



THE STATE NEWS

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48824 OCTOBER 5, 1979



A supplement to the State News Friday, October 5, 1979

MSU, U-M to do battle

By ADAM TEICHER
State News Sports Writer

A lot of people have been waiting a long time for Saturday's 2 p.m. MSU-University of Michigan football game in Spartan Stadium.

The Wolverines have been seething since losing to the Spartans a year ago, 25-15.

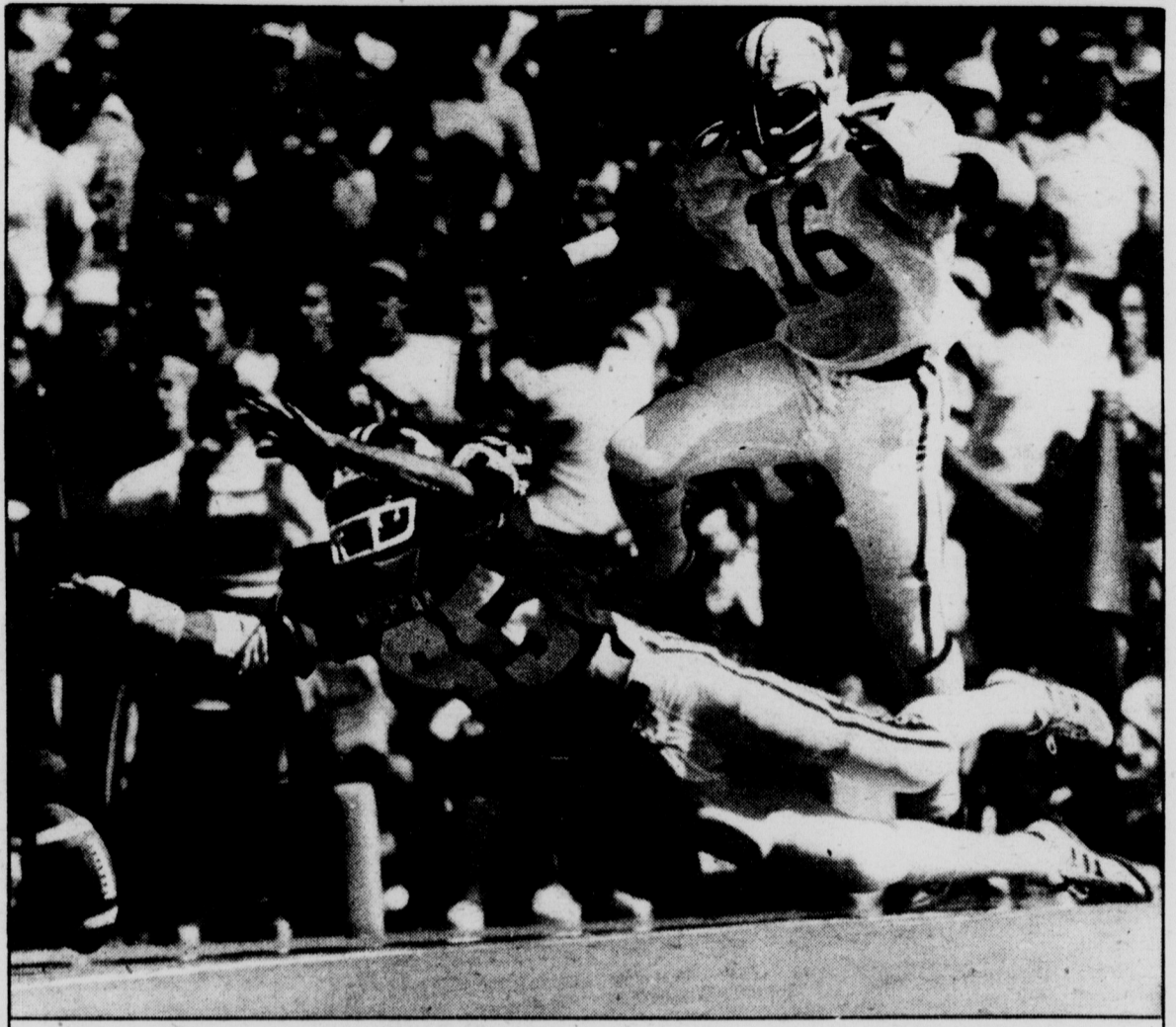
"That (revenge) is true in any big rivalry," U-M coach Bo Schembechler said. "The team that lost the last time out has a tremendous incentive."

