Spartan offense keyed for Badger showdown

By RICK GOSSELIN
State News Sports Writer

Saturday in the park... you'd think it was the Fourth of July.

And after spending the past three weekends against teams ranked in the nation's top ten, this Saturday in the MSU park... you can expect a show equal to that of the Fourth of July.

Wisconsin is no pushover, mind you, but it will be a lot more fun playing with Badgers than with Trojans and Wolverines. MSU's coaching staff expects some fireworks - offensive fireworks - this weekend. After two consecutive shutouts, the Spartan offensive unit is about due.

"We're about ready to get a few breaks," offensive backfield Coach Gordie Serr said earlier in the week. "We're doing a lot of things right offensively and we've just got to get a few breaks going with us rather than against us to really get untracked."

Duffy Daugherty has been slowly piecing a respectable offense together. First he moved Mark Niesen from defensive back to quarterback. Then he shifted Jim Bond from fullback to halfback. He gave the fullback reins to sophomores Arnold Morgado and Clarence Bullock. And last weekend he found a running threat in Dave Brown, who will again be at the other halfback spot. The time bomb has been ticking for the past five weeks of the season and Daugherty would like no better than for it to explode against Wisconsin.

"The offense right now is where I would have liked it to have been on the second week of the season," Daugherty said. "We're a good football team and it's about time we started proving it."

The Spartans, despite their 1-4 record, stand 1-1 in Big Ten competition with six games remaining. The Badgers are also 1-1.

"We're not counting the Rose Bowl out," Niesen said. "There is only one way to think in this game and that's win. You can't doubt yourself or else you will really be in trouble. We don't doubt ourselves. We consider ourselves still in the race."

And so the time bomb ticks down. Whether the fuse will carry through the 1:30 p.m. starting time and on through next week, only Niesen and Co. can tell for sure.

Ferguson backbones potent Badger offense

By RICK GOSSELIN
State News Sports Writer

Did you ever try catching a bowling ball? That's what the MSU defense will be confronted with Saturday.

Rufus Ferguson, alias the Roadrunner, will bring his one ring circus into Spartan Stadium Saturday afternoon and try to take advantage of a 1-4 MSU team. Ferguson has carried his team thus far to a 3-2 mark, posting impressive victories over Northwestern, Illinois, Syracuse and Northwestern. The Badgers were thumped by LSU and last week by Indiana.

In the five games, Ferguson has already run up 642 yards on the ground, averaging 5.8 yards per carry. Ferguson would be equally as strong a receiver as quarterback Rudy Steiner could see him. Ferguson stands a generous 5-9 but weighs 190 pounds. And when he hits the line, it explodes. It's just like a bowling ball making contact with the pins, except that there are 11 pins instead of 10.

The Roadrunner already holds the all-time school rushing record. His best day was last fall against Minnesota when he bowled to 211 yards in an upset Minnesota victory. He scored 80 points on 13 touchdowns (another school record) and one two-point conversion.

Ferguson's running mates on the Badger offense are capable performers. Fullback Gary Lund is averaging four yards per carry for the other half of the ground game.

The Badgers do like to pass. They run from a pro set with Jeff Mack at flanker. And Mack flies down the field. The freshman wingback has caught 14 passes for 272 yards, averaging 19 yards per reception. Tight end Jack Novak has six receptions and split end Rodney Rhodes has hauled in three of quarterback Rudy Steiner's passes.

Steiner is only hitting at a .373 clip, completing only 27 of 73 pass attempts. But Steiner throws the bomb well and has provided Mack with a 77-yard touchdown pass - run play while short changing Novak on only a 73-yard touchdown pass-run play.

The Badgers are a second half team, scoring 56 of their 97 season points after halftime. 28 points in each quarter.
Niesen hopes for break

By RICK GOSSELIN
State News Sports Writer

Every kid who has ever picked up a football on the sandlot has dreamed of one day playing quarterback.

In the adolescent years, the quarterback post was the key to one day getting your name splashed across the top of the sports page in big print. In high school, the quarterback dream was refined so as to provide a means of getting a date with the homecoming queen or the foxy cheerleader. In college, the quarterback position is supposed to act as a stepping stone for a Joe Namath package deal of $250,000. What the hell, the college quarterback would even stoop so low as to sign in the area of $200,000 as Notre Dame's John Huarte did.

Then there is Mark Niesen, who at 5-11 is too small to ever get into the starting line-up as a quarterback for the Detroit Lions.

