 20
- Ed Smith (1978) 20

Season Receptions

1. Charles Rogers (2002) 68
2. Charles Rogers (2001) 67
3. Plaxico Burress (1999) 66
4. Plaxico Burress (1998) 65
5. Courtney Hawkins (1989) 60
6. Gari Scott (1998) 58
7. Herb Haygood (2001) 57
8. Andre Rison (1986) 54
9. Agim Shabaj (2003) 53
- Derrick Mason (1996) 53
- Derrick Mason (1995) 53

Season Points Scored

1. Blake Ezor (1989) 114
2. Scott Greene (1995) 112
3. Eric Allen (1971) 110
4. Sedrick Irvin (1996) 108
5. Paul Edinger (1999) 103
6. Dave Rayner (2003) 102
- Lorenzo White (1985) 102

Season Total Offense Atts.

1. Jeff Smoker (2003) 504
2. Bill Burke (1998) 423
3. Lorenzo White (1985) 420

tions, breaking the mark previously held by Jim Miller (1990-93). With a career-high 44 attempts, he also moved to the top of the all-time charts with 818 career pass attempts, surpassing the record previously held by Ed Smith (1976-78).

Smoker recorded his third win in four career starts vs. Notre Dame, hitting 13-of-27 passes for 119 yards in a 22-16 victory. He became only the second quarterback in college football history to produce three victories over the Fighting Irish, joining Purdue's Mike Phipps (1967-69).

He completed 12-of-19 throws for 138 yards vs. Louisiana Tech before leaving the game midway through the second quarter with a toe injury.

Smoker hit 21-of-32 passes for 351 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Spartans to a 44-28 win over Rutgers. It marked Smoker's second straight 300-yard passing game. He equaled his career high with three TD passes vs. Rutgers, including scoring strikes of 51 and 27 yards to Hayes and 62 yards to Shabaj – all in the first half.

He completed 21-of-34 throws for 324 yards and three scores to lead Michigan State to a 26-21 victory over Western Michigan in the 2003 season opener. His three touchdown passes matched his career best, throwing scoring tosses of 50 and 21 yards to Shabaj and 59 yards to Kyle Brown in the first half. It marked Smoker's first start in a Spartan uniform since being suspended for the final five games of the 2002 season after admitting a substance abuse problem.

In the 2003 season opener, Smoker became MSU's career leader in total offense and passing yards. With his 59-yard TD strike to Brown in the second quarter vs. Western Michigan, he broke the record previously held by Ed Smith, who produced 5,556 total yards from 1976-78. With his 53-yard completion to Alexander on the first play of the fourth quarter against the Broncos, Smoker shattered the passing mark previously held by Dave Yarema, who threw for 5,809 yards from 1982-86.

Smoker ranks as MSU's all-time leader in total offense (8,584 yards), passing yards (8,776), pass completions (664), pass attempts (1,111) and TD passes (61). The Manheim, Pa., native also is listed among MSU's career leaders in completion percentage (sixth at .598). He stands fifth on the Big Ten's all-time passing chart with 8,776 career yards. Smoker, who has school-record 23 career 200-yard passing games, has compiled a 21-15 record (.583) in 36 career starts. With 21 career wins under his belt, he ranks as the winningest quarterback in Spartan history.

Big Ten's All-Time Passing Leaders

Rank	Player, School (Years)	Career Passing Yards
1.	Drew Brees, Purdue (1997-200)	11,792
2.	Chuck Long, Iowa (1981-85)	10,461
3.	Mark Herrmann, Purdue (1977-80)	9,946
4.	John Navarre, Michigan (2000-03)	8,983
5.	Jeff Smoker, Michigan State (2000-03)	8,776

SMOKER SPREADS THE BALL AROUND –

A key to Jeff Smoker's throwing success in 2003 has been his ability to utilize all of the weapons at his disposal in Michigan State's spread offense. Seven Spartans have at least 20 receptions, including Agim Shabaj (53 for 661 yards), Jaren Hayes (47 for 420), Aaron Alexander (36 for 459), Eric Knott (30 for 296), Matt Trannon (28 for 259), Kyle Brown (25 for 444) and Jason Randall (21 for 218). Smoker has completed touchdown passes to eight different receivers.

