

SPECIAL STATE NEWS SPORTS EDITION

MSU v. ND



MSU v. ND: two hungry teams

Both teams need wins after rather slow start

By JOE CENTERS State News Sports Writer When MSU hosts Notre Dame Saturday in a 1:30 p.m. clash at Spartan Stadium, it will be the 44th time that the two football

Spartan Stadium, it will be the 44th time that the two robust teams will have met. But this game will be far different than most of the meetings between the two schools. This contest will be between two teams that are fighting for its lives, which is unusual for both MSU and Notre Dame this early in the season

Both schools are 1-2 this season and the team that winds up on the short end of the score could find itself in a hole with no way to get out.

The Irish lost their first two games of the season, a 3-0 seth to Missouri and a 28-14 defeat at the hands of Michigan, MSU's opponent next week in Ann Arbor. Last Saturday, Notre Dame finally got on the right track by beating Purdue 10-6. The Boilermakers took a 6-0 halftime lead on two field goals by

Scott Sovereen, but that's all of the offense that Purdue could muster against the Irish. A third quarter touchdown by Jerome

Heavens and a 27-yard field goal by Joe Unis later on in the same stanza gave Notre Dame its margin of victory. The Spartans, losers to Purdue 21-14 in the season opener for both schools, came back the following week to crunch Syracuse 49-21, before getting roughed up last Friday 30-9 by Southern California.

"We're closer in being competitive with Notre Dame than two years ago and last year," Spartan coach Darryl Rogers said. "We haven't scored a touchdown in two years against Notre Dame."

Rogers said that Notre Dame's 1-2 record doesn't make them rogers said that Poire Dames 1.2 record doesn't make them any easier of an opponent. He said that the Irish, National champions last season, "wasn't a good team last season until the Southern California game (the Irish's sixth game of the season)." When asked what worries him the most about Saturday's game,

Rogers said it wasn't Notre Dame, but that it was his own team that was his main concern.

"I think if we can perform and play well, we can compete," Rogers said. "When your playing the good opponents you have to make as few mistakes as possible."

make as new mistakes as possible." The Irish are led by senior quarterback Joe Montana and their fullback Heavens. The offense is mostly intact from last season, minus tightend Ken MacAfee. The defense lost three key players in ends Willie Fry and Ross Browner plus cornerback Luther Paraller. Bradley.

"Those four guys could make you a National champion," Rogers said

The Spartans will try to bounce back from last Friday's loss to USC. Rogers said that no one was seriously hurt against the Trojans and that the only question mark against the Irish will be



State News/Deborah J. Borin

Lonnie Middleton (44), MSU's starting fullback, tries to burst past three Syracuse defenders in MSU's 49-21 win earlier this season.

Middleton and his teammates will be seeking to rebound against Notre Dame Saturday before traveling to Ann Arbor to face Michigan the following week.

back-up quarterback Bert Vaughn, who has been suffering from a sore shoulder which he hurt in the Syracuse game.

Sore shoulder which he hurt in the Syracuse game. Ed Smith, who completed 12 of 27 passes against USC, received praise from Rogers for his play after being out a week with a broken bone in his hand. Rogers pointed out that three of the incomplete passes were intentional and that "he hit some receivers vith passes) that were dropped." On defense, the Spartans have two standouts so far this season (with

in junior inside linebacker Dan Bass who leads the team in tackles with 41, and senior tackle Melvin Land who is right behind Bass with 38 stops.

Jerome Stanton, who intercepted a Paul McDonald pass against

USC, was named Spartan defensive player of the week. With only three weeks gone in the season, MSU finds itself confronted with a must game. Although Rogers wouldn't admit it, a 2-2 record going into Ann Arbor wouldn't leave the Spartans in too bad of shape. But a 1-3 record and a two-game losing streak with Michigan on tap would force the Spartans to win five out of its last seven games, including the Michigan game, to break .500, far below pre-season expectations.

This game may be between two teams which each have losing records, but it is also a game between two hungry teams. Two teams in a traditional football rivalry that are starving for a big victory.





Nielsen now with **MSU** soccer team

By JERRY BRAUDE State News Sports Writer When MSU's all-time leading

football scorer, placekicker Hans Nielsen, used up his four years of eligibility last year, it looked like Spartan fans would never get to see him in action again.