Until three weeks ago, Niesen had been a starter in the MSU defensive backfield and doing a helluva job. He started at safety last season and led the team in interceptions. He had already chalked up an interception this season. Then destiny called; or rather the MSU offensive unit.

Niesen was installed as the starting quarterback with the instructions of getting the much maligned MSU wishbone offense a wishboning. In his two weeks at the helm, MSU didn't score a point.

"I don't feel that we are any worse than our defense," Niesen explained Monday. "We have the material. We just have to put it together. We haven't got a break this season on offense. All we need is one break...just one break." Niesen is only 3 for 19 in passing. Statistically that's not too good. As a matter of fact, that's terrible. But Niesen isn't that bad of a passer. He knows it, the coaches know it and most important, the team knows it. He has confidence in himself and that confidence engulfs the team.

"We went into the Michigan game and executed up to our expectations," Niesen said. "Naturally you are going to be disappointed when you lose. We had them beat. We had two touchdowns that we never scored.

"When I scored that one touchdown on the penalty it was the greatest feeling in the world. Scoring. We were all in the end zone loving every minute of it. When they said it didn't count I wasn't really disappointed because I knew we were moving the ball on them and I knew we'd come right back. My interception two plays later really hurt us," Niesen explained.

Niesen, an all-America quarterback at Manistee Catholic Central, has brought over to the offense a coolness and poise that gives the unit a sense of security.

"I know we're going to explode one of these weekends," Niesen stated. "If we start making a few breaks, we're really going to be tough."
Schaum and JVs want strong finish

By STEVE STEIN
State News Sports Writer

Michigan State's junior varsity football squad has
gotten off to a rocky start but if defensive
tackle Greg Schaum and his teammates have
anything to say about it, the
remaining three games of the season should
be a different story.

The Spartans, after losing three tough
games by a total of 21 points against
Michigan, Northwestern and Ohio State,
begin the second half of their schedule at 1
p.m. today, facing Notre Dame at Spartan
Stadium. Admission is free with a student
ID.

The most recent loss to Ohio State last
week was most discouraging to the JVs
due to the first time this season the
Schaum's defense was effective. The defensive
squad allowed its highest point
total of the season.

"We are going to win the last three by
bigger scores," Schaum predicted. "The
defense will do the job this week. Now that
the offense is moving, we can put
everything together.

"We have a pretty good defense but we
had a letdown against Ohio State. However,
everybody was impressed with
the offense."

MSU also faces the Irish in South Bend
and then concludes its season at home with
a rematch against Michigan and as Schaum
mentioned, they are "three big games" and
very important contests to win if the JVs
want to make this initial season a
successful one.

Schaum, a 6- foot 4, 240 pound
defensive tackle from Baltimore, Md.,
brings quite an impressive background to
Michigan State.

"I've been playing football since I was
eight and I played in the 10-12 and 12-
14 leagues around Baltimore," Schaum
recalls.

For three years at Polytechnic Institute,
Schaum started at both offensive and
defensive tackle, but he gained his laurels
on the defensive line.

A high school all-American at that
position, he was named all-conference in
the Maryland Scholastic Assn. and all-
state during his junior and senior years.

The versatile Schaum also was state
heavyweight wrestling champion and was
to the all -Maryland lacrosse team.
He played defense for his squad.

A much sought -after athlete, Schaum
chose MSU over several other schools,
including Southern California.

"I liked the people I met here and I also
wanted to play in the Big Ten because it
was the best conference around. MSU
impressed me the most."

Schaum was happy that the JV program
was initiated this season because of the
NCAA's freshman eligibility ruling for
football and basketball.

"It's a real good system because even if
you can't start on the varsity, you still get
a chance to play."

The OSU squad which the Spartans
faced last week was full of juniors with
much more college playing experience but
Schaum saw this as an advantage.

"It's great experience to play against
older people, like the juniors on the Ohio
State team. Otto Smith (Spartan defensive
end) played against a guy who started on
their varsity last year.

"Also, you get an indication of what its
like to play Big Ten football," Schaum
commented, referring to the style of play,
refereeing, and other factors.

Schaum was scheduled to become the
first MSU freshman football player since
the ruling to join the varsity squad against
Michigan last week but starting tackle Gary
Van Eet recovered from his neck injury and
two offensive players were brought up
from the JV squad.

The life of a JV football player is not an
easy one as Schaum pointed out.

"We don't have a lot of time to practice
as a team. First, we have to get the varsity
ready for the opposition and then we
practice after everyone else goes in."

