

Chapter 8 – Kris Weshinskey



Kris Allan Weshinskey

Personal

Kris Weshinskey was born in Arlington Heights, Illinois on March 23, 1972, to Mark Weshinskey and Mary E. Bissey. Kris played at Okemos High on the JV team his freshman year and on the Varsity team his sophomore year, after which his father moved the family to Virginia to take a new job. Weshinskey attended Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville (Loudoun County), Virginia, where he was on the Varsity basketball team during his last two years (1988-90) in high school. On graduating, Weshinskey returned to the East Lansing area to play basketball for Michigan State University for four seasons (1990-94) on scholarship.

Okemos High School

1986-87

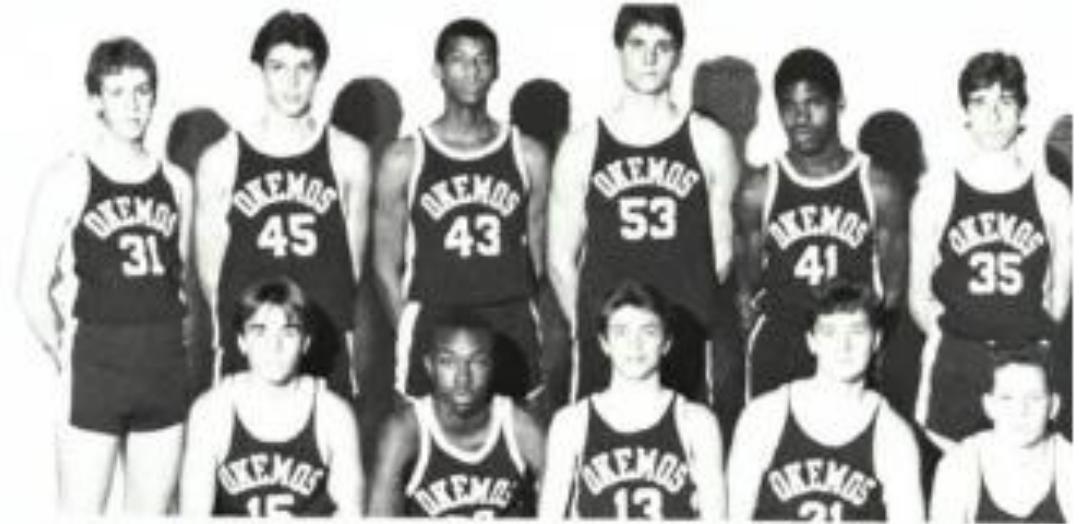
During his freshman year, Weshinskey (#35) played on the Dan Stolz-coached JV team.



J.V.

This year's 1986-87 J.V. basketball team chalked up an impressive 18-1 seasonal record, one game away from having an undefeated season. Under the great guidance of Coach Dan Stolz, the team was able to out-smart, out-score, and out-run their opposition. With such a good season, this year's J.V. team will contribute highly to the Varsity team next year.

And they did it — they made it to the first game of the districts.



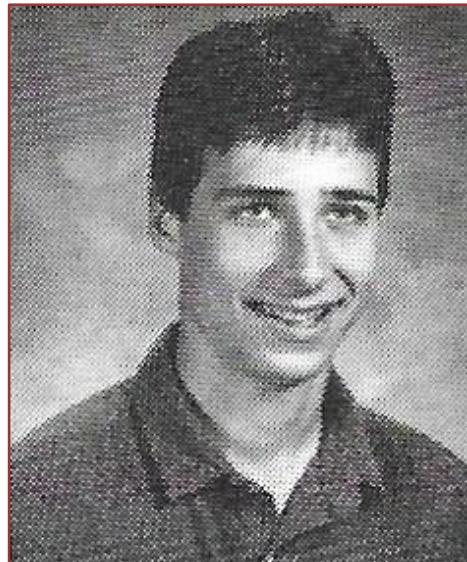
J.V. BASKETBALL Front Row: Barry Dehlin, Perry Paschal, Jade Bolin, Kirk Helferich, Ned Dike. Row Two: Brad Bagaloff, Mark Linton, Rich Fisher, Jeff Wendt, Sean Toomer, Chris Weshinskey.

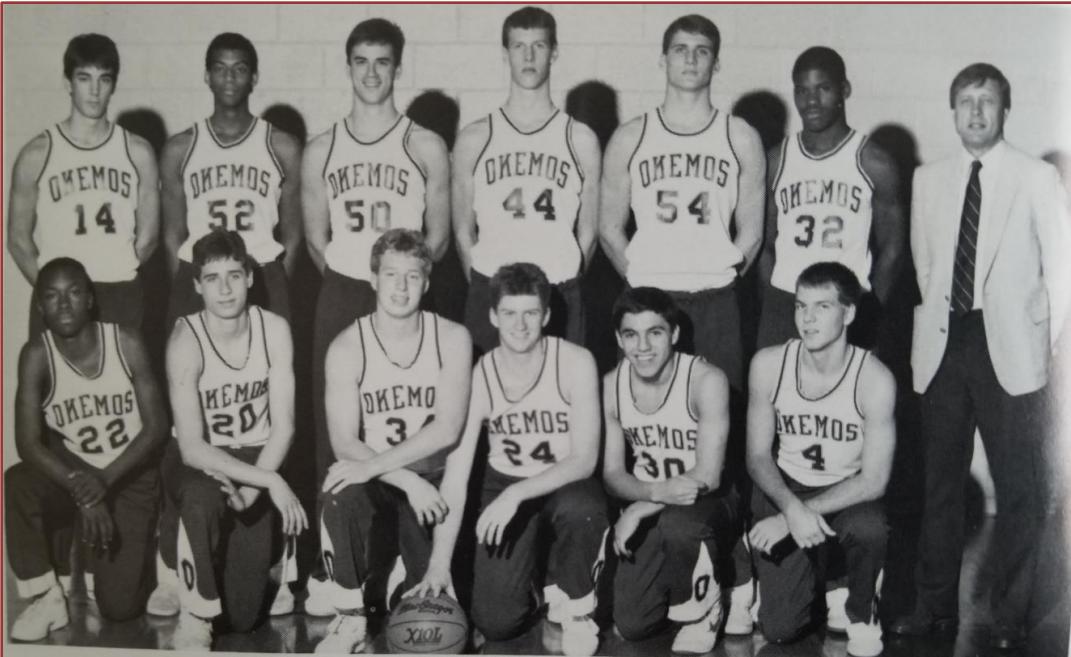
Kris Weshinskey (#35)

The JV team had a nearly perfect season, setting a JV record winning 18 games and losing only one game.

1987-88

During his sophomore year, Weshinskey played on the Varsity team coached by Stan Stolz.





Front Row: Perry Paschal, Chris Weshinskey, Fisher, Mike McCloskey, Jim Wenzel, Jeff Wendt, Sean Toomer, **Coach Stan Stoltz.**
Back Row: Adam Howell, Richie

1987-88 Varsity Squad (Kris Weshinskey #20)

On December 4, non-league opponent **Holt** downed Okemos in a 76-73 season-opening loss. Weshinskey scored 17 points on five field goals (including two 3-pointers) and 5-6 from the charity stripe ([Source](#)).

On December 8, in the season's first game against a Capital Circuit league opponent, Okemos beat **Howell**, 76-33. Weshinskey scored eight points on two field goals and a perfect 4-4 from the free throw line ([Source](#)).

On December 11, Okemos defeated **Lansing Catholic Central**, 71-49, with Weshinskey scoring 13 points on five field goals (including a 3-pointer) and 2-5 from the foul line, raising the Chieftains overall record to 2-1 and 1-0 in the Capital Circuit ([Source](#)).

On December 15, in a non-conference game, Okemos downed **Haslett** ([Source](#)), 73-60, upping the Chieftain's record to 3-1 overall and 2-0 in the Capital Circuit. Weshinskey score 13 points on five field goals including a 3-pointer ([Source](#)).

On January 8, Okemos defeated **Mason**, 79-64, with Weshinskey scoring 18 points on six fields goals (including one 3-pointer) and 5-5 from the charity stripe ([Source](#)).

During the ensuing two-week stretch of five games in the last half of January, Weshinskey's name did not appear in the box score. These games were:

- On January 15, Okemos beat **Charlotte**, 87-51 ([Source](#)).
- On January 19, Okemos crushed **Eaton Rapids**, 72-51 ([Source](#)).
- On January 22, Okemos defeated **DeWitt**, 67-43 ([Source](#)).
- On January 26, Okemos downed **East Lansing**, 74-62 ([Source](#)).
- On January 29, Okemos topped **Lake Odessa-Lakewood**, 64-59 ([Source](#)).

Interviewed by email as to why his name did not appear in the Box Score for those five games, Weshinskey replied:

If I was missing in action, it was a combination of lower back pain that I originally played through and then a "Doctor", who shall remain nameless, tried to do an adjustment on my back less than an hour before tip off. This made my back much worse and forced me to miss a few games. Also missed a game or two due to a deep thigh bruise I believe (Kris Weshinskey, personal communication).

On February 2, with Weshinskey back in the starting lineup, Okemos **Howell**, 72-51, in a non-league match. Weshinskey scored 15 points, including a 3-pointer, five 2-point field goals, and 2-2 from the charity stripe ([Source](#)).

On February 5, Okemos defeated **Lansing Catholic Central**, 81-56, with Weshinskey scoring ten points on two 3-pointers and two 2-point field goals ([Source](#)).

On February 12, Okemos downed **Mason**, 68-59, with Weshinskey scoring eight points on three field goals and 2-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

On February 16, Okemos defeated non-conference opponent **St. Johns**, 69-67, for the Chieftains 13th straight win (13-1) and an honorable mention in the Associated Press Class A poll. Weshinskey scored 10 points on three field goals and 2-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

On February 19, Okemos downed **Charlotte**, 91-60. Weshinskey scored 23 points on nine field goals (including three 3-pointers) and 2-3 from the charity stripe ([Source](#)).

On February 26, Okemos downed **Eaton Rapids**, 83-51, with Weshinskey scoring 14 points on six field goals including two 3-pointers ([Source](#)).

<p>OKEMOS — After working through a slow-down first half, Capital Circuit champion Okemos exploded past Eaton Rapids in the second half, 52-30, for an 83-51 victory here Friday.</p> <p>The victory was the 10th without a loss in Circuit play for the Chieftains and 15th straight overall after one loss.</p>
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On March 1, Okemos rolled over **DeWitt**, 88-45. Weshinskey chipped in 17 points on seven field goals including three 3-pointers ([Source](#)).

The Chieftains remain unbeaten in 10 Capital Circuit games. They are 18-1 overall with 16 straight victories.

On March 4, Okemos head coach Stan Stolz notched his 400th victory in 27 seasons of coaching and 354th win in 20 seasons as the Chieftains rolled past **Lake Odessa-Lakewood**, 98-68. The victory wrapped up Okemos' second straight unbeaten season in the Capital Circuit and extending the Chieftains' league-winning streak to 29. Weshinskey scored 15 points on six field goals including a 3-pointer ([Source](#)).

On March 8, the Chieftains 18-game winning streak came to a screeching halt as **Jackson** topped Okemos, 72-60, in Class A Tournament action. Weshinskey scored 12 points on five field goals and 2-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

The Chieftains seasons ended with an 17-2 overall record, with a 17-game winning streak between a season-opening loss to **Holt** and a season-ending loss to **Jackson**.

OKEMOS	OPPONENTS	
73	HOLT	76
76	HOWELL	43
71	LANSING CATHOLIC	49
73	HASLETT	60
79	MASON	64
87	CHARLOTTE	51
72	EATON RAPIDS	51
67	DEWITT	43
74	EAST LANSING	62
64	LAKWOOD	59
72	HOWELL	51
81	LANSING CATHOLIC	56
68	MASON	59
69	ST. JOHNS	67
91	CHARLOTTE	60
83	EATON RAPIDS	51
88	DEWITT	45
98	LAKWOOD	68
60	JACKSON	72
108	LANSING AAU	80
122	LANSING AAU	85

Loudoun Valley High School (Class of '89)

1988-89



Kris Weshinskey (Junior Photo)

Boys' Varsity Basketball

LV	OP
77	79
59	61
55	58
80	59
77	58
77	68
55	74
68	59
74	57
41	73
72	61
56	62
69	54
78	36
82	63
71	61
80	47
81	61
85	68
60	57
62	60
	15-0-6

ing a berth at regionals, all accomplished in one fell swoop at the buzzer. Next stop: the Northwestern District Tournament. After that, a bye, and losses at the Region II tournament at Manassas Park, ended the Cinderella season.

"In the beginning we didn't think we'd go far. We set low goals and

The last home game for senior players and fans drew to a close. Tied at 60 with 45 seconds left, the game's intensity made sell-out crowds from Osbourn and home breathless, hoarse, scared, and thrilled, depending on the play. Kris Weshinskey and Jason Simms struggled for a good shot. The fans dreaded overtime; many covered their eyes rather than observe the potentially tragic conclusion of the game.

Weshinskey plunged: a jumper off a drive just inside the foul line. Coaches, parents, and fans realized two facts simultaneously. One, the ball hit the front of the rim. Two, the clock said eight seconds. Vincent Marcellus snagged the rebound and iced the game at the buzzer, 62-60.

Polishing off a season record of 14-6, capturing the district title, and guarantee-

went from there," said Simms, point guard and co-captain. The season's first three games brought defeats.

"We started winning when we got emotional on the court," said Simms. "If someone was having a bad night then the rest . . . picked up the slack," he said.

An eleven game winning streak, from the first meeting with Osbourn to a triumph over Handley in the tournament finals, 74-58, became hard core evidence that Coach Scott Douglas's team was a power house.

Weshinskey was grateful for the wins. "In the beginning I had a lot of pressure, since everyone had heard so much, but after we started winning the pressure was off," said Weshinskey, who was named to first team All-Region and second team All-State.

Coach Douglas, who predicted a season record lower than the real 14-6 said, "I'm satisfied. We started 0-3 . . . and then we went on to win 11 in a row and won the district championship. That's real tribute to Jason and Vincent." Douglas coached his 300th victory the same season.

Two losses due to academic ineligibilities, senior Butch Payne, a scoring guard, and junior Dante Howard at midterms proved disheartening.

Marcellus, bound for a junior college, made second team All-District, scoring 10-17 points per game. "it was a challenge to see how far we could go," he said. "Sometimes I wish I could go back and start over from the first game. I'm really going to miss playing basketball here, and playing for such a great coach, staff, and teammates," he finished.



Varsity Basketball: Front Row: Jason Simms, Vincent Marcellus. Row Two: Carlos Nuñez, Billy Coburn, Chris Weshinsky, Tom Cassidy, Dante Howard.

Back Row: Brian Welsh, David Bullard, Vashon Page, Coach Scott Douglas, John Ely, Andrew Spannaus, Butch Payne.

1988-1989 LVHS Varsity Squad (#12 Kris Weshinsky)

In early March 1989, with the Loudoun Valley Vikings having won the District championship and about to compete in Virginia's Group AA regional basketball competition, one newspaper noted Weshinsky's prowess with the three-point shot:

The smaller Vikings, who finished runner-up in the state last year, like the three-point shot. And to master that, they have transfer Kris Weshinsky, a 6-3 junior guard who is averaging 24.6 points a game. Weshinsky has hit 43 of 105 3-point attempts for a 41 percent accuracy this year. He took the place of Chris Leonard who is now playing at West Virginia University.



Unfortunately, in the first game of that regional tournament, **Harrisonburg** beat the Vikings, 58-48.



Grand Slam

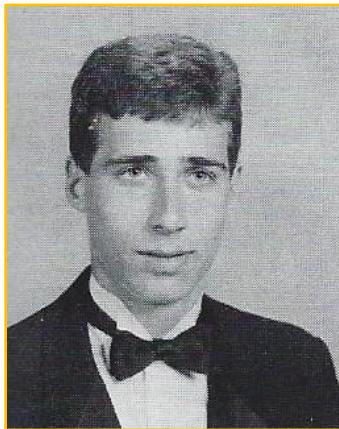
The opening round of regional competition sees Kris Weshinsky score two of his 343 season points. Weshinsky scored 18 points in the game, which ended with a 48-58 loss to the Harrisonburg Blue Streaks. (photo by Douglas Graham)

Weshinsky Scores (1989 Yearbook)

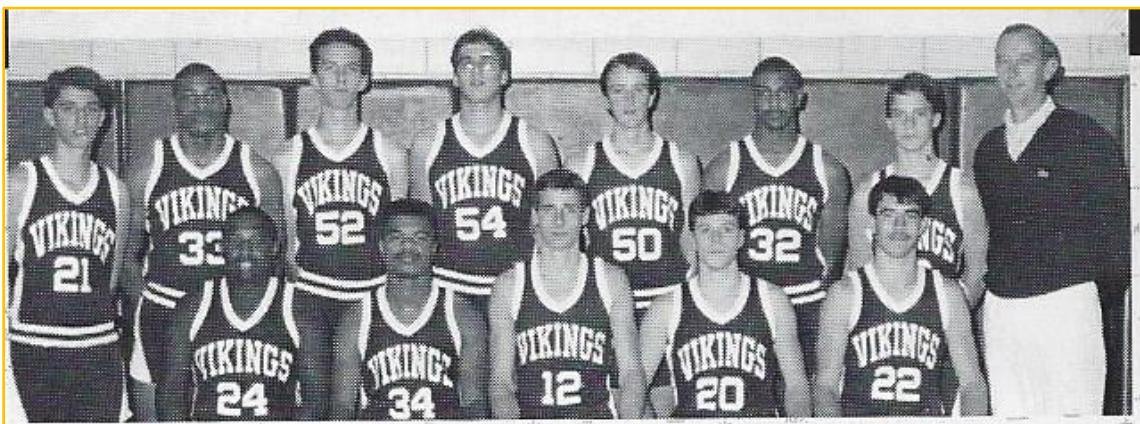
Laurels

At the end of the season, Kris was named to the Associated Press Virginia All Group AA second team ([Source](#)).

1989-1990



Kris Weshinskey (Senior Photo)



Varsity Basketball. Front Row: Len Ramey, Dante Howard, Kris Weshinskey, Tom Cassidy, Billy Coburn. **Back Row:** Nick Kakouras, Perry Gaskins, Jamie Pancoast, Todd Thomson, Ryan Scribner, Marcel Howard, Greg Williams, Coach Scott Douglas.

1989-1990 LVHS Varsity Squad (#12 Kris Weshinskey)

Suspense-filled games, fast-paced action, and overflowing stands mark the basketball season, as varsity players keep

SPIRITS

FLYING HIGH

"W hoooo, Bundy!" the basketball players cheered in the lockerroom. It was as if they were extended members of the television's Bundy family.

The Sunday night sitcom "Married . . . With Children" inspired the chant. The team circled up before each game to do the Bundy Cheer and slap hands. "I think everyone on our team loved the Bundy's. It psyches us up and puts us in a good mood", said Kris Weshinsky.

Players mimicked Al Bundy on and off the court. Tom Cassidy and Weshinsky could be heard muttering "Awww Peg" in their Bundy voices in class and in practice. "Sometimes we would lose so much energy during practice that the only things that kept us going were the suckers, candy, and Reese's from

JUMPSTREET. In a game against Osbourn, Tom Cassidy leaps in the air for a baseline shot. The Vikings won the home game 46-40. (photo by Bryan Welsh)

(Bill) Coburn", Cassidy said.

Practices sharpened skills that led the team to its double victory at the Times-Mirror Christmas Tournament. The Vikings won both rounds of the tournament by close margins, icing Loudoun County by two points and Broad Run by three. Weshinsky considered the "Christmas Tourney" the most exciting and surprising part of the season.

As close as the margins of victory at the tournament were the margins of loss in district games. Six games were lost by less than five points. "We made little mistakes that cost us big games", said Dante Howard.

"It was the little things", Weshinsky said in his Bundy voice, speaking of missed passes and shots. "Losing all the close-close games was the most disappointing part", he said.

