

# Michigan sweeps NCAA Tournament

BY CHARLES ROBINSON  
THE STATE NEWS

(U-WIRE) — This graduation thing almost seems unfair. After all, nobody forced the Beatles to break up after their first hit record.

As the camera flashes and interviews slowed to a trickle, the realization began to hit home. For seniors such as Mateen Cleaves, Morris Peterson and A.J. Granger, the shades had been drawn on their Spartan careers. Their final game marks the splintering of one of college basketball's most dynamic trios. It's a bittersweet day for MSU head coach Tom Izzo, who gained a national championship, but lost part of his own heart.

These championship Spartans were a distinct handful, plucked from corners of the Midwest — from rural country fields to sprawling concrete boroughs. Some were tough, with street-honed attitudes.

Others would rather shake hands than exchange fisticuffs. Yet, the mix worked.

When it was over, the mad scramble of personalities shared their last triumphant embrace — this time, squeezing the national championship.

They circled together one more time, the final hugs a little tighter, lasting longer than ever. Amid the celebration, a twinge of sadness remained. This Spartan team — an unlikely assembly — had played its last game.

"I'm going to miss these guys," junior guard Charlie Bell said, look-

ing at the senior Flintstones, point guard Mateen Cleaves and forward Morris Peterson. "They're like my best friends, like my brothers.

"These are not just my teammates for three or four years. These are going to be my friends for life. I'll call these guys for 20-25 years."

Peterson and Cleaves have certainly written themselves tickets to the NBA, and forward A.J. Granger likely will end up there, too. Forward Steve Cherry will move on to graduate school, and the rest of the team will return to defend the national title. Still, many admitted things would never be quite the same.

It was a chemistry admired by many, including Michigan Gov. John Engler, who said this group would be sorely missed. Even Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who had many of his own special teams, had to envy the group.

"These guys hang out together," Magic said. "You can see them in threes and fours all the time.

"I listen to them, and it's, 'Where are we all going to eat?' And guys are saying, 'Granger, c'mon man, we're waiting on you.'"

Then again, there were times the assortment of personalities seemed strange. Such as the pregame war cry, a hip-hop anthem by slain rapper Tupac Shakur. The collection of figures — black and tattooed, white and freckled — harmonized like they were born to sing it together. Their heads and shoulders would bob before games, and lyrics boomed forth as they would slither into an orb of tangled limbs.

"When the pressure's on it's a hit. Ski mask, extra gat, bring the clip. Don't nobody move when we walk the streets. They stay silent cuz' talk is cheap."

Extra gat? Bring the clip? It hardly seemed right coming from freshman guard Mat Ishbia, who grew up in the hard scrabble streets of Birmingham. Even Granger, from tiny Findlay, Ohio, looked a little out of place.

"You know, everybody keeps asking me when I'm going to get my Findlay tattoo," he said. "I keep telling them never."

This is why it seemed to work, because the group blended more closely than even the closest friends. The coach Teddy Dupay, #5 of Florida is trapped by Aloysius Anagonhye #25 of Michigan State during the final of the NCAA men's basketball championship Michigan State won the national championship over Florida 89-76.



Photo by Jed Jacobsohn (Newsmakers)

# Golf team plays for par, finishing fifth

BY GINGER PALMER

The Golf team recently competed in the Johnson and Wales Invitational Golf Tournament. They finished fifth place out of 11 teams at the Stono Ferry Golf Club's course in Charleston, SC.

Sophomore Chris Wilson turned in the strongest performance. Wilson just missed out on making all tournament with a sixth place overall finish. He had a two round total of 155 (76 and 79).


Jarod Morton, Scott Hoffman, Todd



Sunderland and Jason Bednarek also contributed to the fifth place finish. Steve Kalokerakis and Bryan Petrone competed as individuals. Kalokerakis turned in a solid performance.

The next tournament will be at the Cliffs Invitational hosted by North Greenville College. Schaefer believes the team will see even better in the next tournament.

"When the guys find their more consistent forms we will be very successful."



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