The Spartans have been looking forward to getting a shot at U-M ever since they came off probation in January because now a win over the Wolverines will count in the run for the Roses.

AND FOOTBALL FANS around the nation will get their first chance to see the Spartans they've heard so much about but weren't able to see because of the probation. ABC-TV will telecast the game live.

The winner of the game gets the upper hand in the Big Ten race. The loser gets a crippling, perhaps even fatal, blow to its title aspirations.

As usual, the Wolverines are among the leaders in the nation both offensively and defensively. Some people felt that this would (continued on page 3)



State News/Richard Marshall
MSU wide receiver Jimmy Williams leaps for a pass that is slightly out of his reach. Williams missed the first two games of the season with a broken hand.

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Loss will cripple team's Big Ten conference crown hopes

(continued from page 2)

be a down season for U-M, which sports a 3-1 record, but MSU coach Darryl Rogers wasn't one of those.

"They have an outstanding offensive line and as great a defensive line as I've ever seen at Michigan," he explained. "I've never felt Michigan was anything but an excellent football team."

All-America quarterback Rick Leach is no longer around to guide the offense, but although Schembechler is not happy with the amount of points his offense has put on the scoreboard through the first four games, U-M is averaging more yards per outing than last year's unit.

BO HAS NOT settled on any one quarterback to replace Leach. John Wangler and B.J. Dickey have split duties so far. Wangler played the entire contest a week ago at the University of California at Berkeley because Dickey was sidelined with the flu.

The senior from Royal Oak responded with a brilliant performance, completing nine passes for 290 yards as U-M won, 14-10. But the Wolverines rely heavily on the option, and Wangler wasn't happy with this part of his game.

"I didn't run the option as well as I should have," he said. "This caused some problems."

Dickey is the better runner, his 175 yards being second on the team.

TAILBACK STANLEY EDWARDS leads the team in rushing with 344 yards. He teams with fullback Lawrence Reid in the backfield.

U-M is loaded with receivers. Tight end Doug Marsh has caught 14 passes and wingback Ralph Clayton and split end Alan Mitchell have caught six apiece.

Despite their 408 yards per game on offense, the Wolverines have been making their name on defense. U-M has limited the opposition to just 174 yards each game.

The All-American candidates are linebacker Ron Simpkins and tackle Curtis Greer. "Curtis Greer is the best defensive tackle I can ever remember at Michigan," Rogers said.

U-M allows just 61 yards a game via the rush, so MSU tailback Steve Smith will be tested. Smith averages over 100 yards a game for the Spartans.

SMITH WAS THE only bright spot offensively for the Spartans last week in MSU's 27-3 loss to the University of Notre Dame. Quarterback Bert Vaughn was injured in the first quarter against the Fighting Irish and as a result, MSU's passing attack suffered. The

Spartans had a paltry nine yards through the air, the worst effort a Darryl Rogers team has ever shown.

The defense kept MSU in the game in the first half, but it began to wear down after chasing Notre Dame halfback Vagas Ferguson all day. Ferguson cut the Spartans up for 169 yards and two touchdowns on the day.

Linebacker Dan Bass was the star for the Spartans, making 24 tackles and recovering a fumble.

But what the Wolverines have on their minds is not what Notre Dame did to MSU last week, but what the Spartans did to U-M a year ago.

WHAT THE SPARTANS did was roll up 496 yards, exactly half of those on the passes of departed quarterback Eddie Smith. Leach was intercepted three times in the first half and the Spartans jumped out to a 17-0 lead at the intermission.