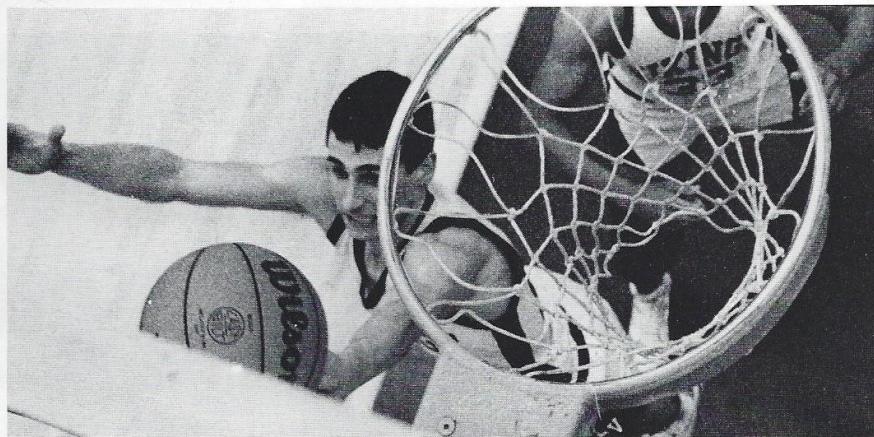
Perry Gaskins and Marcel Howard agreed the most exciting game was at home against Jefferson. "Jefferson was when we played as a TEAM", they said.

"And 'team' should be in capital letters."

The game, which the Vikings won 68-66, marked the coming together of all the vital elements: skill, talent and teamwork, and luck. The game came down to the final buzzer with the Vikings ahead by two points. A Jefferson player dribbled past the half-court, shot as the buzzer sounded, and made a basket. The three point shot was void, as the referees determined the shot was made after time was up.

The season ended on a high note with Kris Weshinsky named to First Team All-District. The senior, who signed a Michigan State contract also took a place on the McDonald's Capital Classic team, an honor respected nationwide.

"Whoooa, Bundy". It was a season of close calls and close ties that survived because of a team-wide sense of humor, Bundy style. *Sarah Kill Kelley*



SLAM CAM. A reach for a rebound by Kris Weshinsky is caught by a remote-controlled camera attached to the backboard.

The home game ended in a 75-69 Viking win over Warren County. (photo by Bob Ritchie)

RUNAWAY. Followed by Broad Run's defense, Kris Weshinsky looks for a shot. Weshinsky scored 21 points, but Broad Run ended up beating the Vikings 76-58. (photo by John Diehl)

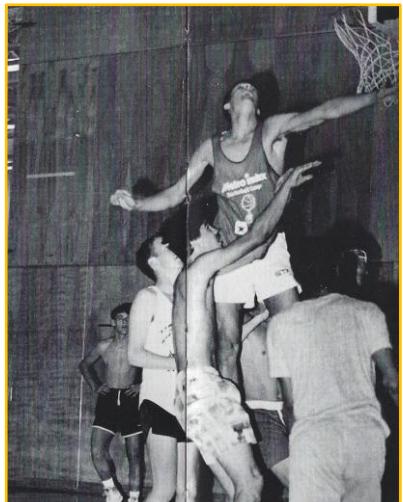


	LV	OP
O'Connell	55	59
Broad Run	56	76
Loudoun Co.	81	74
Broad Run	71	68
Warren Co.	58	60
Martinsburg	50	87
Handley	58	60
Loudoun Co.	72	81
Martinsburg	50	91
Osborn	46	40
Jefferson Co.	75	76
Park View	60	57
Handley	69	72
O'Connell	43	72
Loudoun Co.	72	77
Broad Run	63	75
Park View	72	69
Jefferson Co.	68	66
Warren Co.	75	69
Osborn	48	52
Loudoun Co.	81	79
Broad Run	71	68
Loudoun Co.	92	83

10-13-0

All-District
Kris Weshinsky
All-Region
Kris Weshinsky
McDonald's Capital
Classic
Kris Weshinsky

1990 Loudoun Valley High School Yearbook



More six foot-five inch men roamed the hall by the gym than usual. It was not a visiting basketball team waiting to outsize the Vikings. It was a corps of visiting college basketball coaches, interested in recruiting Kris Weshinsky.

Weshinsky caught the attention of such schools as JMU, UVA, Wake Forest, and Michigan State. The coaches visited summer basketball camps to watch players practice with their home teams and to discuss scholarship possibilities.

DRAFTED

A pick-up game of sorts is played to give visiting college recruiters a look at Kris Weshinsky and his teammates in action. Billy Coburn, Lawrence Zellner, Chris Nickens, and Greg Herrmann participated in the game in front of such coaches as UVA's Terry Holland. (photo by Bob Ritchie)

1990 Loudoun Valley High School Yearbook

Laurels

Kris Weshinskey, Loudoun Valley



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- Selected MVP and to all-tournament team at recent Loudoun Times Mirror Tournament after scoring 21 points against Loudoun County and 26 against Broad Run.
- The 6-foot-3 junior is averaging 25.3 points per game this year playing shooting guard.
- Scored 31 points against Jefferson County earlier this season. ...

LVHS Viking to Michigan State Spartan

During the 1989-90 season Weshinskey's coach (Scott Douglas) gave Kris a list of 20 potential colleges to consider as potential schools to play basketball at the university level. Douglas said that he'd write a letter to each school's head coach to introduce Kris and provide information about the basketball camps Kris would attend during the summer of 1989. One of those letters landed on the desk of Michigan State University Head Coach Jud Heathcote. MSU gave Kris a look over the summer and this led to the following early 1990 *Washington Post* article.

WESHINSKEY ANSWERS MICHIGAN STATE CALL

By **Bob Kaplow**

January 18, 1990

Michigan State basketball coach Jud Heathcote had lost recruits before, but probably not like this. After watching a promising sophomore play at Okemos High School outside of East Lansing, the player disappeared. But to a coach more accustomed to Magic than magic, Kris Weshinskey's disappearance was indeed a mystery.

If only he'd asked any coach in the Northwestern District. For, other than coach Scott Douglas who is fortunate enough to have the services of the 6-foot-3 guard, who transferred to Loudoun Valley before last year, they had seen more than enough of Heathcote's missing prospect.

"For the caliber of player he's playing against I think he's the best in the district," said Handley Coach Tom Dixon, who watched Weshinskey beat his team with 33 points in last season's district title game.

"He's a Division I player without a doubt. He's a blue chip player," added Park View Coach Ken Edwards.

But, fortunately for both coach and player, Heathcote was tipped off as to Weshinskey's whereabouts by the father of a friend of Weshinskey's. A Michigan State assistant coach was sent to watch Weshinskey perform at the prestigious Five Star Basketball Camp. And, after claiming the MVP award of the camp's all-star game and Most Outstanding Player award for the second week-long session, he was offered a scholarship to the Big Ten school.

After considering Wake Forest, Virginia and others, Weshinskey signed a letter-of-intent during the early signing period in November.

"After I moved I thought I wouldn't mind going back there," said Weshinskey, who also strongly considered attending Wake Forest or Virginia. "When I went {to Michigan State} for a visit, I knew that's where I belonged."

And once his decision was made he was anxious to put the signing behind him.

"I didn't want to be playing for college coaches, with them sitting in the stands the whole time," said Weshinskey. "It would be frustrating if {opponents} were playing those defenses on me and all the college coaches were watching."

"Those defenses" are the gimmick alignments that Weshinskey faces in almost every game. After averaging 24.7 points per game as a junior last year, teams are determined to stop the sharp-shooting guard.

"When he's being relied on to do everything, it comes a little harder from the point guard spot," said Douglas, who moved his standout to point this season. "It's almost inhumane how it works when you have to see it night in and night out."

Despite the extra attention, Weshinskey is averaging over 18 point per game for the young and struggling Vikings.

"I can usually get my hands on the ball but every time I penetrate there are three or four guys coming to trap me," Weshinskey said. "It gets frustrating."

A unanimous all-district selection a year ago, Weshinskey also claimed all-region and all-state honors. He has claimed the MVP award in both Loudoun Times-Mirros Christmas Classics in which he has played and he was an honorable motion All-Met selection. This year he was a preseason honorable mention All-American by Street and Smith's basketball magazine.

"There is no question {that he's one of the best players I've had}," said Douglas, who has had a long line of standout players at Valley, most recently Chris Leonard who is currently playing for West Virginia. "He does so many things. Kris can jump, he can drive, he can play defense and he can block shots. He's just a cut above everyone else."

An excellent shooter off the pass, Weshinskey is steadily improving his ball handling and shooting off the dribble as he grows accustomed to the point guard spot. And his exceptional jumping ability is evidenced by 27 dunks last season and four in a game earlier this year.

But, despite connecting on 56 percent of his two-point attempts and 42 percent of his three-pointers, Weshinskey admits he will have to improve his game to compete in the rugged Big Ten.

"Before I go there I have to lift a lot of weights and get my upper body bigger," said Weshinskey, who Hoops Scoop magazine compared to Charlotte Hornets' guard Rex Chapman. "{The Michigan State coaches} said that I have a good chance to be in the playing group."

Then you can be sure Heathcote won't take his eye off his new recruit.

On April 10, 1990, the *Lansing State Journal* reported that Kris Weshinskey of Purcellville, Virginia (and formerly of Okemos High) would join the Michigan State University Spartans ([Season](#)).

MSU recruits

- **Andy Penick:** 6-foot-2, Pleasure Ridge Park high school in Louisville, Ky.
- **Anthony Miller:** 6-9, Benton Harbor.
- **Kris Weshinskey:** 6-3, Loudon Valley in Purcellville, Va.
- **Shawn Respert:** 6-3, Redford Bishop Borgess.

Their 1990 incoming class — a four-player group ranked No. 8 in the nation by HoopScoop — was signed and sealed by mid-November.

"We've got to polish up a lot of things," Weshinskey said. "I know I've got to get stronger, become better able to handle the pressure of the really quick guards and just move it up a notch in every area."

On October 5, 1990, Jack Ebling's feature article on Kris Weshinskey appeared in the *Lansing State Journal*.

Okemos native to play at MSU

By JACK EBLING
Lansing State Journal

You can always go home again if you're a basketball prospect like Kris Weshinskey.

The 6-foot-3 guard, who grew up in Okemos and moved to Purcellville, Va., before his junior year of high school, said Wednesday he'll play for Michigan State next season.

"Until I came out here, I really had no plans to play major-college basketball," Weshinskey said Wednesday.

"I used to go watch Michigan State play. But there weren't a lot of Big Ten players from Okemos."

Weshinskey will officially become one by signing a national letter-of-intent during the NCAA's early-signing period in November.

"I'd pretty much made my mind up before visiting campus again last weekend," said a player who also took trips to Virginia and Wake Forest.

"I liked Michigan State's campus. And I liked all its coaches. But there was one other factor I considered.

"I asked myself, 'Where would you go if you didn't play basketball?' For me, that was Michigan State."

Weshinskey is ranked among the nation's top 50 players by The Hoop Scoop

The Weshinskey file

- **Name:** Kris Weshinskey.
- **Size:** 6-foot-3.
- **Position:** Guard.
- **Background:** Grew up in Okemos and moved to Purcellville, Va., before his junior year of high school.
- **Rated:** Among the nation's top 50 players by The Hoop Scoop magazine.

and is rated the 85th best senior by supercruit Bob Gibbons.

He averaged 25 points per game as a junior and dazzled recruiters at Five-Star Camps this summer in Honesdale, Pa., and Pittsburgh.

MSU coach Jud Heathcote remembered Weshinskey from his sophomore season at Okemos, when he averaged nearly 14 points per game for Stan Stolz.

And assistant Tom Izzo saw all he needed to see this summer when Weshinskey went against some of the nation's best competition and dunked over players 4 inches taller.

"I guess I've always been a pretty good

jumper," said a player whose acrobatics were the talk of the Honesdale camp.

"I'm a little streaky as a 3-point shooter. But I've really improved as a ball-handler. Now, I'm working hard on my strength and consistency."

Weshinskey has a 2.7 grade-point average and has already met NCAA standards on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

He's seen as an off guard in the Spartan plans, especially with Kirk Manns and Todd Wolfe leaving after this season.

Heathcote plans to sign four prep standouts, including another guard, a forward and an inside player.

"Jud said he plans to bring two guards in, and that one will have a great chance to start as a freshman," Weshinskey said of half of a four-player recruiting class.

"I think I'm more of a 2 guard. And I think Michigan State offers the best opportunity for me there."

It also offers a chance to play in the Breslin Student Events Center, a radically different environment from Jenison Field House, where Weshinskey was an occasional spectator.

"That wasn't the reason I chose Michigan State," he said. "But the Breslin Center seems huge in comparison. It'll be wild to play in front of so many people."

Including so many old friends.

On March 27, Kris Weshinskey and the U.S. All-Stars team competed against the Capital All-Stars in the 17th annual McDonald's Capital Classic held at the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland.

7-6 All-American to lead U.S. stars

Shawn Bradley, 7 feet 6, will lead the U.S. All-Stars against the Capital All-Stars in the 17th annual McDonald's Capital Classic tonight at 8 at the Capital Centre.

The Capital basketball team won last year but trails in the series, 10-6.

Bradley has averaged 25 points, 17 rebounds and nine blocked shots for Emery County High in Castle Dale, Utah.

In addition to playing basketball, Bradley is the starting shortstop for Emery County's baseball team, batting .407 last year. He also is an avid golfer.

Bradley is one of six members of the McDonald's All-America team selected for the Capital Classic.

The other All-Americans on the U.S. team are forward Melvin Simon and center Bill Curley. Curley will not play because of a foot injury.

The three All-Americans on the Capital team are forward Grant Hill, center Michael Smith and forward Kendrick Warren.

Capital Classic rosters

CAPITAL ALL-STARS				
Name	Hgt.	School	College	
Christian Ast	6-8	High Point	Duke	
Kenneth Blakeney	6-4	DeMatha	undecided	
Randolph Childress	6-1	Flint Hill	Wake Forest	
Robert Churchwell	6-7	Gonzaga	Georgetown	
Kevin Gregory	6-3	Cardozo	undecided	
Charles Harrison	6-2	Carroll	Georgetown	
Grant Hill	6-8	South Lakes	Duke	
Frank Martin	6-1	Anacostia	Marshall	
Lawrence Moten	6-4	Carroll	undecided	
Dickey Simpkins	6-10	Friendly	Providence	
Michael Smith	6-8	Dunbar, D.C.	Providence	
Darnell White	6-1	J.E.B. Stuart	undecided	
Kendrick Warren	6-8	At large		
Coach: Henry Lindsey (Cardozo)		Thomas Jefferson (Va.)	undecided	

Name	Hgt.	School	Home state	College
Shawn Bradley	7-6	Emery County	Utah	BYU
Marty Clark	6-6	St. Joseph	Illinois	Duke
x-Bill Curley	6-9	Duxbury	Mass.	Boston Col.
Jonathan Haynes	6-2	Germantown Friends	Pennsylvania	Temple
Antonio Lang	6-6	LeFlore	Alabama	undecided
Andy Penick	6-2	Pleasure Ridge Park	Kentucky	Michigan St.
Robert Pheips	6-4	Nazareth	New York	Providence
Kenneth Roberts	6-8	Bingham	Utah	undecided
Melvin Simon	6-8	Archbishop Shaw	Louisiana	New Orleans
Pat Sullivan	6-9	Bogota	New Jersey	North Carolina
Justin Thompson	6-3	Oscopia	Florida	Georgia
Carlin Warley	6-7	Phil-Mont Academy	Pennsylvania	St. Joseph's
Kris Weshinskey	6-3	Loudoun Valley	Virginia	Michigan St.
x-will not play because of foot injury				
Coach: Jim Yerkovich (Judge Memorial, Salt Lake City, Utah)				

Michigan State University

Over the four seasons as a Spartan, Weshinskey (6'3) played “swingman” – at time playing small forward and other times as guard (or both positions during the same game).

1990-91

During his first season playing for the Spartans, Weshinskey was in the company of great basketball talent (see team roster below), including future NBA players such as Steve Smith (who led the team in scoring with 25.2 points per game) and fellow freshman Shawn Respert.

1990–91 Michigan State Spartans men's basketball team								
No	Name	Pos	Year	Height	Pts	Reb	Ast	
22	Jeff Casler	G	SR	6-0	0.4	0.4	0.2	
45	Ron Haley	F	SO	6-6	0.4	0.0	0.2	
42	Parish Hickman	F	JR	6-7	6.2	3.9	0.4	
44	Matt Hofkamp	C	FR	6-10	0.8	0.4	0.0	
11	Mark Montgomery	G	JR	6-2	7.3	3.3	5.9	
12	Andy Penick	G	FR	6-2	4.1	0.6	0.8	
54	Mike Pepłowski	C	SO	6-10	7.4	6.5	0.4	
24	Shawn Respert	G	FR	6-3	0.0	0.0	0.0	
21	Steve Smith	G	SR	6-7	25.2	6.0	3.7	
35	Matt Steigenga	F	JR	6-7	12.8	4.9	2.2	
31	Dwayne Stephens	F	SO	6-7	5.2	4.3	1.3	
3	Kris Weshinskey	G	FR	6-3	2.8	1.1	0.7	
25	Jon Zulauf	F	SO	6-6	1.3	1.7	0.1	



MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM: Front Row: Manager Mike Stelmaszek, Head Coach Jud Heathcote, Steve Smith, Matt Hofkamp, Dwayne Stephens, Mike Pepłowski, Parish Hickman, Matt Steigenga, Jon Zulauf, Graduate Assistant Brian Gregory, Student Assistant Strength Coach Dave Ferguson. Back Row: Manager Scott Bernecker, Assistant Coach Jim Boylen, Assistant Coach Stan Joplin, Trainer Tom Mackowiak, Andy Penick, Shawn Respert, Kris Weshinskey, Mark Montgomery, Jeff Casler, Associate Head Coach Tom Izzo, Manager Kevin Reese.

Source: 1991 Red Cedar Log Yearbook

Preseason Exhibition

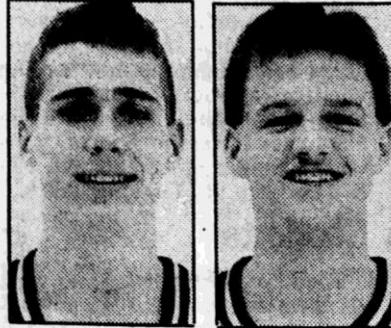
On November 3, the Spartans played their **Green and White Scrimmage**, with the White beating the Green, 82-65, and Weshinskey scoring 21 points.

By GORDON TROWBRIDGE
Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING — It was just a glorified practice, but it did give Michigan State basketball fans their first glimpse of a promising pair of guards.

Freshmen Kris Weshinskey and Andy Pennick, playing for the first time in front of the home fans at the Breslin Center, were the most impressive players not named Steve Smith in the Spartans' Green and White Game Saturday.

They even got more attention than Detroit prep sensation Chris Webber, who was nevertheless the subject of some "We Want Webber!" chants.



Weshinskey **Pennick**

Weshinskey scored 21 points and Pennick 19, both while alternating between Green and White

"This was a good opportunity to play with a lot of people here and see what it's like," said Weshinskey, who hit nine of 14 field goal attempts. "It's quite a bit different shooting with people in the arena."

Weshinskey, who played at Okemos High School before his family moved to Purcellville, Va., said it was helpful to play with fans in the stands.

On November 12, the #4-ranked Spartans lost to **Athletes in Action (AIA)**, 94-91, in an exhibition game. Playing only three minutes, Weshinskey "drilled a 3 for MSU to cut [the AIA lead] to a point for MSU with 0:5 showing" ([Source](#)).

Non-Conference

On November 23, the Spartans defeated **Furman**, 78-73. Playing eleven minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds and two points shooting 1-5 from the field including 0-1 on a 3-point attempt ([Source](#)).

On November 28, **Nebraska** upset the Spartans, 71-69. Weshinskey's name does not appear in the box score ([Source](#)).

On December 1, **Bowling Green State** topped MSU, 98-85. Playing nine minutes, Weshinskey had one rebound, two assists, and eight points shooting 3-4 from the field (including 1-2 on 3-point attempts) and 1-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

After two consecutive losses, Coach Heathcote looked to make a change in the starting lineup (see box below).

Lineup switch seemed to work

By GORDON TROWBRIDGE
Lansing State Journal

DETROIT — The first results from Jud Heathcote's chemistry experiment are in, and so far, he looks a lot more like a Nobel Prize winner than a mad scientist.

Heathcote, the coach of Michigan State's talented-but-faltering basketball team, tried to steady his listing boat by shaking it up a little bit Saturday night against the University of Detroit.

