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Michigan State NCAA Basketball Championship Visit

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Public Papers of the Presidents

October 14, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2053**LENGTH:** 1382 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Honoring the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball **Champions****BODY:**

The President. Thank you very much. Well, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House. I want to say a special word of welcome to Purdue Coach Carolyn Peck and UConn Coach Jim Calhoun and their wonderful teams. And we're honored to be joined by two Members of Congress from Connecticut, John Larson and Nancy Johnson. *[Applause]* Thank you.

Usually, you know, the Members of Congress, they stand in front of the team, and I shake hands with them, and then I go shake hands with the team. And I started shaking hands with the UConn team, and Nancy Johnson was the fourth person in the line, and I wondered what position she could possibly have played. *[Laughter]*

Well, we're delighted that they're both here, and the two Connecticut Senators, Joe Lieberman and Chris Dodd were also here. They had to go vote, and they're going to try to get back before we finish. But we thank them for coming.

It's a great honor for me today to welcome the Purdue Lady Boilermakers and the UConn Huskies, two talented basketball teams who remained focused enough to win the most coveted prize in college basketball. It's a kind of a joke around the White House that I am a fanatic basketball fan, that I frequently misbehave during the NCAA tournament -- *[laughter]* -- especially if the Arkansas Razorbacks aren't playing well that year.

But I studied these teams very closely. I'd like to -- I think that I would like to begin by making two acknowledgements that are important to the human element of basketball. First of all, the Lady Boilermakers lost one of their teammates, Tiffany Young, last August in a car accident, and her parents are here. And I'd like to acknowledge their presence and thank them for coming. Would you -- well, they're here somewhere. There they are. *[Applause]* Thank you.

And in this week, I can't help noting that on Monday we lost one of the greatest basketball players of all time, Wilt Chamberlain, whose dedication, determination, and performance inspired countless Americans, most of whom never scored 100 points in a single game.

Wilt Chamberlain once said, in his rather wry and funny way, "They say nobody is perfect. Then, they tell you practice makes perfect. I wish they'd make up their mind." *[Laughter]* One thing is clear. With practice and talent, UConn and Purdue got pretty close to perfect. They both beat two very talented Duke Blue Devil teams.

This was a season of firsts. First time a men's team from New England had won the NCAA tournament since Harry Truman lived in the White House; the first time the Purdue women or the UConn men ever won a national championship.

Let me begin by saluting the Lady Boilermakers. All America was awed by your performance. I understand it was fueled by power naps and peanut butter. [Laughter] If that's true, I think I'll stay with them both. [Laughter]

They had a dazzling 34 -- 1 season record. I told the coach when we were starting this that I happened to see one night, on television, their early-season victory against Tennessee. And -- because, you know, Tennessee's coming here has become a kind of regular event -- [laughter] -- Coach Summitt and her husband and her wonderful son have become friends of ours. And Al Gore was in a slump the next day. [Laughter] And he said, "Well, they must have had an off night." And I said, "Al, I watched the game. They didn't have an off night." [Laughter] "That Purdue team is great. It's going to be hard for anybody to beat them." And it turned out to be right.

I want to mention the extraordinary contributions of the co-captains of the team. MVP Ukari Figgs turned around the final game with 18 points. All-American Stephanie White-McCarty amassed the second-highest number of points in the history of Purdue.

Basketball is a team effort. It depends upon everyone working together and relies heavily on good leadership. The Boilermakers had a lot of both. As the first African-American woman ever to win the NCAA championship as a coach, Carolyn Peck has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, carrying Purdue to two Big 10 tournament championships in only two seasons. And I'm glad she's back here with her team today. She's just finished her first season as a pro coach, where she missed the playoffs, I think she said, by one game. And next year is your second season; you've got to deliver. And we wish you well. [Laughter] So I'd like to call on Carolyn Peck and give her the microphone now. Thank you.

[A this point, Coach Peck made brief remarks.]

The President. I also want to acknowledge, before I leave the State of Indiana, the presence here of a man who has been my friend for 20 years, the former Senator from Indiana and the father of the current Senator from Indiana, Mr. Birch Bayh. Thank you, Senator. Thank you. I'm glad to see you. Thank you.

Now, the Huskies. I watched them all year, too. They won 34 games, and they were supposed to be a big underdog in the championship. They had a team that was determined not to be defeated. Richard Hamilton's outside touch and the tough defensive play of Ricky Moore and Khalid El-Amin gave them a 77-74 down-to-the-wire thriller that will never be forgotten by people who love basketball.

I also want to say that I'm glad Richard is coming to Washington to help the Wizards. We need it. [Laughter] Jim Calhoun's achievements as the Huskies' coach are tremendous. He's the only coach in NCAA history to win 250 games at two different Division I programs. He's the winningest coach in UConn history, with the third most wins in all of college basketball in the last six seasons.

When I called Jim to congratulate him on the victory, we had a wonderful talk about a lot of things, and I'll always remember our conversation. But I told him, and I thought that the Duke coach, Mike Krzyzewski, gave him and these fine young men, the ultimate compliment; you can only imagine how disappointed he was. He has all those great players; they were supposed to win everything easily. It was a fabulous game.

The truth is, UConn was better than they thought they were. And it was -- at a moment of enormous disappointment, he got before the national television cameras and he said, "We did not lose this game. We were defeated by a better team." And that says a lot about this coach and these players.

So, Coach, the microphone is yours.

[Coach Calhoun made brief remarks, and the team captains presented a jersey and ring to the President]

The President. Look at this. I think it's a little big for me, don't you? *[Laughter]* Thank you. I really love this, thank you.

Now, when does practice start? *[Laughter]*

Coach Calhoun. I'll see you Saturday morning at 11.

The President. Thank you very much.

Coach Peck. Can we make a presentation?

The President. Sure. Give them another hand, guys. *[Applause]*

[Coach Peck and the team's senior captains presented a jersey to the President.]

The President. I can wear this. It's the right size, right? It's the right size. I love it.

[A Purdue senior captain thanked the President and congratulated the University of Connecticut Huskies.]

The President. You know, in a year and a half when I'm not President anymore, people will, all of a sudden, start treating me as an elder statesman or something, and they will all want my advice on various things. One of the things people ask me all the time is, isn't it hard to keep your feet on the ground and the sense of basic humility when, you know, the Secret Service are with you, you fly around on Air Force One, every need is just at your fingertips? And I think I will have two pieces of advice: One is, have regular press conferences; that'll cut you down to size. *[Laughter]* And the other is, always meet with the champions of the men and women's NCAA basketball tournament. They will make you feel very small.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:08 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Tiffany Young's parents, Gloria and Billy Ray Young, and Pat Summitt, coach, University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

November 9, 1998**CITE:** 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2284**LENGTH:** 1339 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Honoring the 1998 NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball **Champions****BODY:**

The President. Thank you. Please be seated. I want to welcome, in addition to the coaches and the university officials and the teams, Senator Ford from Kentucky; Senator Frist from Tennessee; Congressman Whitfield; Governor Patton; President Johnson; Coach Summitt; the team's captains, Chamique Holdsclaw, and Kellie Jolly; Associate Athletic Director Larry Ivey; Coach Smith; your team captains, Allen Edwards, Cameron Mills, and Jeff Sheppard.

Before I begin, I have to turn the microphone over to someone who couldn't be here today, but who never misses an opportunity to remind me at this occasion that there is a team from Tennessee here always. *[Laughter]* Laura just said, the Vice President is supposed to call in, but he's a little late. I like it. I'll get to talk some more. Not yet? Give me the high sign, Laura.

So we'll go on with the program. *[Laughter]* I love November, not only because of Thanksgiving but because we get to start the college basketball season. It's the time of year also, lately, where I welcome the Lady Vols and the Kentucky Wildcats here. *[Laughter]* For Kentucky, it's been 2 out of the last 3 years. For the Vols -- this reminds me, when I was Governor, there was this wonderful civics teacher in a little town in Arkansas. And every year, she was such a devoted teacher, she would always bring her class to the Governor's office. And every year, Pat Summitt brings her class to the White House. *[Laughter]* Just part of a civics lesson that is unmatched in NCAA women's basketball history. *[Applause]* Thank you.

I want to congratulate Pat Summitt and Tubby Smith for knowing how to turn talent into victory. They are two different things, as we all know.

Let me begin by saluting the Lady Vols basketball team. There are few things in sports more thrilling than the way they roared off the bench in the first half of the championship in Indianapolis, scoring 55 points, tying an NCAA record -- Tennessee's 61st NCAA win, the most by any school ever, at the end of a 39 -- 0 season.

Not only that, they won each of these games by an average of 30 points. That's something that would not only make any coach jealous; it makes any politician drool. *[Laughter]* The Lady Vols have been called flawless, mega talents, without peer, merciless. Some say they are the best team ever to step on the floor, anytime, anywhere.

It was, of course, a victory for the team. But I think we should note that Chamique Holdsclaw led the Vols in scoring, was the Final Four MVP, swept Player of the Year honors -- coincidentally, wearing

number 23. And like Michael Jordan, she dominated every game of the season, averaging over 23.5 points a game; in the final victory, an impressive 25 points and 10 rebounds. I say that because young people in this country, especially young girls who are learning about women's basketball, will hear a lot more about her.

And let me also salute Coach Pat Summitt, Coach of the Year for the sixth time in 12 years, her third consecutive championship team. Only John Wooden has more collegiate basketball championships, and she's gaining on him every day. Thank you again for what you have done.

And now, is the Vice President on the phone?

The Vice President. Yes, I'm here, Mr. President. [Laughter]

The President. Okay, gloating time. [Laughter]

[At this point, the Vice President made brief remarks by telephone hookup from Carthage, TN.]

The President. Thank you. I can't help noting that there's a little modest football game this weekend between Tennessee and Arkansas. [Laughter] And both teams are undefeated, but Tennessee is much higher ranked. And both the Vice President and Senator First refused to give me any points when we bet on this game. So I'm either going to have more barbecue than I can eat, or I'm going to have to take out a loan to finish Chelsea's college education after this. [Laughter] But I'm looking forward to it.

I'd like to say a few words about the Kentucky Wildcats. First of all, I think all of us who watched the tournament this year thought it was one of the best tournaments that any of us could remember. And the fact that Kentucky did come back by 10 points at halftime in the last game to defeat Utah -- quite clearly a great, great team -- the fact that we had so much competition in the final teams that made it certainly to the Final Four, but even the last 16 -- it was an unbelievable tournament. And Kentucky became the first team ever to come back from such a large deficit in the final game of the tournament -- with heart, skill, and guts.

I want to congratulate the Final Four MVP, Jeff Sheppard, and all of his teammates. There were many solid scorers, no one who ran away. Kentucky had a team. They also did something that I think is very important for great teams. They got better and better and better as the season went on, winning their last 11 games by an average of 20 points.

Of course, Coach Tubby Smith faced a difficult task in his first year at Kentucky. People expected him to win all the time, and he had to start with that burden of expectation. I think the fact that he began his working life in tobacco fields with 16 brothers and sisters taught him something about teamwork. And he certainly brought what he knew about teamwork and family values and spirit to this work.