And MSU held on. Rogers said that the win "helped us get our heads out of the water. In all honesty, I think this is a

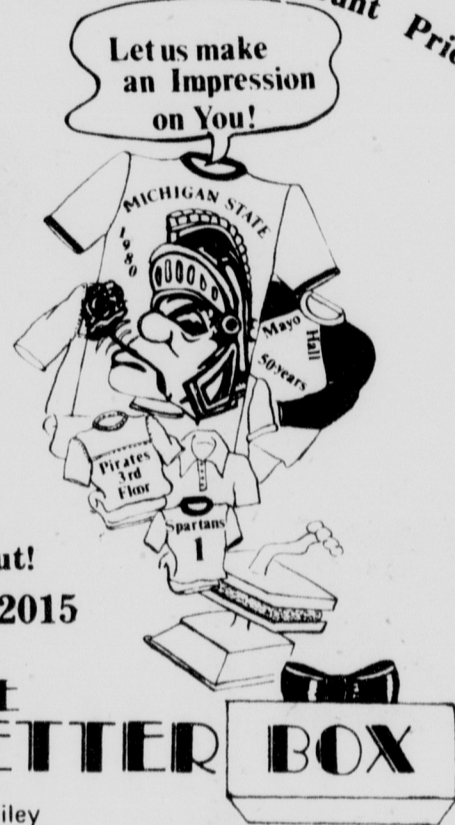
tremendous win for us . . . it says our program is moving in the right direction."

Unfortunately for Rogers, the Spartans were on probation and unable to accept the Rose Bowl bid that they won with

the victory over U-M.

This season, on the other hand, there is no such probation and a win over the Wolverines will go a long way to insuring MSU a place in Pasadena, Calif. on Jan. 1.

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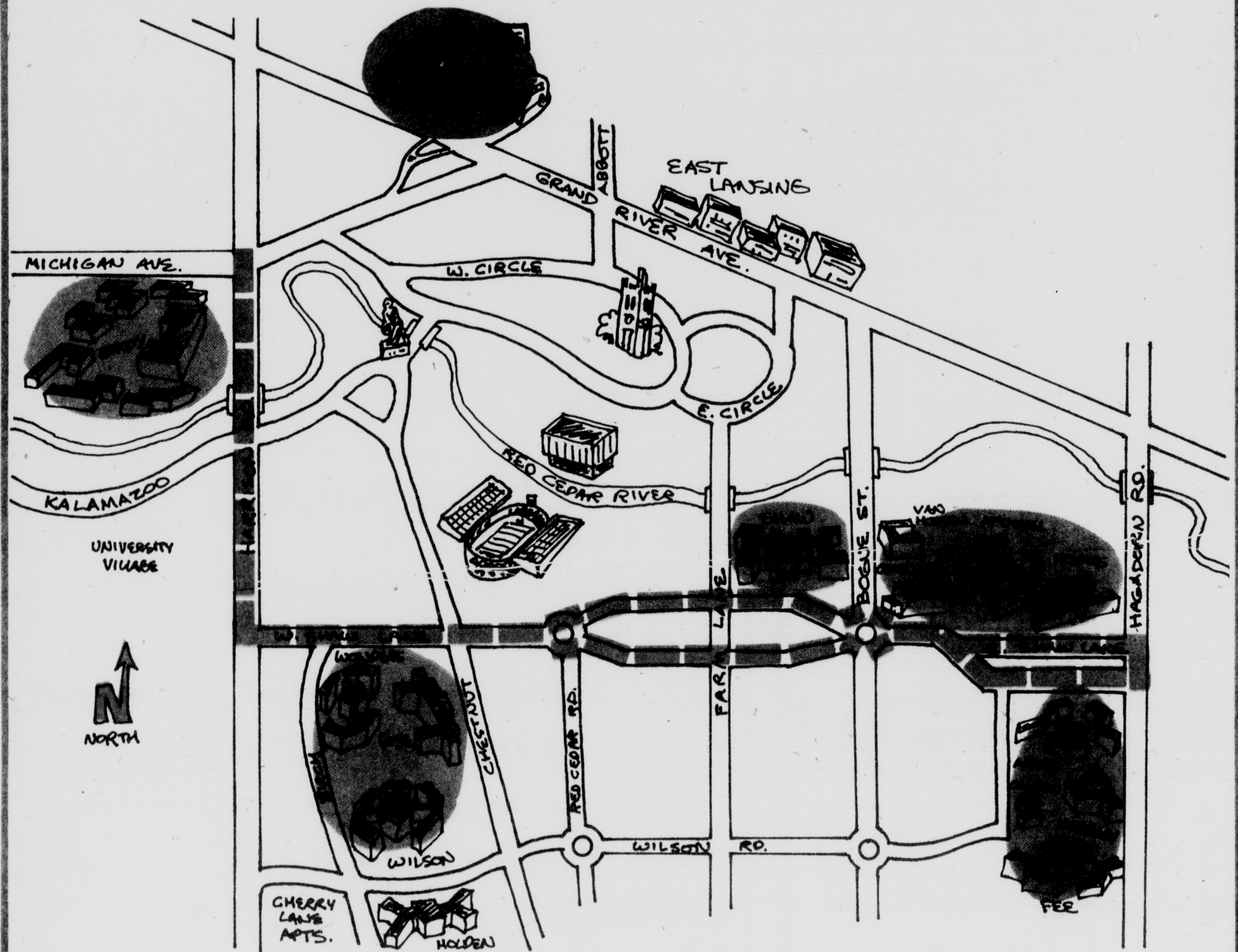
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GERRY SKOCZYLAS

