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15
SAGARIN

MICHIGAN STATE

No matter how many times the Spartans return to the Final Four—and under Tom Izzo, it seems to happen almost every year—there may never be any topping the splash made by Magic Johnson & Co. in the 1979 NCAA Tournament. Their Final win over Larry Bird and Indiana State was the highest-rated televised game in college basketball history and was one of the seminal events that gave rise to March Madness.

BEST TEAM: 1978-79 The Spartans went 26-6 and romped through the NCAA Tournament field, culminating in a dominating 75-64 throttling of Indiana State in which they limited Bird to 7-of-21 shooting. The undisputed star of the squad was Johnson—who, despite five NBA titles with the Lakers, still considers the victory over the Sycamores the favorite of all his championships, the fulfillment of a childhood dream. The leading scorer for coach Jud Heathcote was forward Greg Kelsner, a.k.a. Special K, who averaged 18.8 ppg and is the only player in Spartans history to amass more than 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

BEST PLAYER: G EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON (1977-79) Folks weren't drawn to Magic just because of his physical gifts, but also his unique style. Like Bird, Johnson was a great thinker and a terrific passer. Unlike Bird, the all-smiles 6'9" point guard delighted in the spotlight. Johnson, the only freshman in Spartans history to be named All-America, set an MSU single-season assist record (since

surpassed) with 269 (8.4 per game) as a sophomore; he also averaged 17.1 points and 7.3 rebounds.

BEST COACH: Tom Izzo (1995-) He doesn't pride himself on fancy offenses, but rather on good old-fashioned defense and rebounding. It's hard to argue with the formula. Izzo's teams qualified for 12 straight NCAA Tournaments, beginning in 1998, including five Final Fours and the 2000 championship.

GAME FOR THE AGES: When the UCLA dynasty ended after 1975, many wondered if college basketball would ever again attract broad national attention. The 1979 NCAA Final provided the answer. Nearly a quarter all of U.S. households tuned in to see if upstart undefeated Indiana State, with a guy who looked like his name—Bird—could defeat famous Michigan State with a guy who *played* like his—Magic. That the Spartans totally dominated in their 75-64 win barely detracted from the spectacle.

HEARTBREAKER: The way the Spartans saw it, their 1986 Sweet 16 loss to Kansas was really a matter of bad timing—and bad officiating. With 2:21 remaining, KU inbounded but the clock didn't start running for about 15 seconds. Despite Jud Heathcote's protests, the refs refused to run off the time. Flash forward to :09 left in regulation. With his Jayhawks down two, Archie Marshall tipped the ball in to send the game to OT. There, Kansas ran away to win, 96-86.

FIERCEST RIVAL: In 2009, the *Detroit Free Press* declared there was no Michigan-Michigan State rivalry

anymore because of the Spartans' dominance over the past decade and the Wolverines' mediocre play. Don't believe it. MSU faithful delighted in every minute of the Spartans' 12-point win over the revitalized Wolverines on Feb. 10, 2009, just as much as they did during State's 51-point blowout of UM on March 4, 2000. Michigan still leads overall, 91-72.

FANFARE AND HOOPLA: The Izzo student section, for all their famed chants and taunts, deserves the most props for their creative signs, such as "My Grandma Has the Hots for Shannon Brown," and "Chuck Norris + Vin Diesel = Tom Izzo."

FAN FAVORITE: G MATEEN CLEAVES (1996-2000) He didn't have the prettiest jump shot, but fans loved his toughness, epitomized by his gritting out the 2000 Final on one good leg.

CONSENSUS ALL-AMERICAS

1979 Earvin "Magic" Johnson, G
1995 Shawn Respert, G
1999 Mateen Cleaves, G

FIRST ROUND PRO PICKS

1959 Johnny Green, New York (6)
1967 Matt Aitch, Dallas (ABA)
1971 Ralph Simpson, Denver (ABA)
1972 Ralph Simpson, Chicago (11)
1976 Terry Furlow, Philadelphia (12)
1979 Earvin "Magic" Johnson, LA Lakers (1)
1979 Greg Kelsner, Detroit (4)
1984 Kevin Willis, Atlanta (11)
1985 Sam Vincent, Boston (20)
1986 Scott Skiles, Milwaukee (22)
1991 Steve Smith, Miami (5)
1995 Shawn Respert, Portland (8)
2000 Mateen Cleaves, Detroit (14)
2000 Morris Peterson, Toronto (21)
2001 Jason Richardson, Golden State (5)
2001 Zach Randolph, Portland (19)
2006 Shannon Brown, Cleveland (25)
2006 Maurice Ager, Dallas (28)