Jeff Sheppard said of Coach Smith that "he does a really good job of teaching us the game of basketball, but an even better job of teaching us how to be men." I think that says more than anything I could possibly say about this remarkable man and his remarkable team.

Now I'd like to introduce Dr. Joe Johnson, the president of the University of Tennessee.

[At this point, President Joseph E. Johnson made brief remarks and introduced Coach Pat Summitt of the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers. Ms. Summitt then made brief remarks, and players Kellie Jolly and Chamique Holdscrow presented the President with gifts.]

The President. I now have a whole wardrobe from them. [Laughter] It's great; I have all these matching workout clothes. Thank you very, very much.

Now I'd like to ask Larry Ivey, the University of Kentucky associate athletic director, to come up.

[At this point, Mr. Ivey, associate athletic director, University of Kentucky, made brief remarks and

introduced Coach Tubby Smith of the University of Kentucky Wildcats. Coach Smith then made brief remarks, and players Jeff Sheppard and Cameron Mills presented the President with a Wildcats jersey. Mr. Mills noted that the President never wore the jersey given to him after the Wildcats won their previous championship.]

The President. Look how big it is. Cameron, for all you know, I slept in it. Look at this. [Laughter] Look, you are laughing about this, but I'll have you know that I was 6'8" before I got elected President. [Laughter]

Well, thank you very much. Let me say to both of you, I follow basketball quite closely, and I have had occasion to get to know Pat Summitt and her husband, R.B., and fine son, Tyler, who is kind of getting bored coming to see me every year. [Laughter] But it's nice for me because I've watched him grow up. [Laughter] He weighed about 15 pounds the first time I -- and he came to see Buddy today, so my dog is eagerly awaiting his reunion there.

I also have very much admired Tubby Smith from afar. And I like it when teams can come back. Although I must say, I prefer to get ahead and stay ahead. [Laughter] But sometimes you just have to come back. [Laughter] So I think we've had the best of both worlds here today and a lot of what is best about our country.

Thank you, and God bless you all. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Paul E. Patton of Kentucky; and NBA Chicago Bulls player Michael Jordan.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

October 27, 1997

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1660**LENGTH:** 522 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Honoring the 1997 NCAA Men's and Women's National Basketball **Champions****BODY:**

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. You see my voice is a little weak. You'll be happy it will be a shorter speech.

But we're celebrating two other athletic events here today. I think I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the Florida Marlins and the Cleveland Indians on a magnificent World Series, and the Vice President on finishing his first marathon yesterday. *[Laughter]*

I'd also like to welcome the Lady Vols back. It's tough to win those back-to-back championships. Al Gore and I know something about that. *[Laughter]* And there are many benefits about having Pat Summit come back here year-in and year-out. I'm getting to watch her son grow up -- *[laughter]* -- and I enjoy it very much.

I want to say a special word of appreciation, since the Vice President got to talk about his native team -- you know, a lot of you know that I am a fanatic basketball fan, and I got hurt last year right before the tournament. The only good thing about my agonizing injury incurred under humiliating circumstances -- I fell 6 inches and tore my leg off -- *[laughter]* -- was that I got to see every game in the tournament that was on any channel on television. And I must say I was astonished by the performance of the Arizona Wildcats. They were young, they were energetic, they never quit. And I think that it will be a long time before we see another team so young, so full of energy, so full of depth, beat three number one seeds, which had never happened before, and produce the kind of record they did in that tournament.

I want to congratulate Miles Simon, who was named the MVP of the tournament; Michael Dickerson, a First Team All Pac 10; Michael Bibby, who was the All Tournament Team and the Pac 10 Freshman of the Year. He didn't look like a freshman on the court, I must say. And Coach Olson, I want to congratulate you on taking a team to the tournament I think every year since 1985, which is a truly astonishing record.

I think that I would be remiss if I did not also say that there are many of us in the United States who love basketball, who also want basketball to be a good experience for the basketball players, and who want them to become fine citizens, fine young men and fine young women. We talked about Pat Summit's students all getting their degrees. I think everybody who knows anything about Lute Olson admires him as a person, as well as a basketball coach, and admires the qualities that he represents and tries to impart to his players. So, in spite of all the championships, I think that's the most important thing of all, and we thank you for that, as well.

Now I'd like to get on with having the two coaches, in clear and strong voice, and their players presented to all of you. So I'd like to invite Coach Summit and Coach Olson to come up and share a few words.

NOTE: The President spoke at noon in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Pat Summit, coach, University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers; and Lute Olson, coach, and team members Miles Simon, Michael Dickerson, and Michael Bibby, University of Arizona Wildcats.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

May 20, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 903**LENGTH:** 1006 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Honoring the NCAA Basketball **Champion** University of Kentucky Wildcats and University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers**BODY:**

The President. Thank you. Thank you very much. You can sort of see that as far as this announcement today, I'm the Vice President. [Laughter] And Mr. Gore is taking the lead, with his justifiable pride.

I want to welcome the Members of Congress who are here, the presidents of these two great universities, all the coaching staff, and their supporters. I see the Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky over here and many other people who are supporting these two teams.

It is true that I am a -- I suppose a fanatic would be too mild a word for it -- basketball fan. And I tried to watch every game that was on television, at least part of it, during this tournament. It was a fabulous tournament, in both the women's and the men's divisions. The people who won should have won. But, as the Vice President said, just because you're ahead and you're the favorite doesn't mean you always win. I hope everybody around here remembers that. [Laughter]

I want to congratulate the Lady Vols. They were terrific, especially down the stretch. Michelle Marciniak, their most valuable player, and all the team -- they really -- to win in the finals you have to play as a team. And I saw -- I got a note from my staff before I came out here that says that there is a sign outside their locker room back in Knoxville that says, "Offense fills seats. Defense wins games. And rebounding wins championships." That's kind of the way it works around here. [Laughter] And I like that.

And I want to say again, as I did to you on the phone, Pat Summitt, we thank you for your winning ways and we thank you for the values, the spirit, and the rules that you have followed all these years. You have got a formula for success as well as some exceedingly gifted young women. And we congratulate all of you. You've got a lot to be proud of.

Now, as you might imagine just from Washington, DC's, location and the number of people that work from the Federal Government, we've got a lot of people around here that went to the University of Massachusetts and Syracuse and all those places, you know. And I told everybody that the best basketball in America this year was in the SEC. We nearly had an all-SEC women's Final Four. SEC did reasonably well in the men's division. And if we hadn't had to start all over again two or three times we might have had even more in the Final Eight there.

And at the end, I remember -- we have one of my staff members who thinks that there's a basketball

waiting for him in heaven who lives in Massachusetts. And I said, they really are a team with two great guards on offense and defense, but unless Kentucky has a bad day no one will get close in this final tournament. And we all know that Kentucky never had a bad day.

And I think one reason is -- maybe the overwhelming reason is -- that even though they had fabulous players, many of which never got the individual recognition they deserve, they had a great team. And when you can consistently put 10 people out there that can shoot from anywhere and that can play defense as well as offense -- I read, coach, I don't know if this is true, that no one averaged more than 27 minutes a game for the University of Kentucky. If that's true that's a stunning statement about the fact that basketball is still a team sport.

Interestingly enough, I thought about you after I saw the clips from the last Chicago Bulls-Magic game because the Chicago Bulls stars didn't get many points that day, but the team played like a dream. That's the way your guys played all year. And that's why you're sporting that 80 percent winning percentage at Kentucky. And that's why Kentucky won the championship that it deserved. And I hope America will remember a lot not only about the stunning play of Tony Delk, who deserved to be the outstanding player of the tournament, but also about the teamwork that you exhibited all year long. And we congratulate you. Thank you very much.

Now I would like to ask Coach Summitt and Coach Pitino to come up here and say whatever they would like to say and bring whatever players they would like to play, because I know all of you really came to see them. But they are all very welcome at the White House. Thank you.

[At this point, Ms. Summitt thanked her University of Tennessee women's team for its efforts during the season and congratulated the University of Kentucky men's team for its success. She then introduced players Michelle Marciniak and Latina Davis, who presented gifts to the President and Vice President. Next, Kentucky Coach Rick Pitino congratulated the Tennessee women's team and introduced players Mark Pope and Tony Delk, who presented gifts to the President and Vice President.]

The President. I must say I liked having Mark up here. I was sort of standing in the shade back there *[laughter]* -- away from all the bright lights. It was great. What do you think? Hold it up.

Again, let me say -- we're going to take formal little photos now with the two teams, and then we will have a receiving line in the next room, so we will break up, but before we break up, again let me thank these two great universities, these two great States, and the coaches and the teams.

I think that America likes March Madness and likes college basketball as much as anything else because it is both an individual and a team sport. And it has both rules and creativity, discipline and energy. And in that sense, it is sort of a symbol of what's best about our country when things are going well.

And I hope we can all remember that. We all need to live with rules and creativity, with discipline and energy, and we all need to remember that, however good any of us are, we're all on a team. And when we're on the team, the team's doing well, the rest of us, we do pretty well individually.

So thank you all for that, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:45 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Steve Henry of Kentucky.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Public Papers of the Presidents

June 2, 1995

CITE: 31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 962**LENGTH:** 807 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Honoring the 1995 NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball **Champions****BODY:**

The President. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm sorry that other events dictated that we started a little late today, but I want to welcome all of you to the White House, and all the people who have come from California and Connecticut: Senator Lieberman, Congresswoman Kennelly, Congresswoman DeLauro, Congressman Gejdenson. And from California, the president of -- the chancellor of UCLA, Chancellor Young; and the officers of UConn, the chairman of the board, Lew Rome, and the president, Harry Hartley. I am delighted to welcome all of you back to the White House who have been here before and those who are coming for the first time, to welcome you here.

You know, we ought to get something obvious out of the way. These championships were hard on the Vice President and me. *[Laughter]* I mean, we just have to hope our ticket does a little better in '96. *[Laughter]*

But some of you know, I am a near-fanatic basketball fan and I think that any serious student of basketball would have to say that this year, in the championship, not only the teams with the best records but the best teams in the United States won the championships and deserve -- *[inaudible]*.

I remember vividly when Tyus Edney came out of the final game with his wrist injury, and all the people were saying, "Well, this may be the undoing of UCLA." And I was sitting there looking at the team and I said, "I don't think so." *[Laughter]* I remember people -- the discussions that I've heard, year-in and year-out, about how you have to have 10 players to win the final. And in the final, when you see the really great players with their adrenalin pumping, I don't think so.

And so, I want to congratulate again Coach Harrick and the Bruins on reviving UCLA's magnificent tradition, winning their 11th national title, and I think that they've got a great future. I also want to congratulate Ed O'Bannon on being selected the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament, and the NCAA Player of the Year, for his fantastic season.

I do want to say one thing. I had the privilege of coming to UCLA and giving the commencement address and being with Chancellor Young a couple of years ago. I have to chide you on one thing: I've been very proud of the very outspoken and courageous stance you've taken in favor of continuing affirmative action programs, so we can -- *[applause]* -- but if you had really believed in spreading opportunity around, you would not have permitted both the O'Bannon brothers to be on your team. *[Laughter]* Nonetheless, I forgive you for that minor lapse. *[Laughter]*

I also want to say a special word of appreciation to Coach Geno Auriemma and the Connecticut

Huskies for establishing the most outstanding winning record in the history of college basketball, men or women's basketball.