Subtract forward Parish Hickman from the starting lineup, add freshman guard Kris Weshinskey, and Heathcote came up with solid play from the newcomer, a season-best performance from the displaced starter and an 83-61 victory.

"We thought maybe another guard would help us," said Heathcote of a move he'd been considering for weeks. "Weshinskey and Andy Penick might not be ready to play, but we need another ball-handler to take some pressure off Steve Smith, and another shooter to give us another outside threat on the floor."

Weshinskey worked all week with the starting team in practice, which, given Heathcote's grumpy practice personality, might not seem like such a promotion.

"I was nervous all day, all week really," Weshinskey said. "There's a lot more pressure. In practice



Weshinskey

the coaches yell at you a lot more when you make a mistake, because more is expected of you."

In 21 minutes of floor time, Weshinskey hit three of six field goal attempts, all three misses coming on 3-point tries. More importantly, he gave the Spartans added defensive quickness, and committed only one turnover.

Weshinskey said he thinks the primary advantage of the three-guard lineup is on defense, an area of top concern for Heathcote after giving up 98 points to Bowling Green a week ago.

"I think we can check more people," he said. "Steve can go either way, and check a guard or a forward."

In addition, Smith and point guard Mark Montgomery were freed from some of the ball-handling pressure that had resulted in an average of 15.3 turnovers per game in MSU's first three games.

While Weshinskey was enjoying his first college start, Hickman was enduring watching the game in his hometown instead of playing in it.

"It really didn't bother me," said a diplomatic Hickman. "I knew I was going to play, and I just tried to play as hard as I could while I was out there. It was just one of those things."

Hickman scored 11 points, a season-high, and grabbed five rebounds in 16 minutes of floor time.

"It means a lot playing at home. You want to put out a good effort for everyone," said Hickman, who couldn't even guess at how many friends and family members were in the stands at Cobo Arena.

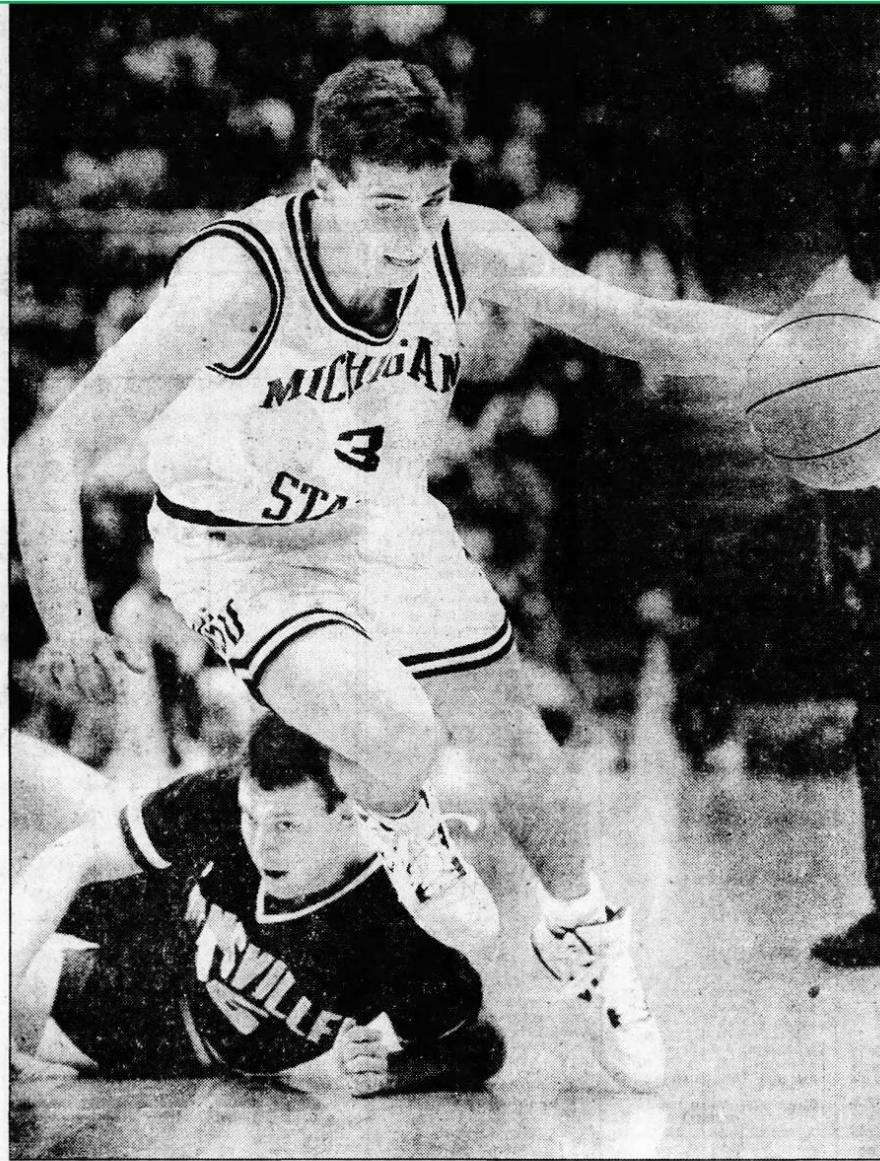
While Hickman seemed to react well to coming off the bench, Heathcote admitted the demotion

On December 8, MSU downed the **University of Detroit**, 83-61. Weshinskey played 21 minutes, had two rebounds, three assists, and nine points shooting 3-6 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On December 13, the Spartans downed **Cincinnati**, 65-63. While Weshinskey did not score, he had four rebounds ([Source](#)).

On December 15, MSU lost to No. 1-ranked **UNLV**, 95-75. "Spartan forward Dwayne Stephens replaced guard Kris Weshinskey in the starting lineup, specifically to give MSU a big body to work against [UNLV's 6'7" Larry] Johnson" who still scored 35 points and grabbed 14 rebounds ([Source](#)). Playing seven minute, Weshinskey had an assist and four points shooting 2-4 from the field (missing his one 3-point attempt ([Source](#))).

On December 18, MSU downed **Evansville**, 81-76. Returning to the starting lineup, Weshinskey played 28 minutes, had two assists, and scored seven points on 2-4 from the field (including 0-1 on a 3-point attempt) and 3-3 from the charity stripe ([Source](#)).



Lansing State Journal/MARGIE GARRISON

Kris Weshinskey (3) of Michigan State leaves Evansville's Billy Reid behind Tuesday night at the Breslin Center. The Spartans won overcame a 41-38 halftime deficit to win 81-76.

On December 20, the Spartans topped **Central Michigan**, with Weshinskey playing eight minutes but not recording any stats in the box score ([Source](#)).

On December 28, the Spartans defeated **George Mason**, 97-72. Weshinskey, playing 17 minutes, had three rebounds, two assists, and nine points on 3-7 from the field and 3-4 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

Freshman guards coming into own

By JEFF ZILLGITT
Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING — It may have taken nine games, but Michigan State's Andy Penick and Kris Weshinskey are finally putting it together.

The freshman guards saw plenty of playing time due to the injury to starting point guard Mark Montgomery.

The pair came through for their best performance of the year as the Spartans rolled to a 97-72 victory over George Mason (2-8) in the first round of the Oldsmobile Spartan Classic.

The Spartans (6-3) play Louisiana Tech at about 8 p.m. today in the championship game. George Mason and Coastal Carolina will play 6 p.m. in the consolation game.

Penick, who started the game in the place of the injured Montgomery, scored a career-high 13 points, including three 3-pointers.

“They were looking to shoot the ball and we needed someone to shoot it. Hopefully they use this as a building block in the future.”

— MSU assistant coach Stan Joplin

Weshinskey also chipped in a career-high nine points and added three assists.

“We were looking for some positive things from those two because they haven't been playing well,” MSU assistant coach Stan Joplin said. “They took a step in the right direction tonight.

“They were looking to shoot the ball and we needed someone to shoot it. Hopefully they use this as a building block in the future.”

Coach Jud Heathcote told Penick that he was starting Friday af-

ternoon — to give him time to get nervous.

But Penick didn't appear to be on the edge.

“I felt it was a great opportunity,” Penick said. “It was hard for me coming off the bench because I've never played that role before. This was like going back to old times.”

The 6-foot-2 guard from Louisville, Ky., scored his first points of the game on a 3-pointer from the baseline. The next time down the court he drilled an 18-footer to give the Spartans a 25-9 lead.

He also made a 3-pointer as the game ended. Penick, barring a major improvement in Montgomery's knee, will start against Louisiana Tech.

Weshinskey made a scooping reverse lay-up and two possessions later made a jumper from the top of the key to make it 34-12.

For the first time this season, Penick and Weshinskey played together for an extended amount of time.

They played the last four minutes of the first half together when Steve Smith picked up his second foul and played much of the second half together.

“The coaches really don't like to play two freshman guards at the same time,” Weshinskey said. “I felt good to get a lot of minutes. Both of us needed games where we shot the ball.

“He hit a couple of threes. Now all I need is a game where I start hitting more shots, but I feel more confident tonight.”

On December 29, the Spartans downed **Louisiana Tech**, 77-62. Weshinskey played two minutes and scored two points on one field goal attempt ([Source](#)).

Big Ten Conference



On January 3, the Spartans downed **Michigan**, 85-70. Weshinskey played only two minutes, was 0-2 on field goal attempts, and hauled in one rebound ([Source](#)).

On January 5, **Iowa** defeated the Spartans, 79-66. Playing 16 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, an assist, and 11 points shooting 5-9 from the field (including 1-3 on 3-point attempts) ([Source](#)).

On January 10, the Spartans beat **Wisconsin**, 65-50. Weshinskey played only six minutes and was 0-1 on field goal attempts ([Source](#)).

On January 12, the Spartans topped **Northwestern**, 66-59. While in the game for only one minute, Weshinskey had no stats except for a foul ([Source](#)).

On January 17, MSU downed **Illinois**, 71-68. Playing only two minutes, Weshinskey managed one notch in the stat book –a foul ([Source](#)).

On January 8, going into the January 10 game with **Wisconsin**, *Lansing State Journal* sports writer provided the following commentary on Weshinskey:



**Spartan
Notebook**
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Penick and Weshinskey aren't interchangeable

By JACK EBLING
Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING — The numbers on Andy Penick's jersey add up to those on Kris Weshinskey's. But No. 12 and No. 3 aren't equal as basketball guards in the mind of Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote.

Penick is better as a 3-point weapon against zones. And Weshinskey is definitely ahead as a defender. It only seems as if they're interchangeable freshmen for a team that cries for consistency off the bench.

"When we're trying to stress offense, Andy does a better job," Heathcote said Monday. "When we want a guy who can maybe even take Matt Steigenga's place and play better defense, that's Weshinskey."

With the 28th-ranked Spartans expecting plenty of zone defense from Wisconsin at 8 p.m. Thursday and Northwestern at 4 p.m. Saturday, logic would dictate more playing time for Penick this week.

Yet, Penick outscored Weshinskey 10-0 against Michigan, which relied on a man-to-man defense. And Weshinskey outpointed Penick 11-0 at Iowa, when the zone was nearly always present. It made as much sense as MSU guard Steve Smith failing to score in the first half against the Hawkeyes, then outscoring any two players on the floor after the break.

On January 19, the Spartans defeated **Minnesota**, 73-64, without the services of Weshinskey whose name is not listed in the box score ([Source](#)).

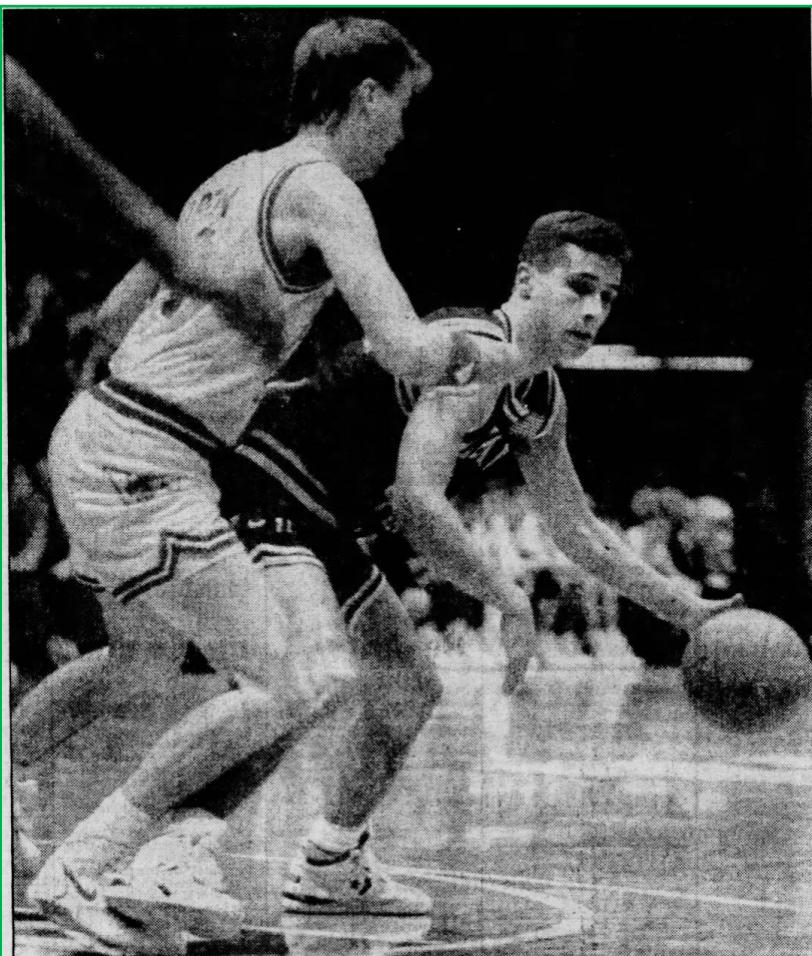
On January 23, the Spartans lost to **Purdue**, 62-51. Weshinskey played four minutes but was scoreless on a 0-1 three-point attempt ([Source](#)).

On January 26, the Spartans fell to **Indiana**, 97-63. Playing 11 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds, two assists, and two points shooting 1-3 from the field ([Source](#)).

On January 31, MSU downed **Ohio State**, 75-61. Playing 13 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound, an assist and four points on a three-pointer (his only shot attempt) and 1-2 from the free throw line ([Source](#)).

On February 7, the Spartans fell to **Iowa**, 71-67. Playing nine minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound and two points (1-4 field goal attempts including 0-2 on three-point attempts) ([Source](#)).

On February 9, **Wisconsin** defeated MSU, 84-78, in double overtime. Playing 13 minutes, Weshinskey scored three points on 3-3 shooting plus grabbed two rebounds ([Source](#)).



Associated Press

Michigan State's Kris Weshinskey tries to drive past Wisconsin's Tim Locum.

On February 14, the Spartans edged out **Northwestern**, 55-53. Playing 15 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound and scored four points on a three-pointer (missing his other three field goal attempts) and 1-2 at the charity stripe ([Source](#)).

On February 16, the Spartans defeated **Illinois**, 62-58. Weshinskey, playing ten minutes, grabbed one rebound and scored two points shooting 1-1 from the field ([Source](#)).

On February 23, the Spartans downed **Purdue**, 75-58. While getting only two minutes of playing time, Weshinskey was 2-2 from the free throw line ([Source](#)).

On February 25, the Spartans topped **Minnesota**, 74-72. Weshinskey grabbed one rebound during four minutes on the floor and did not attempt any shot attempts ([Source](#)).

On February 28, the Spartans again fell to **Indiana**, 62-56. Weshinskey grabbed one rebound during two minutes of playing time ([Source](#)).

On March 3, #2-ranked **Ohio State** downed MSU, 65-64, though Weshinskey's name does not appear in the box score ([Source](#)).

On March 9, the Spartans again defeated **Michigan**, 66-59, but Weshinskey had only one minute of playing time and only notched a foul in the stat book ([Source](#)).

NCAA Tournament

MSU received an at-large bid as a No. 5 seed for the NCAA Tournament.

On March 15, in a First Round game, the Spartans beat **Wisconsin-Green Bay**, 60-58 on Steve Smith's buzzer beater, with Weshinskey getting one minute on the floor ([Source](#)).

On March 17, MSU fell in double overtime, 85-84, to No. 10 **Utah** in a Second Round game, though Weshinskey got two minutes of playing time ([Source](#)).

The Spartans finished the season with an overall 19–11 record and an 11–7 record in the Big Ten (finishing in third place). During his first year playing as a Spartan, Weshinskey averaged 2.5 points per game.

In a March 24 *Lansing State Journal* "Looking Ahead" (to next season) article, sports writer Jack Ebling provided an assessment: "Kris Weshinskey, 6-3 sophomore guard: A combination guard without a glaring weakness, but with work to do in all areas to convince his coaches he's the answer" ([Source](#)).

1991-92

During his sophomore season, and in the next two seasons, Weshinskey would challenge freshmen Shawn Respert and Eric Snow for playing time at the guard position

1991–92 Michigan State Spartans men's basketball team								
No	Name	Pos	Year	Height	Pts	Reb	Ast	
20	Mark Bluem	F	FR	6–6	0.6	0.3	0.0	
45	Ron Haley	F	JR	6–6	0.3	0.2	0.2	
34	Anthony Miller	F	SO	6–9	7.2	5.2	0.8	
11	Mark Montgomery	G	SR	6–2	7.0	3.7	6.3	
54	Mike Peplowski	C	SR	6–10	13.3	8.3	1.1	
24	Shawn Respert	G	FR	6–3	15.8	2.1	2.1	
13	Eric Snow	G	FR	6–3	1.1	0.6	1.0	
35	Matt Steigenga	F	SR	6–7	10.2	4.5	2.0	
31	Dwayne Stephens	F	JR	6–7	11.1	5.0	2.8	
3	Kris Weshinskey	G	SO	6–3	6.4	1.5	1.5	
25	Jon Zulauf	F	JR	6–6	3.1	1.6	0.5	



Front row: Graduate Assistant Coach Brian Gregory, Assistant Coach Stan Joplin, Andy Penick, Kris Weshinskey, Mark Montgomery, Head Coach Jud Heathcote, Shawn Respert, Eric Snow, Associate Head Coach Tom Izzo, Assistant Coach Jim Boylen. Back row: Manager Erik Qualman, Manager Scott Bernecker, Steve Nicodemus, Jon Zulauf, Dwayne Stephens, Mike Pwplowski, Anthony Miller, Matt Steigenga, Daimon Beathua, Trainer Tom Mackowiak.

Source: 1992 Red Cedar Log Yearbook

Summer Exhibition

During June of 1991, the Spartans basketball team traveled to Australia for the Australian Basketball Tour, playing eight games in nine days. Against various Australian teams, the Spartans won three games and the Australians five. Below Some press clippings on the tour are presented below.

On June 11, the *Lansing State Journal* reported:

MSU loses its first game in Australia

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — After a 30-hour trip, Michigan State lost the first game of its Australian basketball tour, falling to Victoria Select of Melbourne, 123-114.

Kris Weshinsky and Jon Zulauf scored 22 points each for the Spartans, but Victoria Select outscored MSU from the foul line 41-17, shooting 51 foul shots to the Spartans' 21.

Former Michigan Mr. Basketball Anthony Miller, in his first game as a Spartan, scored nine points and grabbed nine rebounds. Dwayne Stephens added 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Mike Peploski scored 12 points and pulled down seven rebounds. Mark Montgomery scored 11 points and Andy Penick added 10.

MSU coach Jud Heathcote said jet lag played a factor in the loss.

"Our trip was extended an hour when fog delayed our plane trip from Sydney to Melbourne," said Heathcote.

The Spartans led 69-64 at halftime, but began to run out of legs in the third quarter. At one stage of the last quarter, they trailed by 18 points.

On June 13, the *Lansing State Journal* reported:

Montgomery, Miller lift MSU to 1st win

Lansing State Journal

HORSHAM, Australia — Mark Montgomery scored 24 points and Anthony Miller had 18 points and 15 rebounds to lead Michigan State to a 112-106 victory over the Horsham Hornets Wednesday night.

Sophomore guard Kris Weshinsky added 19 points as Michigan State scored its first victory after two losses on the tour.

Montgomery, a senior from Inkster, hit on nine of 10 shots from the field and added eight assists. Jon Zulauf, a junior from Port Huron, added 14 points.

Horsham's Howard Spencer, who played at Auburn, scored 45 points for the semi-pro team. Michigan State plays Dandenong today in Melbourne.

