

the sports

# Spartans defeat Indiana St. 75-64

**United Press International**  
SALT LAKE CITY — Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote says sophomore Earvin "Magic" Johnson has many talents, but a lot of people don't notice that more often than not he connects when the outcome is on the line.

It was the 6-foot-8 Johnson who connected time after time with scoring and passing in the second half of Michigan State's 75-64 win over previously unbeaten Indiana State Monday night in the NCAA tournament final.

The Spartans' victory, in their first title-game appearance, ended the Sycamores' dream of becoming only the eighth team to win the national collegiate crown without a loss.

"Our players rallied around each other and saved the best for last," said Heathcote. And it was Johnson who led the way, scoring a game-high 24 points in his showdown with ISU's Larry Bird.

MSU was coasting on a 48-32 lead when Greg Kelsner picked up his fourth foul and was benched with 15:33 to go. During the next 10 minutes the Sycamores — 33-0 coming into the final — ignited a scoring barrage that carried them within 57-50 of the Spartans.

But Johnson grabbed a rebound, cleared the ball to Kelsner, and took a return pass for a dunk over Bob Heaton. Johnson was fouled after making the shot, and then sank two free throws for a four-point play to keep MSU ahead.

In the closing five minutes Johnson added four more points and fired passes to Kelsner for two easy baskets that kept ISU at a comfortable distance.

Kelsner finished with 19 points, a team-high eight rebounds, and a season-high nine assists. Kelsner and Johnson led the all-tournament team voting, each getting 134 votes. And Johnson was voted the outstanding player.

DePaul took the consolation title, defeating Penn 96-93 in overtime. The Blue Demons were led by Mark Aguirre's 34

points and 22 from Gary Garland. Aguirre and Garland were also named to the all-tournament team, along with Bird.

Bird had a poor shooting night, hitting on just seven of 21 attempts from the field to lead ISU with 19 points.

MSU used two first-half scoring sprees — outscoring ISU 9-0 to lead 16-8, then hitting seven consecutive points late in the half to stop a Sycamore rally — to take a 37-28 lead at the break.

In the second half MSU tossed in the first seven points and guard Terry Donnelly hit four long bombs to give the Spartans their 16-point bulge. Donnelly scored 15 points in the game, including 13 in the second half.

But Bird, reserve Heaton and guard Carl Nicks scored 22 of ISU's first 26 points in the second half to make a run at MSU. Nicks finished with 17 points, fouling out with 2:43 to go in the game, while Heaton added 10.

Bird led all rebounders with 13, but he had only two assists. "We were hoping he would have a sub-par game and we didn't want him to cut us apart with his passing," Heathcote added.

Indiana State coach Bill Hodges pulled Bird in the final minutes, and the 6-foot-9 senior sobbed on the bench as MSU scored 12 of its final 16 points at the foul line in running out the clock on the Sycamores.

Bird then stayed in the locked dressing room until the University of Utah Special Events Center emptied. Hodges said, "I asked him to come to the press conference. But he said he didn't want to come."

Hodges said his team had had "a tremendous year. Anyone disappointed with the success we have had this year has to be a lesser man than I am. We got the shots we have been getting all year but just didn't hit."

ISU shot only 38 percent in the first half and 42.2 percent in the game, while MSU hit a blistering 60.5 percent from the field in the game. And the Spartans stayed with the Sycamores on the boards, edged by just one — 37-36.

# Resignation

## Conflicting stories in Bender's departure

By MARK PATTERSON  
Battalion Sports Staff

After leading the Aggie Ladies basketball team to a 26-18 season record and a berth in the AIAW regional tournament, Wanda Bender is no longer head coach of the team.

Bender and the Texas A&M athletic department have conflicting stories on the resignation, which *The Battalion* learned of last weekend from sources outside the athletic department.

According to Kay Don, women's athletic director at Texas A&M, Bender submitted a written resignation to Don on March 12 and gave no reason for the resignation.

"I received the written resignation two weeks ago," Don said Monday. "In it there were no reasons for the resignation."

But when contacted Monday, Bender said she was asked by the department to resign the coaching position.

"When we returned from the regional tournament (Friday, March 9), I was called in to meet with Kay Don and Marvin Tate (interim athletic director)," Bender said. "I was then asked to relinquish all my coaching responsibilities. I had heard that I would not be offered a

contract for next year. And I was given no reason for the move."

Bender, who came to Texas A&M after coaching at the high school level, compiled a 45-36 record in her two years at Texas A&M.

When asked if Bender would have been offered a contract for next season, Don refused to comment.

"All I can say is that we received a resignation from her," Don said. "I don't have any comment on anything else about her contract."

"It didn't come as that much of a surprise to me. I anticipated that it was coming a couple of weeks before it happened. Coach Bender didn't come out and say anything directly, but I could sense it in the conversations that we had."

"As far as I knew she was happy here. I don't know what she plans on doing, whether she plans on staying in coaching or not."

Bender says she is leaving the coaching profession and going into a branch of athletics that deals with the motivational side of sports.

"I'm going into creative performing, involved with building the self-image of athletes," Bender said. "A man came to A&M last Christmas and worked with our athletes. Only

one of the girls took the course, but I became very interested in the subject. I was planning on getting involved with the program this summer at camp, but after talking to the man, I am getting into it full time."

"I loved my job at A&M and never would have quit. I had to be forced out to leave. And maybe it was time to discontinue the job. But I'm OK. I can roll with anything."

Since the resignation, the athletic department has been accepting applications to fill the coaching position. After receiving approximately 15 applications, the department interviewed four candidates intensely.

"We looked at four people strongly," Don said. "We made our decision last week. We submitted our choice to the athletic council for its approval today and all that's left is for Dr. Miller to approve the choice."

Don refused to identify the person suggested, saying that the name would be made public Saturday or Sunday. The new coach will take over the position April 1.

"We won't really lose that much time in recruiting," Don said. "I have contacted the prospects that we are after and contracts have been sent out. I don't see that much of a problem when the new coach comes in."

Bender recommended a candidate for the head coaching position before she left. She refused to identify her recommendation. If he is hired, Bender feels that the basketball program will continue to im-

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DOWNTOWN BRYAN

# Brown goes to UCLA

**United Press International**  
LOS ANGELES — Former Denver Nuggets coach Larry Brown has accepted the head basketball coaching job at UCLA, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday.

Brown would replace Gary Cunningham who resigned last Thursday after two years as head of the Bruins basketball team. A formal announcement was expected either Wednesday or Thursday.

The newspaper said it learned Brown was offered the position Sunday and accepted the same day. UCLA athletic director J.D. Morgan contacted Brown Friday, interviewed him Saturday and offered him the job the following day.

Brown, who was reportedly offered \$40,000, less than half of his Denver salary, said UCLA was just what he was looking for.

"I like them," he said of the ath-

letic administration. "I hope they like me. UCLA has a great tradition. You have a chance there to recruit good students and good athletes. It's almost a perfect situation."

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# Aggs beat Rattlers

The Texas A&M baseball team kept a double-header with St. Mary's University Monday in San Antonio.

In the first game, Rodney Hodde outed the Rattlers 3-0. The Aggies scored their first two runs in the second inning off of RBI singles by Andy Woodruff and Mark Warner.

In the third, Buster Turner knocked in Shelton McMath with a sacrifice fly.

Hodde is now 2-1 for the season. St. Mary's Lance Carrington (3-4) was credited with the loss.

In the nightcap, Steve Davis was given the win as the Aggies won 6-3. Mike Hurdle went three-for-three at the plate for the Aggies as Texas A&M boosted its season record to 17-7.

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