2015 Spartans - a Team that Found Ways to Win

The disappointment in losing so emphatically to Alabama - the eventual national title team - was a cruel way for MSU’s football team to end an otherwise brilliant season. Injuries through the autumn made several games closer than expected, but MSU prevailed somehow, the best example the final moment in Ann Arbor. But other games provided drama, including the Big Ten title game against Iowa, a bruising battle ending with an MSU march taking over nine minutes and ending with AJ Scott’s victorious reach over the goal line (lower picture). But maybe the most shocking victory was MSU’s upset of Ohio State in Columbus, holding the 13-point favorite Buckeyes to 132 total yards (upper picture) and driving in the final seconds to set up a field goal as time ran out. No matter about Alabama: The Spartans made us proud.
Executive Committee

Executive Director          Alan Haller ’92
President                           R. Paul Vance ’01
1st Vice President             Lauren Aitch ’09
2nd Vice President            Tim Bograkos ’04
Secretary                           Travis Key ’07
Director Emeritus              David Brogan ’56
Past President                   Cheryl Gilliam ’81

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Sue Selke ’76                     Dave Thomas ’01
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Young Alumni
Kristen Henn ’13                 Vacant
Erica Mann ’11

Office Staff: Marilyn Bria  (Office Hours: M-Th, 12-4; F, 12-3)
Newsletter Editor: Ron Berby

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We value your opinion and want to know what you think about the Varsity ‘S’ Club Newsletter. Send us an e-mail, call or fax with items or topics you would like to see included in future newsletters. If you have suggestions on how to improve the publication, let us know.

Elections for the Board of Directors of the Varsity ‘S’ Club are held each spring. If you would like to serve on the Board, simply visit our website, click on the application tab, print the form, complete, and mail to the the club office.

Winter 2016

President’s Message:

As has become the norm, it has been yet another great year for MSU athletics, and a busy year for the Varsity ‘S’ Club. We celebrated our 100 Year Anniversary, hosted more tailgates than ever, and had our biggest golf outing on record. These are only a few of the highlights of this past year. Heading into the summer and fall of 2016, I would like you to please be aware of the following dates:

Spring Football Game – Saturday, April 23, 2016 – 3 p.m. kickoff. Club room opens at 1:30 p.m.
Varsity ‘S’ Golf Outing – Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at Forest Akers
Reunion Banquet – Friday, September 23, 2016
Homecoming Parade – Friday, October 14, 2016

Please keep these dates in mind as you plan your summer and fall activities. We would love to see you back on campus and to host you at one of our events.

I would also like to announce the 2016 Varsity ‘S’ Club award winners and honorary members. We are extremely blessed to have a very distinguished group of honoree and inductees this year.

Award Winners:
Henry C. Bullough Service Award: Todd “T.J.” Duckett - Football 2000-2001
Jack Breslin Award: Jerry Sutton - Baseball 1962-1964
Nell C. Jackson Outstanding Alumna Award: Cheryl Gilliam - Track & Field 1978-1981
Eldon VanSpybrook Retired Coaches Award: Gus Ganakas - Basketball Coach 1969-1976
Cheryl M. Gilliam Young Alumni Award: Kaleb Thornhill - Football 2003-2007

(Continued on page 3)
Honorary Members:

Jack Nelson - a sax player, he’s played for decades with the Marching Band, the Spartan Brass, the Alumni Pep Band, and the Strolling Band, which has wandered, playing in tailgate areas.

Tom Shepard - for 27 years has been the Video Coordinator for MSU’s football team and filled in for the basketball team until 2000 when Coach Tom Izzo was able to hire a full-time coordinator.

Eric Thomas - went from being a homeless teenager to earning a PhD. He’s developed self improvement programs with companies and universities around the world.

Marilyn Bria - for 5 years has been the voice of the ‘S’ Club in phone conversations with members. As office staff, she’s been the link between members, the Club, and the Athletic Department.