But after being cut by the Atlanta Falcons, the 25-year-old from Vejle, Denmark, is back playing another role in MSU athletics.

This time it's for the soccer team where he has scored two of the Spartans three goals through their opening threegame home stand.

Though soccer coach Joe Baum finds him to be one of the key strikers on the team, Nielsen hasn't been totally sat-

"I've had many chances to score and missed. Therefore, I'm not satisfied," Nielsen said. I guess my main responsibility is to score goals, but I've been missing a lot of chances.

While he lived in Denmark. Nielsen played soccer for 11

lour

welcome

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years, but he has not played since he's been in East Lansing. "I didn't play big-time or anything like that in Denmark, but just because everybody else there played soccer," Nielsen said.

Nielsen feels being away from soccer for four years has hamp

ered his play. "I think I was better before I came to MSU," Nielsen said. "I haven't had much game experience lately. I'm not used to practicing with the round thing (the soccer ball) and using the right foot as well as the left

foot." Nevertheless, Nielsen does enjoy playing under Baum while he uses this term to complete his degree in biological science.

"I'm learning a lot right now," Nielsen said. "Joe's an excellent coach, and we have a lot of good players that give me good passes."

Nielsen tried to make the Atlanta Falcons as a free agent. but the NFL team decided to stick with last year's kicker Fred Steinfort.

"They wanted son with

Nielsen said, "It's strange being so close to football for four years and then being out so quickly."

"I'm going to keep on trying to make the pros until I feel I have been really beaten."

State News Bu



Hans Nielsen, who is MSU's all-time leading football scorer, is now leading the way for the Spartan soccer team. Nielsen has scored two gamewinning goals this year. game experience, but they never really gave me a fair chance in the exhibition games,"

Game of the Century

Classic battle for the 1966 national title ended in a tie

tled tooth and nail and the

It did not lack controversy.

MSU punted to Notre Dame with 1:15 left in the game. Naturally, it was assumed that

Parseghian would try to break

the tie and come out throwing.

After all, this game just couldn't end in a tie. It just

But Ara told his troops to

run out the clock, and they followed his orders to a tee.

They stayed on the ground and

six plays later, the gun sounded

at Notre Dame's refusal to try and break the deadlock. "What

they did was not typical of a

number one team, so I feel

The Spartans were incensed

and the stink arose

struggle ended in a tie.

couldn't.

By ADAM TEICHER

State New Sports Writer Nov. 19, 1966 is perhaps the nost significant date in college football history. On that day, one of the most important, most thrilling, and most controversial games ever was played on the turf of Spartan Stadium. MSU, undefeated, untied, and rated number two in both of the two major polls, took on Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish were also undefeated and untied and they were in the number one spot on the AP and UPI wire service polls.

The drama was almost un-bearable. For weeks, football fans all over the country were waiting for the game. Spartan Stadium was filled to the gills with 80,011 people, 4,000 more than normal capacity. More than 33 million more fans watched on TV.

Members of the media from all parts of the country flocked to East Lansing to cover the event. All told, 745 sportswrite ers and sportscasters stuffed the Spartan Stadium press box. It was the largest number of journalists ever to cover a

college football game. The towns of East Lansing and South Bend, Ind. were upside down the previous week. Students were in a frenzy. Several slogans were thought up by Spartan partisans for the game aimed at the Catholic school from Indiana. Two of these were the now famous "Hail Mary Full of

Grace, Notre Dame's in Second Place" and "Even the Pope Has No Hope".

Tension was high. One State News Sportswriter was banned from Notre Dame pregame press conferences and from talking to Irish players before the game because at one of the Notre Dame briefings the week prior to the game he asked Notre Dame coach Ara Parse-ghian how he planned "to counter Michigan State's pow-erful defense?"

