



2003 Michigan State Gymnastics

Coming Up...

Michigan State vs. Illinois

Spartan Invite sponsored by Country Markett

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2003 - East Lansing, Mich. - 2 p.m.

BACK WHERE THEY BELONG

The Spartans return to Jenison Field House on Saturday, Feb. 22, when they host the 14th annual Spartan Invitational, presented by Country Markett, at 2 p.m. The University of Illinois will join the Spartans for the dual meet. This is just the third home meet of the season for MSU, who competed in four of their first six contests on the road.

SPARTANS WIN FOX RUN INVITATIONAL

The Michigan State gymnastics team claimed the Fox Run Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 15, in Durham, N.H., with a team total of 194.325 - over two and a half points higher than the second-place score of host New Hampshire (191.875). George Washington (191.425) and Bowling Green (190.900) rounded out the four-team meet.

SARAH STANDS OUT

Freshman **Sarah Alexander** (Kernersville, N.C.) paced the Spartans with two event titles and the all-around crown. Alexander won the balance beam (9.850) and the floor exercise (9.875) and finished second on the uneven bars (9.800), en route to the all-around title with a season-best score of 39.250.

NEWS FROM THE GYM

Sophomore **Kristin Merritt** (Racine, Wis.) tied with **Sarah Alexander** for second on the uneven bars with a 9.800.

Senior **Kristina Petersen** (Saginaw, Mich.) and sophomore **Lauren Simpson** (Fenton, Mich.) tied for fourth on the bars with a 9.700 to give the Spartans four of the top five places on the event.

Senior **Julie Devaty** (North Olmstead, Ohio) finished third on the balance beam with a 9.825, while Simpson posted a third-place score of 38.475 on the all-around.

Michigan State received a fourth-place finish on the vault from sophomore **Anna Hunsinger** (Elizabethtown, Ky.) and a pair of fifth-place places on the event from both Alexander and Simpson.

GOOD CAREER MOVES

Sarah Alexander posted two career highs at the Fox Run Invitational on Feb. 15. She set personal best scores on the floor exercise (9.875) and the all-around (39.250). Her score in the all-around competition was also the highest by any Spartan gymnast this season.

Anna Hunsinger matched her career high on the vault (9.800), while **Leia Langhoff** (Midland, Mich.) set a new best on the same event (9.625).

Jaime Miles (Sterling Heights, Mich.) set a new best with her second appearance of her career on the balance beam.

BIG TEN BUSINESS

The Spartans are currently second the Big Ten Conference on the uneven bars, with a season average of 48.758...**Sarah Alexander** is ranked fifth in the confer-

2003 Schedule & Results

JANUARY

10	MSU INVITATIONAL	3rd/3
	Oregon State	195.825
	Auburn	195.350
	Michigan State	191.800
17	at Iowa State	L, 193.325-196.000
25	at Ohio State	L, 195.175-195.875

FEBRUARY

2	STATE OF MICHIGAN CLASSIC	1st/5
	Michigan State	195.075
	Central Michigan	194.900
	Michigan	193.900
	Eastern Michigan	192.525
	Western Michigan	192.000
8	at Iowa	L, 193.925-196.550
15	at Fox Run Invite	1st /4
	MICHIGAN STATE	194.325
	New Hampshire	191.875
	George Washington	191.425
	Bowling Green	190.900
22	Illinois	2 p.m.

MARCH

1	Central Michigan / Ball State	7 p.m.
8	at Rutgers (Piscataway, N.J.)	7 p.m.
15	at Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, Pa.)	7 p.m.
22	Pittsburgh / Michigan	7 p.m.
29	at Big Ten Championships (Champaign, Ill.)	6 p.m.

APRIL

12	at NCAA Regionals (Location - TBA)	TBA
24	at NCAA Championships (Lincoln, Neb.)	TBA

Home meets in **BOLD** at Jenison Field House.

Spartans At A Glance

2003 Records

Overall: 7-5
Dual: 0-3
Big Ten: 1-2
Home: 4-2
Away: 3-3

Season High Score

195.175

Season Average

193.937

Regional Qualifying Score:

193.690

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Michigan State vs. Illinois Notes Continued

ence on the uneven bars, while **Kristin Merritt** is ranked eighth...Alexander and **Christy Linder** (Fremont, Ohio) are ranked seventh and tenth, respectively, on the balance beam

NATIONAL NETWORKING

Sarah Alexander and **Anna Hunsinger** are ranked among the top-ten in the central region. Alexander is ranked eighth on the balance beam and tenth on the uneven bars, while Hunsinger stands at ninth in the all-around...**Kristin Merritt** is ranked 13th on the uneven bars, while **Christy Linder** is tied for the same spot on the balance beam...**Lauren Simpson** is ranked 15th in the all-around, while **Ilene Cohen** and **Julie Devaty** are ranked 17th and 18th, respectively, on the beam...As a team, the Spartans are ranked fourth on the bars (16th nationally) and hold top-ten spots in every other event, including the total team score.