PROFILE

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Founded: 1855
Enrollment: 46,648 (36,337 undergraduate)
Colors: Green and white
Nickname: Spartans
Current arena: Breslin Center, opened in 1989 (14,759)
Previous: Jenison Fieldhouse, 1940-89 (10,004); Demonstration Hall, 1930-39 (3,000)
First game: Feb. 27, 1899
All-time record: 1,456-1,002 (.592)
Total weeks in AP Top 20/25: 299

Current conference: Big Ten (1950-)

Conference titles:

Big Ten: 11 (1957 [tie], '59, '67 [tie], '78, '79 [tie], '90, '98 [tie], '99, 2000 [tie], '01 [tie], '09)

Conference tournament titles:

Big Ten: 2 (1999, 2000)

NCAA Tournament appearances: 23

Sweet 16s (since 1975): 12

Final Fours: 7

Titles: 2 (1979, 2000)

NIT appearances: 5

Semifinals: 1

TOP 5

G Earvin "Magic" Johnson (1977-79)
G Scott Skiles (1982-86)
G Steve Smith (1987-91)
F Greg Kelsner (1975-79)
F Johnny Green (1956-59)

RECORDS

	GAME	SEASON	CAREER
POINTS	50 Terry Furlow, vs. Iowa (Jan. 5, 1976)	850 Scott Skiles (1985-86)	2,531 Shawn Respert (1990-95)
POINTS PER GAME		29.4 Terry Furlow (1975-76)	24.2 Mike Robinson (1971-74)
REBOUNDS	29 Horace Walker, vs. Butler (Dec. 28, 1959); Johnny Green, vs. Washington (Dec. 30, 1957)	392 Johnny Green (1957-58)	1,092 Greg Kelsner (1975-79)
ASSISTS	20 Mateen Cleaves, vs. Michigan (March 4, 2000)	274 Mateen Cleaves (1998-99)	816 Mateen Cleaves (1996-2000)

SEASON REVIEW

SEASON	W-L	CONF.	SCORING	COACH	RECORD	SEASON	W-L	CONF.	SCORING	COACH	RECORD
1899-1918	151-82		Coach Chester Brewer, 70-25,	737 from 1903-10		1928-29	11-5		Arthur Haga	99	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1918-19	9-9			George Gauthier		1929-30	12-4		Roger Grove	91	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1919-20	21-15			George Gauthier ⁹	41-38 .519	1930-31	16-1		Roger Grove	135	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1920-21	13-8			Lyman Frimodig		1931-32	12-5		Randy Boeskool	80	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1921-22	11-13			Lyman Frimodig	30-22 .577	1932-33	10-7		Gerald McCaslin	92	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1922-23	10-9			Fred Walker		1933-34	12-5		Maurice Buysse	126	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1923-24	10-10			Fred Walker	20-19 .513	1934-35	14-4		Arnold Van Faasen	133	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1924-25	6-13			John H. Kobs		1935-36	8-9		Ron Garlock	109	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1925-26	5-13			John H. Kobs	11-26 .297	1936-37	5-12		Leonard Oesterink	112	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1926-27	7-11	Verne Dickeson	162	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne		1937-38	9-8		George Falkowski	173	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne
1927-28	11-4	Verne Dickeson	100	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne		1938-39	9-8		George Falkowski	119	Benjamin F. VanAlstyne