ALEXANDER FINDS A HOME AT WIDE RECEIVER –

Sophomore Aaron Alexander ranks third on the team in receptions with 36 for 459 yards (12.8 avg.) and three scores. In his last seven games, Alexander has 30 catches for 284 yards and three touchdowns.

The 6-foot-5, 205-pound Alexander had a career-best eight catches for 86 yards vs. Penn State in the regular-season finale.

He caught four passes for 47 yards vs. Ohio State, including a 19-yard TD grab from Jeff Smoker late in the fourth quarter. Alexander had five receptions each vs. Minnesota (60 yards) and Indiana (38).

The Richmond, Va., native made the transition from quarterback to wide receiver after five practices last spring. Alexander concluded the 2002 season listed No. 2 on the depth chart at quarterback, behind Damon Dowdell.

SHABAJ BECOMES KEY WEAPON IN SPARTAN OFFENSIVE PLAYBOOK –

Sophomore wide receiver Agim Shabaj leads the team in receptions with 53 for 661 yards and five touchdowns. Shabaj ranks sixth in the Big Ten in catches (4.4 per game) and 10th in receiving yards (55.1 per game).

He has paced the Spartans in receptions in five of the 12 games, including a career-best nine grabs for 78 yards vs. Ohio State. His 22-yard TD reception from Jeff Smoker gave the Spartans a 7-0 lead over the Buckeyes.

Shabaj also caught nine passes for 62 yards vs. Iowa.

The 5-foot-10, 194-pound Shabaj caught four passes for 106 yards (26.5 avg.) vs. Michigan, including a 73-yard scoring pass from Smoker.

Shabaj had six receptions each vs. Minnesota (61 yards) and Louisiana Tech (69).

He posted the first 100-yard receiving game of his career vs. Rutgers, with seven catches for a career-best 145 yards (20.7 avg.). Against the Scarlet Knights, Shabaj scored his third TD of the season on a 62-yard strike from Smoker in the first quarter.

He had six receptions for 89 yards in the 2003 season opener vs. Western Michigan, including TD grabs of 50 and 21 yards from Smoker.

The Farmington Hills, Mich., native appeared in only six games as a true freshman in 2002 and managed six catches for 45 yards.

HAYES SHOWCASES ALL-PURPOSE SKILLS –

Sophomore Jaren Hayes leads the Spartans in rushing yards (596 yards on 139 carries), all-purpose yards (1,057) and touchdowns (8 total). The 5-foot-9, 184-pound running back also has emerged as a pass-catching threat out of the backfield, with 47 receptions for 420 yards (8.9 avg.) and three scores.

His 47 catches represent the top single-season total for a running back in Spartan history. In 1994, fullback Scott Greene led the team in receptions with 42 for 452 yards (10.8 avg.) and three TDs.

MSU Single-Season Leaders – Receptions By A Running Back

Rank	Player (Year)	Reception-Yards
1.	Jaren Hayes (2003)	47-420
2.	Scott Greene (1994)	42-452
3.	Sedrick Irvin (1997)	40-346
4.	Sedrick Irvin (1996)	40-337

MSU RECORD BOOK

Season Total Offense Yards

1. Jeff Smoker (2003) 3149
2. Jeff Smoker (2001) 2521
3. Dave Yarema (1986) 2359

Season Quarterback Sacks

1. Larry Bethea (1977) 16
2. Julian Peterson (1999) 15
3. Robaire Smith (1997) 12
 - Travis Davis (1987) 12
 - Kelly Quinn (1984) 12
6. Greg Taplin (2003) 10
 - Julian Peterson (1998) 10
 - Kelly Quinn (1983) 10

Season Punting Average

1. Greg Montgomery (1986) 47.8
2. Brandon Fields (2003) 46.3
3. Ray Stachowicz (1980) 46.2
4. Greg Montgomery (1987) 45.0

Season Kickoff Return Yds.