Finally, the countdown was over. It was time to play football. The Irish were fourand-one-half-point favorites. The game could not be called

anti-climatic. It was tough, well

Nov. 19, 1966 is perhaps the most significant date in college football history. On that day, one of the most important, most thrilling, and most controversial games ever was played on the turf of Spartan Stadium. MSU, undefeated, untied, and rated number two in both of the two major polls, took on Notre Dame.

played and the outcome was in doubt until the final play. But it failed to declare a

winner. When the smoke had cleared after 60 minutes, the Spartan Stadium scoreboard read: Michigan State 10, Notre Dame 10. The two teams batwe're number one. When they have the ball and we're the one calling timeout (as MSU did the minute), last something's wrong," remarked massive defensive lineman Bubba Smith.

Roverback George Webster, voted the all-time greatest Spartan, could not believe the actions of Notre Dame. "We started asking them if they wanted a tie. They said nothing back. They wouldn't even look us in the eye."

The Spartans opened up a 10-0 lead in the second quarter board with a 34-yard touchdown pass to Bob Gladieux to cut MSU's lead to 10-7 at the half.

The Spartan offense was grounded the whole second half, as they were able to get beyond the 50 line just once and

Roverback George Webster, voted the greatest all-time Spartan, could not believe the actions of Notre Dame. "We started asking them if they wanted a tie. They said nothing back...'

after a scoreless first stanza. Fullback Regis Cavendar scored on a four-yard run and bare-footed Dick Kenney bare-footed Dick Kenney booted a 47-yard field goal for the MSU points.

It was at this point that the minds of Spartan partisans became filled with delusions of grandeur. They had a lead over the mighty Irish, who were playing without star halfback Nick Eddy and sophomore quarterback Terry Hanratty, both of whom were out with shoulder injuries.

was Notre Dame. But this After beating Purdue in the opening game, the Irish then reeled off seven straight victories where the final margin was more than 24 points and they weren't ready to give up against MSU.

Reserve quarterback Coley O'Brien got the Irish on the

that penetration to the Notre Dame 47. So, it was up to the MSU defense. They allowed only the tying field goal, a 28 yarder by Joe Azzaro on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The Irish had a chance to go ahead in the fourth quarter, but Azzaro's 41-yard field goal attempt with 5:43 left sailed to the right of the upright.

The game had not decided the question everyone thought it would. The tie left open the great debate over the best team in the land. The Irish had one more game left, at South ern California. This one would decide whether MSU or Notre Dame would be number one.

The Trojans were never in the game. Notre Dame copped the number one ranking with a 51-0 win. The Spartans had to for the number two settle spot, finishing at 9-0-1.

Photo courtesy MSU Information Services Regis Cavender (25) holts across the goal line for MSU's only touchdown in the historic, 10-10 tie against Notre Dame - in 1966.

A record number of 745 media members were in attendance to cover the clash between the two unbeaten teams in a battle called, "the game of the century.'

Notre Dame went on to beat Southern California, 51-0, to claim the national championship. But coach Irish Ага Parseghian WAS chastized by some critics for going for the tie.

There's not only football

By MIKE KLOCKE State News Sports Writer Fall sports are definitely on the upswing at MSU.

By no means is the MSU football team the only team Spartan fans have to cheer for while the autumn cold weather sets in. as six other varsity sports are in full-swing.

Joe Baum's soccer team, although still trying to overproblems, come some offensive had a 2-1 record going into its Wednesday afternoon game at Grand Valley State College. If you haven't seen the Spartans play, a good time might be Saturday morning before the football game, since the kickers will also tangle with Notre Dame.

The most valuable addition to the team this year is Hans Nielsen, who spent the last four years as MSU place kicker for the football team. Nielsen scored the game-winning goals in each of MSU 1-0 victories. MSU's only loss was a 2-1 setback to Calvin.

setback to Calvin. Baum, in his second year as coach, has also praised the play of Tom Coleman, who has played both defense and mid-field this season. Two of the other top players for the Spar-tans are forwards Soleman Younes and Michael Price.

Mary Fossum's women's golf

All MSU fall sports are on a a.m. at Course. definite upswing this year

week team, after a very good recruit-

ing year, is banking on the talent of several incoming freshmen to complement the strong tandem of Sue Ertl and Suzi Conlin. Ertl has been tournament

medalist in two different events this year, and has had numerous rounds in the low 70s. She set a record in last year's national championships with a

32 for nine holes. In the MSU Invitational, recently held at Forest Akers Golf Course, Fossum entered two different teams which took third and sixth-places, respectively.