I want to congratulate Rebecca Lobo, who couldn't be here today. We're all sorry about that. But she's representing the U.S. national team in games in Europe. She once wrote to the president of the Celtics, saying that she'd be the first woman to play for their team. All I can say is that may or may not happen. But the Connecticut Huskies did more to make the rest of America appreciate women's basketball than any team has ever done. And they made millions of fans that will help other university teams all across this country for years and years and years in the future, and we thank you for that.

So let me say I'm glad you're here. I also want to say to the coach, this team came to the White House once before, and somebody messed it up, and they didn't get in, even the back door. Today, they came in the front door with full honors, and I'd like to invite their coach to come up for a few words. Thank you and congratulations.

[At this point, Coach Geno Auriemma of the University of Connecticut Huskies women's champions made brief remarks, and team captain Pam Webber presented girls to the President. Coach Jim Harrick of the University of California, Los Angeles Bruins men's champions then made brief remarks, and team captain Ed O'Bannon presented gifts to the President.]

The President. Is that your dad? *[Laughter]* Stand up, Daddy. *[Laughter]* Now, here's what we're going to do. I'm going to take a picture with each team, and then we're going to break up, take the ropes down, we'll all visit a little, okay?

But, you know, every year this is so humbling for me. Most days I wake up and I'm 6 foot 2 1/2 inches, and I'm halfway tall. This day I'm just another person looking up. *[Laughter]*

Thank you all for coming. It was a great day. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Charles E. Young, chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 29, 1995

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30 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1285

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Public Papers of the President

June 15, 1994

CITE: 30 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1285**LENGTH:** 962 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Honoring the NCAA Basketball **Champion** University of Arkansas Razorbacks**BODY:**

The President. Thank you. I want to welcome Coach and Mrs. Richardson and the Razorbacks, all the staff and the friends who came with them from Arkansas. I want to also recognize the presence here in the audience -- I see Congressman Thornton, but I think that Congresswoman Lambert and Congressman Dickey and Congressman Hutchinson are here. And Senator Bumpers and Senator Pryor called me and said that they were told they had to stay and vote. And I told them that their priorities might be a little out of order, but -- *[laughter]* -- they allowed as how you elected them to vote, and they're voting in the Senate, and they're very sorry they can't be here.

I think one reason I like basketball so much is it's gotten to be a lot like my job. It's more and more physical all the time. *[Laughter]* You get behind, and then you get ahead. You never know whether you're going to win until the end of the game, and people are questioning your judgment calls all the way through. *[Laughter]* I just wish that on every close issue, I had Scotty Thurman there at the end to make the shot.

I also would tell you that since I've been here, I've been crossways with a lot of interest groups, whether it was the NRA or some insurance companies or when we decided that we'd try to help sweep the housing projects in Chicago, we had the ACLU and the NRA mad at us. So people are always questioning how I manage to make so many organized groups mad at me. But I never did anything quite so crazy as to risk the 51 electoral votes of Michigan, Arizona, and North Carolina -- *[laughter]* -- all in a row by going to those games. And when one of the reporters asked me about it when I got back, I said, "If you'd been waiting for this as long as we have, it would be worth it all, including that." *[Laughter]*

I want to say to the coach and to the team that all of us, I think, were very, very proud, not only of the fact that they won the national championship but the way they won it, with hard, clean, aggressive basketball. That championship game was the way every national championship ought to be decided, aggressive, tough, close to the end, with very, very high standards, and yet a very clean and honorable game. I was very proud of that.

I'd also like to say that Nolan Richardson has done a lot of remarkable things in his life, often against all the odds. But it's a rare thing to be able to put together the chemistry of young people in the way that this team was put together. And so I say to him and to all the players, you did your State proud. You made the President happy. But more importantly, you showed America the best about what college athletics should be. And we are all very, very proud of you.

We have an enormous number of Razorback fans here today, some of whom live in Washington now, including, obviously in addition to the First Lady and myself, our Chief of Staff, Mack McLarty, many people who work here in the White House, throughout the Government. I think perhaps Representative "Cardiss Collins of Illinois is also here, who has worked with Coach Richardson and other coaches throughout the country. And I just want to say to all of you here in Washington, you're welcome. And to all of you who made the long trip from Arkansas, we are elated to see you. We miss you, and this is a nice extra thing for me.

I'd like to now present, if I might, the Presidential commendation to honor the victory of the Razorbacks, one to the coach and one to the team. And I think that the officer has them. So, Coach Richardson, would you come up here and receive yours.

This says: "The President of the United States awards this commendation to Nolan Richardson for his many years of coaching excellence, his steadfast leadership in guiding the Arkansas Razorback basketball team to the NCAA national championship, for his exceptional contributions to college basketball in Arkansas, and for his relentless commitment to excellence in both education and athletics."

Thank you.

I'd like to ask the two captains to come up here. Who else -- -or who's going to get it? The seniors, you all come up too. Come on, Roger and Ken. This is the same commendation, which notes the record of the season and the national victory. And I want to give it to you guys. And we're glad to see you walking around and looking so good. *[Laughter]*

Thank you. Congratulations.

[At this point, Coach Nolan Richardson briefly thanked the President and presented gifts.]

The President. I asked for somebody to say something on behalf of the team. I'm sorry it's so warm here, but I didn't want you to feel lonesome away from Arkansas, so we -- *[laughter]*. I did get to go with these, some of those patented Razorback basketball pants which would, if I could ever figure out how to run in them without tripping over my ankles, would end all those unseemly comments about my legs, because they go down below my knees. *[Laughter]*

Let me say also, I was anxious to see Corliss up here with his cast up close. He's the only guy I know that plays games with broken bones that plays better than he does when he's healed. But nonetheless, we're glad he's on the mend. I got to sign the east, that was fun.

Mr. Thurman, why don't you come up and say something on behalf of the team -- since you didn't --

Scotty Thurman. I kind of feel like a politician up here.

The President. You look like one.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. **in the Rose Garden** at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rose Richardson, wife of Coach Nolan Richardson, and team members Scotty Thurman, Roger Crawford, Kenneth Biley, and Corliss Williamson.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 11, 1994

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Public Papers of the Presidents, April 27, 1993

Public Papers of the Presidents

April 27, 1993

CITE: 29 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 698**LENGTH:** 861 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks Honoring the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball **Champions****BODY:**

The President. Good afternoon. I want to apologize to the people who are here from North Carolina and Texas. I have been inside in a meeting with some Members of the United States Congress of both parties, some of whom are also here in the crowd, talking about the situation in Bosnia. And I got away as quickly as I could. I thank all of you for coming here.

It's a great honor for me as an ardent basketball fan to welcome to the White House two proud new national champions, the Tarheels of North Carolina and the Lady Raiders of Texas Tech, who won the men's and women's NCAA basketball championships.

The Lady Raiders have been stirring things up in West Texas for some time now, with back-to-back Southwest Conference titles, and this year, of course, they brought home Texas Tech's first national championship in any sport. It helps when you have a secret weapon in basketball whose name rhymes with "hoops." No doubt about it, Cheryl Swoopes turned in a tournament performance that was one for the ages. She averaged over 32 points a game and scored 47 points in the final, which is an all-time championship record for men or women in basketball finals. If anybody hasn't figured it out yet, I think women's basketball has arrived.

I'd also like to say that we have to make special mention of the coach of the Lady Raiders, coach Marcia Sharp, who is a four-time Southwest Conference Coach of the Year and who took a wonderful 11-year career at Texas Tech to new heights.

Then there are the Tarheels, one of whom had the grace to remind me that they waxed Arkansas in getting to the Sweet 16. [Laughter] There may not be many things you can depend upon in this world, but normally it is when "March Madness" rolls around, you can be sure that Dean Smith's Tarheels will be there at the final bell, with discipline and style as great as any you will ever see. Nineteen consecutive years in the NCAA, 13 trips to the Sweet 16, 9 times to the Final Four, 2 national championships. Even though I have to admit that I didn't pull for them in every game -- [laughter] -- I thought they were magnificent, true Carolina Blue champions.

I also want to say a special word of thanks to Eric Montross for not standing on the riser when I walked by. I felt small enough as it was. [Laughter] I want to congratulate him and Donald Williams for the three-pointers that they made, and George Lynch for muscling out his opposition on the inside. As a matter of fact, I was thinking of asking George to stay around here for a few days and help me. I[Laughter]

I want to say again that the thing I like about basketball and the thing I think our country needs more of is that you can't just win with great players; you have to have great teamwork. People have to understand each other's strengths and weaknesses and learn to work together in a consistent way. These two teams have done it and have done it magnificently, and it's great honor for me to welcome them to the White House today.

I'd like to now invite the coaches to come up and say a few words.

[At this point, team members were introduced, and each team presented the President with a basketball.]

The President. I want to invite all the people to come up here, and we'll all take a few pictures and everything. And I thank all of you for coming. I want to take a few minutes; then I've got to go back to my meeting. Thank you very much.

Congressional Meeting on Bosnia

Q. Have you talked to Biden about your decision, or is this just an information meeting?

The President. No. I have not made a final decision yet, and I am consulting with them and giving them a chance to tell me what they think we should do. And I think that's the appropriate thing to do. I've tried to proceed here, as I did in Russia, with bipartisan support. We're having a very good meeting, and I'm going to take a few minutes to shake hands, then go back to the meeting. We're in the middle of the meeting. I have no results to report, but I am just listening to them.

OMB Director Panetta

Q. What do you think about what Mr. Panetta said today?

Q. Are you taking Leon Panetta to the woodshed, Mr. President?

The President. No, I don't need to take him to the woodshed. I need for him to get his spirits up a little. You know, this is like a basketball game. You see, these guys, there were a lot of times that they were in close games; a lot of times they were in close games, they wound up winning.

I just think he's been working 60 to 70 hours a week, and he got discouraged. I need for him to sort of get his spirits up. He's done a wonderful job for this administration. He's got a lot of credibility, and I think every Member of Congress that's ever worked with Leon Panetta would say he's one of the most honest, competent people they've ever worked with. He had a bad day yesterday because he got his spirits down. I want to buck him up; I don't want to take him to the woodshed.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:45 p.m. **in the Rose Garden** at the White House.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 14, 1993

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Tuesday, April 04, 2000, 6:20 ET

Cleaves shakes off pain to claim the crown

PAUL NEWBERRY, AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -- Mateen Cleaves crawled along the baseline, his tightly clenched face a window to the excruciating pain. The Michigan State star surely wondered if his right foot was broken again, the injury that kept him out for the first 13 games of the season. He was expendable then, but not now. Not in the NCAA championship game against Florida.

As it turned out, Cleaves had a severe sprain after rolling his right foot on a drive to the basket with 16:18 remaining Monday night. He managed to pull himself up and hobble to the locker room.

He wasn't done -- and neither were his teammates.