1. Derrick Mason (1994) 966
2. Derrick Mason (1995) 947
3. DeAndra Cobb (2003) 733

Season Extra Points

1. Morten Andersen (1978) 52
2. John Langeloh (1989) 42
3. Paul Edinger (1999) 40
4. Dave Rayner (2003) 39
 - George Smith (1948) 39

Season Field Goals

1. Paul Edinger (1998) 22
2. Dave Rayner (2003) 21
 - Paul Edinger (1999) 21

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2003 MSU DEFENSIVE LEADERBOARD

(based on production points)

1. Jason Harmon	159
2. Seth Mitchell	154
3. Mike Labinjo	140
4. Clifford Dukes	124
5. Eric Smith	120
6. Matthias Askew	117
7. Ronald Stanley	115
8. Greg Taplin	108

2003 MSU SPECIAL TEAMS LEADERBOARD

(based on production points)

1. Mike Labinjo	207
2. Dave Rayner	171
3. Mark Goebel	148
4. Drew Stanton	146
5. Jeremiah McLaurin	143
6. DeAndra Cobb	131
7. Jason Harmon	127
8. Chad Simon	117
9. Brandon Fields	108
10. Jason Teague	107
11. Monquizz Wedlow	105
Roderick Maples	105

Hayes accounted for 100 all-purpose yards in seven-straight games, including 103 yards vs. Minnesota. He gained 65 yards on 13 carries vs. Minnesota, scoring twice in the first quarter on runs of 11 and 6 yards. Hayes also caught a career-best eight passes for 38 yards against the Golden Gophers.

He compiled 111 all-purpose yards (56 rushing and 55 receiving) vs. Illinois.

He produced 104 all-purpose yards vs. Indiana, including six receptions for 49 yards. His 31-yard touchdown catch from Jeff Smoker gave the Spartans a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter.

Hayes contributed 107 all-purpose yards in Michigan State's 20-10 victory over No. 13 Iowa, including seven catches for 51 yards.

He recorded his second-straight 100-yard rushing game vs. Notre Dame, picking up 109 yards on 19 carries. His 71-yard touchdown run with 5:25 left in the third quarter against the Irish gave the Spartans the lead for good at 13-6.

Hayes accounted for a career-high 198 all-purpose yards vs. Louisiana Tech. Hayes posted personal bests against the Bulldogs, with 140 yards on 30 attempts. He scored Michigan State's first rushing touchdown of the 2003 season in the first quarter vs. Louisiana Tech, a 2-yard run off left tackle. Hayes also had five catches for 58 yards.

He had six receptions for a career-high 96 yards and two touchdowns in MSU's 44-28 victory over Rutgers. It marked the most productive receiving game by a Spartan back since Scott Greene had eight catches for 93 yards vs. Penn State in 1994.

Hayes caught his first career TD pass in the first quarter vs. Rutgers, scoring on a 51-yard completion from Jeff Smoker on a wheel route. He also turned a screen pass from Smoker into a 27-yard scoring play in the second quarter as the Spartans took the lead for good at 28-21 over the Scarlet Knights.

In 12 games as a true freshman in 2002, Hayes had only four catches for 16 yards.

MITCHELL MIGHTY TOUGH DOWN THE STRETCH—

Sophomore linebacker Seth Mitchell ranks second on the Spartan defense in production points (154) and third in tackles (95). In Big Ten play, Mitchell produced a team-best 85 tackles (10.6 per game). He has posted double figures in tackles five times in 2003, including four of the last five games.

The 6-foot-2, 249-pound Mitchell registered 15 stops each vs. Wisconsin and Michigan. He recorded a career-high 17 tackles vs. Ohio State, including two for losses (6 yards). Mitchell contributed 10 tackles vs. Minnesota, including three stops behind the line of scrimmage (11 yards). The Brandywine, Md., native reached double digits for the first time in his career vs. Indiana, recording 11 tackles including a 6-yard sack.

His 21-yard fumble return vs. Iowa in the second quarter set up a field goal.

Mitchell's productivity is even more impressive when you consider that he missed two games early in the 2003 season with a sore knee (DNP vs. Western Michigan and Louisiana Tech).

“TURBO” COBB: A TRULY SPECIAL RETURN MAN—

DeAndra “Turbo” Cobb, a second-team All-America selection by *The Sporting News*, leads the Big Ten and ranks eighth in the NCAA in kickoff returns with his 28.2-yard average. His 733 kickoff return yards rank third on Michigan State's single-season chart.