As we continue to honor the past, celebrate the present, and support the future by posting Club related news, events, programs and information on our social media outlets, we will be using the hashtag #S2S4 (Spartans today, Spartans forever). Please retweet, favorite and like these social media posts, and use the hashtags on your own social media to help us support and promote these initiatives and the Varsity S Club.

You can find us on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/MSUVarsitySClub and on twitter and Instagram @MSU_VarsityS. You can also stay up to date by visiting our website at http://msuvarsitysclub.org/.

Walsh among Elite 1% in Spanish El Camino Trek

At the left is John Walsh, MSU Football: the early 1960s, at the finish of the hilly portion of the El Camino Pilgrim Hike in northern Spain.

Walsh was an offensive guard and inside linebacker on the Spartan football team from 1961 to 1965, while wearing number 63. He also served as President of the Varsity ‘S’ Club from 1964 to 1965.

Walsh hiked a total of 225 miles at an average of 13.5 miles a day while carrying a 27-pound backpack, and was proud to receive the Compestela Completion Certificate. He described it as “a super experience” . . with “an abundance of time to refocus my mind on my God, life and service.”

Walsh said that the official who presented him with his certificate, noting his age at 72, said that only 1% of the hikers completing the Trek were 71 years or older. He said his light backpack and a head sweatband carried MSU logos, and that “Our Spartan Nation was well represented on the El Camino Trail.”

Regan again Helps U.S. Eight to Gold Medals

At right is former Spartan rower Emily Regan, originally of Williamsville, New York. This editor mistakenly omitted her picture in the Fall 2015 Issue, when she posed with her rowing teammates on page 4, a picture as part of “Scenes from Reunion Weekend.” Emily was a member of an American 8 team that won Gold in the World Championships in September 2015 in Aiguebelette, France, ahead of New Zealand and Canada. The most decorated rower in the history of the Spartan rowing program, Emily pushed her medal count to eight in the five years since joining the US Residency Program in Princeton. In 2013 she was part of a US Eight team at Rotse/Lucerne Switzerland. Their time at 5:54:16 still stands as the best ever. For quite some time Emily’s focus has been centered on this year’s Olympics Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Bruce McCristal - 1932 to 2015

Above is Bruce McCristal signing his book, *The Spirit of Michigan State*, a huge undertaking which showed best his great love of all things MSU. Bruce, an honorary ‘S’ Club Member, passed away on Christmas Day, 2015. His lifelong service to Michigan State is known by many in our Club and at our great university.

Bruce literally grew up on MSU’s campus, going from kindergarten through college in East Lansing, graduating in 1954 from Michigan State’s School of Business. He went on to be a Captain and pilot in the U.S. Air Force, and enjoyed a 30-year career at General Motors. At GM’s World Headquarters he was director of world wide employee communications, coordinating the public relations activities of 35 GM divisions.

Eldon Vanspybrook, the ‘S’ Club President from 2007 to 2009, contacted Bruce and asked if the Club could reprint the chapter in *Spirit* on MSU athletics. He graciously agreed. That led to the development of the Championship Wall that Bruce spearheaded and updated each year. The Wall comprises hundreds of feet of Spartan sports history in the hallway outside our Varsity ‘S’ Club Room. The next time you’re on campus, visit Spartan Stadium’s 2nd floor hallway, seeing the reporting and pictures resulting from Bruce’s work.

Many from the M.S.U. family attended Bruce’s Memorial service at Birmingham, Michigan’s Presbyterian Church on January 30th, 2016, remembering a truly great Spartan.