However, with graduation taking its
usual heavy toll including two of the five
current starting defensive linemen, Schaum
and his JV teammates could see themselves
thrust into key spots next season.
## SN Football Predictions

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**80%** | **77%** | **77%** | **72%** | **71%** | **68%** | **65%**

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### Mihaiu longest gainer

For the first five games the Spartans' longest rush from scrimmage has been quarterback George Mihaiu's 51-yard scamper against Georgia Tech. Their longest pass completion was Mihaiu to Billy Joe Dupree in the Illinois game and Bill Simpson owns the longest scoring play, a 74-yard punt return in the Georgia Tech game.

Arnold Morgado is the MSU rushing leader with 134 yards while Mark Grua has the best average per carry. Grua has picked up a total of 39 yards in four carries for an average of 9.7 yards per carry average. Gail Clark has made 30 solo tackles to lead the defense.
**USUALLY A LOT OF POINTS**

**Football cards make a point**

By RICK GOSSELIN  
State News Sports Writer

If there is one subject that everyone is an expert on, it would have to be sex. Football runs a close second. And because of this, football cards (the ones that come without the bubble gum) are flying high and mighty throughout the United States. Football cards are simple. They are also fun. They also drive you into the poor house.

Pick four winners from a slate of about 30 games and you win. You bet a dollar and you get four dollars back on your investment. Sounds easy? Seems like all you have to do is pick Oklahoma, Southern California, Notre Dame and Michigan and you can win. But would you pick Notre Dame over Pittsburgh if the Irish were giving Pitt 36 points? The card will list two teams and the underdog team will be given a spread of points that will supposedly provide a tie game. Notre Dame giving Pitt 36 points means that Pittsburgh is ahead 36-0 before the opening kick-off. That's a lot of ground to cover for Notre Dame. Especially if Pittsburgh should run the opening kick-off back for a touchdown. Then Notre Dame is down by 43 points.

On the opening day of the Big Ten season of 1971, Michigan State was giving Illinois 10 points. The Spartans won the game 10-0. If you had MSU, you lost. If you had Illinois, you lost. One loss destroys all chance of winning on your card. Three out of four or eight out of nine provides the same reward: a smile and a "nice try" from your bookie.

The Lions were giving Atlanta three points two weeks ago. The Lions scored a touchdown in the last minute and missed the extra point, downing the Falcons 26-23. No winners.

MSU was given a 17 point spread last week against Michigan. Anybody who took MSU won, 17-10. The scoreboard said 10-0 Michigan, but the point spread made the financial difference.

---

**MSU tops in the past**

MSU has bested the University of Wisconsin in nine of the sixteen football games the two teams have played while the Badgers have won seven from the Spartans.

The Spartans have won six of the last seven affairs against Wisconsin, their only loss in that series was last year when the Badgers were victorious by a score of 31-28.

MSU set a Big Ten record in 1963 against the Badgers when Steve Juday hit Sherman Lewis on an 87 yard pass play to establish a mark for the longest forward pass which has since stood.

The most lopsided victory for the Spartans against a previous Wisconsin team was a 39-0 pasting delivered in 1968. MSU was beaten 27-0 in 1920 for its worst lancing. The two teams first met in 1913 with the Spartans winning 13-7 however they did not beat the Badgers again until 1955.

From 1925 - 1954 the two teams did not meet on the field and the teams have only tangled once since 1968, that being last year's affair in Madison.

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“YOUR COMPLETE FOOD STORE”
Women prepare for swim season

By LINDA DROEGER
State News Sports Writer

Undefeated in dual competition for three consecutive seasons, the MSU women's swim team plans to continue the tradition this coming winter.

Returning swimmers Jane Waldie and Cheryl Solomon both placed in the top 12 in the nationals at Cincinnati, Ohio last year and hope to qualify again this season. MSU placed fifth in the national meet out of 82 competing schools.

Waldie placed high in the individual medley and in the 400-yard freestyle and was named to the All-America Inter-Collegiate Team. She also holds MSU swim records in the 400-yard freestyle, 200-yard backstroke, 50-yard breaststroke, and the 100-yard breaststroke.

Waldie and Solomon, another all-American swimmer, have both held past state records in Pennsylvania.

Solomon placed second in the backstroke in the 1969 Maccabiah Games which are held every four years in Israel for Jewish swimmers. Solomon hopes to qualify again for the Maccabiah Games this July.