A traditional, pride-based rivalry to be continued in Saturday's game

When some loud braggart tries to put me down and says his school is great, I tell him right away, 'Now whattsa matter buddy, ain't you heard of my school? - It's No. 1 in the state!'

- The Beach Boys

For years, that has been the Spartan fans' battle cry against University of Michigan, but some changes in the athletic accomplishments of both schools indicate it is now the MSU fans who are doing the bragging.

And, with THE GAME upon us once again, it may be useful to examine the growing intensity of the rivalry between the two best athletic schools in the Big Ten.

MSU head football coach Darryl Rogers said that U-M-MSU is a "very intense and excellent rivalry and I found that out soon after I started coaching here.

"I had thought that the great, intense rivalry for MSU was Notre Dame," Rogers said, "because that was the only State game we ever saw on TV."

ROGERS SAID HE realized that U-M was our big rival after playing against them during his first season as the Spartan head coach in 1976.

"When U-M and MSU play, you 'pull out all stops' to win, out there is some dignity in it also," Rogers added.

However, some recent incidents between the two schools show that the rivalry could be intensifying past normal proportions:

- Winter '77 - U-M basketball coach John Orr blows kisses to the crowd after U-M beat MSU on a last second shot in Jenison Field house, infuriating many Spartan fans.

- Spring '78 - After taking verbal abuse, U-M centerfielder Rick Leach spits on MSU fans in a baseball game at Kobs Field.

- FALL, '78 - MSU beats U-M in football, 24-15, in Ann Arbor, to upset the myth of Michigan football supremacy.

- Winter '78 - "Arrogant asses" comment about U-M people, attributed to Darryl Rogers, doesn't go over real big in Ann Arbor.

- March, '79 - Earvin Johnson leads MSU to the NCAA basketball title, causing the lead stories in Detroit's sports pages to be about MSU for three solid weeks, annoying some Old Blues.

- April, '79 - Nine U-M students are arrested by DPS on our campus for attempting to paint Sparty a maize color.

As you can see, things are heating up.

FOR YEARS, U-M had the bragging rights in the state because its teams were always in the Top Ten while ours were wallowing under a probation

cloud.

But, the "Magic Years" brought a sudden influx of championships, "rare" victories over U-M, and a slew of T-shirts bragging about the same.

And, the reports from Ann Arbor indicate that the U-M faithful are getting a little tired of the green and white:

Craig Fedore, a linebacker for MSU from '74 to '77, and now in U-M's dental school, says, "they quit talking after we beat them in football last year, so I think they're out for a little revenge."

Fedore added that "it sure makes life around here a lot easier when MSU keeps winning like it does."