Spartans Lead in Several Big Ten Academic Categories

The Big Ten Conference recently announced its Academic All-Big Ten honorees for the fall semester 2015, with Spartans notable in five categories. To achieve Academic All-Big Ten a student must be a sophomore, junior or senior with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better. Below are Spartan teams with exceptional achievement in the 14-school Big Ten Conference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Total Big Ten Honorees</th>
<th>Number Spartan Honorees</th>
<th>% of Honorees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Cross Country</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Cross Country</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Soccer</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special honors went to student-athletes who had perfect 4.0 cumulative GPAs, with an impressive five Spartans among the elite 21 in the Big Ten! They are:

Gabrielle Gauruder, Women’s Soccer (senior-special education); Maggie Halloran, Volleyball (senior-interdisciplinary studies in social science); Alana O’Mara, Women’s Cross Country (sophomore-neuroscience); Kelcy Welch, Women’s Cross Country (sophomore, kinesiology); and Garret Zuk, Men’s Cross Country (junior-mathematics)
Fall 2015 Graduates

Baseball: Ryan Krill
Football: Chris Laneaux, Connor Cook, Paul Lang, Thomas Vento, Phillip-Michael Williams, Donavon Clark, Brandon Clemens, Trevor Pendleton, John Allen, Michael O’Connor, Michael Topolinski, Deanthony Arnett, Aaron Troup, and Lawrence Thomas
Men’s Soccer: Zachary Bennett, Asa Miller, and Quinn McAnaney
Men’s Track: Ross Parsons
Men’s Tennis: Jadun Harris
Crew: Emma Green and Chelsea Kneuer
Field Hockey: Abby Barker, Claire Johnson, Heather Howie and Allison Helwig
Women’s Golf: Mariah Massa
Softball: Alyssa McBride
Women’s Soccer: Mary-Kathryn Fiebernitz, Megan Marsack, and Nicole Caruso
Women’s Track: Tori Franklin

Haven’t been on campus in a while? You might not recognize building on right.

It’s on Grand River Avenue, a couple buildings east of the Union, and a few buildings west of the new Broad Modern Art Museum. Don’t let its many windows fool you. There’s no glass in them. It is in fact a parking ramp, four stories of spaces available to the many students (total enrollment: 50,000) who drive these days!

Passings

Oscar Hahn, 78, Football - 1958-60 - Died Jan. 23, 2016 - Oscar was MHSAA Champion in the shot put at Midland High. At MSU he lettered for three years, as an offensive guard and linebacker on defense, and played in the Copper Bowl, an all-star game for college stand-outs. Oscar had a construction company, and started the building trades program at Midland High School. He was an assistant football coach for several successful Midland High teams and employed many players in his summer construction projects.

Don Schiesswohl, 85, Football - 1952-53 - Died Dec. 31, 2015 - Don also was a great competitor in football and track - for Saginaw Arthur Hill High School. He played a year of football for Bear Bryant at Alabama, and then transferred to MSU, where he lettered three years in track and played under Biggie Munn. He was a member of State’s 1952 National Championship team and then the Big Ten and Rose Bowl Championship team in 1953. He taught for more than 30 years in the Buena Vista and Saginaw school districts.
Michigan State University Varsity ‘S’ Club
Merchant Discount Program

The Varsity ‘S’ Club coordinates a program with several campus-area merchants to give club members a discount on purchases when you present your membership card. So if you live in the East Lansing area, or when you visit campus, please patronize these fine merchants who support MSU athletics. Listed below are merchants participating in the program. Discount amounts vary by merchant, so please check with your cashier or waitperson prior to ordering.