MSU divers Jane Manchester and Laura Siebold placed in the finals of the National meet in Lincoln, Neb. last summer. In international diving competition Manchester placed first in the one-meter, Siebold placed fourth and Nancy Lee took fifth.

All three divers along with Marty Perez, are past high school AAU state champions.

Promising freshman swimmers for the team will be Pat Chinery, Cathy Davis, Pat Hill and Sue Schoenhard. These swimmers competed successfully in high school competition and should be strongholds for the team this year.

Coach Joan Barch is pleased with the team turnout this year. About 20 women practice daily, swimming all four strokes for a total of two miles each day.

"We have no set number of varsity team members, anyone can practice and we make no cuts. Each week we take the top swimmers in each event according to the previous week's practices and the size of the meet," Barch said.

Each woman is allowed to compete in a maximum of three individual events and one relay.

MSU's first competition will be in January at the international meet in Canada at the University of Waterloo. MSU has taken the championship two out of the three years the meet has been held. This season the team hopes to make it three out of four.

The Big Ten Championship Meet will be hosted by MSU on Feb. 24 at the Men's IM Building. MSU took a second to Indiana University last year.

Tentatively, MSU has seven scheduled meets beginning after the international meet in January. Nearly all of the meets will challenge out - of - season competitors. Central Michigan and University of Michigan will be MSU's only intraleague competition.

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Jacobson's
Teddy, 'young veteran'

Promising freshman

Freshman Fred Teddy demonstrates form which has made him one of Jim Gibbard's most consistent harriers. Teddy has finished second in his last two meets. State News photo by Don Gerstner

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By PAT FARNAN
State News Sports Writer

Fred Teddy is just 'right proud' to be a member of the MSU cross country team.

Teddy was recruited from L'Anse, Michigan, not exactly a thriving megalopolis. But he doesn't care. Neither does coach Jim Gibbard and the cross country team. And why should they? Teddy just keeps running better and better.

At L'Anse High, he set the UP two-mile high school record of 9:22.7 and became the Upper Michigan two-mile and cross country champion. He was the first runner in the Upper Peninsula to break the 10-minute mark in the two-mile - both collegiate and prep. The pint-sized freshman seems to be following suit in the 'big time' now. He has been one of the most consistent performers in Gibbard's line-up and shows no signs of letting up. He's crossed the finish line second in the Spartans' last two meets.

"Teddy has wonderful potential," Gibbard said. "He has a shot at all-American honors in cross country as a freshman. We're expecting Fred to do real well in the two and three-mile this spring, too."

Perhaps even more amazing is the fact that Teddy has been running only three years.

"We didn't have a real varied sports program at L'Anse," Teddy explained. "Football, basketball and track were the whole shot. But my sophomore year, a cross country team was initiated. I was too small to play football so I started training."

Now running at a Big Ten school, Teddy has handled the transition extremely well.

"I just try to do what the coach tells me to," Teddy said. "Jim Gibbard is a fine coach and I know if I follow his advice I'll be doing what is best for me."

That, in Teddy's opinion, is a help to his teammates.

"I'd like to place in the top 15 of the Big Ten, but my real goal is just to help the team as much as I can."

Teddy said, "They're a great bunch of guys and I owe them alot. The least I can do is help them in return."

Since his introduction to the sport, cross country has become increasingly important to Teddy. A physical education major, he plans to pursue a coaching career, but his main interest will still be cross country.

"I really love this sport and feel fortunate that I got the opportunity to run. Now I just want to insure others of that same

(continued on page 11)
1950s are theme of homecoming

By GARY KORRECK
State News Sports Writer

Going back 20 years will not help you get rid of Richard Nixon, but Judy Bogart hopes a return to the '50s will get MSU students fired up about another increasingly obsolete topic, the Spartan homecoming.

Bogart, Northville junior, is chairman of this year's homecoming committee and after the 1971 program she said she had some doubts.

"I was quite nervous last year," she admitted. "People were booing the queen; there was no participation at all. Everyone had become super politically minded."

So, in order to keep pace with the times, the 1972 homecoming committee decided to go back in time and make nostalgic '50s its theme.

The full title reads, "The Flashback '50s - the Cool, Real Gone, Hang Loose, No Sweat, Spastic Years" and Bogart claimed the committee is actually getting a reaction from students.

"A lot of kids are getting really into it," she said. "One guy is going to the library to look up '50s dances so he can win the dance contest."

The dance contest is a part of what could be the most successful homecoming program in recent years. There will still be a queen and there will still be banner competition among campus groups, but the Saturday Night "Rock Around the Clock Sock Hop" in the Union is the key.