On June 18, the *Lansing State Journal* reported:

MSU drops to 3-4 on Australian tour

Michigan State dropped to 3-4 on its Australian basketball tour with a 105-99 loss to Illawara Sunday.

Kris Weshinskey led the Spartans with 24 points, Jon Zulauf added 15, Anthony Miller had 14 points and 10 rebounds and Mark Montgomery scored 14 points.

MSU had evened its record earlier in the tour with a 106-94 overtime win over the Sydney Kings. In that game, Zulauf scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Mike Peplowski added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

The Spartans have two games remaining in Australia before returning home Saturday.

Preseason Exhibition

On November 16, MSU downed the **Cuban National** team, 103-65, with Weshinskey scoring 14 points ([Source](#)).

On November 20, the Spartans defeated **Athletes In Action**, 92-71. Playing 15 minutes, Weshinskey grabbed two rebounds and scored three points on 1-4 shooting (1-2 on three-point attempts) ([Source](#)).

Non-Conference

On November 25, the Spartans beat Lamar, 81-68, in the Maui Invitational quarterfinals. Playing 18 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds, three assists, and 13 points (including one three-pointer) on 5-6 field goal attempts and 2-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On November 26, MSU topped Rice, 75-67, in the Maui Invitational semifinals. Playing 24 minutes, Weshinskey grabbed a rebound, had one assist, and scored eight points on 3-13 shooting and 2-2 from the free throw line ([Source](#)).

On November 27, MSU beat **Arkansas**, 86-71, in the Maui Invitational championship. Playing 15 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound, an assist, and eight points on 4-5 field goal attempts ([Source](#)).

On December 4, MSU beat **Nebraska**, 101-78. Playing 27 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, seven assists, and seven points on 3-5 shooting from the field including 1-1 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On December 7, MSU downed **Dayton**, 83-74. Playing 13 minutes, Weshinskey had one rebound, one assist, and four points (4-4 on free throws) but went 0-4 on field goal attempts including 0-2 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On December 14, MSU defeated **Detroit Mercy**, 91-75, though Weshinskey did not play due to mononucleosis ([Source](#)).

On December 17, MSU downed **University of Illinois-Chicago**, 75-51; Weshinskey continued on the injured list with mononucleosis ([Source](#)).

On December 21, MSU edged **Cincinnati**, 90-89, with Weshinskey back in the lineup, playing 18 minutes, grabbing one rebound, dishing one assist, and scoring five points on a 3-pointer (1-3) and a 2-pointer (1-1) ([Source](#)).

Sports Lansing State Journal ■ Sunday, Dec. 22, 1991

MSU's Weshinskey comes back strong

By WARREN KENT III
Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING — Call him Mono Kid. Jud did.

Michigan State sophomore guard Kris Weshinskey, who missed the Spartans' previous two wins over Detroit and Illinois-Chicago because of a bout with mononucleosis, came through in the clutch Saturday.

With just under 10 seconds remaining in the game and MSU trailing Cincinnati 89-87, freshman Shawn Respert found Weshinskey on the left side. Weshinskey squared **Weshinskey** to the hoop and fired in the go-ahead 3-pointer with six seconds left on the clock.

And when Cincinnati's Anthony Buford missed a buzzer shot, the Spartans had a 90-89 win despite trailing by as many as 18 points.

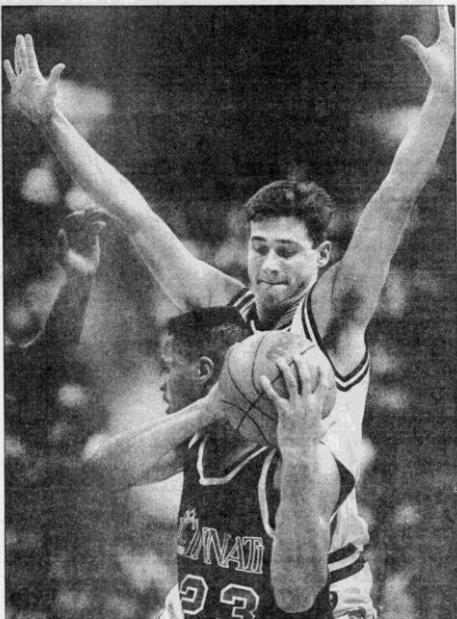
"It's nice to have the Mono Kid back to hit the 3-pointer," Spartan coach Jud Heathcote said.

Weshinskey, who played 18 minutes, figured he would only get to play a couple minutes, if any.

"The last couple of days, I felt really good," said Weshinskey, who lost five pounds during the illness. "When I really had it bad, I'd sleep all the time. I didn't want to practice."

In addition to the 14,329 fans who were cheering his last-second shot, Weshinskey won a fan on his own team.

"Kris Weshinskey is just a sophomore," junior center Mike Peplowski said. "He's been out with mono and hits a 3-pointer. To me, that's fantastic."



Lansing State Journal/MARGIE GARRISON
Kris Weshinskey, shown here guarding Cincinnati's Anthony Buford, must become less erratic.

To Weshinskey, however, it's not fantastic. It was just part of his job. "I lost some weight and gave it my best shot," he said. "I was just lucky, I guess."

The excerpt below from Bob Huggins' *Pressed for Success* (1995) recounts how the Spartans pulled off that early in the season win over **Cincinnati** – and Weshinskey's highlight contribution to that victory:

Then came Michigan State—this time, at East Lansing. This was our first standout opponent of the season, the 12th-ranked team nationally. For the second straight season, we took an 18-point lead. For the second straight season, we blew it at the end. Jud's guys got back into the game by killing us in transition, and they kept throwing the ball inside to Mike Peplowski, and we didn't do a very good job of guarding him.

That hurt us, and so did forward Dwayne Stephens, who made some shots he normally doesn't make and that we didn't think he would. Then at the end, we missed a ton of free throws, making only 22 of 35 for the game while they made 17 of 23. If you keep getting fouled and you keep missing free throws, it demoralizes you. They took the lead on a broken play. We knew exactly the play they were going to run, but Anthony gambled on defense when he shouldn't have, going for the steal instead of keeping future NBA first-round pick Shawn Respert in front of him. Now Anthony was out of the play, and the guy penetrated, pitched the ball back to Kris Weshinskey, who made the three-pointer with five seconds left. We still had a chance to win it at the end, but Anthony missed a 14-foot jump shot at the buzzer, and we lost, 90-89.

Highlight from a MSU - University of Cincinnati Game (December 21, 1991)

Source: Bob Huggins' *Pressed for Success* (1995)

On December 27, MSU topped **Austin Peay**, 82-71, in the Oldsmobile Spartan Classic semifinals. In seven minutes on the court, Weshinskey had four rebounds, four assists, and five points on 2-3 from the field (0-1 on 3-point attempts) and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On December 28, MSU defeated **Stanford**, 72-62, in the Oldsmobile Spartan Classic championship. Playing 15 minutes, Weshinskey had two assists and 11 points shooting 4-6 from the field, including 1-4 on 3-point four attempts ([Source](#)).

Big Ten Conference

On January 7, No. 9-ranked **Ohio State** defeated the Spartans, 62-46. Playing 16 minutes, Weshinskey had two assists but was 0-4 on field goal attempts ([Source](#)). Looking back on the game, Weshinskey said: "This is a wake-up call" ([Source](#)).

On January 11, the Spartans squeaked by Illinois, 77-75. Weshinskey, playing ten minutes, had a rebound and two points on 1-5 field goal attempts ([Source](#)). Chicago Tribune writer Paul Sullivan documented the Spartans victory in the article appearing on the following page.

EAST LANSING — It can't be over-and-back if it's never over.

And according to the rules, the only thing that was over when Michigan State scored the game-winning basket last Saturday was Illinois' chance for an upset.

That was the point that was missed by CBS analyst Bill Raftery in his criticism of a crucial no-call in the Spartans' 77-75 Big Ten triumph in Breslin Center.

MSU scored its final two points with 0.2 seconds left on an open-court layup by Kris Weshinskey, the product of an inbounds give-and-go from 80 feet away.

Raftery promptly screamed that the play should have been nullified since inbounds receiver Dwayne Stephens took off from the frontcourt, caught the ball in midair and landed straddling the time line before stepping into the backcourt and flipping a blind pass over his right shoulder for the assist.

"I'll bet Bill didn't know the rule," said Spartan coach Jud Heathcote Monday. "Most people don't. It used to be where the player took off. Now, it's where he lands. And what used to maybe be a violation is legal this year."

Jan. 11, 1992: After a charge called against UI's Rennie Clemons with 3.6 seconds left, Dwayne Stephens hit Kris Weshinskey for an open layup as time ran out to give MSU a 77-75 victory.

ILLINI FALL ASLEEP AT THE FINISH

By **Paul Sullivan, Chicago Tribune**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

JANUARY 12, 1992 | EAST LANSING, MICH.

It was a totally helpless feeling that the Fighting Illini experienced Saturday as they watched little-known Michigan State reserve Kris Weshinskey take off on an unobstructed dash to glory.

Anyone who has ever driven a car off a cliff or dived into a swimming pool without any water in it could certainly empathize with Illinois' plight. One moment, the Illini had the ball with nine seconds left in a tie game and a shot at a huge upset of ninth-ranked Michigan State on the road in front of a national TV audience. For perhaps the first time this season, the future seemed bright for coach Lou Henson's struggling young team.

But the next moment, there was Weshinskey, all alone at halfcourt and on his way to scoring a buzzer-beating layup for a 77-75 come-from-behind victory.

The final seconds provided one wacky turning point after another. Weshinskey had inbounded the ball to Dwayne Stephens with 3.6 seconds left, then took a blind pass from Stephens and waltzed unescorted for the winning basket as five Illini defenders trailed behind with looks of disbelief on their faces.

Illinois had just turned the ball over at :03.6, thanks to a controversial charging call against guard Rennie Clemons, whose drive for the go-ahead basket was impeded by Spartans guard Mark Montgomery. Replays showed that Montgomery's feet were still moving, but Michigan State got the call and an improbable victory over the 15-point underdogs.

The charge led directly to Weshinskey's basket, and suddenly it was all over. It's a play the Illini will no doubt see on film over and over this week.

"We were supposed to cover each guy man-for-man and have a safety,"

said Henson. "For some reasons, our guys did not do that . . . we didn't handle that very well. But we wouldn't have had to if the other things worked out."



On January 15, the Spartans defeated **Northwestern**, 78-61. Playing 18 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, an assist, and six points on 3-6 from the field and 0-2 from the free throw line ([Source](#)).

On January 18, the Spartans downed **Minnesota**, 86-70. Playing 8 minutes, Weshinskey scored six points on 2-3 shooting from the field (including one 3-pointer) and 1-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

Going into the January 22 game against **Purdue**, the Spartans had beaten the Boilermakers only once in their previous six visits to Mackey Arena, an even bigger challenge this time since senior forward Matt Steigenga was out for the first time in four seasons and 112 games. But the Spartans rose to the challenge, edging the Boilermakers, 66-61.

Playing 15 minutes, Weshinskey had three assists and seven points, including two 3-pointers on 2-4 shooting from the field and 1-2 on free throws ([Source](#)). *Lansing State Journal* sports writer Jack Ebling recounted these Weshinskey highlights:

Last-minute steals by Kris Weshinskey and Mark Montgomery saved the shorthanded Spartans Wednesday and sealed a 66-61 win over pesky Purdue, just their second victory in the last seven visits to Mackey Arena.

But those final heroics would never have happened without 17 points from Shawn Respert, 35 points from the three-man back-court and 7-for-10 success from 3-point range.

"As always when you win on the road, it's a team effort," said MSU coach Jud Heathcote, whose 14th-ranked team moved to 3-2 in the Big Ten and to 13-2 overall. "You usually have to have four or five guys play pretty well. And any time your 3's are going in, it makes a big, big difference."

Purdue freshman guard Matt Waddell, near the game's end, was driving into the lane and

he'd just hit a couple," said Weshinskey, the hero of last-possession wins over Cincinnati and Illinois. "I couldn't let him hit another one. And as he started to go up, I knocked it out of his hand."

With 15.6 seconds to play, Weshinskey knocked down the first of a 1-and-1 free throw situation. But after a strange timeout for an MSU strategy chat, he missed the second and gave the Boilermakers one more chance.

Knowing Purdue would need a 3 to tie, Heathcote ordered a foul and no more than a two-shot opportunity. But as Montgomery came up to make that grab, he grabbed Waddell's lazy pass and added a layup with :03 showing.

On January 29, the Spartans fell in overtime to No. 15-ranked **Michigan**, 89-79. Playing 11 minutes, Weshinskey had two assists and scored seven points on 3-4 shooting from the field and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On February 1, the Spartans topped 4th-ranked **Indiana**, 72-64. Weshinskey played 15 minutes, had two rebounds, made one assist, and scored two points on 1-5 shooting from the field, two of which were 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On February 6, **Iowa** defeated the Spartans, 77-63. Playing 21 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound, three assists, and four points on 1-6 shooting from the field (one 3-pointer (on three attempts) and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On February 8, the Spartans defeated **Wisconsin**, 79-64. Playing 17 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound, an assist, and four points on 2-4 shooting from the field ([Source](#)).

On February 12, MSU topped **Wisconsin**, 76-61. Playing 32 minutes (with starting guard Shawn Respert ill on the bench), Weshinskey notched a rebound, an assist, and a career-high 14 points on two 3-pointers (2-5), 5-10 from the field, and 2-4 from the foul line ([Source](#)).



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Michigan St. wins big, 76-61

Weshinskey sparks Spartans with career-best 14 points. **1E**



Lansing State Journal/ROD SANFORD

MSU guard Kris Weshinskey drives to the basket for a score against Wisconsin. Weshinskey had 14 points to help fill the void left when sickness sidelined Shawn Respert. MSU won, 76-61.

Next up an opportunity to revenge the overtime loss to **Michigan** earlier in the season. Going into the game, Weshinskey commented:

"Everyone was really upset we lost the last time," said MSU guard Kris Weshinskey. "We're ready to play them again. It shouldn't matter that it's on their court. We just have to come out, play as hard as we can and beat them."

On February 15, the Spartans beat No. 17 **Michigan**, 70-59. While Weshinskey played ten minutes, his shooting was cold (0-5 from the field including a 3-point attempt) but he grabbed a rebound ([Source](#)).

On February 19, No. 7-ranked **Indiana** defeated MSU, 103-73. Weshinskey played 20 minutes, grabbed six rebounds, and scored 11 points (3-3 on 3-pointers and 4-7 overall) ([Source](#)).

On February 22, MSU edged **Purdue**, 70-68. Playing 22 minutes, Weshinskey had an assist, two rebounds, and five points on a field goal (1-4) and 3-4 from the foul line ([Source](#)). With ten seconds remaining, it was Weshinskey's free throw that upped the Spartans lead to 70-68 winning margin.

On February 29, No. 8 **Ohio State** downed the Spartans, 78-65. Playing 22 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound, two assists, and four points shooting 2-6 from the field ([Source](#)).



Spartan Notebook

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Weshinskey may start at NU

By JACK EBLING
Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING — Injured mainstay Matt Steigenga won't start at small forward for Michigan State against Northwestern Thursday night.

Chances are, no one will.

The Spartans, who shifted Dwayne Stephens to Steigenga's spot and inserted Anthony Miller at power forward in last Saturday's loss to Ohio State, will likely try a three-guard lineup against the last-place Wildcats.



Kris Weshinskey, the hero of last-possession wins over Cincinnati and Illinois, should join Mark Montgomery and Shawn Respert in an expanded starting backcourt.

"I think we'll start Weshinskey," said MSU coach Jud Heathcote Monday. "He gives us a little more ballhandling and a little better outside shooting."

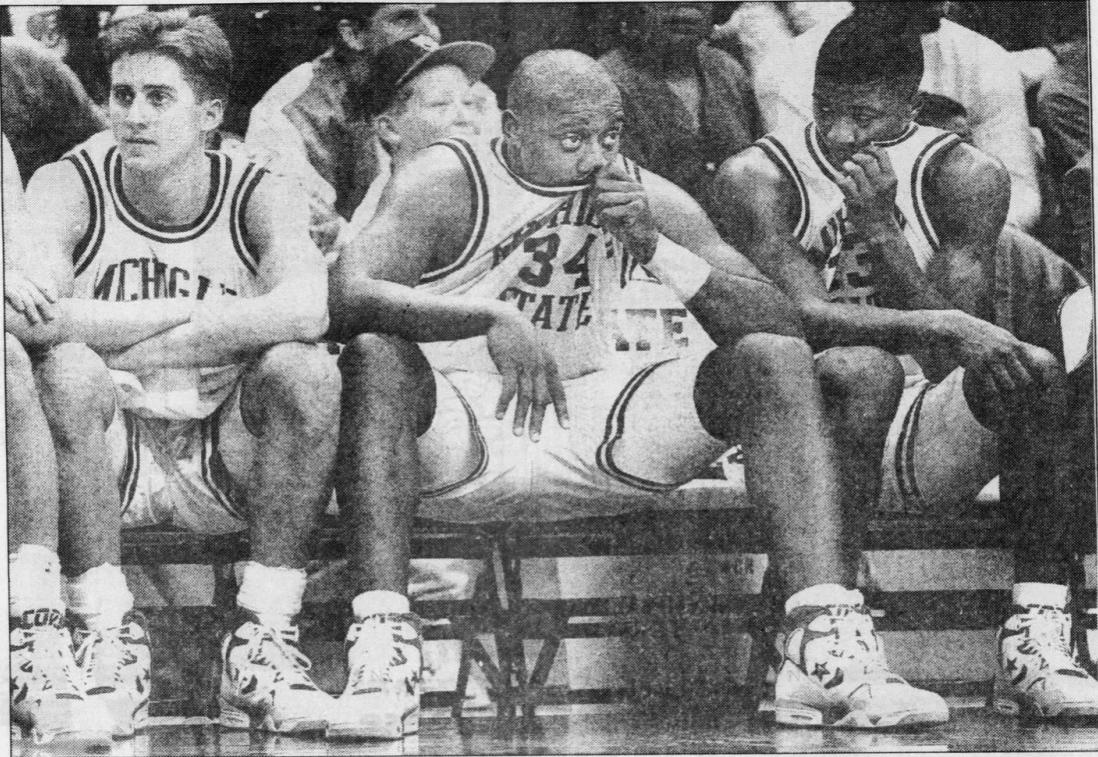
"We're struggling with different lineups because, without Matt, we're a man short on defense and on offense. But we think he'll be ready to play Saturday at Illinois."

The nation's No. 13 team, 18-6 overall, is 6-5 since Steigenga sprained his ankle in a loss at Minnesota and aggravated a twice-repaired stress fracture in his left foot.

"Matt is one of our better players and a guy who can score," Heathcote said. "He wasn't having a sensational year. But when he got hurt, he was averaging 13 or 14 points."

"Any time you take an important cog like that out of your team, you don't stay round. You kind of go square for awhile."

At 8-6 in Big Ten play, the Spartans are tied for third place with Michigan and Iowa. But it'll take a pair of road victories this week to maintain a record of not losing to a team with a sub-.500 conference mark.



Lansing State Journal/ROD SANFORD

Michigan State's Jon Zulauf (from left), Anthony Miller and Eric Snow, along with sophomore guard Kris Weshinskey (not shown) have combined for 18.4 points and 9.6 rebounds a game this season.

TAPPING THE RESERVES

But when 13th-ranked MSU visits woeful Northwestern at 7:30 p.m. Thursday (ESPN), it'll be Weshinskey's chance to start a game with four-year regular Matt Steigenga sidelined.

"To me, it doesn't really matter who starts," Weshinskey said. "You always have to be focused and ready. But coming off the bench, you can be a little stiff just from sitting there."

On March 5, the Spartans defeated **Northwestern**, 72-55. In the starting lineup for the first time, Weshinskey scored 10 points on a 3-pointer, three 2-pointers, and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).