Cobb returned five kickoffs for 167 yards (33.4 avg.) vs. Ohio State, including a 93-yard runback for a touchdown in the third quarter. It marked the first kickoff return for a TD allowed by the Buckeyes since 1984 when Michigan State's Larry Jackson returned a kick 93 yards. Cobb set a Spartan single-season record with his third runback for a score, breaking the mark (two TDs) previously shared by Herb Haygood (2001), Derrick Mason (1995) and Derek Hughes (1979).

His three kickoff returns for TDs also tied the NCAA I-A single-season record shared by Texas A&M's Leeland McElroy (1993), New Mexico's Terance Mathis (1989), Tennessee's Willie Gault (1980), Southern Cal's Anthony Davis (1974), Purdue's Stan Brown (1970) and San Francisco's Forrest Hall (1946).

The 5-foot-10, 186-pound Cobb also scored on kickoff returns of 100 yards vs. Minnesota and 94 yards vs. Rutgers. His 100-yard runback against Minnesota tied the Spartan record for longest return (Herb Haygood vs. Iowa, 2001; Derrick Mason vs. LSU, 1995, and Penn State, 1994; and Derek Hughes vs. Oregon, 1979).

Cobb earned the nickname "Turbo" prior to his first football practice as a 9-year-old Pop Warner player in Las Vegas. His coach instructed the players to make a lap around a tree near the practice field and when Cobb returned first, the coach informed "Turbo" that he should lineup at running back.

FIELDS NAMED SPORTING NEWS ALL-AMERICAN –

Red-shirt freshman Brandon Fields, who leads the Big Ten and ranks No. 2 nationally in punting with his 46.3-yard average, has been named second-team All-American by *The Sporting News*. His punting average ranks second on Michigan State's single-season chart, trailing only All-American Greg Montgomery who averaged 47.8 yards in 1986. Fields, a first-team All-Big Ten selection by the media, has hit 20 punts 50 or more yards and had another 16 kicks downed inside the opponent's 20.

The 6-foot-5, 219-pound Fields has earned Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week honors three times in 2003 (vs. Penn State, Notre Dame and Rutgers).

He averaged 52.5 yards on four punts vs. Penn State, including a 55-yarder in the third quarter.

Fields averaged 49.4 yards on five punts vs. Minnesota, including a 69-yarder in the second quarter that was downed at the Golden Gopher 9.

He averaged 48.6 yards on a season-best nine punts vs. Iowa, including a 71-yarder in the fourth quarter. Fields also pinned the Hawkeyes back inside their 20-yard line twice.

Fields averaged 53.8 yards on five punts vs. Notre Dame, including three kicks downed inside the Irish 20. He produced the fifth longest punt in Spartan history vs. Notre Dame, a 79-yarder in the second quarter.

He averaged 52.3 yards on six punts vs. Rutgers, including a 74-yarder in the second quarter. The Toledo, Ohio, native also pinned the Scarlet Knights back inside their 20-yard line three times.

RAYNER EMERGES AS ONE OF THE NATION'S PREMIERE KICKERS –

Junior placekicker Dave Rayner ranks among the NCAA leaders in field goals (seventh at 1.75 made per game) and scoring (20th at 8.5 points per game). Rayner, a semifinalist for the Lou Groza Award, leads the team in scoring with a career-best 102 points, hitting 21-of-28 field-goal attempts (.750) and 39-of-40 extra-point tries (.975). He becomes just the second placekicker in Spartan history to produce 100 points in a single season, joining Paul Edinger who put 103 points on the scoreboard in 1999. **His 21 field goals rank as the second-best single-season total in Spartan history, trailing only All-American Paul Edinger who made 22 in 1998.**

The 6-foot-2, 203-pound Rayner earned Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week honors after accounting for 14 points in Michigan State's 44-38 victory at No. 25 Minnesota. Rayner, who was perfect on three field-goal and five extra-point attempts, also was named one of the Lou Groza Award's Top Three Stars for Week 8. He connected on field goals from 46, 50 and 52 yards. In addition, Rayner averaged 43.0 yards on two punts vs. Minnesota, with both kicks downed inside the Golden Gopher 10.