The most promising of the new freshmen are Lisa Speaker and Beth Sierra, both of whom have played in all the tournaments.

The golfers are in Blooming-ton, Ind., this weekend for the Indiana Invitational. They will finish the fall part of their schedule with the Midwest Regionals in Wisconsin next

Sam Kajornsin, a native of Thailand who is entering his second year as field hockey head coach, said he is quite pleased with the progress the Spartans have made early in the year.

The team emerged from the Valley Farm tournament in Brooklyn with two wins and a tie last weekend. Included was

a win over highly-regarded Southern Illinois, which participated in the national tournament last year.

The team is led by Nancy Lyons, who scored two-thirds of MSU's goals in the 1977 season. But Kajornsin stresses that this year's squad has a much more balanced scoring attack.

Other top players for MSU include Nancy Babcock, Julie Johnson and Nancy Reed.

The Spartans had two contests this week against Grand Valley and Toledo. MSU will host the Big Ten tournament this year.

Despite having a rather young team, Annelies Knop-pers' volleyball squad seems to be coming back from last year's lethargic record of 7-34-2.

There is only one senior on the team, six-foot Mitzy Hazlett, and she is pacing the team, both with her tremendous ability and leadership.

At the MSU Invitational, recently held on campus, the Spartans finished fifth — faring well against the highly-regarded teams but struggling against the weaker competition.

Included in spikers' schedule for the remainder of the season is a trip to California to play in the UCLA Invitational. This week the Spartans met Wayne State and Eastern Michigan in home matches.

There is also a chance to see the MSU women's cross coun-try team prior to Saturday's football game, as the harriers host the MSU Invitational at 10 a.m. at Forest Akers Golf

After a bit of a shake-up in the coaching staff for cross country and track over the summer, Eric Zemper was picked as the new head coach. So far, he has led the Spartans to a first and second place finishes.

Lisa Berry has been MSU's top runner so far this year. Other standouts include: Mary Ann Opalewski, Kelly Spatz and Sue Latter.

Lil Warnes, one of Zemper's top runners, is still in question-able condition for Saturday's tournament.

Immediately following the women's meet Saturday, there'll be a chance to see Jim Gibbard's vastly-improved men's cross country team taking on Northwestern at Akers.

Gibbard picked up a real recruiting gem in freshman Martin Schulist, who was the individual winner in a victory over Kent State last weekend. MSU lost its only other meet of the year to Notre Dame.

Michael White of Jackson is another top freshman recruit while Keith Moore, a junior, gives the team the experience it needs.





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Friday, October 6, 1978 7



entertainment

Playing the post-game game

By JOHN NEILSON State News Staff Writer

OK. The cheering has died down and the crowds are filing towards the gates of the stadium. Won or lost, the game is over.

Now what are you going to do? Rest assured that you're not the first person who has asked that question. This town has seen a lot of football games — and a lot of Saturday nights. There's a wealth of after the game experience out there, if you ask the right people.

Well, that's exactly what we did. There's obviously no way we at the State News can plan your Saturday night activities for you, but we can offer some tried-and-true ideas from people who've been in your position before. So we asked an admittedly not-toorandom sample of MSU students what they usually do after the big game. Here are their replies

Go To The Bar — A big favorite. A lot of people we questioned said that — after drinking at the game — they wanted nothing more than to keep drinking. Several said that dancing was the perfect way to keep the energy level up, recommending bars like Dooley's and the Alle-ey. The general concensus, however, was that a nice, quiet place to talk and get soused was better. These people favored Beggar's Banquet and Olde Worlde.

Go Out To Eat - Since the games end around dinner time, a lot of people noted that their mind was generally on their stomachs by the time they left the stadium. Rather than have an anti-climactic meal in the dorms, most said that they preferred to eat

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Behind East Lansing

at one of East Lansing's many restaurants — any place from McDonald's to the Grate Steak. Often, the choice was determined by whether or not they were able to - Hang Out With The Folks - Expensive restaurants seem to be most popular when Mom and Dad are around to foot the bill. At least it keeps them occupied enough that they won't be hanging around and bitching about where you live. Drinking with the folks wasn't quite as popular, because if the parents drank at all they were usually drunk already, and it was preferred that they didn't drive into a semi on the way home.