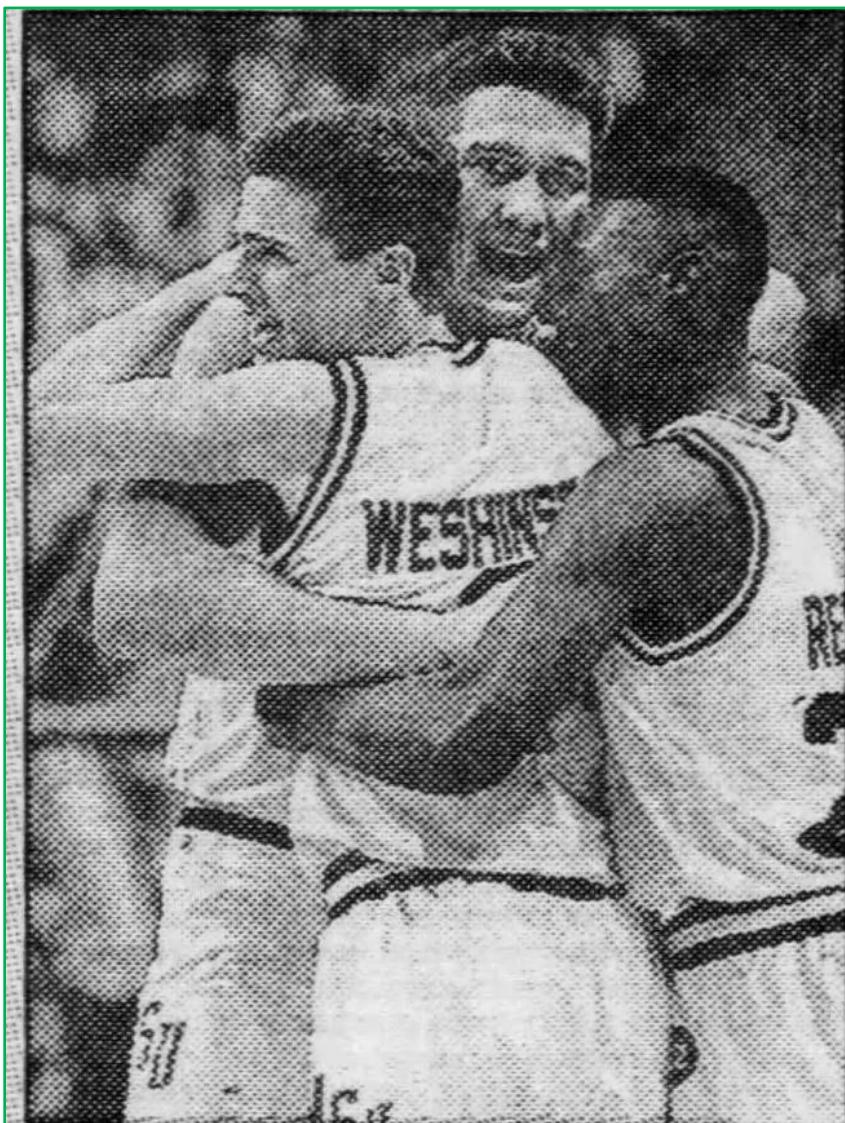
Tribune photo by Michael Fryer

Northwestern's Cedric Neloms meets Michigan State's Anthony Miller (left) and Kris Weshinskey under the basket Thursday.

On March 7, **Illinois** defeated the Spartans, 80-71. Playing for 28 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound, an assist, and scored ten points on 4-9 shooting (including 1-4 on 3-point attempts) and 1-3 from the free throw line ([Source](#)).

On March 11, MSU notched its 20th win of the season, topping **Minnesota**, 66-57. Playing 14 minutes, Weshinskey had an assist and seven points, shooting 3-5 from the field, including 1-1 on his only 3-point attempt ([Source](#)).

On March 15, the Spartans defeated **Iowa**, 64-53. Playing 20 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound, an assist, and seven points shooting 3-6 from the field and 1-1 from the foul line ([Source](#)).



**MSU's Kris Weshinskey
(from left), Mike Peplowski
and Shawn Respert celebrate
Sunday's win.**

NCAA Tournament

Receiving an at-large bid as a No. 5 seed in the Midwest Region of the NCAA Tournament, MSU's 3rd consecutive trip to the Tournament, the Spartans beat **Missouri State**, 61-54, on March 20 in the First Round of the Midwest Regional. Playing 26 minutes, Weshinskey had three rebounds, an assist, and nine points on 4-9 shooting from the field (0-2 on 3-point attempts) and 1-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).



Lansing State Journal/DAVID OLDS

Center Mike Peplowski (middle) stands in a huddle with Spartan players Shawn Respert (from left), Matt Steigenga, Mark Montgomery and Kris Weshinskey. Michigan State may have to win without its big center in today's NCAA Tournament game against SW Missouri State.

On March 22, No. 12 **Cincinnati** defeated the Spartans, 77-65, in the Second Round of the Midwest Regional. Playing 17 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, one assist, and a 3-pointer on overall 1-5 shooting (1-3 on 3-point attempts) ([Source](#)).

The Spartans finished the season with a 22-8 record and finished in third place in the Big Ten with an 11-7 record, with Weshinskey upping his average points per game from 2.5 as a freshman to 6.4 as a sophomore.

At the end of the 1991-92 academic year, Michigan State's *Red Cedar Log* year-book featured an article on which Weshinskey had decided to attend MSU and play basketball for the Spartans.

By Steve Hogan

Basketball wasn't the only reason Kris Weshinskey came to MSU. His buddies had a lot to do with that.

"It was one of the big reasons I came to State," Weshinskey said. "I had a lot of friends and I was always a MSU fan."

Despite being a graduate of Purcellville High School in Virginia, Weshinskey spent his first two years at Okemos High School, next door to East Lansing. So when it came down to selecting a school, the choice was easy.

"I really wanted to be around my friends," Weshinskey said. "Basketball was the main reason—plus with the new facility here, I feel like I belong here."

Based on the results Weshinskey produced, it seems as though he was happy with his decision. The sophomore guard averaged 6.4 points a game and was third in three-point shooting, giving coach Jud Heathcote an easy decision when it came time to look for the first guard off the bench.

But the numbers hardly show the real sea-

son Weshinskey had. His three-pointer with six seconds left gave the Spartans a come-from-behind 90-89 victory over Cincinnati in December.

"It seems like ever since I made that shot, my shots have been going in during practice," Weshinskey said.

His deadly threes continued when he nailed three three-pointers in the first half to help propel the Spartans to a 72-62 Oldsmobile Classic finals win over Stanford. Stanford coach Mike Montgomery said his team had the Spartans offense solved until Weshinskey came in.

"We had our zone in, but that kid Weshinskey hurt us with his threes," Montgomery said. "They were struggling with our zone, but he hurt us."

Two games later, Weshinskey made a lay-up with less than a second remaining to lift MSU over Illinois 77-75. Later in the season, he came off the bench early in the game to replace leading scorer Shawn Respert and scored 14 points in 32 minutes work in a 76-61 triumph over Wisconsin.

"We didn't even notice Respert wasn't in there the way Weshinskey was playing," Wisconsin coach Steve Yoder said. "What difference would Respert have made?"

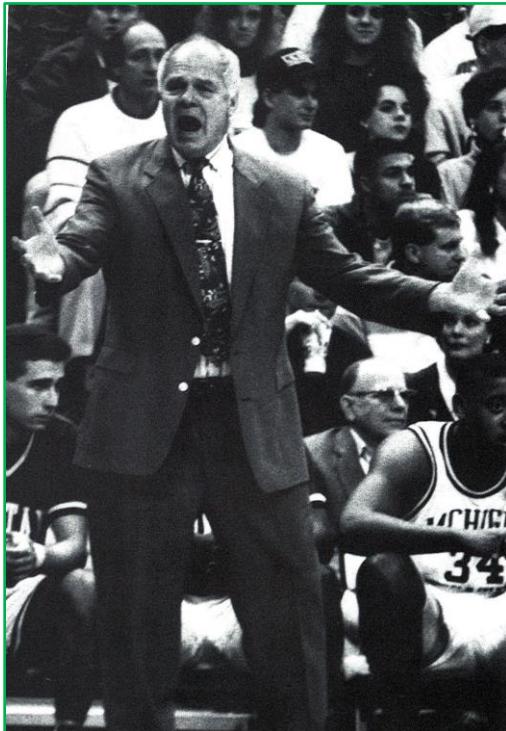
Weshinskey said the team's summer trip to Australia gave him confidence in his shots. He averaged 14.9 points a game with three games over the 20-point mark.

"I got to shoot as much as I wanted," Weshinskey said. "We only had three guards out there and it just gave me more experience."



Courtesy of Sports Information

Source: 1992 Michigan State University *Red Cedar Log* Yearbook



Weshinskey (left) backs Coach Heathcote pleading for a call

Source: 1992 Michigan State University *Red Cedar Log* Yearbook

1992-93

1992–93 Michigan State Spartans men's basketball team								
No.	Name	Pos.	Year	Height	Pts	Reb	Ast	
23	Daimon Beathea	F	FR	6–7	2.2	1.4	0.1	
20	Mark Bluem	F	SO	6–6	0.0	0.2	0.0	
40	Quinton Brooks	F	FR	6–7	4.2	2.7	0.3	
30	Jamie Feick	F	FR	6–8	0.4	1.4	0.1	
4	David Hart	G	FR	6–4	0.3	0.3	0.6	
34	Anthony Miller	F	JR	6–9	6.6	5.1	0.4	
22	Steve Nicodemus	G	FR	6–4	1.1	0.5	0.3	
5	Andy Penick	G	SO	6–2	1.5	1.0	3.5	
54	Mike Peplowski	C	SR	6–11	14.5	10.0	1.4	
24	Shawn Respert	G	SO	6–3	20.1	4.0	2.6	
13	Eric Snow	G	SO	6–3	4.3	2.6	5.2	
31	Dwayne Stephens	F	SR	6–7	9.1	5.6	3.5	
3	Kris Weshinsky	G	JR	6–4	10.4	3.4	2.4	
25	Jon Zulauf	F	SR	6–6	4.4	2.7	0.4	

Pre-Season Exhibition

On November 7's **Green-White** game, the **White** team (with Weshinsky) defeated the **Green** team, 103-92. Playing 33 minutes, Weshinsky had five rebounds, four assists, and 13 points on 5-13 shooting from the field, including 3-4 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

Looking to where Weshinsky might fit in the rotation during the regular season, *Lansing State Journal*'s Jack Ebling wrote:

One experiment Heathcote seems to favor in situations, if not on a regular basis, is a smaller lineup with junior swingman Kris Weshinsky.

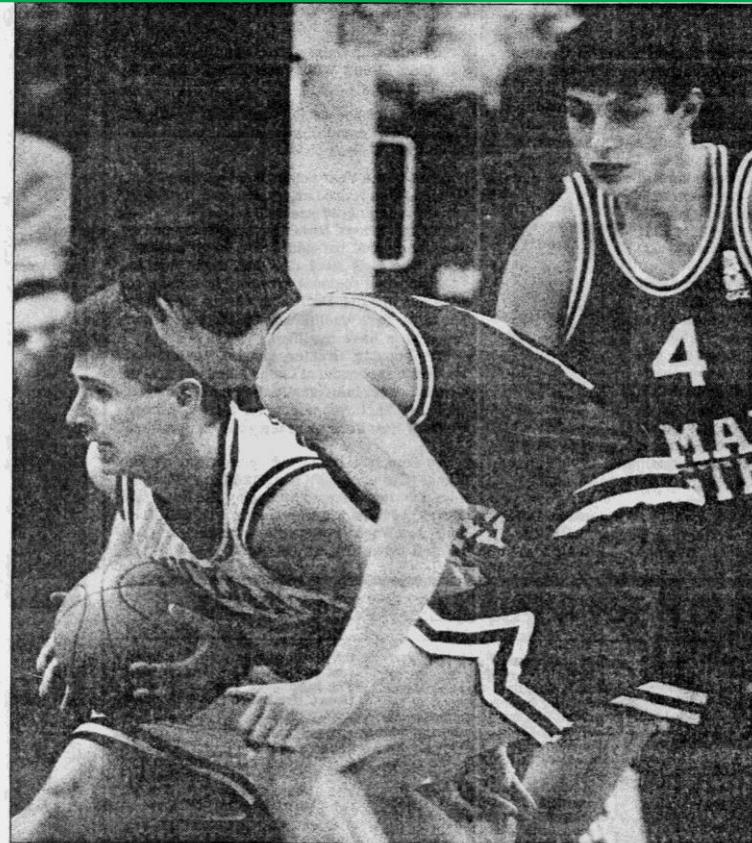
“He said I’ve done a good job in practice,” Weshinsky said. “But I don’t know where I would play right now. The coaches have talked about a three-guard lineup. That would give us a good perime-

ter attack and put guards on the wings when we run."

It was a play with slick passes from Weshinskey to point guard Andy Penick, then to Stephens for the score, that drew the loudest cheer of the day.

On November 18, the Spartans played the **Russian Nationals**, the outcome of which was heralded by the below headline. Playing 23 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, four assists, and 18 points on 6-9 shooting from the field including 3-3 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

Weshinskey's 18 leads 94-70 win



Lansing State Journal/CHRIS HOLMES

Kris Weshinskey (left) tries to elude a duo of Russian Nationals Wednesday in 94-70 MSU win.

On November 20, the Spartans downed **Athletes In Action**, 99-75. Playing 28 minutes, Weshinskey had six rebounds, three assists, and 14 points on 5-9 from the field (2-6 on the 3-point attempts) and 2-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

Non-Conference

On December 1, the Spartans downed **Morehead State**, 121-53. Playing 24 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds and nine points on 4-10 shooting from the field including 1-3 on three 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On December 5, No 12-ranked **Louisville** defeated the Spartans, 73-69. Weshinskey played only ten minutes until a severely strained ankle sent him to the bench before which he had scored six points (two 3-pointer on 2 attempts) on 2-3 from the field ([Source](#)).



Spartan Notebook

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Weshinskey getting well fast

By JACK EBLING
Lansing State Journal

EAST LANSING — The ice pail didn't say "Property of Kris Weshinskey."

But it could have, after multiple soakings Sunday and Monday to reduce the swelling in his sprained right ankle.

"I've been living in the training room the last two days," said the Michigan State junior forward, who was injured in the first half of Saturday's 73-69 loss to Louisville.

"It feels 20 times better than it did this morning, when I could barely put any weight on it. There's a chance I could even be ready to play this weekend."

Weshinskey said he was taken off the travel list for the Los Angeles Classic this weekend, then added again Monday by MSU coach Jud Heathcote.

The mild-to-moderate sprain, according to Spartan basketball trainer Tom Mackowiak, is being treated with as many as five hour-on, hour-off soakings per day.

But the prognosis after Monday's practice, that his condition is day-to-day, was much more positive than the status Heathcote feared a few hours earlier at his weekly media session.

"In all probability, he won't play this week and may not play next Tuesday against Illinois-Chicago," Heathcote had said.

"In the meantime, we'll go with Jon Zulauf, who played very well off the bench against Louisville. Behind him, we have Daimon Beathea, who has played very, very well in practice, and Quinton Brooks, a talented player who's still trying to learn what to do and when to do it."



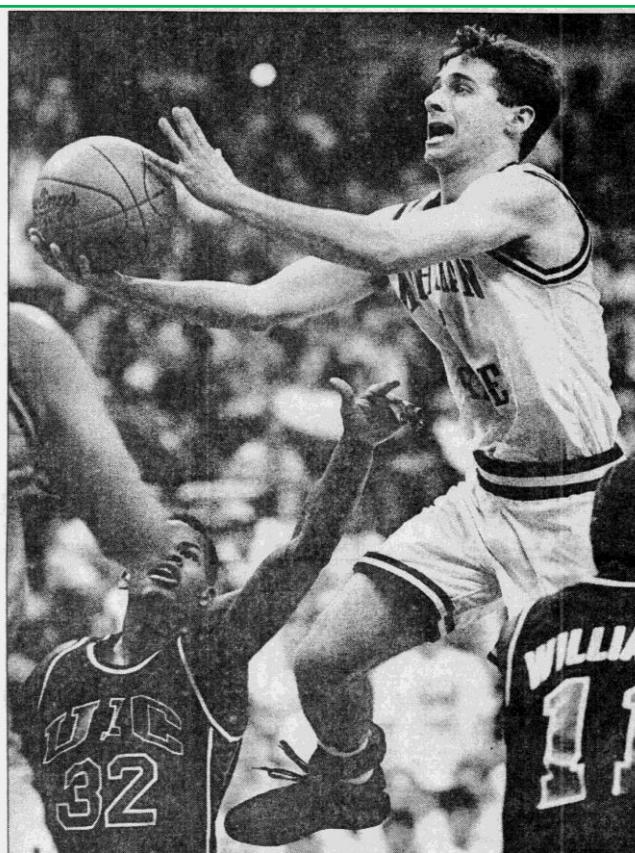
Weshinskey

On December 11, the Spartans topped **Stetson**, 78-59, in the Los Angeles Classic semifinals. Weshinskey did not play due to an ankle sprain.

On December 12, the Spartans edged **Loyola Marymount**, 73-70, to win the Los Angeles Classic championship. Back in action, Weshinskey gave the Spartans their first lead at 31-28 with 4:04 left in the half on a 3-pointer from the right corner. For the game he had seven points on 2-10 shooting from the field (including a 3-pointer on six attempts) and making 2-3 free throw attempts ([Source](#)).

Loyola Marymount coach John Olive, whose club lost 73-70 in the championship game, summarized the problems Spartan opponents will have all season with guard Shawn Respert and center Mike Peplowski. "Wishnewski, or whatever the heck his name is, can shoot the ball," he said of forward Kris Weshinskey. "Obviously, Respert is a great threat. And when you have kids like that, along with the big kid inside, you're caught."

On December 15, the Spartans defeated **University of Illinois-Chicago**, 79-75. Playing 35 minutes, Weshinskey hauled in two rebounds, made two assists, and scored 13 points on 4-8 shooting from the field including a 3-pointer (1-1) and 4-7 on free throws ([Source](#)).



Lansing State Journal/GREG DeRUITER

Spartan Kris Weshinskey flies through the air toward the basket past Illinois-Chicago defender Mike Lampley (32). Weshinskey had 13 points in Michigan State's 79-75 victory.

On December 19, MSU downed **Dayton**, 65-60. Playing 31 minutes. Weshinskey had five rebounds, two assists, and six points on 2-9 from the field (including a 3-pointer on five attempts) and 1-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

On December 29, the Spartans defeated **New Hampshire**, 81-51, in the Oldsmobile Spartan Classic semifinals. Playing 23 minutes, in spite of having turned an ankle in practice during the week, Weshinskey had five rebounds, an assist, and seven points on 3-4 shooting from the field including 1-2 on 3-pointer attempts ([Source](#)).

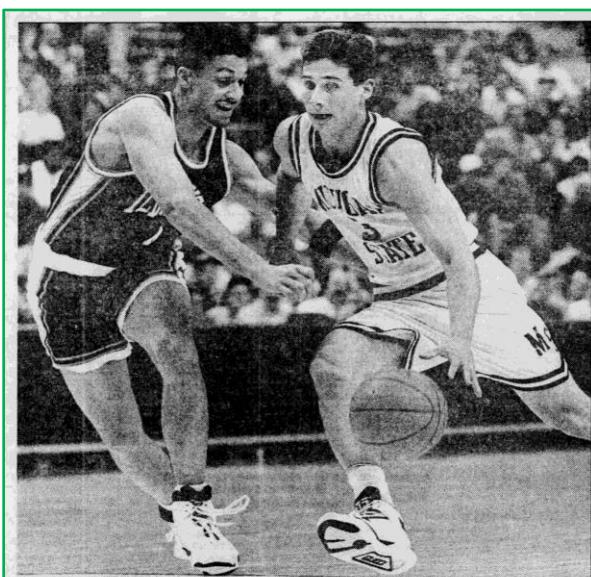
On December 30, MSU topped **Washington State**, 77-61, in the championship game of the Oldsmobile Spartan Classic. Playing 35 minutes, more than any other Spartan, Weshinskey had four rebounds, an assist, and eight points on 1-3 shooting from the field (all 3-point attempts) and 5-6 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On January 2, the Spartans beat **East Tennessee State**, 80-69. Playing 34 minutes, Weshinskey had two assists and eight points on 4-11 shooting from the field, three of the misses being on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

Big Ten Conference

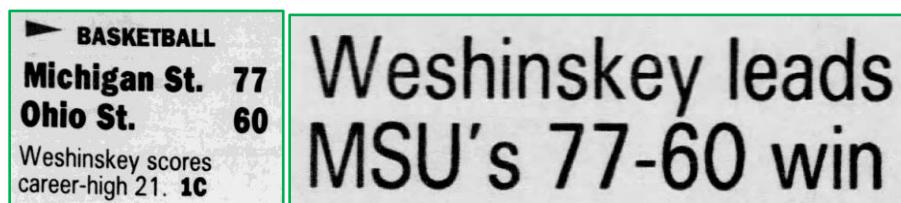
On January 6, **Minnesota** downed MSU, 64-57. Before fouling out, Weshinskey played 21 minutes, had a rebound, an assist, and four points on 2-5 shooting from the field but 0-1 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On January 9, **Illinois** defeated the Spartans, 52-39. Playing 31 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds, three assists, and eight points shooting 4-1 from the field (0-1 on 3-point attempts) ([Source](#)).