While trainers furiously taped the ankle outside public scrutiny, Michigan State stretched a tenuous 50-44 lead to 58-50 by the time Cleaves limped back on the court 4:29 later.

His long pass to Morris Peterson for a layup made it 60-50. Cleaves was leveled while setting a screen a few minutes later, but it was enough to spring A.J. Granger for a 3-pointer that started a 16-6 run, made it 84-66 and put the game away.

As the final seconds ticked away on Michigan State's 89-76 victory, Cleaves could barely make it up and down the court. But he smiled broadly and jogged in place for his mother, showing her that nothing could break his spirit.

"I know he's strong, and I knew his resolve was going to make him come back if he could," Frances Cleaves said. "I knew if there was any



Cleaves' leadership was brilliant down the stretch.
AP photo

NCAA Basketball At-A-Glance

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way possible for him to come back, he would, because that's the kind of kid he is."

Her son scored 13 points in the first half and helped the Spartans continually beat the feared Florida pressure with his ballhandling. He had 18 points when the injury occurred and wouldn't score another, but the rest of the Spartans seemed inspired by his Willis Reed-like return to the court.

Cleaves got tangled up with Florida's Teddy Dupay while driving to the basket and landed wrong on his right foot after putting up the shot. The whistle already had blown for a foul behind the play, but neither Cleaves nor Dupay could hear the call.

Cleaves returned to the bench with a heavily taped ankle and told coach Tom Izzo, "I'm OK." He went back in the game with 11:51 remaining.

"All I wanted to do was leave it on the floor," said Cleaves, a second-team All-American who returned for his senior season for this very moment.

"Tonight, we left it on the floor and it was good enough to win."

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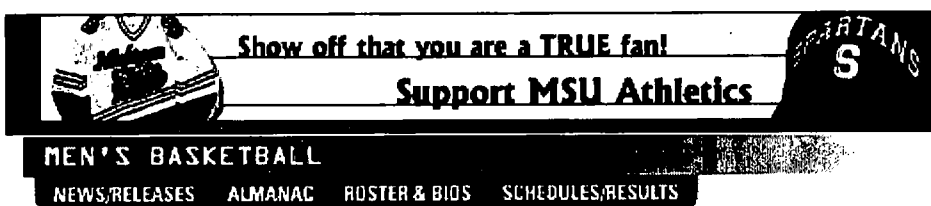
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Granger Was Spartans' Ace In The Hole

Senior matched his career-high with 19 points as he shredded Florida's defense.

April 3, 2000

By **HARRY ATKINS**
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Most everyone knew Michigan State had the Flintstones. Now the basketball world knows about A.J. Granger, too.

Granger matched his career-high with 19 points to help the Spartans beat Florida 89-76 on Monday night for their first NCAA title since 1979.

There were other unsung heroes for the Spartans, of course.

Jason Richardson, Mike Chappell, Adam Ballinger all played key roles off the bench as the Spartans beat the Gators at their own warp-speed game.

Michigan State also got a gutty performance from Charlie Bell, who isn't nearly as well-known as fellow Flintstones Mateen Cleaves and Morris Peterson.

During a stretch of about four minutes when Cleaves was out getting his right ankle tapped after a hard fall early in the second half, Bell who held the Spartans together.

If the Spartans, leading by six points at the time, were going to fold, this might have been the time. But they had been in this situation before - for the first two months of the season.

Bell played point guard for the Spartans' first 13 games while Cleaves recovered from a stress fracture in that right foot. He did it again in the biggest game of his life and Michigan State had increased its lead to nine points by the time Cleaves limped back onto the court.

But it was Granger, the senior forward from Findlay, Ohio, who gave the Spartans an unexpected offensive push - something they felt would be vital against Florida's in-your-face defense.

Every time the Gators collapsed on Peterson, Cleaves and Andre Hutson, it was Granger who shredded their strategy. He hit 3-pointers, drove the baseline for



Michigan State's A.J. Granger dunks over Florida's Mike Miller in first half action.

Men's Basketball Home

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leaners in the paint, and battled underneath for rebounds.

Every time it seemed like the Gators had come up with a stop, it seemed Granger would get the ball and somehow hit a basket.

Granger has been quietly outstanding during this entire tournament run. He averaged 9.3 points during the regular season, but put his game on another level once the tournament started. Granger also scored 19 against Syracuse and 18 against Iowa in the Midwest Regionals.

MSU Men's Basketball

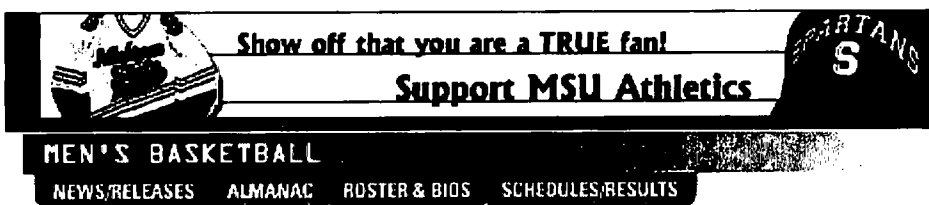
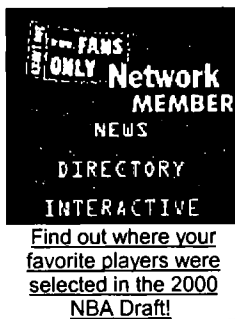
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Peterson Stars In NCAA Title Game

Spartan senior dedicates game to grandmother.

April 3, 2000

By **HAL BOCK**
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - The last 20 minutes belong to Morris Peterson.

Peterson scored 15 of his team-high 21 points in the second half Monday night, leading Michigan State to the national championship over Florida. It was the continuation of a trend for the fifth-year senior, who dedicated the Final Four to his grandmother after she died March 25.

Of the 105 points Peterson scored in the NCAA tournament, 75 came after halftime.

Coach Tom Izzo was asked about the phenomenon.

"Why he doesn't do it in the first half, I don't know," he said. "The good part is I don't care anymore."

Peterson played these games with a heavy heart, after Clara Mae Spencer died last month. The Michigan State senior flew to Mississippi for her funeral, then returned for the Final Four. He wrote her name on his sneakers, a private memorial.

When he climbed the ladder to cut his share of the net Monday night, he held up a sign. It said: "This one's for Grandma."

Peterson scored 20 points in the semifinal against Wisconsin and then another 21 in the 89-76 win over Florida. He also had two rebounds, five assists and a steal.

"I know she is with me on the court," he said over the weekend about his late grandmother. "I can feel her presence."

When Mateen Cleaves turned his ankle in the second half, it was a turning point in the game for Michigan State. Peterson had three personal fouls and had to sit for a while. But the Spartans weren't folding.

When Peterson returned, he scored six straight points - a stretch that began



Morris Peterson helped power the Spartans past the Florida Gators for the national title.

Men's Basketball Home

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with a layup and ended with a 3-pointer - as Michigan State stayed on top.

"When he went out, everybody got angry," Peterson said of Cleaves' injury. "All the guys stepped up and made big plays. We have a bunch who stepped up all year."

At game's end, the Spartans hugged two prominent Michigan State alumni - Magic Johnson and Steve Smith. "They were the best ever to play at Michigan State," Peterson said. "They watched over us, supported us. They mean a lot to the program."

Monday night's performance capped a big NCAA tournament for Peterson, who came back for this game, this night, this national championship. He was a huge presence in the Midwest Regional, scoring 21 points against Syracuse, 18 against Iowa State and helping Michigan State dominate the boards.

Then came his grandmother's funeral and his emotional return.

Peterson was one of Michigan State's trio of Flintstones. He grew up with Charlie Bell and Cleaves in the industrial city of Flint, playing on concrete courts and becoming buddies with the other two. Together, they went to East Lansing, determined to win a title.

A year ago, Peterson helped Michigan State to the Final Four, but the Spartans lost to Duke in the semifinals. He could have left after that, but stayed for one more shot.

"It was a matter of wanting to be around the Spartan family," he said. "These guys are like brothers to me. We come from a background where education is important. There was never any doubt. We talked about winning a national championship together."

And that's exactly what they did.

MSU Men's Basketball

Grand Opening of the MSU Spartan Photo Shop



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WORLD SPORT

Two of a kind

Spartans' Izzo, Cleaves a matched pair

Posted: Tuesday May 02, 2000 03:17 PM

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By Josie Karp, CNN.com

INDIANAPOLIS -- The foundation for Michigan State's national championship was built on a slip of paper. Five years ago departing head coach Jud Heathcote left a note for Tom Izzo.

It said, "Get Mateen Cleaves."

"A guy like myself, I fell in love with him," Cleaves said of his coach. "You could tell he was a very hard worker and he really meant what he said. When you get recruited a lot of coaches tell you a lot of things and you can just tell he was coming from the heart and was sincere about what he was saying and that's why I came to Michigan State.

Call it a plan, an idea or a dream, Izzo recalls the pitch he made to his all-American point guard.

"I remember when I recruited Mateen I told him that someday we'll be on national TV and you'll be highlighted and I remember we played at Wisconsin. It was on national TV his first year and they kind of highlighted him. That's where the program as far as my era started."

Each individual would go to great lengths to support the other. That was evident in Cleaves decision to return for his senior season. And in Izzo's decision to deride Florida guard Teddy Dupay during Monday's game for the foul that started the play that hobbled the Spartans star player.

"It doesn't surprise me," answered Cleaves. "Coach, he covers my back on and off the court. You know, and we got a very special relationship."



Tom Izzo and Mateen Cleaves embraced during the waning moments of the national title game. Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport



It's a relationships that has not gone unnoticed by other members of the team.

"They're very close," said forward Andre Hutson. "They both have similar characteristics. They both tough players and coach Izzo believes a lot in Mateen and Mateen believes a lot in coach Izzo too."

"I see two guys who kind of go at it every day in practice," added forward Adam Ballinger. "They each have their own opinions and they all kind of come together and agree in the end. It's kind of two guys that are probably the most competitive guys that I've ever seen coming together."



Though they admit to having occasional disagreements, Izzo and Cleaves share a special bond. CNN.com

The title game marked the end of Cleaves and Izzo's on-court association. But what they've built together, back to back final four appearances, one championship, and high expectations, might be strong enough to survive their separation.

"We won three big 10 titles. We won the national title. And we've been in the NCAA tournament for the last three years and I think that says a lot about us," said another forward A.J. Granger. "I think that people are going to have to come in here. I think it's going to help the university and I think we are going to be one of the elite teams now."

That's an assessment you'll also hear from one of the program's most famous alumni who helped the Spartans win their first and last national title in 1979.

"This program will be back," said Magic Johnson who attended the title game wearing a Michigan State sweatshirt. "Now we're like Duke, we're like North Carolina, where we'll be back in the hunt each and every year."

If the Spartans can do that, Izzo and Cleaves will have accomplished something even Magic could not. It took Michigan State six years to get back to the NCAA tournament after his departure. Even though Cleaves is leaving, two starters he helped lure return from this team. They'll be joined by two McDonald's all-American recruits.