He made three field goals each vs. Notre Dame (51, 30 and 30 yards) and Rutgers (38, 30, 24). Rayner produced four field goals (seven attempts) vs. Louisiana Tech (51, 49, 37 and 30) – tying his career best.

**ALL-TIME FIRST-ROUND
NFL DRAFT PICKS**

1. Notre Dame	60
Southern Cal	60
3. Ohio State	56
4. Miami-Fla.	50
5. Florida	39
6. Michigan	38
7. Tennessee	35
8. Alabama	33
9. Penn State	32
10. Michigan State	31
Nebraska	31
Oklahoma	31
Texas	31

Research data provided by
ESPN.com.

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BOARD APPROVES MAJOR ADDITION, EXPANSION OF SPARTAN STADIUM

A major addition and expansion of Spartan Stadium was approved Friday, Sept. 12 by the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

The 200,000-gross-square-foot project includes the addition of nearly 3,000 seats, 24 new suites, a new press box, upgraded public restrooms and concessions, and expanded concourse space. The addition also will house the MSU Alumni Association, University Development, the MSU Foundation, and the 4-H Foundation. In addition, the original MSU icon – “The Spartan” statue – will have a permanent home there when a replica is unveiled in 2005.

The suites, as well as an additional 862 club seats, will offer fans a larger variety of seating options, ranging from family plans to corporate plans, and levels in between. Athletics Director Ron Mason said the price range on the suites will be \$35,000 to \$80,000, while club seating will range from \$4,500 to \$6,500.

The cost of the total project is estimated at \$61 million, with a large portion of the funds provided by athletics, said Fred Poston, vice president for finance and operations. About \$11 million of the costs for University Development and the Alumni Association will be funded from the lease costs for development's current off-campus space, he said. The athletics portion will be funded by revenues generated from the project and through debt service. Construction will begin in November 2003, with everything except office space expected to be completed by the 2005 football season. The MSU Alumni Association, University Development, and the other units are expected to move in by January 2006.

Thirty-eight of his 74 kickoffs (51 percent) have resulted in touchbacks in 2003.

A native of Oxford, Mich., Rayner already ranks among MSU's all-time leaders in extra points made (fourth with 103), field goals made (sixth with 39) and scoring (seventh with 221 career points).

FIVE SPARTANS EARN ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT HONORS –

Five Michigan State players – sophomore wide receiver Kyle Brown, senior offensive guard Paul Harker, sophomore center Chris Morris, senior defensive tackle Kyle Rasmussen and junior defensive tackle Greg Yeaster – have earned Academic All-District IV honors as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Harker has been named to the Academic All-District IV First Team while Brown, Morris, Rasmussen and Yeaster received Second Team recognition.

To be nominated for the Academic All-District Team, a student-athlete must be a starter or important reserve with at least a 3.2 cumulative grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale) for his career. He also must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing.

District IV includes all schools from the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee.

Academic All-District IV Selections

Name	Major (GPA)
First Team	
Paul Harker	interdisciplinary studies – human resources (3.24)
Second Team	
Kyle Brown	no-preference (3.52)
Chris Morris	finance (3.29)
Kyle Rasmussen	engineering arts (3.50)
Greg Yeaster	mechanical engineering (3.31)

BIG TEN RECOGNIZES 10 SPARTANS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN THE CLASSROOM –

Ten Michigan State players – sophomore wide receiver Kyle Brown, red-shirt freshman punter Brandon Fields, senior offensive guard Paul Harker, junior linebacker Mitch Herrema, sophomore center Chris Morris, sophomore offensive tackle Gordon Niebylski, senior defensive tackle Kyle Rasmussen, junior running back Chad Simon, red-shirt freshman quarterback Drew Stanton and junior defensive tackle Greg Yeaster – have been named to the 2003 Academic All-Big Ten Team. It marks the most Spartans recognized on the Academic All-Big Ten Team since 1991 when 10 players also earned the honor.

To be eligible for the Academic All-Big Ten Team, a student-athlete must be a letterwinner in his second academic year and carry at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average (on a 4.0 scale).