Get Drunk - Not to be confused with going out to the bar. A lot of people noted that after the game they wanted to avoid crowds for the rest of the evening. They went to small parties with their friends or. if they were feeling really anti-social, just went home with a 12-pack or a bottle. Getting high

was also quite popular. Watch TV — Mentioned by a lot of the same people as above. Some wanted to watch more football, while others weren't so particular. Saturday Night Live was an overwhelming favorite, and a lot of students said they made a point of getting home in time to watch it regardless of what else they did

Do It - This was implied more than stated.

but the thought was there. Sleep — Football games take a lot of energy, and so does drinking. The combination sent many people homewards after the game - whether they planned on a short nap or extended recuperation

The Fighting Irish and their film mystique

By GERRY SKOCZYLAS

When the MSU football team takes the field against Notre Dame this Saturday, the Spartans will be playing against more than just the 60 odd members of the Fighting Irish grid squad.

They will also be playing against Knute Rockne, George Gipp, The Four Horsemen, the Golden Dome, and everything else from South Bend that makes up the Notre Dame "mystique." Much of Notre Dame's image comes from its illustrious past,

particularly when represented by movies like Knute Rockne - 411 American.

I've seen that movie dozens of times but I still get chills when Pat O'Brien gives them the traditional "win-one-for-the-Gipper" speech

Even though the movie is really very corny, it does a good job in projecting a positive image for Nore Dame and college footbal in general. (It is unnerving, however, to see that Ronald Reagan as-George Gipp plays "right wing" in the Irish backfield!) Not all movies were so kind to the Fighting Irish, though. In an obscure '60s comedy entitled John Goldfarb, Please Come Home, the Irish travel to a North African desert where they are

upended by an Arab team that doesn't wear pads.

And, in the recent movie Looking for Mr. Goodbar, Diane Keaton screams "I hate the Notre Dame football team!" because her father is too involved with an Irish game on TV to bother with her problems.

Keaton's comment has probably been echoed by college football coaches around the country as well because Notre Dame has an annoying habit of losing games their supposed to win and winning games they're supposed to lose.

But, there are some practical reasons beyond their myth which Darryl Rogers and his Spartans will have to deal with on Saturday after

And, perhaps these reasons could best be explained by quoting from a bumper sticker that has made its rounds in South Bend: "God and 300 lb. linemen made Notre Dame No. 1."



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Plug into the games of the future

By BILL HOLDSHIP State News Staff Writer NEAT! NEAT! NEAT!

Being a firm believer in the evils of science-gone-too-far, I originally planned to condemn the newfangled computer games found in pinball arcades. After all, pinball arcades are for kids, and it seemed to me that modern technology is turning today's kids into closet test tube cases. Whatever happened to the good, old-fashioned, all American games they had when I was a kid? All I could anticipate today were more of the same Elton John or Disco pinball tables mingled with IBM and HAL clones.

I was wrong. Twenty minutes at Pinball Petes, and I Twenty was a hooked guy! Of course, I skipped all the older models that everyone is familiar with by now - the submarine torpedo and army tank games, all of which have educational value in teaching kids the excitement of World War II. And then there was a cowboy computer game where two players can be ecome John Wayne or Matt Dillon and have a good, old-fashioned, all American Western showdown By God, the games I grew up with as a kid are still here! Only difference is that one doesn't have to lie down to play dead anymore.

And then my eyes fell upon those proponents of the great American Dream - the computer CAR games! I dropped my first quarter into the "Night Rider," got behind the wheel, and suddenly I was James Dean, speeding down the highway at 120 miles per hour. I almost believed it, but then the ride ended much too abruptly, so I went in search of some thing even neater.

I found it with another car game called "Death Race." Now, one can never be too sure about the rules for computer games. They often get complicated, and it's usually more fun to watch them and not worry about the rules. So, anyway, I think the object of this game was to drive your car through

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the graveyard at high speed, trying to avoid hitting the little cross gravemarkers. What you were supposed to try to hit, though, were the "gremlins," who looked just like regular people.