"To establish yourself you do have to get here a couple times or get here at first and kind of move on from that," said Ballinger. "We get here, we get better recruits. We're on a national stage. We've just got

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to keep the ball rolling from this."

Keeping the ball and this program rolling toward the post-season is what the players hope they can build upon from this latest title run.

"Once you get that kind of reputation and build those kind of expectations you know your program is taking a step in the right direction," says Mike Chappell, a Spartan forward. "I think that's what coach Izzo really wants to build. He wants to develop tradition of winning and to be a top 25-team every year."

Page One Mailbag

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Izzo and his players have already talked about holding regular reunions, like the one that former Spartans greats Magic Johnson and Steve Smith participated in this weekend. If the foundation Izzo and Cleaves built endures, the suggested five year interval might not work.

They might be drawn back much more frequently.

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Tuesday, April 04, 2000, 6:19 ET

Mateen is Magical for Spartans -- VIDEO

JIM O'CONNELL, AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -- This time there was no Magic, just Mateen. Michigan State, with Magic Johnson cheering in the stands, won its second national championship as Mateen Cleaves led the Spartans to an 89-76 victory over Florida on Monday night.

It was 21 years ago that the championship game between Michigan State and Indiana State -- Magic vs. Bird -- changed the landscape of college basketball.

This one may not have the magnitude, but it had the drama thanks to Cleaves, the Spartans' limping leader, who needed crutches for his injured ankle after celebrating with his teammates.

"He has the heart of a lion. He has done it for four years, not just one," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "That's why you love him. He's what our program embodies."

Cleaves rolled his ankle early in the second half and had to go to the locker room. Earlier, he helped the Spartans build a 43-32 halftime lead by scoring 13 points, including going 3-for-3 from 3-point range, and negated Florida's vaunted full-court pressure with his ballhandling and passing.

"I told them he'll be back. Let's not get our heads down," Izzo said. "I just knew."

When Cleaves left with 16:18 to play the Spartans led 50-44. His teammates got the lead to 58-50 by the time he



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returned 4:29 later. But the senior guard who missed the first 13 games of the season while recovering from a stress fracture in his right foot, was again the team's emotional leader.

His long pass to Morris Peterson for a layup made it 60-50. He was leveled while setting a screen a few minutes later but it was enough to spring A.J. Granger for a 3-pointer that started a 16-6 run that made it 84-66 and put the game away.

Michigan State had been on a mission since losing to Duke in the Final Four last season.

Anything short of a national championship would have been a disappointment.

"We made some promises. We answered the promises," Izzo said.

Cleaves certainly didn't beat Florida by himself.

Peterson finished with 21 points on 7-for-14 shooting and Granger had 19 and was 7-for-11 from the field.

Cleaves was 7-for-11 from the field -- all the shots coming before he was injured -- and had 18 points and four assists.

Cleaves returned for his senior year after many thought he would go to the NBA.

"This is what I came back here for," he said.

"This is as storybook as it gets for Mateen," Izzo said. "He gave up a lot of money, a lot of things to be back here."

The Spartans (32-7), the only top-seeded team to reach the Final Four, finished 33-for-59 from the field (56 percent), the best against Florida's frantic pace by far in the tournament

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Florida's frantic pace by far in the tournament. The previous best was 43 percent by top-ranked Duke in the regional semifinals.



Peterson had 21 points for the Spartans.
AP photo

Michigan State never seemed fazed by the pressure, beating it early with long passes. The Spartans were their usual efficient selves when they did run their halfcourt game, getting good looks and crashing the boards when they missed.

The Michigan State bench was considered a key to any chance the Spartans had. Florida's reserves had outscored it 175-45 in the tournament, but Jason Richardson had nine points as the Spartans' backups came up big.

Udonis Haslem had a season-high 27 points for the fifth-seeded Gators (29-9), while Brent Wright added 13.

The 1979 final is still the highest-rated telecast of an NCAA basketball game -- the one that hooked the nation on the NCAA tournament.

"I knew they were going to win, especially when Mateen came back this year," Johnson said on the court as the Spartans cut down the nets.

"It's been tough waiting these 21 years. but they've been great the last couple of years, and I knew they were going to win it all." Michigan State, which beat Wisconsin 53-41 in an ugly all-Big Ten national semifinal, won all six games on its title run by at least 11 points.

The Spartans closed the season with 11 straight wins and are the first Big Ten team to win it all since Michigan in 1989.

Florida, looking to become the fourth straight Southeastern Conference team to win the national championship in an even-numbered year, was making its first appearance in a

2000 NCAA FINAL FOUR

All-Tournament Team

Selected by the United States Basketball Writers Association

Mateen Cleaves MSU

Morris Peterson MSU

A.J. Granger MSU

Charlie Bell MSU

Udonis Haslem Florida

Most Outstanding Player

Mateen Cleaves MSU

championship game.

The Gators had seven freshmen and sophomores in their 10-man rotation and this was the first game in the tournament that their lack of experience showed.

Cleaves had two 3-pointers in the 14-3 run that gave the Spartans a 33-20 lead with 6:51 to play, but a three-point play by Haslem and a basket by Donnell Harvey got the Gators within 35-29 with 4:05 left.

Charlie Bell and Cleaves sandwiched 3s around a layup by Haslem and the Spartans had a 43-32 halftime lead.

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Tuesday, April 04, 2000, 2:16 ET

INSIDE THE NETS: Cleaves' pain was Spartans' gain

CHRIS BAYSDEN, Total Sports

Inside the Nets editor Chris Baysden had a courtside seat in Indianapolis. Here's his take on Monday's national championship game.

BILLY THE KID, MEET THE FLINTSTONES: No. 1 seed Michigan State won its second national championship and ended No. 5 seed Florida's bid to win its first Monday night in large part due to the play of the three Spartans from Flint, Mich.

Point guard Mateen Cleaves, forward Morris Peterson and guard Charlie Bell -- dubbed the Flintstones due to their shared hometown -- all came up big for the favored Spartans in the 89-76 win, denying 43-year-old Florida coach Billy Donovan the opportunity to become the youngest coach to win the national championship in the modern era.

Peterson followed up a great national semifinal performance with another stellar game. He finished with a team-high 21 points on 50 percent shooting. Once again, he was better the second time around, scoring 15 of his points in the second half.

Bell, a junior, was Mr. Everything. He added nine points, five assists, eight rebounds and three steals.

PLAYING WITH PAIN: Players sometimes like to say they could beat each

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other with one arm tied behind their back. Cleaves did one better -- he played on just one leg in a game based on *running*. He gave the gutsiest performance of

the night, pouring in 18 points and contributing four assists to just two turnovers, despite battling an ankle injury most of the second half.

At the 16:18 mark of the second half, he collided with Florida's Teddy Dupay on a layup attempt and hurt his ankle when he landed wrong. Cleaves re-entered the game with 11:51 to go, receiving a standing ovation in the process. He was barely able to walk but stayed on the court, directing his teammates.

For instance, at the 11-minute mark he got the ball off of a rebound and heaved it all the way downcourt to a streaking Peterson, who layed it up and in. Even with just one leg, Cleaves was the most important player on the court.

"This guy has the heart of a lion," said Spartans coach Tom Izzo. "He has worked for this for four yers."

Despite the injury, Cleaves managed to climb the ladder in the postgame net-cutting ceremony -- although he did it rather gingerly.

NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE: The Spartans shrugged off the vaunted Gators press -- which only made a cameo appearance at best. Donovan elected to not apply it in full strength until after the first television timeout, and even then, he didn't go with it consistently for the whole game.

The result was just 14 Spartan turnovers, about average for MSU this season. "They scouted our press pretty well and they found the weak spots," said the Gators' Justin Hamilton. "We tried to adjust, but you have to give Michigan State credit. They played a great game tonight."

In fact, MSU had more points off the Gators' 13 turnovers than Florida could manage. MSU finished with 16 points off turnovers to Florida's 14. Said coach Izzo in the understatement of the night, "I think we attacked their press well tonight and passed off very well."

HEY, DID YOU PLAY?: Teddy barely did anything. Teddy Dupay, that is. The Gators

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sophomore played 15 minutes, but scored no points on four missed shots. In case that wasn't enough, he also failed to grab a single rebound and came up with nary a steal.

He did, however, contribute one assist to ensure his stat line wasn't populated entirely by goose eggs. About his only real contribution of the night was unintentionally injuring Cleaves, buying his team some time to try to make a run with the senior point guard off the court. Unfortunately for the Gators, that wasn't much help either.

Dupay's assessment of the game? "Tonight, they had the better team and the better players." Give him a zero in the "riveting analysis" column as well...

THE RUN THAT WASN'T: When Cleaves went out, it looked like Florida had a chance to make a run. Considering that the press is designed to disrupt the ballhandlers in particular, it seemed like the perfect opportunity for the Gators to get back in the game. But instead of wilting without their star, the Spartans weathered the storm. Why?

The answer goes back to earlier in the season, when Cleaves missed several games due to an injury. Bell had to learn to play point guard, and the rest of the Michigan State players had to help. So when Cleaves went down against Florida, there was no reason to panic. And the Spartans didn't.

"They played half a season without him and they are still a top five team," said Dupay. "They have plenty of other good players on their team."

GREAT EFFORT: Despite playing in the physical Big Ten, the Spartans had no answer for Florida center Udonis Haslem. Haslem was the one who wanted to fight inside, and he came away with a game- and career-high 27 points for his trouble. "Tonight was a night my teammates got me in a great position to score," Haslem said. "It was a tribute to those guys looking for me. I didn't have to make post moves all night. Just layups." Maybe he should have set next to Dupay in the lockerroom in hopes something would have worn off...

MISSED OPPORTUNITY: Despite coming back and showing tremendous leadership, Cleaves could have been a huge liability on the court. He was hobbling most of

the time he was out there. If Donovan could have matched him up in a few isolation plays against a player with some ball-handling ability and quickness, the Gators might have made a run -- or at least forced Izzo to take Cleaves out. But that didn't happen, whether by Izzo's design or Donovan's short-sightedness. Either way, an opportunity was missed.

BOARD WORK: The Gators did an outstanding job on the boards, which have been the personal property of Michigan State most of the season. Despite being the nation's best rebounding team, the Spartans only outrebounded the Gators by two, 32-30. Florida even held a 20-13 edge in second-chance points. A lot of credit goes to Florida's Brent Wright, who pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds.

X-MAN: While the Flintstones were burying the Gators under Bedrock, MSU senior A.J. Granger wasn't just tossing pebbles. Granger finished with 19 points and nine rebounds. He was seven of 11 from the field, including 3-of-5 from behind the arc.

"We called Granger the 'X factor' -- we could not allow him to step out and make three-point shots," said Donovan. "He did."

NICE TIP: Izzo got a little help handling the press from a former Spartan player. One of the ways the Spartans beat the press was to have Cleaves inbound the ball, then cut up the middle to get the pass. Izzo got the idea from Scott Skiles, who called Izzo at 2:30 in the morning on the day of the title game to talk strategy.

GOT WHAT HE CAME FOR: Cleaves could have gone pro last year, but elected to return for one more shot at a national title. Boy was he glad he did. "Oh my God, this is what I came back for," he said. "This was a total group effort this year."