2003 Academic All-Big Ten Team

Name	Major (GPA)
Kyle Brown	no-preference (3.52)
Brandon Fields	kinesiology (3.66)
Paul Harker	interdisciplinary studies – human resources (3.24)
Mitch Herrema	kinesiology (3.47)
Chris Morris	finance (3.29)
Gordon Niebylski	general management (3.60)
Kyle Rasmussen	engineering arts (3.50)
Chad Simon	finance (3.68)
Drew Stanton	kinesiology (3.21)
Greg Yeaster	mechanical engineering (3.31)

GOEBEL EARNS "GORDIE LOCKBAUM" LABEL –

Senior Mark Goebel, who saw action on offense, defense and special teams in Michigan State's 20-10 victory over No. 13 Iowa, has been nicknamed "Gordie Lockbaum" by the Spartan coaching staff. Lockbaum earned national recognition as a two-way player (wide receiver and defensive back) at Holy Cross, finishing third in balloting for the Heisman Trophy in 1987, behind Notre Dame's Tim Brown and Syracuse's Don McPherson.

The 6-foot-2, 228-pound linebacker was thrust into the lineup after Ronald Stanley suffered a hamstring injury in the first quarter against Iowa. Goebel played a total of 76 snaps, including 47 on defense where he produced a career-high eight tackles (5 solos, 3 assists), including his first sack (5 yards). He also played six downs on offense as the fullback in Michigan State's "Thunder" package and 23 snaps on special teams.

SMITH NAMED SI COACH OF THE FIRST HALF –

Thanks to his team's 6-1 start in 2003, Michigan State first-year head coach John L. Smith earned Coach of the First Half honors from SI.com. It took the Spartans just six games to exceed their 2002 win total (4-8). With its 3-0 Big Ten start, Michigan State posted more league wins than it totaled a year ago (2-6; tied for eighth place).

SMITH PRODUCES WIN IN SPARTAN COACHING DEBUT –

With a 26-21 victory over Western Michigan in the 2003 season opener, John L. Smith became the 12th head coach in Michigan State history to produce a win in his Spartan debut.

Here's how Michigan State's 23 head coaches have fared in their opening games (**winning coaches in bold**):

- **John L. Smith – Aug. 30, 2003 vs. Western Michigan (W 26-21)**
- **Morris Watts – Nov. 9, 2002 at Indiana (W 56-21)**
- **Bobby Williams – Jan. 1, 2000 vs. Florida (W 37-34) in Florida Citrus Bowl**
- Nick Saban – Sept. 9, 1995 vs. Nebraska (L 10-50)
- **George Perles – Sept. 10, 1983 vs. Colorado (W 23-17)**
- Frank "Muddy" Waters – Sept. 13, 1980 at Illinois (L 17-20)
- Darryl Rogers – Sept. 11, 1976 at Ohio State (L 21-49)
- Denny Stolz – Sept. 15, 1973 at Northwestern (L 10-14)
- Duffy Daugherty – Sept. 25, 1954 at Iowa (L 10-14)
- Clarence "Biggie" Munn – Sept. 27, 1947 at Michigan (L 0-55)
- **Charlie Bachman – Sept. 30, 1933 vs. Grinnell (W 14-0)**
- **Jim Crowley – Sept. 28, 1929 vs. Alma (W 59-6)**
- **Harry Kipke – Sept. 29, 1928 vs. Kalamazoo (W 103-0)**
- Ralph Young – Sept. 29, 1923 at Chicago (L 0-34)
- **Albert Barron – Oct. 1, 1921 vs. Alma (W 28-0)**
- George "Potsy" Clark – Sept. 25, 1920 vs. Kalamazoo (L 2-21)
- **George Gauthier – Oct. 5, 1918 vs. Albion (W 21-6)**
- **Frank Sommers – Sept. 30, 1916 vs. Olivet (W 40-0)**
- **John Macklin – Oct. 7, 1911 vs. Alma (W 12-0)**
- Chester Brewer – Oct. 3, 1903 at Notre Dame (L 0-12)
- George Denman – Sept. 28, 1901 at Alma (L 5-6)
- Charles Bemies – Sept. 29, 1899 at Notre Dame (L 0-40)
- **Henry Keep – Sept. 25, 1897 vs. Lansing High School (W 28-0)**

PLAYING IN FRONT OF A FULL HOUSE –

Michigan State has played before a sellout crowd in 41 of its last 46 home games, including the last 33 in a row. The Spartans have ranked among the NCAA's top 20 in attendance each of the last 48 years, including 20th in 2003, averaging 72,830 fans per game.