Not only was "Death Race" right out of Night of the Living Dead, but it was also a revenge fantasy come true. I mean those little "gremlins" can become anyone you want them to be. "There's my high school gym teacher" — gun the accelerator — RRRRRR!! BOOM! "There's Colonel Tom Parker and Robert Stigwood" - RRRRRR! BOOM! "There's Sister Ger-RRRRRR! trude Ann and that cop that busted me" - RRRRRR!! BOOM! It was well worth the quarter I spent for the frustration I exhumed.

And finally, there were the Star Wars spinoffs. These were the ones I tried to avoid, as I was sure they would represent those dreadful techonological excesses. At first, my worst fears seemed true with the 'Space Wars" game. With its 20-odd buttons, one almost needed a Ph.D in Computer Programming to run the game. In the long run, though, "Space Wars" ended up being like the computer tank games the only difference being that two players maneuvered star-ships instead of tanks. It was still a dud. The players control their ships with four different buttons — LEFT, RIGHT, FORWARD and HYPER-SPACE is the button to push when your ship is in a dangerous situation where there's no way out. When the button is pushed, the ship disappears and is safe. COP-OUT!! What kind of escapist fantasy is that to teach kids?

I was so disillusioned that I almost skipped playing "Star-ship One." Fortunately for me, I gave it a try. "Starship One" was dynamite. Unlike "Space Wars," it is intended for one player. Once again, the player is captain of a starship fighting other ships. Dozens of ship appear on the screen, one after *****

the other, and the player's job is to explode them. If the player doesn't destroy the ships within the allotted time, the ships crash into the screen, resembling something that can only he described as fireworks. In addition, the player is provided with five proton torpedos. The torpedos are intended for times crisis, and they will destroy of everything on the screen.

I became a pro on "Starship One" in no time at all. After each game, the screen would light up and read: "You have saved the Federation. To be Captain of Spaceship Atari, deposit a quarter." However, I soon became less intrigued with saving the federation, and more fascinated with the crash explosions on the screen. During my last game, I completely gave up trying to shoot the ships. Instead, I pressed my face close to the screen as possible, and watched the dozens of crashes. The end result must have resembled what Owsley LSD was probably like in the '60s.

After the game ended, I had lost. The screen lit up and read: "You have lost everything. To be Captain of Spaceship Atari deposit a quarter." An existential computer game! Alright! NEAT! NEAT! NEAT!





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Harden makes impact at MSU

By JAMES L. SMITH State News Staff Writer

After a 22-year hiatus from MSU, Edgar L. Harden returned to MSU to fill in for the departing President Clifton R. Wharton Jr. last January

Harden, a faculty member at MSU from 1946 to 1955, set as his goal the improvement of MSU finances when he returned to campus as its 15th president.

"The major factor in our having done better is the close cooperation which we received from campus and constituent groups, agricultural groups, labor and business," Harden said. To the critics of his predecessor, Harden said any comparison

between himself and Wharton would be unfair.

"Dr. Wharton was here during a different time, his style is a different management style than mine, but he made some significant contributions to this University." Harden said. After eight months in office Harden said that while the job was

grueling in the terms of hours and energy "it is about what I expected.

But then Harden was not a complete stranger to the president's job when he took over.

After leaving MSU and a one-year stint with the Drop Forging Association in Cleveland he assumed the presidency of Northern Michigan University in 1956.

At the beginning of Harden's term at Northern, student enrollment was approximately 800. When he resigned in 1967 to become president of Story Inc. in Lansing, the university had multiplied to 8.000 students.

Harden is on a leave of absence from his job with Story during his stay at MSU.

After plans for the theater wing were redrawn and meetings with groups angered about the loss of the academic wing, Harden said he believes the "misinterpretations" were cleared up.

'The Performing Arts Center, as proposed, will be built," Harden declared.

Harden, who will be 71 in October, has earned a solid reputation in the area of complaint mediation. He quickly resolved a months-old counseling complaint of the Chicano Students for Progressive Action the first month he worked at MSU.

Moreover, Harden quickly became known for his impatience with bureaucratic roadblocks.

While Harden pointed out that student-faculty participation is necessary to the University, he said, "I think the governance situation needs an overhaul."

"Dynamic inaction" is how the president describes the current governance system. "You have to have participation, but you can't wait forever for a decision," he observed.