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		FG	FT	RB			
Player	MIN	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PF	TP
Wright	29	5-8	3-5	4-10	4	4	13
Miller	31	2-5	5-6	1-3	2	0	10
Haslem	28	10-12	7-7	2-2	0	4	27
Dupay	15	0-4	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
Hamilton	14	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Nelson	26	4-10	0-0	1-4	3	1	11
Bonner	7	0-3	0-0	1-3	0	1	0
Weeks	22	1-3	0-0	1-1	1	2	3
Harvey	16	3-11	3-4	4-6	0	2	9
Parker	12	1-3	0-0	0-0	2	2	3
TOTALS	200	26-60	18-22	14-29	13	19	76

PERCENTAGES: FG-.433, FT-.818.

3-POINT GOALS: 6-18, .333 (Wright 0-1, Miller 1-2, Dupay 0-2, Hamilton 0-1, Nelson 3-6, Bonner 0-2, Weeks 1-1, Parker 1-3).

TEAM REBOUNDS: 1.

BLOCKED SHOTS: 2 (Haslem, Harvey).

TURNOVERS: 13 (Haslem 3, Nelson 3, Harvey 2, Miller 2, Parker, Weeks, Wright).

STEALS: 5 (Nelson 2, Weeks 2, Wright).

MICHIGAN ST (89)

		FG	FT	RB			
Player	MIN	M-A	M-A	O-T	A	PF	TP
Hutson	23	2-4	2-2	0-1	3	4	6
Peterson	32	7-14	4-6	1-2	5	3	21
Granger	34	7-11	2-2	2-9	1	2	19
Cleaves	33	7-11	1-1	0-2	4	1	18
Bell	33	3-6	2-3	3-8	5	2	9
Richardson	15	4-7	1-2	1-2	0	1	9

[click here to view]

1 of 2

6/29/2000 3:49 PM



Anagonye	11	0-0	0-0	2-3	0	0	0
Chappell	6	2-4	0-0	1-1	0	4	5
Ballinger	6	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2
Thomas	4	0-0	0-0	1-1	1	1	0
Smith	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cherry	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ishbia	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	200	33-59	12-16	11-29	19	20	89

PERCENTAGES: FG-.559, FT-.750.

3-POINT GOALS: 11-22, .500 (Peterson 3-8, Granger 3-5, Cleaves 3-4, Bell 1-2, Chappell 1-3).

TEAM REBOUNDS: 3.

BLOCKED SHOTS: 1 (Anagonye).

TURNOVERS: 14 (Peterson 3, Anagonye 2, Bell 2, Cleaves 2, Granger 2, Chappell, Hutson, Thomas).

STEALS: 5 (Bell 2, Chappell, Peterson, Richardson).

	1st	2nd	Final
Florida	32	44	76
Michigan St	43	46	89

TECHNICAL FOULS: None.

ATTENDANCE: 43,116.

OFFICIALS: Jim Burr, Gerald Boudreaux, David Hall.

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TRADITIONS

The Fight Song and Alma Mater

MSU Fight Song

On the banks of the Red Cedar
Is a school that's known to all;
Its specialty is winning,
And those Spartans play good ball;
Spartan teams are never beaten,
All through the games they fight;
Fight for the only colors,
Green and White.
Go right thru' for MSU,
Watch the points keep growing.
Spartan teams are bound to win,
They're fighting with a vim.
RAH! RAH! RAH!
See their team is weakening,
We're going to win this game.
Fight! Fight! Rah! Team, Fight!
Victory for MSU.

MSU Shadows (Alma mater)

MSU, we love thy shadows
When twilight silence falls,
Flushing deep and softly paling
O'er ivy covered halls;
Beneath the pines we'll gather
To give our faith so true,
Sing our love for Alma Mater
And thy praises, MSU.

When from these scenes we wander
And twilight shadows fade,
Our mem'ry still will linger
Where light and shadows played;
In the evening oft we'll gather
And pledge our faith anew,
Sing our love for Alma Mater
And thy praise, MSU.



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TRADITIONS

The Story behind the Spartans

The School Colors

Details are sketchy as to when Michigan State athletic teams officially began using the school colors green and white. But records of the Athletic Association of the then Michigan Agricultural College show that on April 11, 1899, the organization took steps toward adoption of a green monogram, "to be worn only by athletes who subsequently take part in intercollegiate events."



It is generally thought the colors came into wide use with the arrival in 1903 of Chester L. Brewer as the school's first full-time director of athletics. Brewer also coached the Spartan football, basketball, baseball and track teams, the only varsity units in existence at the time.

MSU Traditions



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Grand Opening of the MSU Spartan Photo Shop



TRADITIONS

The Nickname

In 1926, Michigan State's first southern baseball training tour provided the setting for the birth of the "Spartan" nickname.

It all came about when a Lansing sportswriter imposed the silent treatment on a contest-winning nickname and substituted his own choice, the name that has lasted through the years.



George Alderton

In 1925, Michigan State College replaced the name Michigan Agricultural College. The college sponsored a contest to select a nickname to replace "Aggies" and picked "The Michigan Staters."

George S. Alderton, then sports editor of the Lansing State Journal, decided the name was too cumbersome for newspaper writing and vowed to find a better one.

Alderton contacted Jim Hasselman of Information Services to see if entries still remained from the contest. When informed that they still existed, Alderton ran across the entry name of "Spartans" and then decided that was the choice. Unfortunately, Alderton forgot to write down who submitted that particular entry, so that part of the story remains a mystery.

Rewriting game accounts supplied by Perry Fremont, a catcher on the squad, Alderton first used the name sparingly and then ventured into the headlines with it. (Incidentally, after two days of spelling the name incorrectly with an "o", Mr. Alderton changed it to Spartan on a tip from a close friend.) Dale Stafford, a sports writer for the Lansing Capitol News, a rival of the State Journal, picked up the name for his paper after a couple of days. Alderton called Stafford and suggested that he might want to join the Spartan parade and he did. As Mr. Alderton explains: "No student, alumnus or college official had called up the editor to complain about our audacity in giving the old school a new name, so we ventured into headlines with it. Happily for the experiment, the name took. It began appearing in other newspapers and when the student publication used it, that clinched it."



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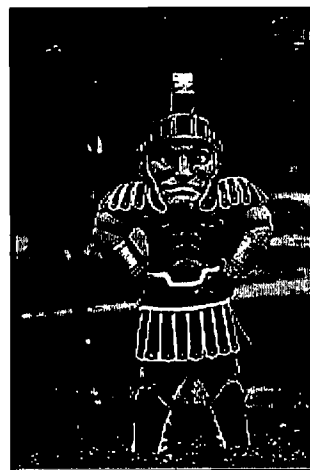
Spartan Mascot

MEET SPARTY--OUR CELEBRITY MASCOT

By Robert Bao

Sparty has gained great national visibility lately, a tribute to its cool design as well as to the efforts behind the MSUAA's mascot program.

He's our own jolly green giant. Lovable, huggable, and for Spartans of every age, ever so photo-poseable.



Sparty

In the fall of 1995, MSU's beloved Sparty leaped into national celebrity in the same dramatic fashion that gymnast Kerri Strug vaulted into Olympian history at the Atlanta games. It happened when ESPN showed Sparty holding Strug--"Beauty and the Beast" style--in its national advertising campaign for "SportsCenter."

As "beasts" go, however, Sparty is way-cool. He's massive, but cartoon-cute. The seven-foot costume weighs in at 30 pounds, allowing enough flexibility for playful gestures and animation. To Spartan fans, his national popularity came as no surprise.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of Sparty's meteoric emergence:

- In August, 1995, Sparty won the "leadership" award from his peers at the nation's largest mascot camp Milwaukee, WI.
- Throughout the fall of 1995, Sparty starred in a series of ESPN ads promoting "SportsCenter," a campaign that probably reached every sports fan in America with cable TV.
- To help attendance, Sparty was chosen to host the 1996 Homecoming Dance--re-christened "Sparty's Party"--featuring the Marvelettes and Gary Lewis and the Playboys.
- Sparty starred in MSU's 30-second TV commercial beamed to the nation during ABC-TV's telecast of the Michigan football game Nov. 2, 1995. In this MTV-pace ad, Sparty rides a rocket ship, surfs the web, and does acrobatics.
- Sparty reprised his ESPN appearance with Strug during halftime

of the Indiana football game Nov. 9, 1995, carrying her to midfield to promote a gymnastics tour at Breslin Center that evening.



Two Spartans

At the last event, the Spartan Stadium crowd went wild. Yet the very fans who roared its approval will be surprised to learn that just a few years ago, the current Sparty mascot did not exist. In fact, Sparty was introduced for the first time in the Fall of 1989.

The Student Alumni Foundation--the alumni association's student arm--which now runs the program. A company in Atlanta created the design after visiting MSU and learning about Michigan State and MSU tradition. It was an instant success. From the get-go, everyone loved Sparty!

Made of hi-tech materials, including a vinyl chest plate and fiberglass molds like the ones used for making Muppets, Sparty is a far cry from the many papier mache heads that have popped up since the 1950s, mostly from fraternity efforts. The first official one apparently debuted in 1955, courtesy of Theta Xi. Other versions were introduced from time to time. In 1984, Sigma Phi Epsilon introduced the first "gruff" head--sporting the unshaven look that still adorns many sweat shirts and jackets.

By contrast, the current Sparty costume is a state-of-the-art, full-bodied uniform that costs about \$8,000 and is breathable, flexible and moveable. It's also "washable," which is very frequent necessity.

The mascot program is run by SAF students who head up the mascot program. The students plan the schedules, coordinate the escorts, make the transportation arrangements, and supply Sparty with water and towels during performances. On a hot day, the student who is Sparty can lose from three to five pounds.

Today several students--their identities kept private--take turns being Sparty with one of three costumes. Because of the costume size, Sparty aspirants must be between 5-10 and 6-2 in height. Candidates who fit the physical needs are chosen after a hands-on process that includes interviews and rehearsals.

The Sparty mascot program is funded mainly by the MSU Alumni Association, and receives some support from the MSU Dept. of Athletics.

"We're always looking for ways to supplement our income," says SAF advisor Bev Vandenberg. "We'll do weddings, graduation events, private events, MSUAA regional club events. We just need three weeks notice.

A request form needs to be filled."

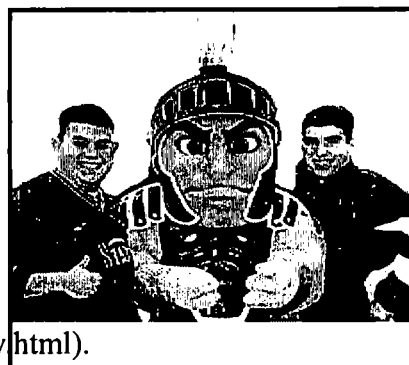
The hourly cost depends on the event. Those who have hired Sparty have invariably been more than satisfied, given the mascot's enduring popularity.