Lansing State Journal/MARGIE GARRISON
Michigan State guard Kris Weshinskey drives past Illinois' Brooks Taylor Saturday night.
Weshinskey scored eight points for the Spartans in a 52-39 loss to the Fighting Illini.

On January 13, the Spartans defeated No. 21 **Ohio State**, 77-60. Playing 38 minutes, more than any other Spartan, Weshinskey had three rebounds, three assists, and 21 points (just a point less than Shawn Respert's game-leading 22 points), including a 3-pointer on three attempts. Kris shot 9-14 from the field and 2-3 from the foul line ([Source](#)).



“Their guards weren’t getting back, which gave us a lot of easy layups,” Weshinskey said. “It was good to get great shots like that at the beginning. It helped us break the ice.”

“We definitely needed this,” Weshinskey said. “Win a win like this, if we can win again this weekend, we’re right back in it. Our first two games will be behind us.”

On January 15, the Spartans downed **Northwestern**, 80-75. Playing 35 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, two assists, and 15 points, shooting 6-11 from the field, including 3-4 three-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On January 23, **Wisconsin** topped MSU, 67-66. Playing 35 minutes, more than any other Spartan, Weshinskey had one rebound, two assists, and eight points on 3-9 shooting from the field (including a 3-pointer on five attempts) and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On January 28, No. 11-ranked **Iowa** defeated MSU, 96-90, in overtime. Weshinskey, playing 37 minutes, had three rebounds, three assists, and 19 points on 8-13 from the field (including 2-8 on 3-point attempts) and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On January 30, No. 24 **Purdue** downed the Spartans, 72-64. Playing 36 minutes, the most of any Spartan, Weshinskey had seven rebounds, three assists, and seven points on 2-3 shooting from the field (including 1-1 on 3-point attempts) and 2-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On February 2, No. 7 Michigan defeated the Spartans, 73-69. Playing 36 minutes, Weshinskey had one rebound and 15 points, shooting 6-14 from the field (including 3-10 on 3-point attempts) before fouling out ([Source](#)). Below (left) Weshinskey scores the Spartans second basket to tie the score at 4-4 early in the game.



Michigan 73, Michigan State 69

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES (73)

	MIN	FG	FT	R	A	PF	PTS
Webber	30	8-13	5-8	11	3	3	22
Jackson	26	4-8	1-2	3	1	3	9
Howard	33	7-18	2-3	13	0	3	16
Rose	37	5-14	5-9	3	4	2	15
King	33	1-4	3-4	6	2	1	5
Pelinka	14	2-3	0-0	3	0	1	4
Talley	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Voskuil	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0
Riley	16	1-1	0-0	4	0	2	2
Totals	200	28-61	16-26	43	10	16	73

Three-point goals: 1-9 (Webber 1-4, King 0-4). Percentages: FG .459, FT .615. Team rebounds: 1. Blocked shots: 5 (Webber 3, Howard, Riley). Turnovers: 21 (Howard 6, Rose 4, Webber 4, Jackson 3, King 2, Riley 2). Steals: 6 (King 2, Webber 2, Rose, Pelinka).

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS (69)

	MIN	FG	FT	R	A	PF	PTS
Weshinskey	36	6-14	0-0	1	0	5	15
Stephens	37	3-9	1-4	15	1	4	8
Pepiowski	29	6-11	3-8	5	4	3	15
Snow	31	7-10	4-9	2	5	4	18
Respert	37	2-14	2-2	2	2	2	7
Nicodemus	1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0
Beathua	15	3-6	0-0	6	0	2	6
Feick	3	0-1	0-0	2	0	0	0
Miller	10	0-4	0-0	3	0	3	0
Brooks	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
ELT							
Totals	200	27-69	10-23	36	13	23	69

Three-point goals: 5-20 (Weshinskey 3-10, Respert 1-8, Stephens 1-2). Percentages: FG .391, FT .435. Team rebounds: 1. Turnovers: 15 (Miller 4, Stephens 4, Respert 3, Pepiowski 2, Snow, Feick). Steals: 7 (Snow 4, Stephens, Pepiowski, Respert).

	1ST	2D	FINAL
Michigan	37	34	- 73
Michigan State	28	41	- 69

Attendance: 15,138.

The Spartans' only significant threat in the first half was forward Kris Weshinskey, an offensive player with more pumps than Amoco.

His teammates were a combined 6-for-21 from the field in the first half, managing one more basket than Michigan center Juwan Howard.



On February 6, MSU defeated **Minnesota**, 75-63. Over 30 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds, three assists, and nine points on 3-7 shooting from the field (including two out of three 3-point attempts) and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On February 10, **Illinois** downed the Spartans, 83-80. Playing 38 minutes, more than any other Spartan, Weshinskey had seven rebounds, four assists, and 16 points on 6-14 shooting from the field (including 3-9 on 3-point attempts) and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On February 13, MSU beat **Ohio State**, 81-66. Weshinskey, playing 36 minutes (more than any other Spartan), had a career-high ten rebounds, equaled his career high in assists with seven, and scored five points on 1-4 shooting from the field (1-3 on 3-point attempts) and 2-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On February 17, the Spartans downed **Northwestern**, 81-55. In 21 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, two assists, and 15 points shooting 5-9 from the field (including a career high four 3-pointers on five attempts), and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)). Weshinskey helped Michigan State to get off to a quick start in the game.

Weshinskey wasted no time finding his touch. Following a Respert triple to start the game, Weshinskey canned a 3-pointer and scored a layup the next time down the court, giving MSU an early 8-2 lead.

“We got off to a great start shooting and kept running the ball,” said Weshinskey. “I think we buried them in the first half, but we knew how important the first five minutes of the second half were. We really put them away.”

He made another 3-pointer, from NBA range, moments later, making it 17-6. He was 4-of-5 from 3-point territory.

On February 24, **Wisconsin** narrowly defeated the Spartans, 65-62. Playing for 38 minutes, Weshinskey had a rebound, three assists, and 11 points on 3-13 shooting (including 2-7 on three point attempts) and 3-4 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On February 26, *Lansing State Journal*’s Jack Ebling called on MSU’s Kris Weshinskey to ‘polish...up his act” and “become more consistent ([Source](#)).

By JACK EBLING
Lansing State Journal

Kris Weshinskey does a world-class impression of Michigan State coach Jud Heathcote.

But it's the Spartan junior's impersonation of a consistent, first-rate Big Ten forward that still needs considerable work.

When Weshinskey is playing well, MSU (6-7 Big Ten, 14-8) is a basketball team to be taken seriously. When he struggles, as most 6-foot-3 forwards do, the club is often terrible.

And that distinct difference will seldom be more important than it was in a 65-62 setback Wednesday night at Wisconsin — or than it will be in a 1 p.m. Saturday tipoff at Iowa.

In the Spartans' six conference wins, Weshinskey is 26 for 48 (.542) in field goal attempts and 12 for 20 (.600) from 3-point range, with 28 rebounds.

But in seven league defeats, the native of Okemos — with a stop in Purcellville, Va. — is 32 for 82 (.390) from the field and 11 for 41 (.268) from long range, with just 18 rebounds.

"I think Weshinskey and Shawn Respert, shooting from outside, are keys for us the rest of this season," Heathcote said. "That old theory says if they're going to double- and triple-team Mike Peplowski, somebody has to be open. And you always hope it's Kris and Shawn, rather than the other players."

Against the Badgers, Weshinskey was 3 for 13 from the floor, 2 for 7 behind the arc and 0 for 3 in crucial plays in the final minute.

Despite a decent defensive effort, Wisconsin point guard Tracy Webster wheeled into the lane on him and launched an off-balance 10-footer that bounced home to break a tie at 62.

Two MSU possessions later, Weshinskey tried to drive to the basket. But when he was



MSU BASKETBALL

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See KRIS, Page 4E

"Humor, Even When Nothing Is Funny"

Jud Heathcote, in *Jud A Magical Journey*, mentions his players' propensity to come up a joke on him.

"And I've also been able to interject some humor at practice, which maybe lessens the tension of the way I coach. If I didn't do that, it would be a lot harder for the players.

They know they can come up with a joke. Kris Weshinskey the great imitator, would show everyone the way I walked."

Jud Heathcote with Jack Ebling
Jud A Magical Journey (1995: p. 152)

Kris

From 1E

trapped, his travel preserved the Badgers' precarious two-point lead.

And after a foul sent Wisconsin standout Michael Finley to the line, a contagious, comical lapse in concentration cost the Spartans a rebound and a final chance with 3.8 seconds left.

"'Pep' got doubled down low and had to kick it out to someone," Weshinskey said. "He got it out to me. And when I took a dribble, I got doubled. Looking for someone to pass off to, I guess I dragged my pivot foot."

He dragged it halfway to Milwaukee as 11,244 officials' helpers in the Wisconsin Field House erupted and the Spartans saw their last possession in the forecourt end with a 17th turnover.

"We needed a good shot right there," Weshinskey said. "At least, we needed to get one off. And I should have been able to find somebody on that play. It was a mental mistake."

Not nearly as glaring a goof as the five-statue rebounding strategy that saw Finley retrieve his missed free throw — a second after it bounced off the floor.

"I guess Dwayne Stephens and I thought each other would get the ball," said Weshinskey, who managed one rebound in 38 minutes. "I don't know. He acted like he was going to go for it. And I think he thought I was going to grab it."

When asked which defender was supposed to block out the shooter, he turned away and said, "I don't know. I can't remember."

But Weshinskey remembers the first matchup this season with Iowa and a miraculous Hawkeye comeback that led to a 96-90 overtime win on Jan. 28 in the Breslin Center.

He also recalls the open jumpers Iowa has always surrendered, with his 19 points in the first meeting nothing out of the ordinary.

"Against Iowa, for some reason, we always get a lot of uncontested 3-pointers, especially in transition," he said. "If Shawn and I can get out there and knock some down, it'll open it up. They'll have to come out and check us. And we did that fairly well here in the first half and early in the second last time."

The other thing Weshinskey has always done well is keep the Spartans loose, especially with his signature skit — a dead-ringer for Heathcote, minus 45 years.

"Who told you that?" he said with a laugh as a coach he respects roamed 30 feet away. "I can't do it now. I'll do it for you when I graduate. I don't know if I can let the secret out yet. Maybe at the bust my senior year, I may have to do then."

He may have to do a lot of things in the next five games for this year's bust to be a celebration of an NCAA Tournament opportunity.

On February 27, No. 18 **Iowa** squeaked by the Spartans, 66-64. Weshinskey, playing for 34 minutes, had eight rebounds, three assists, and 12 points on 5-13 shooting from the field including 2-5 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On March 3, **Purdue** defeated MSU, 61-58. Playing 29 minutes, Weshinskey had three rebounds, two assists, and five points on 1-8 shooting from the field, netting only one 3-pointer on six attempts. With less than 18 seconds remaining, the Spartans had a chance to tie the game but shots by Weshinskey and Stephens missed the mark ([Source](#)).

After Purdue forward Glenn Robinson missed two free throws with :17.5 to play, Spartan forward Kris Weshinskey was wide with a 21-footer from the top of the circle.

And when forward Dwayne Stephens grabbed the rebound, all he could do was dribble out for a lunging 3-pointer that never had a chance.

On March 7, **Michigan** topped the Spartans, 87-81, in overtime. Playing 32 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, one assist, and 16 points shooting 5-12 from the field (including two 3-pointers on three attempts) and 4-4 on free throws, before fouling out ([Source](#)).

On March 10, **Indiana** crushed the Spartans, 99-68. Playing 25 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, six assists, and 13 points shooting 5-11 from the field and 2-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

On March 13, the Spartans defeated **Penn State**, 70-63, in a non-conference game. Playing for 25 minutes, Weshinskey had five rebounds, three assists, and six points on 3-7 shooting from the field, missing his only 3-point attempt ([Source](#)).

National Invitation Tournament (NIT)

The Spartans finished the season with a 15–13 record and an eighth place finish (7-11) in the Big Ten. The team's poor showing in the Big Ten failed to attract an invitation to the NCAA Tournament, only an at-large bid to the National Invitation Tournament.

On March 17, at Norman, **Oklahoma** narrowly defeated MSU, 88-86, in the First Round of the National Invitational Tournament (NIT). Weshinskey, playing 33 minutes, had one rebound, four assists, and 12 points from the field, shooting 6-13, 0-5 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

The fine print says MSU lost 10 games by four points or less, or in overtime, and led the league in scoring defense again — a more meaningful accomplishment if it had come in a better conference.

Lansing State Journal's Jack Ebling pointed a number of fingers (at both players and coaches) for the Spartans disappointing season, noting that "the wrong player, junior forward Kris Weshinskey, had the ball in too many must-score situations and failed to deliver" ([Source](#)).

That's partly because the wrong player, junior forward Kris Weshinskey, had the ball in too many must-score situations and failed to deliver.

*And somewhere players are laughing,
And somewhere fans still shout;
But there is no joy in Judville
—Flighty Sparty fizzled out.*

—From "Sparty as a Splat"
By JACK EBLING
Lansing State Journal

Despite critiques Weshinskey continued during his junior season to improve his stats, upping his average points per game from 6.4 (during the '91-'92 season) to 10.4 (during the '92-'93 season), while averaging 2.4 assists per game and 3.4 rebounds per game – and apparently his height at 6'3" as listed in the previous season had grown to 6'4" during the '92-'93 season).

1993-94

On the eve of the 1993-94 Spartans season, the MSU Alumni Association's *Alumni Magazine* published an [article](#) titled "MSU CAGERS MIGHT SURPRISE" that is reproduced below:

MSU CAGERS MIGHT SURPRISE

Jud hopes this year's team will surprise the experts and enjoy an outstanding season.

Most pre-season experts rank MSU's 1993-94 basketball team around 8th in the Big Ten. But some of the same "experts" picked Michigan to dominate in football.

"In spite of where we're picked, we'll be a good basketball team," says Jud Heathcote, who enters his 18th season as head coach. "However, last year I honestly thought we had a good team and we couldn't beat anyone."

He adds promptly, "Our goal is to end up in the first division of the Big Ten and to get an NCAA bid."

Whether that's a realistic goal, considering that the Big Ten has now established itself as the nation's premier basketball conference, remains to be seen. Fueling the optimism of Heathcote and associate head coach Tom Izzo is the overall improvement of the players.

"Every year you hope that two or three improve," explains Jud. "Usually, some stay the same and some regress. But this year every one of our players has improved over the summer."

MSU's clear "marquee" is junior guard Shawn Respert, who shocked the basketball world when he led the U.S. to the gold medal at the World University Games. The team's second leading scorer, he shot 54.2 percent from three-point range; in the final game against Canada, he scored 16 points as the U.S. came back from a 19-point deficit. He made several key free throws near game's end to seal the U.S. victory.

"No one expected Shawn to make the cut, much less start," says Jud. "He ended beating out guys like (Kentucky's) Travis Ford and (1993 NCAA Finals MVP Donald) Williams from North Carolina."

Sophomore forward Quinton Brooks, who played on two touring teams, and junior guard Eric Snow, were the two most improved players. "Snow worked very hard on his shooting and also on his conditioning," says associate head coach Tom Izzo. "His hard work will pay off, you watch."

Brooks won gold for the North team at the Olympic Festival in San Antonio, TX. He scored 29 points in three games (8 in the final), grabbed 4.5 rebounds a game, and shot 55 percent from the field. He also traveled with a select Big Ten team in Europe.

The center post vacated by behemoth Mike Peplowski, now with the Sacramento Kings, will likely be filled by trimmer, fitter Anthony "Pig" Miller, who weighed in nearly 30 pounds lighter than last year.

Contending for the other forward position will be a slew of talented players, including sophomores Daimon Beathea and Jamie Feick, redshirt freshman Steve Polonowski, and true freshman Jon Garavaglia. Senior Kris Weshinsky, who started last year, will start again should MSU go with a three-guard offense. Otherwise he, David Hart, Steve Nicodemus and walk-on transfer Mark Prylow will back up the Snow-Respert tandem.

"We'll run more, press more and play more people," predicts Izzo, the post-Heathcote coach-designate. "Top to bottom, the Big Ten is the strongest league in the country. You won't find much difference between the 2nd-, 3rd- and 9th-place teams."

Going into the 1993-94 season, *Lansing State Journal* sports writer Jack Ebling ranked Michigan State's returning guard combination of Shawn Respert, Eric Snow, and Kris Weshinsky as the second best backcourt in the Big Ten ([Source](#)).

Rating the Big Ten backcourts

Here are Jack Ebling's ranking of the conference's returning guard combinations:

- 1. Minnesota — Voshon Lenard-Ariel McDonald-Townsend Orr
- 2. Michigan State — Shawn Respert-Eric Snow-Kris Weshinskey
- 3. Northwestern — Todd Leslie-Pat Baldwin-Dion Lee
- 4. Ohio State — Derek Anderson-Greg Simpson-Jamie Skelton
- 5. Michigan — Jimmy King-Jalen Rose-Dugan Fife
- 6. Wisconsin — Tracy Webster-Andy Kilbride-Jason Johnsen
- 7. Indiana — Damon Bailey-Todd Leary-Pat Graham
- 8. Illinois — Richard Keene-T.J. Wheeler
- 9. Purdue — Matt Waddell-Porter Roberts
- 10. Penn State — Greg Bartram-Michael Jennings
- 11. Iowa — Mon'ter Glasper-Jim Bartels

Even if Snow and Respert deliver, MSU will need backup help from former starting forward Kris Weshinskey, unannounced arrival Mark Prylow and perhaps little-used sophomores David Hart and Steve Nicodemus.

Weshinskey, a senior, loves transition basketball and could give the Spartans the strength they need to play a more aggressive style, especially on defense.

Getting more playing time during his first two seasons as a Spartan was a big challenge as Weshinskey competed in practice against seasoned teammates, the first of whom in Kris' freshman season was senior **Steve Smith** who went on to become a star in the NBA. Other key players vying for playing time during Kris' first two seasons were: **Mark Montgomery** (a future Spartan assistant coach); big men **Mike Pepłowski** and **Matt Steigenga**; **Shawn Respert** (#1 guard by his junior season), one of the Spartans' greatest scorers and later a star in the NBA; and **Eric Snow** who became one of the Spartans' star guards and later played in the NBA. By Weshinskey's senior year, the guard rotation included Respert, Weshinskey, and Snow.

On November 5, a day before the Spartans annual Green-White scrimmage, the students of Okemos High School sponsored an advocacy event against drugs and drinking in the high school—and invited MSU basketball senior captain Kris Weshinskey as the “surprise guest” ([Source](#)).

Battling drunks with dunks

Lansing State Journal

OKEMOS — What better way to drum up some support against drinking and driving than to do a little dunking.

That was just one of the part of the show Friday as some Okemos students sponsored an event called, “The Students Against Drunk Driving Put a Slam against Drugs and Drinking in the Okemos High School.”

As part of the night’s activities, SADD held both a Fanciest Shot Contest as well as a Slam

Dunk Contest.

The winners of the Fanciest Shot were: Carrie Schimkos (first place), Katie Robison and Noelle Look (tie for second) and third was the entire Okemos junior varsity girls’ basketball team.

The slam dunk winners were: first place—Morgan Moon; second—Dan Wendt; and third place—Harold Bond.

SADD also brought in a surprise guest for the event in Michigan State basketball senior captain Kris Weshinskey.

