Welcome to Spartan Stadium for today’s matchup between Michigan State and Western Michigan. This afternoon’s contest marks the 11th game in series history between the two schools, with the Spartans owning an 8-2 advantage. MSU has won six straight in the series, including a 26-21 victory in the last meeting in the 2003 season opener.

Michigan State (4-5, 3-3 Big Ten) is coming off a 42-34 loss at Minnesota, while Western Michigan (4-5, 3-3 Mid-American) fell 24-16 at Kent State last week.

FIRST-AND-10
- Michigan State has compiled a 37-7-2 record (.826) against current members of the Mid-American Conference (2-0 vs. Akron, 2-0 vs. Bowling Green, 4-3 vs. Central Michigan, 8-0 vs. Eastern Michigan, 1-0 vs. Kent State, 3-1 vs. Miami-Ohio, 1-0 vs. Ohio, 7-1-2 vs. Temple, 1-0 vs. Toledo and 8-2 vs. Western Michigan). The Spartans have won 22 out of the last 25 meetings vs. MAC teams.
- MSU leads the Big Ten in passing offense (269.3 yards per game) and ranks third in total offense (398.7 ypg.).
- The Spartans rank second in the conference and 13th in the nation with 26 sacks. In league games, MSU is tied for first with Ohio State with 18 sacks. Conversely, MSU’s offensive line has allowed just 10 sacks, tied with Penn State and Indiana for the fewest in the Big Ten.
OF THE WEEK
KESHAWN MARTIN NAMED BIG TEN SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER

• Fifth-year senior Blair White leads the Spartans in receptions (52), receiving yards (766) and touchdown catches (7), all of which represent career highs. He ranks third in the Big Ten in receiving yards (85.1 ypg.) and fifth in receptions (5.8 per game). White’s seven TD catches also rank tied for first in the conference.

• In the second quarter, Brandon Denson recorded his first career interception (vs. Eastern Michigan and Iowa). Cunningham’s previous high was 76 yards, which he compiled twice last season (vs. Eastern Michigan and Iowa).

• Blair White caught four passes for 22 yards and had a 314 career tackles.

• Lou Groza Award candidate Brett Swenson leads the Big Ten in field-goal percentage (.933) and scoring (7.7 ppg.) and is tied for the league lead with 14 field goals. Swenson became the school’s all-time leader in field goals and points scored in the Iowa game, breaking records previously held by Dave Rayner (2001-04). Swenson connected on two 20-yard field goals in last week’s game at Minnesota and has made nine straight entering today’s game.

• Sophomore quarterback Kirk Cousins ranks among the Big Ten leaders in passing efficiency (second with a 140.0 rating), passing yards (seventh with 193.8 ypg.) and total offense (eighth with 197.6 ypg.). Cousins recorded his fifth 200-yard passing game of the season with 236 yards at Minnesota and threw touchdown passes to Brian Linthicum and Dion Sims. Cousins’ 12 passing touchdowns rank fifth best in the conference.

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KESHAWN MARTIN NAMED BIG TEN SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Sophomore Keshawn Martin garnered Big Ten Special Teams Player of the Week honors for the first time in his career following his performance at Minnesota.

Martin compiled a career-best 284 all-purpose yards against the Gophers, including a 93-yard kick return for a touchdown to open the second half. He totaled 176 kick return yards in the game (44.0 avg.), third most in MSU history, and his 284 all-purpose yards rank sixth in MSU single-game history.

The Inkster, Mich., native also scored on an 84-yard reverse later in the third quarter that trimmed the Gopher lead to 28-24. In addition, Martin recorded two catches for 22 yards and had a 2-yard punt return.

Martin’s 93-yard return marked the first kickoff return for a touchdown for MSU since Demond Williams ran back the opening kick 98 yards vs. Indiana in 2005.

NOTES FROM THE MINNESOTA GAME

• Michigan State’s 2009 schedule ranks among the nation’s most difficult (No. 16), according to NCAA figures. The Spartans’ 12 opponents have a combined record of 47-33 (.588) against other NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision teams.

• MSU’s five losses this season have been by a combined total of 23 points. Twelve of Coach Dantonio’s 15 losses in his MSU tenure have been by eight points or less.

• The Spartans have outscored their opponents in each of the first three quarters (185-117 combined); however, MSU has been outscored 91-61 in the fourth quarter. Michigan State has been most explosive in the third quarter, outscoring its opponents 76-30 (+46).

• Junior linebacker Greg Jones leads the nation with 109 tackles and ranks first in the Big Ten and third nationally with his 12.1 average. He reached double-figures tackles for the seventh time this season, recording 12 tackles, including seven solo hits, at Minnesota. Jones was selected Big Ten Defensive Midseason MVP by both ESPN.com’s Adam Rittenberg and CollegeFootballNews.com. In the Iowa game, the co-captain became just the 16th Spartan to record 300 career tackles; he’s currently tied with Carlos Jenkins for 14th all-time at MSU with 314 career tackles.

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NOTES FROM THE MINNESOTA GAME

• In the second quarter, Brandon Denson recorded his first career interception and ran the pick back 20 yards; the turnover set up MSU’s first TD of the game (Cousins’ 26-yard pass to Linthicum).