SEAS.	W-L	CONF.	POSTSEASON	SCORING	REBOUNDS	ASSISTS	COACH	RECORD
1939-40	14-6			Chet Aubuchon	169		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	
1940-41	11-6			Max Hindman	144		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	
1941-42	15-6			Joe Gerard	239		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	
1942-43	2-14			John Cawood	118		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	
1943-44	no team							
1944-45	9-7			Sam Fortino	11.9		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	
1945-46	12-9			Sam Fortino	12.0		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	
1946-47	11-10			Bob Geahan	11.2		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	
1947-48	12-10			Bob Brannum	15.6		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	
1948-49	9-12			Bill Rapchak	10.6		Benjamin F. VanAlstyne	231-163 .586
1949-50	4-18			Dan Smith	9.4		Alton S. Kircher	4-18 .182
1950-51	10-11	5-9		Ray Steffen	8.9		Pete Newell	
1951-52	13-9	6-8		Keith Stackhouse	11.8		Pete Newell	
1952-53	13-9	11-7		Al Ferrari	16.0		Pete Newell	
1953-54	9-13	4-10		Julius McCoy	18.6		Pete Newell	45-42 .517
1954-55	13-9	8-6		Al Ferrari	20.1		Forddy Anderson	
1955-56	13-9	7-7		Julius McCoy	27.3	Julius McCoy 10.0	Forddy Anderson	
1956-57	16-10	10-4	NCAA FOURTH PLACE	Jack Quiggle	15.3	Johnny Green 14.6	Forddy Anderson	
1957-58	16-6	9-5		Johnny Green	18.0	Johnny Green 17.8	Forddy Anderson	
1958-59	19-4	12-2	NCAA REGIONAL FINALS	Bob Anderegg	19.5	Johnny Green 16.6	Forddy Anderson	
1959-60	10-11	5-9		Horace Walker	22.6	Horace Walker 17.7	Forddy Anderson	
1960-61	7-17	3-11		Dick Hall	16.2	Ted Williams 12.0	Forddy Anderson	
1961-62	8-14	3-11		Pete Gent	14.1	Pete Gent 9.3	Forddy Anderson	
1962-63	4-16	3-11		Pete Gent	16.4	Bill Berry 9.2	Forddy Anderson	
1963-64	14-10	8-6		Pete Gent	21.0	Stan Washington 10.2	Forddy Anderson	
1964-65	5-18	1-13		Stan Washington	21.3	Stan Washington 10.7	Forddy Anderson	125-124 .502
1965-66	15-7	10-4		Stan Washington	18.0	Stan Washington 10.6	John E. Benington	
1966-67	16-7	10-4		Matthew Aitch	16.3	Lee Lafayette 9.7	John E. Benington	
1967-68	12-12	6-8		Lee Lafayette	16.8	Lee Lafayette 10.5	John E. Benington	
1968-69	11-12	6-8		Lee Lafayette	18.7	Lee Lafayette 10.3	John E. Benington	54-38 .587
1969-70	9-15	5-9		Ralph Simpson	29.0	Ralph Simpson 10.3	Gus Ganakas	
1970-71	10-14	4-10		Rudy Benjamin	21.2	Bill Kilgore 12.8	Gus Ganakas	
1971-72	13-11	6-8		Mike Robinson	24.7	Bill Kilgore 11.1	Gus Ganakas	
1972-73	13-11	6-8		Mike Robinson	25.3	Bill Kilgore 9.9	Gus Ganakas	
1973-74	13-11	8-6		Mike Robinson	22.4	Lindsay Hairston 13.6	Gus Ganakas	
1974-75	17-9	10-8		Terry Furlow	20.4	Lindsay Hairston 11.5	Gus Ganakas	
1975-76	14-13	10-8		Terry Furlow	29.4	Greg Kelsner 9.5	Benny White 3.9	Gus Ganakas 89-84 .514
1976-77	10-17	9-9		Greg Kelsner	21.7	Greg Kelsner 10.8	Edgar Wilson 3.4	Jud Heathcote
1977-78	25-5	15-3	NCAA REGIONAL FINALS	Greg Kelsner	17.7	Greg Kelsner 9.1	Earvin "Magic" Johnson 7.4	Jud Heathcote
1978-79	26-6	13-5	NATIONAL CHAMPION	Greg Kelsner	18.8	Greg Kelsner 8.7	Earvin "Magic" Johnson 8.4	Jud Heathcote
1979-80	12-15	6-12		Jay Vincent	21.6	Ron Charles 8.9	Mike Brkovich 3.6	Jud Heathcote
1980-81	13-14	7-11		Jay Vincent	22.6	Jay Vincent 8.5	Kevin Smith 4.8	Jud Heathcote
1981-82	11-17	7-11		Kevin Smith	15.6	Derek Perry 5.4	Kevin Smith 4.5	Jud Heathcote