1993–94 Michigan State Spartans men's basketball team					
Name	Class	Pos	Height	Summary	
Damion Beathea	SO	F	6'7"	5.0 Pts, 3.3 Reb, 1.1 Ast	
Quinton Brooks	SO	F	6'7"	11.3 Pts, 4.4 Reb, 0.9 Ast	
Jamie Feick	JR	C	6'9"	3.0 Pts, 4.4 Reb, 0.9 Ast	
Jon Garavaglia	FR	F	6'9	2.7 Pts, 2.0 Reb, 0.5 Ast	
David Hart	SO	G	6'4"	0.5 Pts, 0.4 Reb, 0.4 Ast	
Anthony Miller	SR	C	6'9"	12.6 Pts, 9.0 Reb, 0.9 Ast	
Steve Nicodemus	SO	G	6'4"	0.8 Pts, 0.3 Reb, 0.2 Ast	
Steve Polonowski	FR	F	6'9"	1.4 Pts, 1.2 Reb, 0.1 Ast	
Mark Prylow	JR	G	6'3"	1.0 Pts, 1.0 Reb, 0.0 Ast	
Erik Qualman	SR	F	6'6"	0.5 Pts, 0.2 Reb, 0.0 Ast	
Shawn Respert	JR	G	6'3	24.3 Pts, 4.0 Reb, 2.5 Ast	
Eric Snow	JR	G	6'3"	6.8 Pts, 3.5 Reb, 6.7 Ast	
Kris Weshinsky	SR	G	6'4"	8.2 Pts, 3.1 Reb, 2.3 Ast	

The 1994 Spartan Mens Basketball Team: Front Row: Assistant Coach Tom Izzo, Steve Niodemus, Eric Snow, Shawn Respert, Head Coach Jud Heathcoat, Kris Weshinsky, Mark Prylow, David Hart, Assistant Coach Brian Gregory. Back Row: Student Manager Matt Zimmermann, Assistant Coach Stan Joplin, Daimon Beathea, Jamie Feick, Anthony Miller, Jon Garavaglia, Steve Polonowski, Quinton Brooks, Erik Qualman, Student Manager Mike Franklin, Trainer Tom Mackowiak. (Photo courtesy of Sports Information)



#3 Kris Weshinsky has Coach Heathcote as his right hand man!

Source: 1994 Red Cedar Log Yearbook

Pre-Season Exhibition

On November 6, the Spartans held the Green-White scrimmage game, with the **Greens** topping the **Whites**, 94-88. Playing for the **Greens**, Weshinsky had five rebounds, five assists, and led the Whites with 22 points shooting 8-12 from the field (including 2-2 on 3-point attempts) and 4-4 on free throws ([Source](#)).

On November 17, the Spartans beat **Croatia Zrinjevac**, 86-74. Playing 20 minutes, Weshinskey (coming off the bench) had five rebounds, two assists, and eight points on 3-7 shooting from the field including 2-5 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On November 22, the Spartans defeated **Athletes In Action** (AIA), 80-67. Playing 30 minutes, Weshinskey had three rebounds and two assists, and scored nine points on 3-9 shooting from the field (0-3 on 3-point attempts) and 3-4 from the charity stripe ([Source](#)).

Non-Conference

On November 26, the Spartans defeated **Pacific**, 83-64, in the opening round of the San Juan Shootout in Puerto Rico. Playing 20 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds, four assists, and six points shooting 2-7 on field goal attempts (0-2 on 3-point attempts) and 2-3 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On November 27, MSU fell to **Washington State**, 76-71, in the second round of the San Juan Shootout. Playing 35 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, four assists, and eight points shooting 3-7 from the field (including 1-5 on 3-point attempts) and 1-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On November 28, the Spartans crushing **East Tennessee State**, 92-69, to take third place in the San Juan Shootout. Playing 22 minutes, Weshinskey had six rebounds, two assists, and 11 points on 5-9 from the field and 1-1 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On December 4, No. 11-ranked **Louisville** defeated the Spartans, 77-68. Playing 26 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds, two assists, and six points shooting 2-7 from the field (2-5 on 3-point attempts) ([Source](#)).

On December 7, the Spartans topped **Cleveland State**, 90-76. Playing 31 minutes, Weshinskey had six rebounds, three assists, and 14 points shooting 5-12 from the field (1-2 on 3-pointers) and 3-4 on free throws ([Source](#)).

On December 9, the Spartans downed **East Tennessee State**, 107-81. Playing 18 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, four assists, and seven points shooting 3-5 from the field (1-1 on 3-pointers) ([Source](#)).

On December 12, the Spartans defeated **Detroit Mercy**, 74-63. Playing 20 minutes, Weshinskey (see photo next page) had four rebounds, two assists, and 11 points on 4-8 shooting from the field (including 1-3 on 3-pointers) and 2-2 from the foul line ([Source](#)).

On December 14, MSU downed the **University of Illinois-Chicago**, 90-77. Playing 23 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, three assists, and seven points shooting 2-8 from the field (1-4 on 3-point attempts) and 2-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

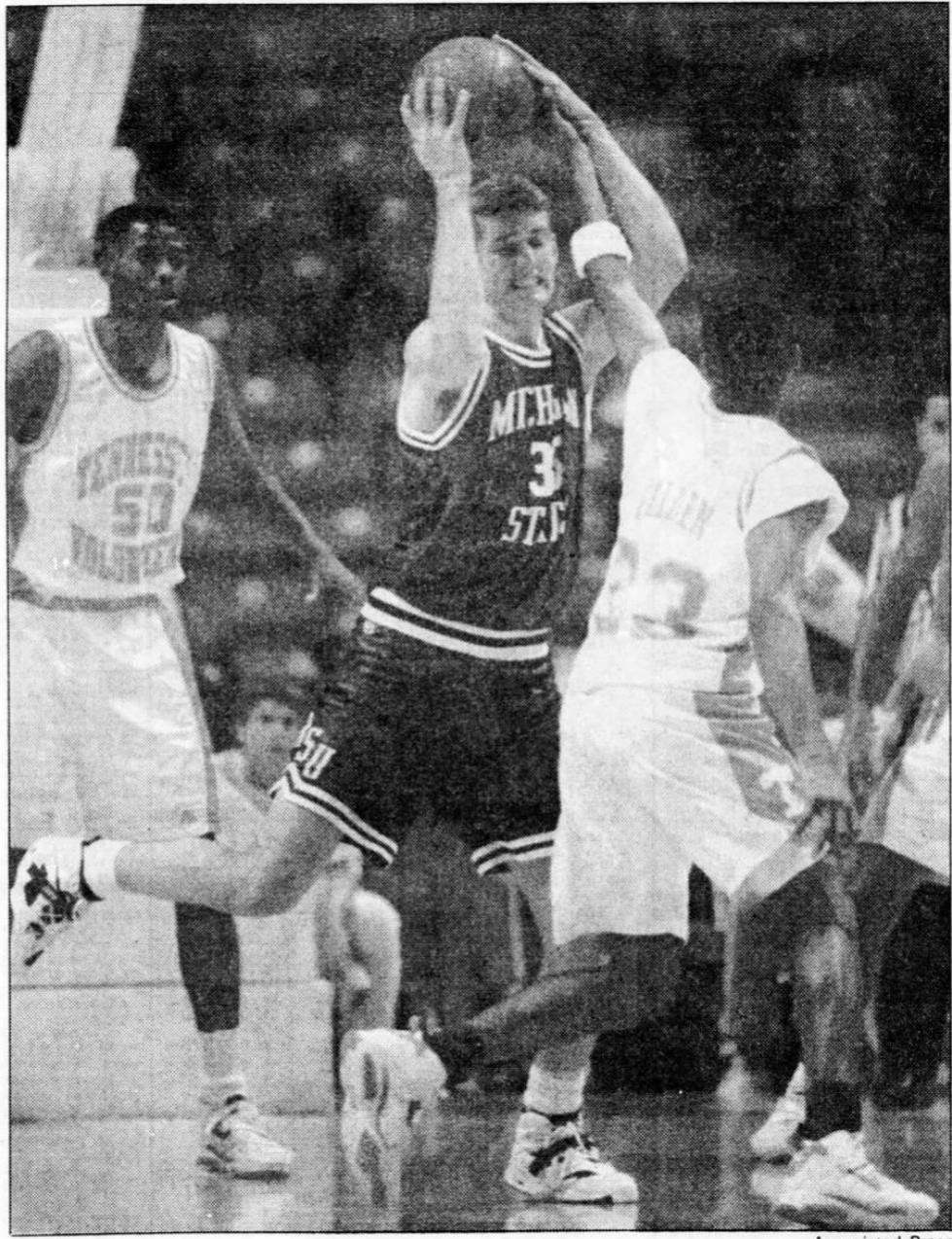


Lansing State Journal/MARGIE GARRISON

Kris Weshinsky puts up a 3-pointer that was on target in MSU's 74-63 victory over Detroit Mercy Sunday afternoon at Breslin Center. Weshinsky scored 11 points as the Spartans earned their third straight victory and climbed to 5-2 for the season.

On December 18, the Spartans fell to **Nebraska**, 85-81. Weshinsky, who started in place of injured point guard Eric Snow, shot 0-4 overall and 0-3 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On December 21, MSU beat **Tennessee**, 69-60. Playing 20 minutes, Weshinsky had eight points shooting 3-7 including 2-3 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).



Associated Press

MSU's Kris Weshinsky pulls in an offensive rebound over LaMarcus Golden.

On December 29, the Spartan downed **Bowling Green State**, 62-49, the first round of the Oldsmobile Spartan Classic. Weshinsky, with 20 minutes on the court, had two rebounds, an assist, and four points shooting 2-4 from the field ([Source](#)).

On December 30, MSU defeated **Cornell**, 83-69, to win the Oldsmobile Spartan Classic. Playing 31 minutes, Weshinsky had four rebounds, three assists, and 12 points shooting 5-12 from the field (including 2-7 on 3-point attempts) and 0-1 on free throws ([Source](#)).

Big Ten Conference

On January 5, the Spartans opened their Big Ten season losing, 75-64, to **Michigan**. Weshinskey scored 2 points on 1-8 shooting from the field (0-4 on 3-point attempts) ([Source](#)).



Lansing State Journal/GREG DeRUITER

MSU's Kris Weshinskey tries to defend against Michigan's Ray Jackson as he drives toward the basket during the Wolverines' 75-64 victory over the Spartans.

On January 8, MSU defeated No. 21-ranked **Illinois**, 79-74. Playing 13 minutes and "breaking out of a prolonged slump" ([Source](#)), Kris had three rebounds and 16 points shooting 5-8 from the field (including 3-5 on 3-point attempts) and 3-3 on free throws ([Source](#)). The game is memorable for two incidents, one that took place with 2:38 remaining in the game, the other with 46 seconds left. The first:

Basketball—January 8, 1994 (H): Michigan State upset number 21 Illinois, 79-74, for their first conference win of the young season. The game came down to the final 2:38 with MSU leading 67-66 and Shawn Respert at the free-throw line for two shots emanating from an intentional foul. The Illini coach, Lou Henson, protested vehemently, claiming that the less accurate Anthony “Pig” Miller should be at line, not the more accurate Respert. The coach’s complaint became so heated that he was charged with one technical foul, followed by a second technical and an automatic game ejection. As it turned out, Henson had a legitimate “beef.” As Respert would later confess:

“I think the refs just got caught up in the confusion. Anthony was the one that was fouled, but I went to the line, figuring it couldn’t hurt. All they could do was take me off and put Anthony up there.”

The result was six foul shots for Shawn. He sank five, providing State a 72-66 lead. The visitors never recovered.

Source: Jack Seibold's Spartan Sports Encyclopedia: A History of the Michigan State Men's Athletic Program

The second memorable was Weshinskey scoring five points with less than a minute remaining in the game to help preserve a 79-74 victory for the Spartans:

Weshinskey came up big with 46 seconds left, too, tossing in a 3-pointer to make it 75-70, and get what turned out to be the game-winning basket.

Just in case, Respert added two free throws with 16.8 seconds to go, and Weshinskey finished the scoring at the 0.7-mark with two more free throws.

On January 12, the Spartans lost to No. 9-ranked **Purdue**, 89-77. Playing 34 minutes Weshinskey had two rebounds, three assists, and 16 points shooting 6-10 from the field including four of six 3-point tries ([Source](#)).

On January 15, MSU trounced **Northwestern**, 67-46. Playing 31 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, two assists, and two points shooting 1-9 from the field including 0-1 on 3-pointer attempts ([Source](#)).

On January 19, the Spartans defeated No. 14-ranked **Wisconsin**, 70-60. Playing 34 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, three assists, and ten points shooting 3-5 from the field (including 2-3 on 3-point attempts) and 2-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

On January 22, the Spartans narrowly lost to **Minnesota**, 68-66. Playing 34 minutes, Weshinskey had three rebounds, two assists, and five points shooting 2-6 from the field (0-2 on 3-point tries) and 1-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

On January 26, the Spartans defeated No. 9-ranked **Ohio State**, 77-71. Playing 31 minutes, Weshinskey had three rebounds and four assists but went scoreless on 0-5 shooting from the field including 0-4 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On January 29, MSU squeaked past **Iowa**, 87-84. Playing 34 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds and 11 points shooting 4-11 from the field including 3-5 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)). With the Spartans ahead by only a point, and the clock running out on the possession, Weshinskey tried to get a shot off in a play involving Spartan Quinton Brooks.

After calling a needless timeout and mismanaging the clock, the winners were bailed out again on Brooks' putback basket after guard Kris Weshinskey launched a desperation heave.

"Shawn was supposed to have the ball, but 'Skey' was stuck with it," Brooks said. "Just as I went for the ball, (freshman forward Jess) Settles fell. I thought, 'Hey, I'm going to dunk this!' Then, I said, 'Nah, I'd better not.' "

"We kind of won on a fluke, but we'll take it," Heathcote said. "Kris threw up the shot with time running out. Then, we went right back up with it instead of kicking it back out and getting it in Shawn's hands."

Going into the Spartans next game against **Wisconsin**, *Lansing State Journal* sports writer Jack Ebling revisited the issue of Kris Weshinskey's productivity in an article titled:

Weshinskey still the choice

It's the No. 1 question from Michigan State basketball fans — more common than: "Is it Jud's last year?" "Will Shawn turn pro?" and "Any tickets left for Michigan?"

The real stumper in a 14-6 season seems to be, "Why is Kris Weshinskey still starting?"

The 6-foot-3 senior swingman from Okemos — via Purcellville, Va. — has played more minutes in 1994 than any Spartan other than guard Shawn Respert.

And after nine straight starts, Weshinskey's stats are still decidedly sub-par: .387 accuracy from the field, just 2.9 rebounds a game and one more turnover than assist.

But despite constant criticism, including one story that ranked him 55th among Big Ten starters, Weshinskey is steady enough to play for MSU coach Jud Heathcote.

"We've thought of starting Quinton Brooks. And we've thought of starting Daimon Beathea," Heathcote said of his backup forwards.

"Even though Kris is struggling offensively, he does a solid job defensively. The big thing is he does what he's supposed to do."

Weshinskey is not supposed to have missed nearly two-thirds of his shots in league play. But until another forward emerges, look for Heathcote to stick with experience.

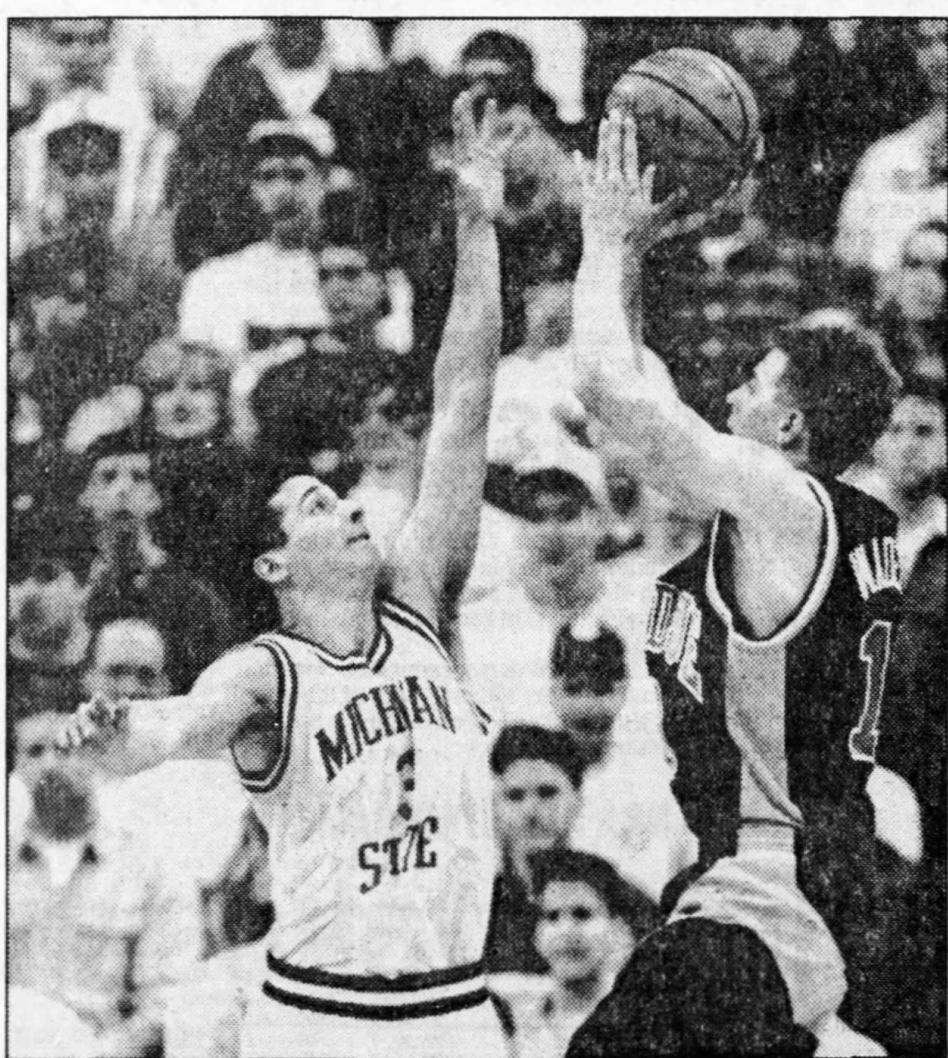
On February 2, the Spartans lost to No. 16-ranked **Wisconsin**, 87-62. Playing 16 minutes, Weshinskey had four points shooting 1-4 from the field (0-2 on 3-point tries) ([Source](#)).

On February 5, MSU lost to No. 13-ranked **Michigan**, 59-51. Playing 32 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, two assists, and seven points shooting 2-9 from the field (including 2-7 on 3-point attempts) and 1-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).

Going into the February 9 game against **Illinois**, Coach Heathcote decided to pull Weshinskey and sophomore forward Jamie Feick from the starting lineup in order to get a little more size and rebounding – sophomore forwards Daimon Beathea and Quinton Brooks – onto the court earlier in the game ([Source](#)).

On February 9, in spite of shuffling the starting lineup, the Spartans still lost to No. 24-ranked **Illinois**, 72-64. Playing for 21 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds and four points shooting 2-5 from the field ([Source](#)).

On February 12, the Spartans lost their fourth straight game to No. 10-ranked **Purdue**, 74-70. Playing for 25 minutes, Weshinskey had five rebounds, one assist, and three points shooting 1-6 from the field (0-1 on 3-point attempts) and 1-2 on free throws ([Source](#)).



Lansing State Journal/MARGIE GARRISON

Purdue's Matt Waddell shoots over MSU's Kris Weshinskey.

Going into the Spartans next game against **Minnesota**, *Lansing State Journal* sports writer Jack Ebling again revisited the Kris Weshinskey question in an article titled:

MSU BASKETBALL

You can't fault Weshinskey for his effort

EAST LANSING — It wasn't supposed to be this way.

Not in his final season of college basketball.

It should have been sweeter than his sophomore year, when a 3-pointer with 6 seconds left beat Cincinnati and a layup at the buzzer stunned Illinois.

And better than his junior performance, when he started 21 times, made more than a third of his 3's and scored in double figures.

Today, those memories seem ancient to Michigan State swingman Kris Weshinskey — walking proof that if you work hard and



JACK
EBLING

keep your mouth shut, good things don't always happen.

Furious Spartan fans have seen him shoot .368 from the field, with one more turnover than assist. Weshinskey's next game is Thursday at Northwestern.

But only a few have seen a 21-year-old's suffering and felt his persistent pain.

"I can't explain it," Weshinskey said. "I know I'm not trying to miss the shots. ... I try not to analyze everything I do. But maybe missing a couple early affects me.... I don't know."