Those interested in hiring Sparty can call the Student Alumni Foundation at 517-355-4458. Those who wish to donate to the Sparty mascot fund can contact University Development at 517-355-8257. Those interested in seeing the Sparty Home Page on the World Wide Web can visit Sparty's home page at (<http://msuaa.alumni.msu.edu/saf/sparty.html>).

From inchoate mascot to national celebrity in less than a decade, this Sparty is destined to prevail for a while. So long as fans continue their support, the MSUAA's mascot program will continue to flourish and provide fans with a distinctive, lovable, and classy mascot-a national celebrity to boot.

Useful Sparty Facts

- To hire Sparty, call the Student Alumni Foundation, 517-355-4458.
- To donate to the Sparty mascot program, call University Development, 517-355-8257.
- For more information, visit Sparty's Home Page on the World Wide Web, (<http://msuaa.alumni.msu.edu/saf/sparty.html>).



Sparty

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TRADITIONS

Sparty

Standing at the entrance way to Michigan State's athletic establishment is "The Spartan," a huge statue which symbolizes the university's athletic teams.

"The Spartan" was designed and produced by Leonard D. Jungwirth of the art department, and dedicated in June of 1945. It stands ten feet-six inches, and is mounted on a brick-and-concrete base five feet-four inches high. The statue weighs three tons and is one of the largest free standing ceramic figures in the world.



Figures representing the 12 sports then included in the varsity program are incised on the base of the statue.

Popularly known as "Sparty," the statue is one of the favorite photo subjects of visitors to the campus.

MSU Traditions



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

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Cleaves And Peterson Realize Childhood Dreams

Spartan duo goes in the first round of the NBA Draft.

June 28, 2000

EAST LANSING, Mich. - Since the end of the National Championship season, Mateen Cleaves and Morris Peterson have listened as different people predicted where they were going to be selected in the NBA Draft. All along, Cleaves and Peterson worked hard to prepare themselves for the draft while ignoring the different projections. To them, the thought of being drafted by any NBA team was the realization of a childhood dream.



Mateen Cleaves and Morris Peterson were selected in the first round of the 2000 NBA Draft, becoming the first Spartan duo since 1979 to go in the first round.

At the 2000 NBA Draft on Wednesday, June 28, the dreams became a reality and the speculation ended as Cleaves was selected by the Detroit Pistons with the 14th pick in the first round and Peterson was drafted by the Toronto Raptors with the 21st pick in the first round. This is only the second time in Michigan State history that two Spartans have been selected in the first round. In 1979, Earvin Johnson and Greg Kelser were selected with the first and fourth picks in the first round.

Cleaves, a 6'-2", 205-pound point guard, finished his career as the all-time assists leader both at Michigan State and in the Big Ten with 816. He ranks 10th on the MSU career scoring list with 1,541 points. A three-time All-American and two-time Big Ten Player of the Year, Cleaves was named MVP of the 2000 Final Four and the 1999 Big Ten Tournament. As a junior, Cleaves set a school and conference single-season record with 274 assists. For his career, he averaged 12.5 points, 6.6 assists and 2.1 rebounds per game.

"This is a dream come true," said Cleaves. "I watched the 'Bad Boys' and I was a Pistons fan growing up. I'm so happy to be close to home so all my family and friends can come see me play. The Pistons are getting a warrior. I'm going to go to practice everyday ready to go to work. I'm so happy they are giving me a chance to play in the NBA. I promise I'm going to make the most of it."

"This is the best situation for me. I think I have a chance to come in and be a major contributor to the Pistons. The thing I like about them is I love Joe Dumars as president. I love the coaching staff and I love all the players."

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Last season, the Detroit Pistons posted a 42-40 record, advancing to the NBA Playoffs where they were eliminated by the Miami Heat.

"I feel like I'm living in a fairy tale," said Cleaves. "I'm still pinching myself from that championship and now I have to continue pinching myself for getting picked by Detroit. I'm getting spoiled. It's like everything is going my way. Detroit was the team I really wanted to go to and my dream came true."

Peterson, a 6'-7", 215-pound small forward, finished his career as the ninth-leading scorer in Michigan State history with 1,588 points. He is also just the fifth player in MSU history to record at least 1,500 points and grab at least 600 rebounds. The all-time leader in games played at Michigan State, Peterson earned All-America honors in 2000 while also being named Big Ten Player of the Year by the league's coaches and earning Big Ten Tournament MVP honors. In 1999, Peterson became the first non-starter in a major conference to earn first-team all-league honors. Peterson is a cousin of Jonathan Bender, a member of the NBA Eastern Conference Champion Indiana Pacers. For his career, Peterson averaged 11.6 points, 4.7 rebounds and 0.9 assists.

"I think Toronto is a great city," said Peterson. "It's definitely a team on the rise. They have some great players like Vince Carter who does a lot of things. I'm just happy to get an opportunity to play. I think it's a great situation for me. Toronto plays with a lot of energy. They've got one of the greatest coaches in the history of the game and it's going to be exciting.

"This is something I've always dreamed of, to have my name called at the NBA Draft. I just thank God. I know that he gave me this opportunity and he put me in this position and I'm grateful that I'm here now."

MSU Men's Basketball



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WORLD SPORT

Who wants to be a millionaire?

Michigan State to reward Izzo with 7-year contract

Posted: Thursday April 20, 2000 02:02 PM

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EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) -- Michigan State basketball coach Tom Izzo likely will receive a seven-year contract worth \$1.1 million a year, part of his reward for leading the Spartans to the NCAA championship.



In his fifth season as head coach, Tom Izzo led the Spartans to their second national title in school history.
Jed Jacobsohn/Allsport

The deal would boost Izzo's annual base salary of \$195,000 to \$267,000, Fred Poston, Michigan State University's vice president for finance and operations, told the *Lansing State Journal* in a story published Thursday.

Other incentives yet to be completed, including a shoe deal and television and radio contracts, would push the package to \$1.1 million, Poston said. Izzo's current contract is worth about \$725,000.

"We're very, very close," Terry Denbow, an MSU spokesman, said Thursday. He said the contract may be concluded in the next several days.

MSU officials began reworking Izzo's pay formula after he led the Spartans to the NCAA title on April 3. It was the school's first national crown since 1979.

Though the new deal hasn't been signed, the two sides have agreed in principle to a package that would put Izzo among the game's best-paid coaches, Poston said.

MSU Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Traxler said he was torn over Izzo's raise. He said coaching salaries are getting out of control, but MSU must compete to get the best.

"I don't think we can buck the free market," he told the *State Journal*. "The most popular person in the state of Michigan at this moment is

NEWS



NEWS

The most popular person in the state of Michigan at this moment is Tom Izzo -- and deservedly so."

Izzo was out of town recruiting Wednesday but said in a statement:

"This university has done a lot for Tom Izzo . . . I am grateful for the support that I and the program have received."

The coach's current five-year contract extends through 2004.

Izzo would keep a postseason performance bonus structure that pays him for success in the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments, Poston said. This season it was worth \$175,500.

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Sports Quotes

"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all time thing. You don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is habit. Unfortunately, so is losing."
—Vince Lombardi

You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them.
—Michael Jordan

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.
—John Wooden

If you train hard, you'll not only be hard, you'll be hard to beat.
—Herschel Walker

Most games are lost, not won.
—Casey Stengel

The minute you start talking about what you're going to do if you lose, you have lost.
—George Shultz

Adversity cause some men to break; others to break records.
—William A. Ward

Sweat plus sacrifice equals success.
—Charlie Finley

You have no control over what the other guy does. You only have control over what you do.
—A J Kitt

It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog.
—Archie Griffen, two-time Heisman winner (5'9'')

There's no substitute for guts.
—Paul "Bear" Bryant

I really lack the words to compliment myself today.
—Alberto Tomba

How you respond to the challenge in the second half will determine what you become after the game, whether you are a winner or a loser.
—Lou Holtz

My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging

—Hank Aaron

Besides pride, loyalty, discipline, heart, and mind, confidence is the key to all the locks.

—Joe Paterno

The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital.

—Joe Paterno

We must either find a way or make one.

—Hannibal

It's lack of faith that makes people afraid of meeting challenges, and I believed in myself.

—Muhammad Ali

Power is not revealed by striking hard or often, but by striking true.

—Honore de Balzac

Perhaps the single most important element in mastering the techniques and tactics of racing is experience. But once you have the fundamentals, acquiring the experience is a matter of time.

—Greg LeMond

To succeed... You need to find something to hold on to, something to motivate you, something to inspire you.

—Tony Dorsett

Ask not what your teammates can do for you. Ask what you can do for your teammates.

—Magic Johnson

Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there.

—Bo Jackson

Nobody climbs mountains for scientific reasons. Science is used to raise money for the expeditions, but you really climb for the hell of it.

—Sir Edmund Hillary

I learned that if you want to make it bad enough, no matter how bad it is, you can make it.

—Gale Sayers

The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a man's determination

—Tommy Lasorda

Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.
—Coach Darrel Royal

You can become a winner only if you are willing to walk over the edge.
—Damon Runyon

It's a little like wrestling a gorilla. You don't quit when you're tired—you quit when the gorilla is tired.
—Robert Strauss

If you can believe it, the mind can achieve it.
—Ronnie Lott

The mind is the limit. As long as the mind can envision the fact that you can do something, you can do it—as long as you really believe 100 percent.
—Arnold Schwarzenegger

Setting a goal is not the main thing. It is deciding how you will go about achieving it and staying with that plan.
—Tom Landry

Winners never quit and quitters never win.
—Unknown

It's not necessarily the amount of time you spend at practice that counts; it's what you put into the practice.
—Eric Lindros

The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary.
—Vidal Sassoon

The best and fastest way to learn a sport is to watch and imitate a champion.
—Jean-Claude Killy

Everyone has limits on the time they can devote to exercise, and cross-training simply gives you the best return on your investment—balanced fitness with minimum injury risk and maximum fun.
—Paula Newby-Fraser

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear.
—Mark Twain

Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace.
—Amelia Earhart

Show me a guy who's afraid to look bad, and I'll show you a guy you can beat every time.
—Lou Brock

Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you.
—Satchel Paige

If at first you don't succeed, you are running about average.
—M.H. Alderson

When someone tells me there is only one way to do things, it always lights a fire under my butt. My instant reaction is, "I'm gonna prove you wrong."
—Picabo Street

The only way to overcome is to hang in. Even I'm starting to believe that.
—Dan O'Brien The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.
—Vince Lombardi

There are only two options regarding commitment. You're either IN or you're OUT. There's no such thing as life in-between.
—Pat Riley

The game isn't over till it's over.
—Yogi Berra

Ingenuity, plus courage, plus work, equals miracles.
—Bob Richards, Pole Vaulter

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.
—John Wooden

I'll always be Number 1 to myself.
—Moses Malone

I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.
—Thomas Jefferson

When you're riding, only the race in which you're riding is important.
—Bill Shoemaker

It is a rough road that leads to the heights of greatness.
—Seneca

The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.

—Babe Ruth

The day you take complete responsibility for yourself, the day you stop making any excuses, that's the day you start to the top.

—O.J. Simpson

The country is full of good coaches. What it takes to win is a bunch of interested players.