1982-83	17-13	9-9	NIT SECOND ROUND	Sam Vincent	16.6	Kevin Willis 9.6	Scott Skiles 4.2	Jud Heathcote
1983-84	15-13	9-9		Scott Skiles	14.5	Kevin Willis 7.7	Scott Skiles 4.6	Jud Heathcote
1984-85	19-10	10-8	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Sam Vincent	23.0	Ken Johnson 10.2	Scott Skiles 5.8	Jud Heathcote
1985-86	23-8	12-6	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Scott Skiles	27.4	Larry Polec 5.7	Scott Skiles 6.5	Jud Heathcote
1986-87	11-17	6-12		Darryl Johnson	22.1	Carlton Valentine 5.6	Darryl Johnson 4.0	Jud Heathcote
1987-88	10-18	5-13		Carlton Valentine	13.3	Carlton Valentine 5.6	Ed Wright 3.3	Jud Heathcote
1988-89	18-15	6-12	NIT FOURTH PLACE	Steve Smith	17.7	Steve Smith 6.9	Ken Redfield 4.0	Jud Heathcote
1989-90	28-6	15-3	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Steve Smith	20.2	Ken Redfield 6.8	Steve Smith 4.8	Jud Heathcote
1990-91	19-11	11-7	NCAA SECOND ROUND	Steve Smith	25.1	Mike Peplowski 6.9	Mark Montgomery 5.8	Jud Heathcote
1991-92	22-8	11-7	NCAA SECOND ROUND	Shawn Respert	15.8	Mike Peplowski 8.6	Mark Montgomery 6.3	Jud Heathcote
1992-93	15-13	7-11	NIT FIRST ROUND	Shawn Respert	20.1	Mike Peplowski 10.0	Eric Snow 5.2	Jud Heathcote
1993-94	20-12	10-8	NCAA SECOND ROUND	Shawn Respert	24.3	Anthony Miller 9.0	Eric Snow 6.7	Jud Heathcote
1994-95	22-6	14-4	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Shawn Respert	25.6	Jamie Feick 10.1	Eric Snow 7.8	Jud Heathcote 336-224 .600▼
1995-96	16-16	9-9	NIT SECOND ROUND	Quinton Brooks	16.3	Jamie Feick 9.5	Thomas Kelley 3.6	Tom Izzo
1996-97	17-12	9-9	NIT SECOND ROUND	Ray Weathers	13.6	Antonio Smith 10.6	Mateen Cleaves 5.0	Tom Izzo
1997-98	22-8	13-3	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Mateen Cleaves	16.1	Antonio Smith 8.7	Mateen Cleaves 7.2	Tom Izzo
1998-99	33-5	15-1	NCAA NATIONAL SEMIFINALS	Morris Peterson	13.6	Antonio Smith 8.4	Mateen Cleaves 7.2	Tom Izzo
1999-2000	32-7	13-3	NATIONAL CHAMPION	Morris Peterson	16.8	Andre Hutson 6.2	Mateen Cleaves 6.9	Tom Izzo
2000-01	28-5	13-3	NCAA NATIONAL SEMIFINALS	Jason Richardson	14.7	Andre Hutson 7.6	Charlie Bell 5.1	Tom Izzo
2001-02	19-12	10-6	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Marcus Taylor	16.8	Aloysius Anagonye 6.3	Marcus Taylor 5.3	Tom Izzo
2002-03	22-13	10-6	NCAA REGIONAL FINALS	Chris Hill	13.7	Aloysius Anagonye 5.3	Chris Hill 3.7	Tom Izzo
2003-04	18-12	12-4	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Paul Davis	15.8	Paul Davis 6.2	Chris Hill 3.7	Tom Izzo
2004-05	26-7	13-3	NCAA NATIONAL SEMIFINALS	Maurice Ager	14.1	Paul Davis 8.0	Chris Hill 4.3	Tom Izzo
2005-06	22-12	8-8	NCAA FIRST ROUND	Maurice Ager	19.3	Paul Davis 9.1	Drew Neitzel 5.6	Tom Izzo
2006-07	23-12	8-8	NCAA SECOND ROUND	Drew Neitzel	18.1	Goran Suton 6.7	Travis Walton 5.5	Tom Izzo
2007-08	27-9	12-6	NCAA REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	Raymar Morgan	14.0	Goran Suton 8.2	Travis Walton 4.3	Tom Izzo
2008-09	31-7	15-3	NCAA RUNNER-UP	Kalin Lucas	14.7	Goran Suton 8.4	Kalin Lucas 4.6	Tom Izzo 336-137 .710

Cumulative totals listed when per game averages not available.

⁹ George Gauthier (15-14) and Lyman Frimodig (6-1) both coached during the 1919-20 season.

⊙ Records don't reflect games forfeited or vacated. For adjusted totals, see p. 521.

▼ Coach's record adjusted to reflect games forfeited or vacated: 338-222, .604. For yearly totals, see p. 521.