DEVATY NAMED CO-BIG TEN GYMNAST OF THE WEEK

Senior co-captain **Julie Devaty** was named the Co-Big Ten Gymnast of the Week on Tuesday, Feb. 5. Devaty matched her career-best mark of 9.925 on the balance beam to capture the event title at the State of Michigan Classic on Feb. 2. She also finished tied for second on the floor with a season-best mark of 9.875 and matched her personal-best score of 9.825 on the uneven bars to post the fourth-highest score of the day on that event. Devaty tied for the weekly honor with Calli Ryals of Michigan.

MSU EARNS BRAGGING RIGHTS

The Spartans returned to Jenison Field House with a bang on Sunday, Feb. 2, winning the State of Michigan Classic. Michigan State posted a 195.075 to finish first, ahead of Central Michigan (194.900) and No. 11 Michigan (193.900). Eastern Michigan (192.525) and Western Michigan (192.000) rounded out the five-team event. MSU claimed the highest team score on the bars and beam, setting season-high marks on both.

ENDING A STREAK

With the victory at the State of Michigan Classic, Michigan State became the first Big Ten Conference team to defeat Michigan in over four years. Until the Spartans topped the No. 11 Wolverines on Feb. 2, Michigan had not lost a meet against a conference rival since Jan. 15, 1999. Since that date, Michigan had recorded 40 consecutive wins over conference rivals.

HOME SWEET HOME?

The Spartans have performed just two of their first six competitions in the familiar

2003 Michigan State Gymnastics Roster

Name	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
Sarah Alexander	Fr.	5-1	Kernersville, N.C. / East Forsyth
Nicole Anderson	So.	5-0	Kenosha, Wisc. / Tremper
Ilene Cohen	Sr.	5-2	Wantagh, N.Y. / Wantagh
Diana Crea	Sr.	4-10	Beaver Falls, Pa. / Blackhawk
Julie Devaty	Sr.	5-2	North Olmstead, Ohio / Magnificat
Anna Hunsinger	So.	5-2	Elizabethtown, Ky. / Central Hardin
Julianna Karall	Fr.	5-1	Chicago, Ill. / Lane Tech College Prep
Leia Langhoff	Fr.	5-3	Midland, Mich. / Midland
Christy Linder	Sr.	5-3	Fremont, Ohio / Fremont Ross
Kristen Merritt	So.	5-2	Racine, Wisc. / Washington Park
Jaime Miles	Fr.	5-6	Sterling Heights, Mich. / Sterling Heights
Kristina Petersen	Sr.	5-4	Saginaw, Mich. / Swan Valley
Lauren Simpson	So.	5-1	Fenton, Mich. / Linden
Lindsey Voth	Jr.	5-2	Sarasota, Fla. / Riverview
Maurella Walls	Sr.	5-3	Elmhurst, Pa. / North Pocono
Jennifer Yarbrough	So.	5-3	Williamston, Mich. / Williamston

Head Coach: Kathie Klages (13th year)

Assistant Coaches: Tom Holloway (4th year) & Elisabeth Forshier (2nd year)

Student Coaches: Lindsay Trainham (1st year) & Jane McIntosh (1st year)

Student Manager: Dana Herr (1st year)

GymInfo Top 25

By Total Season Average

Feb 17, 2003

Rank	Team	Average
1.	UCLA	197.253
2.	Alabama	196.986
3.	Utah	196.971
4.	Georgia	196.862
5.	Nebraska	196.750
6.	Florida	196.696
7.	Arizona State	196.633
8.	Stanford	196.275
9.	Oregon State	195.954
10.	Michigan	195.575
11.	Denver	195.404
12.	Washington	195.321
13.	Oklahoma	195.300
14.	Louisiana State	195.271
15.	Auburn	195.250
16.	Arizona	195.233
17.	Iowa	194.975
18T.	Penn State	194.825
18T.	Kent State	194.825
20.	Iowa State	194.687
21.	Ohio State	194.661
22.	Minnesota	194.567
23.	Missouri	194.487
24.	Central Michigan	194.387
25.	North Carolina State	194.379

- Teams in bold are MSU opponents

MSU In The Rankings

INDIVIDUAL (TOP 50 NATL./TOP 20 REG.)

	RQS	Nat.	Reg.
All-Around			
Anna Hunsinger	n/a	--	9
Lauren Simpson	n/a	--	15
Vault			
Bars			
Sarah Alexander	n/a	--	10
Kristin Merritt	n/a	--	13
Beam			
Sarah Alexander	n/a	--	8
Christy Linder	n/a	--	13T
Ilene Cohen	n/a	--	17
Julie Devaty	n/a	--	18T
Floor			

TEAM

	RQS	Nat.	Reg.
Total Score	n/a	32	7
Vault	n/a	42	9
Bars	n/a	16	4
Beam	n/a	31	6
Floor	n/a	41T	8

Michigan State vs. Illinois Notes Continued

comfort of Jenison Field House. After the season opening meet against Auburn and Oregon State, the Spartans traveled to Iowa (Iowa State - Jan. 17) and continued on the road to Ohio (Ohio State - Jan. 25). MSU returned to Michigan to host the State of Michigan Classic (Feb. 2), but took to the road again for a return trip to Iowa (Iowa - Feb. 8), before visiting New Hampshire for the Fox Run Invitational (Feb. 15).