• B.J. Cunningham led the Spartans with five catches for a career-high 83 yards. Cunningham’s previous high was 76 yards, which he compiled twice last season (vs. Eastern Michigan and Iowa).

• Blair White caught four passes for 36 yards; he has caught at least one pass in 20 consecutive games.

• Colin Neely recorded a career-high 2.5 tackles for loss. In back-to-back plays in the third quarter, he stopped Kevin Whaley for an 8-yard loss, then teamed up with Blake Treadwell for a 5-yard sack of Adam Weber. Treadwell finished the game with a season-high four tackles.

• Dion Sims caught his second TD pass of the season with an 11-yard grab in the back, right corner of the end zone as time expired in the third quarter.

AL FRACASSA NAMED HONORARY CAPTAIN

Al Fracassa, who played quarterback at Michigan State from 1952-54 and is the winningest high school football coach in Michigan history, will serve as the honorary captain this afternoon for the Spartans.

A back-up quarterback on the 1952 National Championship team and 1953 Big Ten Championship team, Fracassa earned a letter for the 1954 season.

Fracassa entered 2009 with 381 wins and has won six MHSAA state championships. A member of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame, Fracassa began his legendary career at Royal Oak Shrine (1960-68) and has coached at Birmingham Brother Rice since 1969.
SERIES HISTORY

Today’s game marks the 11th all-time meeting between Michigan State and Western Michigan, with all games played in East Lansing.

Here’s a look at the all-time series:

- 1908: Michigan State 35, Western Michigan 0
- 1917: Western Michigan 14, Michigan State 0
- 1918: Michigan State 16, Western Michigan 7
- 1919: Western Michigan 21, Michigan State 18
- 1980: Michigan State 33, Western Michigan 7
- 1985: Michigan State 7, Western Michigan 3
- 1986: Michigan State 45, Western Michigan 10
- 1997: Michigan State 42, Western Michigan 10
- 2003: Michigan State 26, Western Michigan 21

SCOUTING WESTERN MICHIGAN

Western Michigan enters today’s game with a 4-5 overall mark, 3-3 in the MAC. The Broncos are 0-2 against Big Ten teams this season, with losses to Michigan (31-7) and Indiana (23-19).

The Broncos are led by senior quarterback Tim Hiller, who is the most prolific passer in school history. Hiller is WMU’s all-time leader in touchdown passes (93) and pass completions (944), and ranks second in passing yards (10,589) and total offense (10,502). Those impressive numbers stack up with the nation’s top quarterbacks, as he is second among active QBs in touchdowns and third in passing yards and completions; only Colt McCoy of Texas has thrown for more touchdowns (100) than Hiller. This season, Hiller ranks fourth in the nation in passing (278.8 ypg.) and has thrown for 17 touchdowns.

In the backfield, senior Brandon West is the team’s top rusher, averaging 91.6 ypg. The receiving corps features five players with at least 30 catches, including Robert Arnheim, who has 47 receptions for 526 yards.

Defensively, the Broncos are allowing 426.0 total yards of offense per game, which ranks last in the MAC and 108th in the country. WMU also ranks 102nd in pass defense (249.6 ypg.) and 80th in scoring defense (27.2 ppg.).

A GLANCE AHEAD

Michigan State travels to Purdue (3-6, 2-3) next Saturday, Nov. 14 to take on the Boilermakers at noon in Ross-Ade Stadium. The regular-season finale is set for Nov. 21 against No. 11/10 Penn State (8-1, 4-1) in Spartan Stadium.

For all of the latest information on the Spartan football team, including videos, podcasts, notes and features, check out www.msufootball.com, the official Michigan State Athletics website, and CoachDantonio.com, the official website of MSU head coach Mark Dantonio. Fans can also follow Spartan Football on Twitter at www.twitter.com/msu_football and Facebook at www.facebook.com/MSUathletics.
After deciding to transfer to Michigan State University in 2007, senior defensive end Trevor Anderson knew his choice wouldn’t be without adversity. He faced a seemingly impossible challenge, and it wasn’t on the football field.

With not all of his classes transferring from the University of Cincinnati, Anderson completed an astonishing 48 credit hours in one academic calendar year – 19 in the fall, 18 in the spring and 11 in the summer – to be eligible to play for the Spartans in 2008. Full-time status at Michigan State is 12 credits a semester. Anderson doubled the minimum amount of credits in order to be a Spartan.

“I had some courses that I had to take that were pretty overwhelming,” Anderson said of this academic hindrance. “They told me I had so many credits I had to take within a year to be eligible for the next season. I was kind of down about it, but Coach Dino Folino (MSU’s director of player personnel and development) pulled me to the side and told me to go to class and take advantage of the tutors and resources MSU has to offer.”

Anderson took his advice and went for it. Against all odds, and contrary to what many thought would happen, he completed the required amount of credits and was granted eligibility, a moment Anderson will not soon forget.

“After I found out I had to take all those credits, I had a lot of doubters,” admitted Anderson, who is a criminal justice major. “When I saw the credits were completed, it was like a weight lifted off my shoulders and I could just go out there and be with my teammates.”