Bogart said that WJIM disc jockey John Sebastian will be on hand to spin the platters and that "a lot of neat prizes will be given away."

That is quite a change from the formal program of the past and Bogart added that a few other changes had taken place. "We went from float to banner competition last year because floats are too expensive and we have opened up competition for banners and for queen to all registered student organizations."

Another change is the absence of the Thursday night pep rally, replaced this year with a rock concert at East IM field.

"The interest in traditional homecoming is no longer there," Bogart confessed, "but I still think people like having one weekend that's different."

"We wanted a homecoming that wasn't just for the alumni, but for students, too," she concluded.

MSU trustee Pat Carrigan, Doctor of Arbor, one alum who finds the changes for the better.

Carrigan, a 1950 graduate, said, "Having a banner competition makes more sense. Floats were always so expensive, and I've also noticed that the queens are more articulate."

Carrigan explained, there was no longer a "rah-rah win the game" attitude, but "a thoughtful, serious statement" given by recent homecoming queens.

Displays took up most of a student's time and Carrigan commented that it usually rained on the day of the game. She added that after the game the weekend usually returned to normal, with the dance attended mostly by alumni.

She did notice one difference, though.

"It wasn't usual for us to win a game back then," she said, "but we went out and cheered, won or lose. I don't recall any of the booing that was obvious last year."

"I realize the paying customer has the right to show his displeasure, but these kids and coaches work hard and I would hope the students and the alumni would be sensitive."

Another area of sensitivity this year was the selection of a queen. Bogart said, she did not know if students wanted one, but that she had not received any direct complaints.

The selection process has been changed, according to Bogart and the judges are no longer permitted to ask questions "that ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous."

This year participants were given "world oriented" questions to answer over the three night judging period.

"I think people will be more able to enjoy this weekend than in the past," Bogart concluded. "I know there will probably be some big editorials in the State News about how 'out of it' homecoming is, but I wish people would let us know first."
Women gymnasts selected for team

By LINDA DROEGER
State News Sports Writer

MSU women gymnasts are young but definitely not green having many championship titles to prove their talent. Freshman Cherry Almy qualified to try out for the Olympic team but was forced to drop out during the trials because of a knee injury. In the spring of 1971, Almy placed twelfth in tryouts for the Pan-American Games.

Sophomore Raeanne Miller was a top all-around performer for MSU in the Nationals last year. While still in high school, Miller won a national title in tumbling competition.

Both women are aiming to qualify for the collegiate nationals this year at Des Moines, Iowa. The top six all-around women in the Nationals will qualify to travel with the University World Games Team to Moscow in the summer of 1973. Miller will compete in free exercise, balance beam, uneven bars and vaulting. Due to her knee injury, Almy will not be able to compete in vaulting, but will perform in the other three events.

Cathy Welsh, sophomore transfer student from Lansing Community College, will be MSU’s other all-around performer.

Denise Anthony, MSU returning sophomore, will compete in free exercise, balance beam and vaulting. Freshman Nancy Balough will be performing in balance beam, uneven bars and vaulting.

Sophomore Cheryl Spyzpula will compete in free exercise and vaulting.

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JAMAICAN PLAYERS SAY

MSU soccer about to die

By CHARLES JOHNSON
State News Sports Writer

To most Americans the sport of soccer is an obscure game played primarily in the European countries and synonymous with some guy in Brazil who goes by the name of Pelé.

Michigan State is fortunate enough to have five Jamaican players and a head coach whose knowledge of the game exceeds that of the average American. To them soccer is their life.

Nigel Goodison, Gerry Murray, Lennox Robinson, Junior Higgins, and Nick Dujon (out for the season with a knee injury) are the remains of what once was a prosperous and successful soccer recruiting program at MSU.

Goodison and Murray talked openly about Michigan State and soccer, the game they love so intimately.

"I was recruited in 1969 through the recommendation of various Jamaican MSU alumni," said Goodison. "From the outset I was promised certain things that never materialized.

The former coach talked to me personally and assured me that the soccer program at MSU was solid and judging by their previous reputation I had no reason to doubt him.

"Since that time it has been like trying to grow roses in filth. Soccer was once an art to me but here I have been bored," Goodison continued.

As a high schooler, Goodison was selected to represent his national team and starred in the two games he played against Haiti.

"My potential has not been fully realized and my mind has never been occupied," he said.

Viewing MSU through an athletic perspective, Goodison commented, "I have learned one thing being the words of men are not binding but are more like wind. I came here only to play soccer and get an education, not to deal in politics.