Harden is a strong supporter of intercollegiate athletics. Specifically on the National Collegiate Athletics Association

(NCAA) Harden said, "it has served a useful purpose, but it is time for it to undergo a searching re-examination of its policies." Harden has stayed out of the areas of long-range planning,

academic council, and presidential selection. He said he sees his role more as improving MSU's standing with the Legislature. "I think it will make it easier for a new president to come on

board with the Legislature aware of our needs," the president



said.

Harden began his career when he graduated

from Iowa State Teachers College in 1930. Before his first MSU days, Harden was a teacher, a coach and a high school principal.

A MSU celebrity, Zeke the Wonder Dog, catches frisbees thrown by his trainer, Gary Eisenberg. Zeke performs at half-time-



Saturday games; Blankets, booze, bars, and buzzes

By JAMES L. SMITH State News Staff Writer

The East Lansing city limit signs are wrong.

East Lansing is not, as the signs proclaim, "the home of Michigan State University." Rather, Michigan State University is the home of East Lansing."

Anybody who lives here more than two weeks figures that out. Anybody who is fortunate (?) enough to stay in the area over term-breaks can testify to the morgue-like atmosphere prevelant in downtown East Lansing when students have departed for the greener pastures of home.

But this being the first "big" home game of the season East Lansing will be far from dead. In fact, parking spaces, restaurant seats and bar stools will be in extremely short supply from Friday to Sunday.

Nobody learns quicker about the attraction of football Saturdays than those of us who transferred here from out-of-state.

Normally sane people transform abruptly into screaming, crazed maniacs bent on rooting for the impossible in outdoor conditions that sometimes would send an Eskimo for shelter.

Bundled in green blankets emblazzoned with a large white "S" MSU fans brave driving downpours and artic-like chilling winds to watch a game involving armor-plated behemoths tramping up and down a green carpet.

Many bring containers of liquid warmth smuggled through Spartan stadium "custom" agents. Some of the methods used to sneak in illegal concoctions would make the most accomplished international jewel thief envious.

With the aid of their bottled and canned brew fans soon become

Bundled in green blankets emblazzoned with a large white "S" MSU fans brave driving downpours and artic-like chilling winds to watch a game involving armorplated behemoths tramping up and down a green carpet.

warm on the inside even though frigid on the out and the action in thestands soften rivals that on the field.

Once the stadium's alcohol level reaches a certain point one can observe the passing of students, toilet paper chains and point-after footballs being tossed, passed and thrown to the rim of the stadium.

Depending on the closeness of the contest, people may watch the game intently, or occasionally glance at the scoreboard to see if they missed a touchdown or two in the last 30 minutes.

As game time approaches the flow of people increases like ants scurrying for an anthill in a rainstorm. Three hours later, like an hour glass turned over they funnel back out drunk and ecstatic or drunk and depressed.

For those few hours, students, faculty, administrators and alumni from extremely divergent fields of interests come together and scream with one voice.

"Zeke, Zeke, Zeke;" "Leeeroy, Leeeroy;" and the ever-popular "bulls..., bulls...," heard when one of the zebras makes a questionable call.

They groan and cheer together when scores of other football games are announced. "Ohio State 7, Minnesota O," groan, groan and double groan.

Hot dogs, popcorn and munchies are consumed in obscene quantities, not to remention the guzzling of various beverages.

Spartan stadium itself is cause for some reflection.

Imagine building a room for your house that you would only use six days a year.

For those six days a year the stadium is used to capacity while during the next 10 months, or 359 days, it stands idle, a reminder of what was and a symbol of what may be.

If you stand quietly near the stadium on a warm spring day — like the proverbial sea shell to the ear — you can almost hear the crowd screaming or the bands playing.

But then it isn't spring, it's October and Notre Dame is on sched. The screaming and the bands are real and for a few strange hours the campus will be unified into a single purpose and mind.



State News/Bob Stern

A homemade U.S. flag appears in the stands as the flag corps stands at atjention during the national anthem before the MSU-Syracuse game, Sept. 23. The flag is one of many images the MSU card block section is able to create with its multi-colored cards.





For a more complete selection, come to the MSU Book Store, Located in the International Center. We're open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday home games.

Spirit Shop open from 10:00 to 3:00 on Saturday away games.