AND MARK FRANCUCK, a 1978 MSU grad who is a classmate of Fedore's at U-M, says, "I got a lot of teasing about MSU until we beat them in football last year."

"There's a 'revenge' attitude in Ann Arbor now," added Francuck, "U-M people are definitely boiling."

One of the biggest factors in

the rivalry are the stereotypes about the students who attend each school.

U-M students tend to be characterized as the rich, smart kids who are "stuck-up" just because they go to Michigan.

And we're all here at MSU just because we couldn't pass the entrance exam to U-M, so we have to become farmers instead of doctors and lawyers. (Har-har-hardy-har-har).

DARRYL ROGERS SAYS the rivalry is still healthy and that there isn't necessarily any grudgery involved.

I hope he's right, even though the signs indicate

otherwise.

And I know that two things have to happen to keep the rivalry healthy, instead of ugly.

First, MSU fans must not become the arrogant, "poor winners," that we've long accused them of being. And we can start by showing our class - win, lose, or draw - at Saturday's game.

Secondly, U-M people will just have to accept the fact that athletically, their "little sister school down the road" has finally grown up.

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Special teams play is crucial

By **BILL TEMPLETON**
State News Sports Writer

Some people refer to them as the "suicide squad," some say "they're just waiting to break into the starting lineup," but MSU head football coach Darryl Rogers calls the Spartan

special teams "a very vital part of our squad."

While the Bert Vaughns, the Gene Byrds, and the Dan Basses of the team can sit back and be recognized by the press and the fans as the "heroes" of Spartan victories, Rogers

believes the special teams play is always crucial.

"When our special teams come up with a good play on defense, it sets up a potential turnover situation for us," Rogers said. "When we can press our opponent back down

the field, it fires up our defensive unit to do well."

Rogers explained that the Spartans cover every phase of special teams play each day in practice and that the coaching staff looks for the best players to use in special team situations.

who they think should play on the special teams and it doesn't matter whether they're first string or not," Rogers said. "We play our best players."

As a total team-oriented coach, Rogers is also aware of the team morale factor involved when the Spartan special teams make a good play.

"It fires everyone up," Rogers said. "It gives everyone the extra incentive to go out and try just a little harder."

Although the special teams players may not often figure into the box scores and the bar-talks about the game, Rogers recognizes them as a major determinant in the outcome of the game.

"Twenty-seven percent of the entire game is related to special teams play," Rogers said. "They're constantly being called on to perform."

Unsung heroes? To some people maybe. But to the loyal Spartan fan, a fan who realizes that a total team effort is required to play winning football, MSU's special teams players are outright stars.

"THEY'RE NOT SECOND stringers," Rogers said, "and they're usually not freshmen. We look for our best players with the greatest speed."

"Freshmen," Rogers continued, "don't usually play on the special teams for us because when they come in here they don't always feel that playing on special teams is very important."

Rogers added that MSU used to use second team players for special teams play but that it wasn't a good way to choose the special teams players.

"I know there are a lot of teams that use those people on special teams and we used to as well," Rogers stated. "We also lost a few football games doing that."

In choosing which players will compose the special teams, Rogers said that the decision is usually up to the offensive and defensive coaching staffs.

"OUR COACHES TELL us

Cover Photo by
Mark A. Deremo



State News/Mark A. Deremo

The Spartans team up to tackle fullback Jim Stone of University of Notre Dame in last Saturday's 27-3 loss to the Fighting Irish.

He wears a skirt

THORNDIKE, Maine (AP) — High school senior James Bean says he doesn't understand all the fuss over his decision to wear a skirt.

"It's part of the uniform," says Bean, the first male to try out for Mount View High School's previously all-girl field hockey team.

When he was accepted for the team, his coach said he could wear shorts instead of the traditional kilt. But some directors of School Administrative District 3 objected, saying the kilt was part of the team uniform, and Bean was told he would have to wear one.

But even though school authorities have now issued a directive relaxing dress-code restrictions on male field hockey players, Bean has decided to wear the kilt.

"What I wear isn't important," he says. "I just want to be left alone and play field hockey."

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