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Lady Spartans tie home record



By Hasani Ali
SUN SPORTS WRITER



Michigan State women's basketball tied the school record for home wins with a 57-48 victory over Penn State on Feb. 27 in home regular-season finale at the Breslin Center. The Spartans tied the 2010-11 squad who also finished the season 15-1 at home.

With the win, MSU improves to 19-9 overall and 9-8 in Big Ten action. Michigan State's only home loss was a 77-70 defeat at the hands of Ohio State on Feb. 21.

In the low scoring affair, the Spartans finished in double figures led by 14 points from freshman guard Nia Clouden, who scored 14 points to go along with four rebounds. Sophomore forward Sidney Cooks added 12 points and six rebounds. Redshirt-junior guard Shay Colley had her 18th double-figure scoring game with 10 points and a team-high of seven rebounds and four assists.

Michigan State's defensive effort held Penn State to just 30.5 percent (18-of-59)

field goal shooting, a new season-low by an MSU opponent, bettering the previous mark of 31.6 percent (18-of-57) by Kennesaw State (Nov. 23).

Penn State's Lauren Ebo was the lone player in Wednesday's game with a double-double, registering 13 points and 11 boards.

Both teams started slowly with MSU leading Penn State 6-5 at the first media timeout with 4:26 left in the first quarter. Michigan State used a 8-0 run to take the 10-5 lead. Penn State missed 11-straight shots over 6:27 before a pair of Kamaria McDaniel free throws halted the drought.

The teams made it out of the first quarter with MSU leading, 10-6.

In the second quarter, both teams still struggled to find their offensive rhythm. With under three minutes left in the quarter, the Spartans used a 6-0 run to get energized and take a 27-20 lead. Colley beat the buzzer with a layup to put Michigan State up 32-24 at halftime.

The Lady Lions did not go down without a fight in the fourth, using a 7-0 run to cut the big MSU advantage to 13 points, 53-40 with 6:31 left in the game. Penn State forced three Spartan turnovers in three minutes, to trim the lead to 55-46 with two minutes left in the game. MSU was held to only six fourth-quarter points.

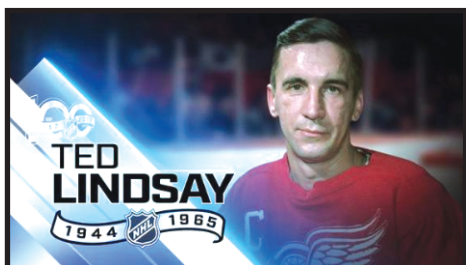


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Red Wings mourn death of Ted Lindsay

DETROIT - The Detroit Red Wings and the Lindsay Family will hold a public visitation for Ted Lindsay on Friday, March 8 on the covered ice at Little Caesars Arena from 9:07 a.m. to 7:07 p.m., honoring the iconic No. 7 sweater number of Ted Lindsay while allowing fans to pay their respects to the Lindsay Family.

Fans will be able to park in the Henry West Garage (128 West Fisher Service Drive) or Little Caesars Arena Garage (165 Sproat Street) for no charge and enter the building through the Meijer Entrance, located at the southwest corner of the arena, where they will be able to view the Ted Lindsay statue and sign a tribute banner which will be presented to the Lindsay Family.



The funeral service will be held at St. Andrew's Church in Rochester, Mich., on Saturday, March 9. The funeral service will be closed to the general public. The Red Wings organization would like to encourage fans and media to respect the family's privacy during this difficult time and for all those wishing to pay their respects to attend the public visitation held at Little held at Little Caesars Arena.

NBA stars get Wealthy

By Hasani Ali
SUN SPORTS WRITER

From DeAngelo Russell of the Brooklyn Nets to Andre Drummond of the Detroit Pistons, superstars all across the NBA are getting their first taste of a premier clothing brand in Oak Park.

Throughout social media, you see numerous NBA stars wearing hoodies, sweatshirts and t-shirts with the Wealthy logo engraved in a vertical pattern.

The Saginaw native even made his presence felt at the 2019 NBA All-Star game in Charlotte as he took photos with numerous stars and the cheer team of the Charlotte Hornets.

Saginaw native Kuddles Hopkins implemented a crafty way to instill a principle into a clothing line.

Wanting a legacy to pass onto his sons and to teach others about economics, he made "Wealthy" a clothing brand with style and a constant subliminal statement.