SPARTANS TOUGH ON HOME TURF –

Spartan Stadium recently completed its 80th season as home to Michigan State football. Michigan State has compiled a 296-126-13 record (.695) since taking up residency in Spartan Stadium in 1923. The Spartans have gone undefeated at home 16 times since the stadium opened, including a perfect 6-0 mark in 1999. It marked Michigan State's first undefeated home record since 1966 (5-0-1) and its first unbeaten and untied home slate since 1965 (5-0-0).

**SPARTAN FOOTBALL
SENIOR AWARDS
BANQUET**

The Spartan Football Senior Awards Banquet is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 16, 2004, at the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University campus. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the awards program to begin promptly at 6:45 p.m. Tickets for the Spartan Football Senior Awards Banquet are priced at \$50 each, with \$15 going as a tax-deductible contribution to the Ralph Young Fund to support the MSU football program. Tables of eight are available for \$400.

Reservations for the Spartan Football Senior Awards Banquet can be made through the Ralph Young Fund by calling (517) 432-4610.

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SPARTAN

PRONUNCIATIONS

Todd Acchione: ACK-EE-OWN

Mark Bojovic: BOY-O-VICH

Jehuu Caulcrick: JAY-YOU

KULL-CRICK

DeAndra Cobb: DEE-ON-DRAY

Robert Gallegos: GUY-YEA-GOES

Mike Gyetvai: GET-VAY

Mark Goebel: GO-BULL

Ziehl Kavanaght: ZEAL KAV-UH-NAW

Mike Labinjo: LUH-BIN-JOE

Luc Mullinder: LUKE

Gordon Niebylski: NEH-BILL-SKI

Kyle Rasmussen: RAS-MEW-SEN

Justin Rieger: REE-GURR

Agim Shabaj: UH-GEEM SHA-BY

Monquiz Wedlow: MON-QUIZ

Greg Yeaster: YEA-STIR

MAGIC NUMBER 24 –

Since 1990, Michigan State is 72-16-1 (.815) when it scores at least 24 points and 13-60-1 (.182) when it scores fewer than 24 points. During that 14-year period, the Spartans have compiled an overall record of 85-76-2 (.528).

2003 OPPONENTS UPDATE –

Date vs.

MSU	Opponent	2003-04 Bowl Game
Aug. 30	Western Michigan (5-7)	–
Sept. 6	Rutgers (5-7)	–
Sept. 13	Louisiana Tech (5-7)	–
Sept. 20	@ Notre Dame (5-7)	–
Sept. 27	Iowa (9-3)	Outback (Jan. 1 vs. Florida)
Oct. 4	Indiana (2-10)	–
Oct. 11	@ Illinois (1-11)	–
Oct. 18	@ Minnesota (9-3)	Sun (Dec. 31 vs. Oregon)
Nov. 1	Michigan (10-2)	Rose (Jan. 1 vs. Southern Cal)
Nov. 8	@ Ohio State (10-2)	Fiesta (Jan. 2 vs. Kansas State)
Nov. 15	@ Wisconsin (7-5)	Music City (Dec. 31 vs. Auburn)
Nov. 22	Penn State (3-9)	–

Michigan State's 2003 opponents had a combined record of 67-65 (.508) during the regular-season. The Spartans went 2-3 in games played against bowl-bound teams. Note: Record doesn't include games played against MSU.