Whether you call them doubters like Anderson, cynics or pessimists, Anderson welcomes their criticism and thrives on the motivation they bring to him and his game.

“When I was in eighth grade, I told one of my friends that I was going to play football,” said Anderson, recalling a memory that has stuck with him. “I said that I might not have the best grades but I’m going to do whatever I have to do to play in college. The first thing he said to me was that I wasn’t going to be able to do it and that I was going to end up staying home with him. All I could think was, ‘I can’t be like that.’ My motivation comes from all the doubters saying I couldn’t do it.”

Wherever his motivation stems from, it certainly has shown through when Anderson hits the field. As a junior and first-year starter, he led the
team and ranked sixth in the Big Ten with eight sacks and saw action in all 13 contests, which included 10 starts at defensive end.

He entered 2009 on the preseason watch list for the Hendricks Award, which is presented to the nation’s top defensive end, and hasn’t disappointed. Anderson leads all Spartan defensive linemen with 37 tackles, including five for losses and 2.5 sacks.

"If you have a goal in mind, don’t let anyone stop you. If you stay focused and keep grinding, you’ll get there." 

Although Anderson is aware of his own success, it is clear when talking to him, he rarely, if ever, puts himself first.

Over the summer, Anderson had the opportunity to attend a special skills camp for defensive linemen and linebackers where he could fine-tune his game with other top players from around the nation. However, Anderson opted to stay at MSU and practice with the team.

"It would have been good for me to go and be around other players who had my same skill set, but I didn’t want any of my teammates to think that I thought I was better than them and that I was leaving them behind," Anderson said of his decision. "I really don’t care about all of the stats. I just try to be a team player."

Instead of attending the camp, Anderson helped other teammates work on their game because he knew it would be more beneficial for the team. He looked things up online so he could help anyone out who wanted it and according to him, staying helped with the team camaraderie and chemistry, something he would not change for anything. Some of the coaches have even referred to Anderson as "an extra coach on the field."

Anderson has had the opportunity to develop strong ties with the coaches as he came to MSU along with head coach Mark Dantonio and his staff. However, he makes it clear that following the coaching staff was not the sole reason he made the transfer from Cincinnati to MSU.

"It was more like ‘I’m coming home’ and it gave me a chance to be closer to my family," said Anderson. "My family has been able to see me play a lot more here. I’m fortunate for them to be able to see me play as much as they do. It was definitely a huge plus, though, to have the same staff. They have been great with me."

"I’m pretty close with (defensive line) Coach (Ted) Gill," Anderson continued. "He says stuff to me that he would say to his grandchildren and you just know you can’t say anything back to him. I view him as a grandfather figure. He is honest and straightforward and he will fight for you. He really sticks up for his players on and off the field. The same thing can be said about Coach D. There are not too many head coaches that have an open door policy where you can talk to them about what’s really going on, besides football."

Anderson’s motivation has helped make the Michigan State football program what it is today. Whether it shows through his strength and skill on the field, or his ability to lead and help coach the team, he has proven that hard work, ambition and the drive to prove people wrong really does pay off.

"Sometimes, it puts pressure on you where you have to try to be perfect," he said. "But it also lets you know that other players really look up to you. I always thought, ‘Just stay with it.’ If you have a goal in mind, don’t let anyone stop you. If you stay focused and keep grinding, you’ll get there. I earned the team’s respect and no one wants to be given anything. You have to earn it, especially here."

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**GETTING TO KNOW TREVOR ANDERSON**

**FOOD:** "My mom’s macaroni and cheese. It’s the best – period."

**TRAVEL:** Italy or Aruba: "Aruba because it sounds exotic and Italy because I want real Italian food."

**MUSICAL ARTIST:** Jay-Z

**FAVORITE ACTIVITY:** Facebook and video games.

**HIDDEN TALENT:** "I have really good handwriting."

**AFTER COLLEGE:** "Maybe the NFL. If not, anything in the federal government. Homeland security or something like that. Anything within federal agency or law enforcement."
COACHING/TRAINING STAFF:

Front Row (L-R): Brad Lunsford, Dave Warner, Mark Staten, Dan Roushar, Dan Enos, Don Treadwell, Mark Dantonio, Pat Narduzzi, Mike Tressel, Ted Gill, Harlon Barnett, Tim Allen.


Third Row (L-R): Bob Knickerbocker, Zak Willis, Nick Ruffing, Reed Schuitema, Tom Shepard, Randy Gillon.

ATHLETIC TRAINING STAFF:

Front Row (L-R): Mike Chapman, Ken Bergin, Brooke Largay, Jennifer Seid, Candy Anderson ATC, Clarissa Hall, Jerin Guindon, Dave Whisenant.

Back Row (L-R): Sally Nogle PhD ATC, Brett Penning ATC, Jeremy Metzler MD, Mike Shingles DO, Andy Schorhhaar DO, Doug Dietzel DO, Jit Mookergee DO, Brooke Lemmen DO, Jeff Monroe MS ATC. Not pictured: Randy Pearson MD.