"You can't leave a job to your children," Hopkins said. "So I created something for my children that they will inherit once I am gone."

After a two-year presence online, Hopkins and his business partner Rashad Hosey opened up their storefront in Oak Park.



The Wealthy Brand is located on 8126 W. Nine Mile Road.

"It actually started as Mentally Wealthy," Hopkins said, but we strategically wanted our following to strictly focus on wealth.

As a student at Saginaw Valley State University, Hopkins was introduced to the entertainment scene as a promoter for exclusive club parties.

With successful turnouts, it was etched in his mind that he will become an employee as long as he can work for himself.

"I worked at Wendy's for 2 months when I was in college," Hopkins said. "I knew for a fact that working for somebody else was not meant for me."

Most entrepreneurs are recognized by their clients and fans while Hopkins' leadership was acknowledged by a State Representative—Jewel Jones of Inkster.

Media stations such as Fox 2 and Channel 7 have inquired about the unique brand.

Making waves in the NBA has been monumental for Hopkins, but he has one thing that he's looking forward to come August

3—become a husband.

Hopkins will be marrying his college sweetheart Charkyra Brooks, who has been very supportive as the clothing brand has taken off.

For more information, visit www.thewealthybrand.com.

What leadership looks like: Griffin helps Pistons endure lows, stay focused

DETROIT - The frenzied waning moments of their overtime vanquishing of Toronto continued a recent and encouraging trend for the Pistons: Blake Griffin no longer has to make something of every critical possession in order for them to win.

The aftermath of Sunday's 112-107 win - one that projection models say did wonders for the their playoff expectations - suggested something every bit as responsible for their surging fortunes: Even as he's been able to take a half-step back on the floor, Blake Griffin's station as Pistons leader has never been more apparent.

First, let's rewind the clock five weeks. After losing to Milwaukee on Jan. 29, the Pistons fell to a season-worst 21-28. They stood three full games out of the No. 8 playoff position, 5½ games behind Brooklyn for the No. 6 spot they occupy today.

It felt like the season was on the brink of utter collapse. After a 13-7 start following a Dec. 1 win over Golden State, the Pistons had gone 8-21 amid a wave of injuries, a daunting schedule and a string of tough-luck losses.

What, Griffin was asked, gave him reason for hope?

"In the East, I don't know how many games back we are. Can't be more than 2½, three. So that's a solid 10 games of basketball and some losses from a team that's right ahead of us, Charlotte or Miami or Brooklyn or whoever it is. It's still within our grasp. We're one of those teams that when we're full strength, we've been much better. So that's a big thing for us."

The Pistons got Ish Smith back four days later. Since the loss to Milwaukee, they've gone 10-3. Charlotte has gone 5-9, Miami 4-10, Brooklyn 4-9.

And, yes, Griffin gave that same message internally: Stay the course and we'll be OK.

A few days after Smith's return with the trade deadline bearing down, Ed Stefanski executed two trades that took Reggie Bullock - the best 3-point shooter on a team that ranked 30th in 3-point shooting through the end of January - and Stanley Johnson, their sturdiest and most versatile perimeter defender, out of the rotation.

Analysts immediately viewed the trades as a sign the Pistons were punting on the season in order to put themselves in better position going forward - not exactly a rebuild, but a sign they were waving a white flag on a 2019 playoff chase.

Stefanski and Dwane Casey immediately quashed those expectations publicly, but Griffin reinforced that message internally.

"As players, you've got to trust the front office," Griffin said the day after the deadline passed with the Pistons picking up Thon Maker for Johnson and rookie Svi Mykhailiuk and a future No. 2 pick for Bullock. "They know what they're doing. Miss those guys a lot, wish them the best, but you hope to get some guys that can come in right away and help out. I thought we got that in Thon and Svi. Just got to keep going. It happens in basketball. I think (teammates) understood. We've still got to get to work. It's on all of us to help the new guys feel welcome."

In other words, business as usual. Seeing Griffin - their unquestioned leader, their six-time All-Star - respond that way eliminated any sense of panic or questioning of the path to be taken.

It also speaks volumes that Griffin has willingly - no, cheerfully, joyously, enthusiastically - stepped back as Reggie Jackson has found his passing gear, as Andre Drummond has ratcheted up his game another level and as Luke Kennard has flowed into the scoring savant the Pistons hoped he would become.