Albert’s Furniture - ph.: 734/728-3111 - 32344 Michigan Ave. - Wayne
Applebee’s - 2284 Woodlake Drive - Okemos
Arby’s - 2220 Jolly Rd. - Okemos
Bell’s Greek Pizza - 1135 E. Grand River Ave. - East Lansing
Bravo! Cuchina Italiana - Eastwood Town Center - Lansing
Cosi - 301 E. Grand River Ave. - East Lansing
Dusty’s Cellar - 1839 W Grand River Ave. - Okemos
Forest Akers West Pro Shop - MSU Golf Courses
Grand Traverse Pie Co. - 1401 E Grand River Ave. - East Lansing
Grand Traverse Pie Co - 3536 Meridian Crossing - Okemos
Gilbert & Blake Steak & Seafood - 3554 Okemos Rd. - Okemos
Great Soak Hot Tub Company - ph: 827 Horton Rd. - Jackson
Harper’s - 131 Albert Avenue - East Lansing
Holden & Reid Clothiers - Frandor Shopping Center - Lansing Twp.
Kellogg Hotel - State Room Restaurant - MSU Campus
Kellogg Hotel - Gift Shop - MSU Campus
Great Soak Hot Tub Company - 517/787-0660 - 827 Horton Rd. - Jackson
Leo’s Lodge - 2525 E. Jolly Rd. - Lansing
Leo’s Outpost - 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave. - Lansing
Leo’s Spirits and Grub - 2085 W Grand River Ave. - Okemos
Michael’s (Framing Dept. only) - Frandor Shopping Center - Lansing Twp.
Panera Bread - Frandor Shopping Center - Lansing Twp.
Panera Bread - 4738 Central Park Dr. - Okemos
The Pizza House - 4790 S. Hagadorn, Suites 114-116 - East Lansing
Reno’s East Sportsbar & Grill - 1310 Abbot Rd. - East Lansing
Reno’s West Sportsbar & Grill - 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy. - Lansing
Spartan Book Store - International Center - Campus
Spartan Hall of Fame Cafe - 1601 Lake Lansing Rd. - East Lansing
Student Book Store - 421 E. Grand River Ave - East Lansing
Trippers - Frandor Shopping Center - Lansing Twp.
Velocipede Peddler - 1353 E. Grand River Ave. - East Lansing

Additional merchants will be added as the program develops. For more information about the program, contact the Varsity ‘S’ Club office at 517-355-8523 or the committee members listed below:
ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Location: Forest Akers Golf Course
3535 Forest rd.
East Lansing, MI 48910

Date: 06/01/2016
NOTE TIME CHANGES !!!!!!!!

REGISTRATION 9:30 —11:00
(Register 9:30-10:15—2 FREE Mulligans)
BRUNCH - PROGRAM - SILENT AUCTION -
DOOR PRIZES 10:30—12:30
4 MEMBER TEAM SCRAMBLE:
SHOTGUN START 1:00 PM
SNACKS AT THE TURN
CASH BAR AT THE TALLY BOARD

Contact person: MARILYN BRIA
517-355-8523
MSU VARSITY ‘S’ CLUB
535 CHESTNUT RD., RM W235
EAST LANSING, MI 48824

SIGN UP ONLINE
HTTPS://COMMERCE.CASHNET.COM
/MSU_3719
Notices

Passings

**Charles (Charlie) Brown**, 75, Football - 1961-63 - Died Jan. 1, 2016. Brown, of East Lansing, was an All-Big Ten offensive lineman on Duffy Daugherty’s winning teams of the early 1960s. He served as a school principal, and worked in the State Department of Corrections before retiring.

**Msgr. John Zeitler**, 83, Baseball - 1952-54 - Died Jan. 11, 2016 in his home town, Buffalo, New York. Zeitler captured the 1954 Spartan Baseball Team which finished third in the College World Series, both of its loses coming by one run to the numbers one and two teams in the tournament. Zeitler’s priestly career spanned over 50 years and saw many achievements and accolades.

Honors

**Carl Diener**, Football 1953-54 - Carl, who died in 2013, was inducted into the 2015 Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame. Carl was a two-time state champion in the shot put and member of Arthur Hill’s state Class A runner-up football team. He played on State’s ’53 Rose Bowl Championship Team for Biggie Munn.

Does your Varsity Jacket, which fit when you were twenty, seem tiny these days? Or, do the moths like it even more than you do? Take heart. A Varsity ‘S’ Club Replacement Jacket may be just what you need! Interested? Contact the Club office at: 517/355-8523

SAVE THE DATES

**June 1, 2016** - Golf Outing

**September 23-24, 2016** - Varsity ‘S’ Club Reunion Weekend - versus Wisconsin

**October 14-15** Homecoming Parade and game - versus Northwestern