"As long as I'm here I will do all I can to keep soccer from dying. Soccer has done too much for MSU to be treated in the way it is," he said.

Murray also shared the same sentiments as Goodison and was very candid in his opinions.

"Playing soccer for Michigan State has ruined my career completely. When I was recruited a pretty picture was painted but faded as time wore on," Murray said.

Murray was a high school standout and was selected as a member of the Jamaican high school all-stars.

"The soccer program here has steadily deteriorated and it is very odd that it would coincide with the appointment of a black head coach," Murray said.

"I am terribly disappointed with the situation, and it puzzles me as to why one of the winningest sports on campus should be looked down on."

"Speaking on the adjustments he has had to make in moving from a warm climate and different lifestyle Murray commented, "The cold weather has affected my mind considerably. Also the food here lacks flavor."

Coach Payton Fuller talked not only about the national reputation that MSU has gained over the years in soccer, but also about the campus.

"I think that the fantastic record Michigan State has accumulated over the years is what makes everyone shocked when they see that our program is being cut back," Fuller said.

"The reason we were chosen to play Munich is because of the international reputation we have gained as one of the top college soccer powers in the United States."

The coaching reins were given to Fuller in the spring of 1970, and immediately following his appointment it was announced that the six scholarships formerly allotted to soccer prospects would be cut back to the minuscule figure of zero.

"At the time, I wanted the job very badly and I made my position known to the former coach Gene Kenney, Fuller remarked. "I think that I could have maintained a national contender had the funds been cut so drastically," Fuller commented. "Right now I see soccer going down to the level of lacrosse as a varsity sport."
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the wolverine

(continued from page 7) opportunity," Teddy explained. As for the immediate future, Teddy will concentrate his efforts on bringing the Spartans a successful season. A big measure of that success will be Saturday’s Spartan Invitational. The Spartans will be cast in the role of defending champion — not the most enviable position to occupy. Especially when three intra-state rivals are doing their best to unseat you.

"There's a great deal of prestige in being the best in Michigan," MSU head coach Jib Gibbard said. "The best teams in the state will be here and it means alot to the kids to win this one."

Representatives from four major universities will be on hand to determine the cross-country "king of Michigan." Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, U-M, and the Spartans will be competing in the fourth renewal of this classic.

Eastern brings a very respectable set of credentials with them to East Lansing. The Hurons have been flawless to date with a 5-0 dual meet record and a 4-0 performance in the Mid-American conference.

"We expect Eastern to be our toughest competition," Gibbard said. "They're a fine squad which is undefeated and they've already beaten Western."

The Hurons are led by junior Gordon Minty who finished third in the NCAA finals last year (college division). He also captured a second place in the NCAA 10,000 meter steeplechase final. Minty won the same event in the college division finals.

Western has a young team but they have proven themselves capable of handling the assignment. They finished with an 8-2 dual season record last year along with a third place finish in the MAC, but are without the services of two-time all-American Gary Harris, who set a course record in winning this event last year.

"This is going to be a real toughie," Gibbard commented. "We're going to have to run as a group."

Women vie for spots on MSU volleyball team

By LINDA DROGGER
State News Sports Writer

Women vying for positions on the varsity volleyball team face stiff competition this season with nearly all last year's team members returning to play. Last year, MSU placed seventh in national competition in Miami, Fla., directly behind the outstanding Californian teams. In both the Michigan and Midwest tournaments, MSU finished second to western Michigan.

"Western was our toughest competition last year but this year we're going to come out on top," coach Carol Davis said.

Tryouts for the 20-member team began Monday and will continue daily until the final team is selected on Oct. 27. Potential team members practiced basic volleyball skills and various offensive systems this week.

Returning seniors Carol Peterson and Shirley Welch attended the U.S. volleyball camp last August at Illinois State in Normal, Ill. The 10-day clinic was sponsored by a committee scouting for the University World Games team.

Peterson is a spiker and Welch a setter for the MSU team. Both competed in the nationals last year.

Manon Beamer, Patti Odorov, Becky Dickeson, Anne Collins, and Patty McCarthy also competed in national competition last year and will be returning this season.

Sharon Hunt, center and defensive player, is returning to play for MSU after a year's absence.

Both first and second teams will compete with schools from Illinois and Indiana as well as Michigan schools. Each team plays to win two out of three games.

The first inter-collegiate competition will be Nov. 27 when MSU meets Western and Eastern at EMU.

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