Michigan State will compete in three of the last six meets leading up to the Big Ten Championships at home. The Spartans return to Jenison on Feb. 22 to host Illinois and continue the home stand with a March 1 competition against Central Michigan and Ball State. After two weeks of traveling to New Jersey (Rutgers – March 8) and Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh – March 15), the Spartans close out the 2003 regular season with a home meet against Pittsburgh and Michigan on March 22.

IF YOU WANT TO BE THE BEST...

You have to play the best. That's the motto of **Kathie Klages** when she scheduled the Spartans' competition. Six of Michigan State's remaining opponents are ranked in the Feb. 17 edition of the GymInfo Top-25 and seven of its previous opponents also have a place among the leaders. Five of the Spartans' six Big Ten opponents are listed in the poll, including No. 11 Michigan, whom MSU will face two more times this season.

THE BRAINIACS

Perhaps even more impressive than the athletic achievements of the Spartans' 2002 squad were their academic accomplishments. The National Association of College Gymnastics Coaches named seven members of the team –**Ilene Cohen, Julie Devaty, Dana Herr** (Phoenixville, Pa.), **Anna Hunsinger, Kristina Petersen** (Saginaw, Mich.), **Lauren Simpson**, and **Lindsey Voth**– Academic All-Americans for Women. Michigan State's seven award recipients are the most ever for the squad, surpassing the four honorees from the 2000-01 academic year. As a squad, the women's gymnastics team posted a 3.49 GPA last season – the best ever for a Spartan gymnastics team.

RANKING NOTE

Starting with the Jan. 27 poll, national rankings will be determined by a total season average and will continue this way until the final month of competition (Feb. 24), when the rankings will be listed in order of Regional Qualifying Score (RQS).

NEW, BUT FAMILIAR

There will be two familiar faces on the Spartan bench this season, as junior **Dana Herr** and senior **Lindsay Trainham** (Briarcliff, N.Y.) join the coaching staff after medically disqualifying from competition. Herr is still feeling the effects of a knee injury suffered in the preseason of her freshman year and will join the team as a student manager, while Trainham, who landed awkwardly on a vault last season and injured her knees, will finish out her Green and White career as a student coach. Former MSU standout **Jane McIntosh** (Concord, Mich.) is also volunteering her time with the team. McIntosh has choreographer several floor and beam routines for the Spartans.

SPARTANS INK FIVE

The Michigan State gymnastics team signed five student-athletes to National Letters of Intent on Nov. 25. Kristin Coleman, Chayla Hill, Victoria Iakounina, Jaclyn O'Brien and Jenna Rivers will join the Spartans in 2004. The quintet brings a wealth of experience to the MSU lineup –an all-around champion at two Provincial Tour Selections, a nation floor champion, a Region V Athlete of the Year, a Michigan Level 10 state champion and the 2002 Empire Games all-around champion.

THE LEADERS OF THE PACK

The Michigan State women's gymnastics team announced that seniors **Christy Linder** and **Julie Devaty** have been selected as the captains for the 2003 season.

GAZE INTO THE FUTURE

The Spartans continue a two-meet home stand on Saturday, March 1, when they host Mid-American Conference teams, Central Michigan and Ball State. The meet is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., at Jenison Field House.

Individual Season Bests

VAULT	SCORE	DATE
1. Sarah Alexander	9.825	1/10
2. Christy Linder	9.800	1/10
Nicole Anderson	9.800	1/25
Anna Hunsinger	9.800	2/2
Anna Hunsinger	9.800	2/15
3. Lauren Simpson	9.725	1/17
Lauren Simpson	9.725	1/25
Lauren Simpson	9.725	2/15

BARS	SCORE	DATE
1. Diana Crea	9.900	1/25
2. Sarah Alexander	9.875	2/2
3. Kristin Merritt	9.850	2/2

BEAM	SCORE	DATE
1. Julie Devaty	9.925	2/2
2. Sarah Alexander	9.875	2/8
3. Ilene Cohen	9.825	2/2

FLOOR	SCORE	DATE
1. Julie Devaty	9.875	2/2
Nicole Anderson	9.875	2/2
Sarah Alexander	9.875	2/15
2. Lauren Simpson	9.850	2/2
Anna Hunsinger	9.850	2/8
3. Diana Crea	9.725	2/8

ALL-AROUND	SCORE	DATE
1. Sarah Alexander	39.275	2/15
2. Lauren Simpson	39.000	2/2
3. Anna Hunsinger	38.900	1/25

Team Season Bests

TEAM	SCORE	DATE
1.	195.175	1/25
2.	195.075	2/2
3.	194.325	2/15

VAULT	SCORE	DATE
1.	48.775	1/10
2.	48.725	1/25
3.	48.525	2/15

BARS	SCORE	DATE
1.	49.125	2/2
2.	48.775	2/8
3.	48.750	1/25

BEAM	SCORE	DATE
1.	49.000	2/2
2.	48.850	2/8
3.	48.725	1/25

FLOOR	SCORE	DATE
1.	48.975	1/25
2.	48.950	2/8
2.	48.850	2/15