SPARTANS IN THE NFL –

Michigan State had 19 former players listed on opening-day rosters for National Football League teams in 2003. Here's a complete list of Spartans currently playing in the NFL (opening-day rosters as of Sept. 4):

Arizona Cardinals – CB Renaldo Hill

Atlanta Falcons – RB T.J. Duckett

Carolina Panthers – WR Muhsin Muhammad

Chicago Bears – K Paul Edinger

Dallas Cowboys – OT Flozell Adams

Detroit Lions – WR Charles Rogers

Houston Texans – QB Tony Banks, OT Greg Randall

Indianapolis Colts – OG Tupe Peko

Kansas City Chiefs – K Morten Andersen

New England Patriots – S Aric Morris

New York Jets – TE Chris Baker

Philadelphia Eagles – LB Ike Reese

Pittsburgh Steelers – WR Plaxico Burress

San Francisco 49ers – LB Julian Peterson

Tampa Bay Buccaneers – QB Jim Miller

Tennessee Titans – WR Derrick Mason, DL Robaire Smith

Washington Redskins – LB Lemar Marshall

Another former Michigan State player was listed on NFL injured reserve (as of Sept. 4):

Tennessee Titans – S Thomas Wright

SPARTAN TRENDS UNDER SMITH—

Here's how Michigan State has fared under first-year head coach John L. Smith:

	2003
Games played in Spartan Stadium:	5-2
Games played on the road/neutral site:	3-2
When leading at halftime:	7-1
When trailing at halftime:	0-3
When tied at halftime:	1-0
When scoring first:	6-2
When opponent scores first:	2-2
When leading after first quarter:	5-1
When trailing after first quarter:	1-1
When tied after first quarter:	2-2
When leading after three quarters:	8-1
When trailing after three quarters:	0-3
When tied after three quarters:	0-0
When gaining more first downs than opponent:	5-0
When gaining fewer first downs than opponent:	2-4
When gaining same number of first downs as opponent:	1-0
When gaining 200+ yards rushing:	0-0
When opponent gains 200+ yards rushing:	0-2
When outrushing opponent:	5-2
When being outrushed by opponent:	3-2
When gaining 200+ yards passing:	7-3
When opponent gains 200+ yards passing:	5-4
When gaining more total yards than opponent:	5-0
When gaining fewer total yards than opponent:	3-4
When leading in time of possession:	4-1
When trailing in time of possession:	4-3

**SPARTAN COACHING STAFF
APPOINTED 2003 CAPTAINS**

Michigan State first-year head coach John L. Smith and his coaching staff appointed four captains for the 2003 season, including senior guards Paul Harker and Joe Tate, junior defensive tackle Brandon McKinney and junior linebacker Ronald Stanley.

"We weren't interested in conducting a popularity contest," Coach Smith said. "We tried to identify blue-collar guys that are committed to doing what's right both on and off the football field. We looked for individuals that are willing to accept accountability. And we wanted to choose players that displayed great leadership qualities. Since the conclusion of spring ball, these four players have separated themselves from the pack and they've tried to take control of this football team.

"I know it's an honor for a player to be elected captain by his peers, but I'm not sure it isn't a greater honor being selected by the coaching staff. Again, we weren't interested in conducting a popularity contest. And that often happens in voting because a guy votes for another player with similar ability and personality. Every member of the coaching staff had input in this decision. When the coaches choose captains, there are expectations that go along with the appointment. These guys have embraced the opportunity to take ownership of the team, and they've displayed the willingness to be accountable."

DEPTH CHARTS

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RE	88	Trevor Johnson (6-4, 250, Sr.)																																																																																																																																																						
	90	Adam Carriker (6-6, 260, R-Fr.)																																																																																																																																																						
BUCK	2	T.J. Hollowell (6-0, 220, Sr.)																																																																																																																																																						
	11	Ira Cooper (6-2, 235, Jr.)																																																																																																																																																						
MIKE	38	Barrett Ruud (6-2, 235, Jr.)																																																																																																																																																						
	54	Chad Sievers (6-3, 215, Jr.)																																																																																																																																																						
WILL	7	Demorrio Williams (6-1, 215, Sr.)																																																																																																																																																						
	39	Chad Buller (5-11, 215, Sr.)																																																																																																																																																						
LCB	3	Fabian Washington (5-11, 175, So.)																																																																																																																																																						
	4	Terrell Butler (5-10, 185, Sr.) or																																																																																																																																																						
	27	Willie Amos (6-0, 185, Jr.)																																																																																																																																																						
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	31	Jerrell Pippens (6-2, 195, Sr.)																																																																																																																																																						
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