—Don Coryell, ex-San Diego Chargers Coach

When you're playing against a stacked deck, compete even harder. Show the world how much you'll fight for the winner's circle. If you do, someday the cellophane will crackle off a fresh pack, one that belongs to you, and the cards will be stacked in your favor.

—Pat Riley

Before you can win a game, you have to not lose it.

—Chuck Noll, ex-Pittsburgh Steelers Coach

When you are playing for the national championship, it's not a matter of life or death. It's more important than that.

—Duffy Daugherty

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.

—Vincent T. Lombardi

Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.

—Robert F. Kennedy

My thoughts before a big race are usually pretty simple. I tell myself: "Get out of the blocks, run your race, stay relaxed. If you run your race, you'll win....Channel your energy. Focus."

—Carl Lewis

The winners in life think constantly in terms of I can, I will, and I am. Losers, on the other hand, concentrate their waking thoughts on what they should have or would have done, or what they can't do.

—Dennis Waitley

Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.

—Thomas Edison

A ship in the harbor is safe. But that's not what ships are built for.
—Anonymous

The best inspiration is not to outdo others, but to outdo ourselves.
—Anonymous

Think big, believe big, act big, and the results will be big.
—Anonymous

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not: Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: The world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.
—Anonymous

You learn you can do your best even when it's hard, even when you're tired and maybe hurting a little bit. It feels good to show some courage.
—Joe Namath

Winning isn't everything, wanting to is.
—Anonymous

If you don't do what's best for your body, you're the one who comes up on the short end.
—Julius Erving

Confidence is a very fragile thing.
—Joe Montana

If you set a goal for yourself and are able to achieve it, you have won your race. Your goal can be to come in first, to improve your performance, or just finish the race—it's up to you.
—Dave Scott, Triathlete

I've always made a total effort, even when the odds seemed entirely against me. I never quit trying; I never felt that I didn't have a chance to win.
—Arnold Palmer

Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity. The relationship between the soundness of the body and the activities of the mind is subtle and complex. Much is not

yet understood. But we do know what the Greeks knew: that intelligence and skill can only function at the peak of their capacity when the body is healthy and strong; that hardy spirits and tough minds usually inhabit sound gods.

—JFK

The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, the others willing to let them.

—Robert Frost

The more I train, the more I realize I have more speed in me.

—Leroy Burrell

Each Warrior wants to leave the mark of his will, his signature, on important acts he touches. This is not the voice of ego but of the human spirit, rising up and declaring that it has something to contribute to the solution of the hardest problems, no matter how vexing!

—Pat Riley

If you chase two rabbits, both will escape.

—Author unknown

Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

—Will Rogers

Winners never quit and quitters never win.

—Unknown

I will always be someone who wants to do better than others. I love competition.

—Jean-Claude Killy

Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.

—Samuel Johnson

Other people may not have had high expectations for me... but I had high expectations for myself.

—Shannon Miller

I always felt that my greatest asset was not my physical ability, it was my mental ability.

—Bruce Jenner

In order to win you must be prepared to lose sometime. And leave one or two cards showing.

—Van Morrison

He who stops being better stops being good.

—Oliver Cromwell

The principle is competing against yourself. It's about self-improvement, about being better than you were the day before.

—Steve Young

When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers.

—Kikuyu proverb

I know that I'm never as good or bad as any single performance. I've never believed my critics or my worshippers, and I've always been able to leave the game at the arena.

—Charles Barkley

A winner never whines.

—Paul Brown

What's the worst thing that can happen to a quarterback? He loses his confidence.

—Terry Bradshaw

Ain't no chance if you don't take it.

—Guy Clark

In war there is no substitute for victory.

—Douglas MacArthur

You do not merely want to be considered just the best of the best. You want to be considered the only ones who do what you do.

—Jerry Garcia, The Grateful Dead

The first and great commandment is, Don't let them scare you.

—Elmer Davis

I think I've always had the shots. But in the past, I've suffered too many mental lapses. Now, I'm starting to get away from that and my mental discipline and commitment to the game are much better. I think I'm really taking a good look at the big picture.

That's the difference between being around for the final or watching the final from my sofa at home.

—Andre Agassi

When you face a fork in the road, step on the exhilarator!

—Pat Riley

You need to play with supreme confidence, or else you'll lose again, and then losing becomes a habit.

—Joe Paterno

You have to perform at a consistently higher level than others. That's the mark of a true professional.

—Joe Paterno

Concentration is the ability to think about absolutely nothing when it is absolutely necessary.

—Ray Knight

To be prepared is half the victory.

—Miguel Cervantes

Competition

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Great quotes to inspire, empower and motivate you to live the life of your dreams and become the person you've always wanted to be!

I worked very hard. I felt I could play the game. The only thing that could stop me was myself.

~ Jim Abbott ~

You have to be able to center yourself, to let all of your emotions go... Don't ever forget that you play with your soul as well as your body.

~ Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ~

It has meant a lot to me to challenge the best players in the world and to beat them. And it means a lot to me to be out here and fighting for the title and, you know, it hurts not to win it.

~ Andre Agassi ~

How can we hope to remain economically competitive in a world in which... 90% of Dutch high-school students take advanced math courses and 100% of teachers in Germany have double majors, while the best we can say about our pocket of excellence is that 75% of [American] students have learned to critique tactfully?

~ Barbara J. Alexander ~

World trade means competition from anywhere; advancing technology encourages cross-industry competition. Consequently, strategic planning must consider who our future competitors will be, not only who is here today.

~ Eric Allison ~

What it comes down to is that anybody can win with the best horse. What makes you good is if you can take the second or third-best horse and win.

~ Vicky Aragon ~

Thank God for competition. When our competitors upset our plans or outdo our designs, they open infinite possibilities of our own work to us.

~ Gil Atkinson ~

Competitions are for horse, not artist.

~ Bela Bartok ~

I love the winning, I can take the losing, but most of all I Love to play.

~ Boris Becker ~

To free the mind from the habit of competition, we must see in detail the process by which the mind is ensnared by competition.

~ Marguerite Beecher ~

Competition is a process or variety of habitual behavior that grows out of a habit of mind.

~ Willard Beecher ~

Becoming number one is easier than remaining number one.

~ Bill Bradley ~

Show me a guy who is afraid to look bad, and I'll show you a guy you can beat every time.

~ Lou Brock ~

Focus on competition has always been a formula for mediocrity.

~ Daniel Burrus ~

Somebody will always break your records. It is how you live that counts.

~ Earl Campbell ~

I don't psyche myself up. I psyche myself down. I think clearer when I'm not psyched up.

~ Steve Cauthen ~

Everybody pulls for David, nobody roots for Goliath.

~ Wilt Chamberlain ~

Thou shalt not covet; but tradition approves all forms of competition.

~ Arthur Hugh Clough ~

It's amazing how much of this is mental. Everybody's in good shape. Everybody knows how to ski. Everybody has good equipment. When it really boils down to it, it's who wants it the most, and who's the most confident on his skis.

~ Reggie Crist ~

You must sacrifice, train, do everything possible to put yourself in a position to win. But if you consider second or third a failure, I feel sorry for you.

~ Joe Falcon ~

You get out in front -- you stay out in front.

~ A. J. Foyt ~

The ability to learn faster than your competitors may be only sustainable competitive advantage.

~ Arie de Geus ~

Hail Caesar, those who are about to die salute you.

~ Gladiator's Salute ~

Surely the best way to meet the enemy is head on in the field and not wait till they plunder our very homes.

~ Oliver Goldsmith ~

Racing is a matter of spirit not strength.

~ Janet Guthrie ~

Every time you go out on the ice, there are slight flaws. You can always think of something you should have done better. These are the things you must work on.

~ Dorothy Hamill ~

Men often compete with one another until the day they die; comradeship consists of rubbing shoulders jocularly with a competitor.

~ Edward Hoagland ~

I play [golf] with friends sometimes, but there are never friendly games.

~ Ben Hogan ~

How you respond to the challenge in the second half will determine what you become after the game, whether you are a winner or a loser.

~ Lou Holtz ~

The biggest things are often the easiest to do because there is so little competition.

~ William Van Horne ~

You find that you have peace of mind and can enjoy yourself, get more sleep, and rest when you know that it was a one hundred percent effort that you gave -- win or lose.

~ Gordie Howe ~

Do your work with your whole heart, and you will succeed -- there's so little competition.

~ Elbert Hubbard ~

The only competition worthy a wise man is with himself.

~ Mrs. Jamieson ~

Running for money doesn't make you run fast. It makes you run first.

~ Ben Jipcho ~

Once your physically capable of winning a gold medal, the rest is ninety percent mental.

~ Patti Johnson ~

The medals don't mean anything and the glory doesn't last. It's all about your happiness. The rewards are going to come, but my happiness is just loving the sport and having fun performing.

~ Jackie Joyner Kersee ~

You have no control over what the other guy does. You only have control over what you do.

~ A. J. Kitt ~

When the game is over it is really just beginning.

~ Jerry Kramer ~

When you want to win a game, you have to teach. When you lose a game, you have to learn.

~ Tom Landry ~

I watch a man shoot pool for an hour. If he misses more than one shot I know I can beat him.

~ Luther Lassiter ~

The time your game is most vulnerable is when you're ahead, never let up.

~ Rod Laver ~

He can run but he can't hide.

~ Joe Louis ~

I consider myself one of a very small handful of drivers in the world that are top drivers. The best one? I don't think anybody can say they're the best one because, from one week to the next, you can be on form or off form a little bit.

~ Nigel Mansell ~

When you have them by the balls, their hearts and minds will follow.

~ Jerry Martin ~

This is a tough game. There are times when you've got to play hurt, when you've got to block out the pain.

~ Shaquille O'Neal ~

I don't compete with other discus throwers. I compete with my own history.

~ Al Oerter ~

Playing safe is only playing.

~ Chuck Olson ~

These are the days when it takes all you've got just to keep up with the losers.

~ Robert Orpen ~

Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you.

~ Leroy "Satchel" Paige ~

I don't care how good you play, you can find somebody who can beat you, and I don't care how bad you play, you can find somebody you can beat.

~ Harvey Penick ~

One cannot play chess if one becomes aware of the pieces as living souls and of the fact that the Whites and the Blacks have more in common with each other than with the players. Suddenly one loses all interest in who will be champion.

~ Anatol Rapoport ~

For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, He writes -- not that you won or lost -- but how you played the Game.

~ Grantland Rice ~

I won it, at least five million times. Men who were stronger, bigger and faster than I was could have done it, but they never picked up a pole, and never made the feeble effort to pick their legs off the ground and get over the bar.

~ Bob Richards ~

Win or lose, do it fairly.

~ Knute Rockne ~

The difference of great players is at a certain point in a match they raise their level of play and maintain it. Lesser players play great for a set, but then less.

~ Pete Sampras ~

Every man in the world is better than someone else and not as good someone else.

~ William Saroyan ~

When you step onto that field, you cannot concede a thing.

~ Gayle Sayers ~

Enjoy the successes that you have, and don't be too hard on yourself when you don't do well. Too many times we beat up on ourselves. Just relax and enjoy it.

~ Patty Sheehan ~