He knows it's nearly impossible for MSU to win when he's shooting .313 from long range and averaging 7.3 points and 2.9 rebounds in 27.2 minutes.

And he said he knows where part of the problem lies, as he finally expressed in an excruciating 12-minute interview.

"There's one person on this team that gets the most criticism — and that's me," Weshinskey



The Weshinskey file

- Kris Weshinskey is a 6-3 senior guard/forward from Purcellville, Va.
- Weshinskey is averaging 7.3 points and 2.9 rebounds a game.
- He is hitting 37 percent of his field goal attempts and 75 percent of his free throws.
- **Quote:** "So if anybody takes it personally that I'm not shooting well, I'm sorry. ... I try hard to make the shots. If I can't do it, I apologize."
- Spartan notebooks, Page 3C

said. "Maybe it's because people don't like me. Maybe it's because I'm not shooting well. I know I work as hard on my shooting as anyone. And if I can't make the shots, that's... just tough I guess."

Almost as tough as answering questions from a frequent critic like me — a torture Weshinskey endured without ever establishing eye contact.

He'd seen some stories and been stung by the sarcasm, though not by the smattering of boos when he'd enter the game or students' cries of "Get him out of there, Jud!"

"The only things I hear are your articles," Weshinskey said. "I don't really pay attention to the crowd. People don't come up to me and say, 'You're really a bad play-

er!" They tell me to keep shooting and keep trying. ... So go ahead and rip me all you want."

No one wanted to write that MSU's No. 2 perimeter option was its No. 1 offensive problem or relay a ranking from a Detroit paper that listed Weshinskey as the league's 55th-best starter — no longer an issue.

It would have been easier to write and more enjoyable to read that the 6-foot-3 senior from Okemos and Purcellville, Va., was having a terrific season.

Instead, it has been impossible not to criticize a player's performance — to the point it has been taken as a personal assault.

"I know I'm not a jerk," said Weshinskey of a charge that has never been made. "I'm not a mean person to anybody. So if anybody takes it personally that I'm not shooting well, I'm sorry. ... I try hard to make the shots. If I can't do

See **WESHINSKEY**, Page 3C

it, I apologize."

No apology is necessary when someone has worked as hard as Weshinskey has, 12 months a year.

And that dedication hasn't been lost on some sympathetic teammates, including the player who'd benefit most from perimeter help.

"If you picked an unsung hero at this point of the season, Kris would be a unanimous choice," said Spartan guard Shawn Respert of his fellow captain. "He has gone through a lot of things and given up a lot for this team."

"With the team not winning, it makes him look bad. And he's taking it harder than most people would. He ends up taking it a little bit personally. But he shouldn't think he has let us down."

What he has done is given 100 percent in a futile effort to become a Big Ten forward, as he has often been mislabeled.

In addition, his contributions have included the counseling of younger players like sophomore Quinton Brooks — another player

with a fragile psyche.

"I think Quinton is going through the same thing I did," Weshinskey said. "The coaches are on him. And he feels he can't do anything right. That doesn't affect some people as much as others. But I understand exactly what he's going through."

Whether it's a rabbit-ears reaction to imminent screams from the MSU bench or just a hard-to-break habit, Weshinskey insists on passing up open shots, pump-faking and driving into traffic.

And that signature move has infuriated fans and coaches alike over the past two seasons.

"We keep saying, 'Shoot!'" said Coach Jud Heathcote. "He and Shawn shoot shots they shouldn't take and pass up shots they should. They're never quite ready to shoot when they catch the ball."

"Don Monson, my former assistant, was visiting from Oregon. And he said, 'God, that Weshinskey just drilled the ball two straight days! Now, he gets in the game and

doesn't want to shoot. And when he does, it doesn't even come close.' I said, 'Yeah, that has been his problem for a long, long time.'"

With time running out, Weshinskey knows his team's last shot is a string of victories, regardless of whether he starts or scores a point.

At 5-7 in conference play and 14-10 overall, MSU is in much the same position he is — in the midst of a maddening slump that may be a measure of ability.

"If I don't produce, I shouldn't be in the lineup," Weshinskey said. "And if I don't make another basket the rest of the year and we go to the NCAA Tournament, I'll be just as happy as anyone. ... But before every game, when I'm shooting well, I wonder, 'Is this the game?'"

He can't help but wonder. And after watching him practice, it's a wonder he hasn't helped MSU win.

What do you think? Write to Jack Ebling at 120 E. Lenawee St., Lansing, 48919.



Lansing State Journal/MARGIE GARRISON

Kris Weshinskey has struggled with both his shooting and playmaking in his senior season.

On February 17, the Spartans downed **Northwestern**, 60-55. Playing 25 minutes, Weshinskey had three rebounds, two assists, and 13 points shooting 6-9 from the field including one 3-pointer on three attempts ([Source](#)). Kris surely was greatly relieved when he read in the *Lansing State Journal* that sports writer Jack Ebling had concluded that “swingman Kris Weshinskey had an excellent all-round game with 13 points ([Source](#)). “I came into this game thinking:

I was the 55th-best starter in the Big Ten, as some people think,” said Weshinskey of a steady stream of media criticism. “I figured if I hit some shots, my scholarship wouldn’t be revoked.”

Weshinskey was especially relieved with Coach Heathcote's response to Kris' performance in the **Northwestern** game:

EAST LANSING — The Big Ten has its Player of the Week awards.

Michigan State men's basketball coach Jud Heathcote gave out his own Player of the Game awards after last Thursday's win at Northwestern snapped the Spartans' four-game losing streak.

"I thought Kris Weshinskey gave us a lift with his 13 points," Heathcote said at his Monday media gathering. "And Daimon Beathea, who's not known as a rebounder, had his career-high rebounding with nine."

On February 23, the Spartans defeated No. 20-ranked **Minnesota**, 85-68. Playing 22 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds, an assist, and 22 points shooting 3-3 from the field and 2-4 from the foul line ([Source](#)). *Lansing State Journal* sports writer Jack Ebling echoed his earlier praise of Weshinskey, noting that Kris "contributed eight points and a solid all-around game off the bench" ([Source](#)).



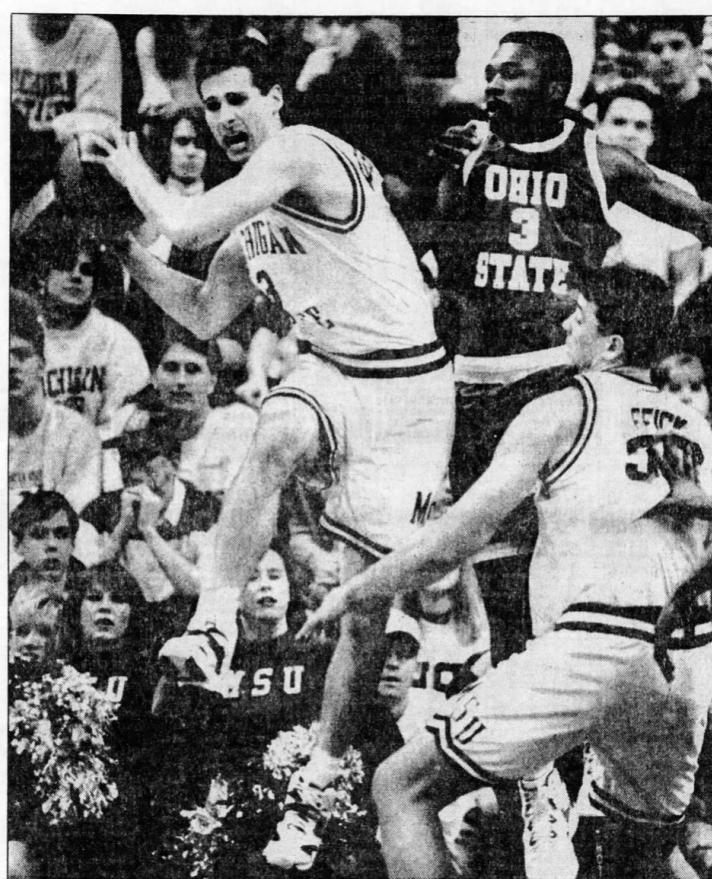
Lansing State Journal/ROD SANFORD

MSU's Kris Weshinskey (bottom) dives to knock the ball away from Minnesota's Voshon Lenard. The steal resulted in an easy MSU basket. The Spartans won, 85-68.

On February 26, MSU topped **Ohio State**, 75-60. Playing 26 minutes, Weshinskey had four rebounds, four assists, and eleven points shooting 4-7 from the field (3-4 on 3-pointers) and 0-1 on free throws ([Source](#)).

“When Shawn scores only 19 and we still win easily, I think that’s a credit to the supporting cast. If I had to single out two players, I think it would be Kris Weshinskey and Jamie Feick coming off the bench, playing very good defense and contributing offensively also.”

— MSU coach Jud Heathcote



Lansing State Journal/ROD SANFORD

Kris Weshinskey grabs a rebound away from Ohio State's Greg Simpson as Jamie Feick fights for position. Weshinskey scored 11 points and grabbed four rebounds.

And while Coach's Heathcote was giving credit to Weshinskey as a member of "the supporting cast", two letters to the *State Journal* "Sports Opinion" column defended Weshinskey. The first letter was titled: "Ease up, coach – I have just one question. When

Jud Heathcote ponders the question, "What's wrong with Kris Weshinsky?," does he ever look in the mirror?

It makes one wonder where Kris would be today under a coach who doesn't scream, stomp his feet and have infantile temper tantrums. Jud is hilarious behind a podium, but not so funny with his players.

KATHY MATTEO,
Williamston

The second letter read:

Weshinsky booster

After reading Jack Ebling's article on Kris Weshinsky on Feb. 15, it is too bad Ebling's writing and fan's vocal criticism should make this young man feel like "a jerk, a mean person" or that he is not giving his best effort.

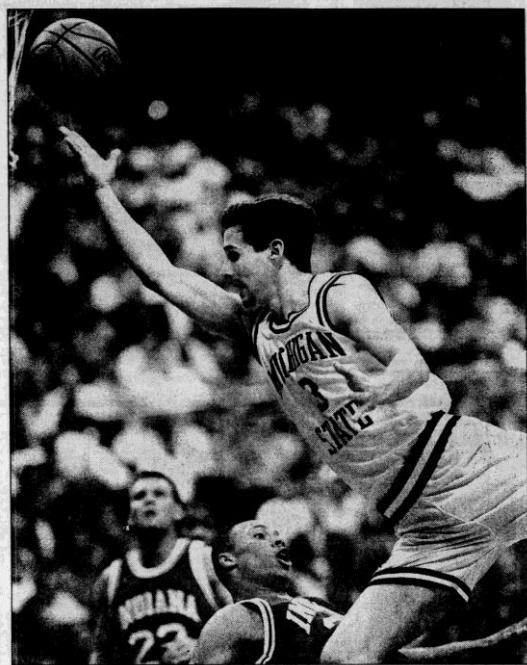
Fans and media alike should take time out to evaluate themselves. The more I coach, or participate in or simply enjoy sports, the more I believe it to be true, that sports does not build character, but reveals it. This is true of athletes and fans alike.

Keep your chin up Mr. Weshinsky, few can say they ever competed at your level. Remember Mr. Ebling and MSU fans, basketball is a team sport and that concept must never place its success or failure on one individual.

MIKE KLINE,
Holt

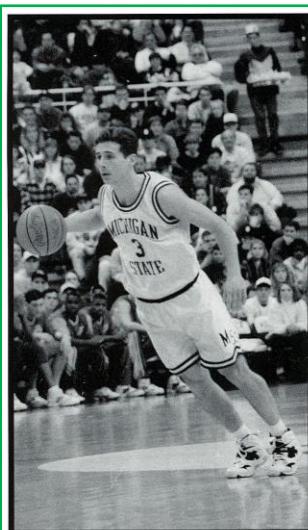
On March 2, MSU defeated **Iowa**, 80-72. Playing 26 minutes, Weshinsky had one rebound, an assist, and 14 points shooting 5-10 from the field including 4-8 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).

On March 9, the Spartans beat No. 18-ranked **Indiana**, 94-78. Playing 29 minutes, Weshinsky had 11 rebounds, three assists, and 20 points shooting 7-12 from the field (including 3-6 on 3-pointers) and 3-4 on free throws ([Source](#)). Weshinsky's double double (20 points and 11 rebounds) was a performance "that Heathcote happily termed 'unbelievable'" ([Source](#)).



Lansing State Journal/GREG DeRUITER
MSU's Kris Weshinsky gets fouled by Indiana's Sherron Wilkerson as he drives toward the basket Wednesday. Weshinsky had 20 points and 11 rebounds in MSU's 94-78 victory.

On March 12, MSU's five-game winning streak came to an end as the Spartans lost narrowly to **Penn State**, 71-70. Playing 30 minutes, Weshinsky had four rebounds, three assists, and four points shooting 2-6 from the field, including 0-1 on 3-point attempts ([Source](#)).



Hopeful, senior Kris Weshinsky gets ready to run as he searches for his teammates. (photo by Paul Evans)

NCAA Tournament

On March 18, playing in St. Petersburg, Florida, in First Round, the seventh-seeded Spartans downed **Seton Hall**, 84-73. Playing 29 minutes, Weshinskey had two rebounds, an assist, and 12 points shooting 5-8 from the field and 2-2 on free throws ([Source](#)). After the game, Heathcote said: "I thought Kris (Weshinskey) played excellent" ([Source](#)).

KRIS KEYS THE COMEBACK: Michigan State's **Kris Weshinskey** has become the Spartans' comeback player of the year after an abysmal start. Beginning with the 60-55 win over Northwestern that started the Spartans' five-game winning streak, Weshinskey became a more confident shooter.

"No one's happier than Kris regained his shooting confidence than me," coach **Jud Heathcote** said. "Kris was always a good practice player, but things got so bad that he was even

missing badly in practice."

What caused the change?

"What helped was that I started making my first shots," Weshinskey said. "As **Shawn (Respert)** would tell you, once a shooter gets into a groove early, it helps your confidence."

On March 20, the Spartans fell to No. 6-ranked **Duke**, 85-74, in the Second Round. Playing 22 minutes, Weshinskey had one rebound, two assists, and seven points (just under his '93-'94 season average of 8.2 points per game) shooting 3-7 from the field including 1-2 on 3-pointers ([Source](#)).

The Spartans finished the '93-'94 season with a 20-12 record, a fourth place (10-8) finish in the Big Ten, and an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament as a No. 7 seed where they beat **Seton Hall** in the First Round before a Second Round loss to No. 2 seeded **Duke**.

Laurels

For the '93-'94 season Weshinskey was named one of the team's Co-Captains. Two highlights from Weshinskey's '93'94 season are noted below in excerpts from Jack Seibold's *Spartan Sports Encyclopedia: A History of the Michigan State Men's Athletic Program*.

Basketball—January 29, 1994 (H): MSU led 85-84 with 50 seconds remaining, but the University of Iowa was in possession. At this point, Eric Snow altered the plot by slapping the ball away from his man, and suddenly the Spartans were in a position to control their own destiny. Following a timeout, Kris Weshinskey found himself in possession but was smothered by a defender. As the shot clock was on the verge of running out, he forced up a three-point attempt that caromed from the rim to Quinton Brooks, who scored off the glass to seal the victory. The visitors had 8.5 seconds for two desperation three-point attempts that failed. In statistical support of their victory, State won the battle of the rebounds, 42-36 and, as a result, dominated in second-chance points, 37-16. Regardless, it was a nail-biter all the way as the Hawkeyes hung on, leading 71-70 with 6:18 to play. Using their relentless full-court press throughout the game, Iowa led in steals with 12 and prompted Coach Heathcote to comment, "Every out-of-bounds play was an adventure. We just could not get the ball in play (at times)." As usual, Shawn Respert was the leading scorer with 29, he was followed by Jamie Feick and Brooks with 13 each and Weshinskey with 11.

Basketball—March 9, 1994 (H): In their only encounter against Indiana during the season, State met and defeated the Hoosiers in the home-season closer, 94-78. After the 15,138 fans had saluted Erik Qualman, Kris Weshinskey and Anthony Miller as the graduating seniors, junior Shawn Respert began his own night of recognition. As the Hoosier coach Bobby Knight would later say, "The thing I really like about him (Respert) is he plays under control; he's a very, very difficult player to play against." On this night, Respert exploded for 40 points, hitting 13-for-21 from the floor with four-of-six three-pointers. Weshinskey added 20 points and 11 rebounds. Miller tallied 13 points

and brought down eight rebounds. Eric Snow contributed 12 assists and his usual smothering defense. The turning point in the contest came after IU had hit eight of its first 10 second-half shots to aid in turning a 48-40 halftime deficit into a 61-59 lead, MSU retaliated with a nine-zero run that once more put them in front, this time for good. The Spartans shot a sizzling .655 (19 of 29) the first half and .567 (34 of 60) for the full 40 minutes.

On April 11, at the **MSU Men's Basketball Bust** at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing, Weshinskey was heralded as the Spartans Most Inspirational Player ([Source](#)).

MSU Basketball Bust awards

MVP — team vote (Chicago Tribune Award): Junior guard Shawn Respert

- **MVP — media vote (Charles R. Phillips Award):** Respert
- **Best defensive player:** Junior guard Eric Snow
- **Most improved player:** Senior center Anthony Miller
- **Most inspirational player:** Senior swingman Kris Weshinskey
- **Unsung contributor:** Senior forward Erik Qualman

Career Statistics as a Spartan

The following provides season-by-season summaries of Weshinskey's stats as a Spartan.

Per Game

Season	School	Conf	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS	SOS	
1990-91	Michigan State	Big Ten	27			0.9	2.4	.391	0.8	1.7	.457	0.1	0.7	.222	0.5	0.7	.737				1.0	0.6	0.3	0.0		2.5	9.33	
1991-92	Michigan State	Big Ten	28	1	18.9	2.5	5.8	.426	1.8	3.9	.459	0.7	1.9	.358	0.8	1.3	.629				1.5	1.5	0.4	0.1	1.2	1.6	6.4	12.72
1992-93	Michigan State	Big Ten	27			3.9	9.3	.417	2.5	5.3	.472	1.4	4.0	.343	1.3	1.8	.708				3.4	2.4	0.7	0.1			10.4	7.92
1993-94	Michigan State	Big Ten	32			3.1	7.4	.419	1.9	4.1	.470	1.2	3.3	.356	0.9	1.2	.718				3.1	2.3	0.6	0.2			8.2	10.70
Career	Michigan State		114	1	18.9	2.6	6.3	.417	1.8	3.8	.466	0.9	2.5	.343	0.9	1.2	.695				2.3	1.7	0.5	0.1	1.2	0.4	6.9	10.17

G = Games; **GS** = Game Started; **FG** = Field Goals; **FGA** = Field Goal Attempts Per Game; **FG%** = Field Goal Percentage; **FT** = Free Throws Per Game; **FTA** = Free Throw Attempts Per Game; **FT%** = Free Throw Percentage; **TRB** = Total Rebounds Per Game; **PF** = Personal Fouls Per Game; and **PTS** = Points Per Game; and **SOS** = Strength of Schedule (points above/below average, where zero is average, not including non-Division I games)

Totals

Season	School	Conf	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS	
1990-91	Michigan State	Big Ten	27			25	64	.391	21	46	.457	4	18	.222	14	19	.737				26	16	8	1			68
1991-92	Michigan State	Big Ten	28	1	528	69	162	.426	50	109	.459	19	53	.358	22	35	.629				42	41	10	3	34	44	179
1992-93	Michigan State	Big Ten	27			105	252	.417	68	144	.472	37	108	.343	34	48	.708				91	66	18	4			281
1993-94	Michigan State	Big Ten	32			99	236	.419	62	132	.470	37	104	.356	28	39	.718				99	73	20	7			263
Career	Michigan State		114	1	528	298	714	.417	201	431	.466	97	283	.343	98	141	.695				258	196	56	15	34	44	791

Per Forty Minutes

Season	School	Conf	G	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS			
1990-91	Michigan State	Big Ten	27					.391			.457			.222			.737										
1991-92	Michigan State	Big Ten	28	1	528	5.2	12.3	.426	3.8	8.3	.459	1.4	4.0	.358	1.7	2.7	.629	3.2	3.1	0.8	0.2	2.6	3.3	13.6			
1992-93	Michigan State	Big Ten	27					.417			.472			.343			.708										
1993-94	Michigan State	Big Ten	32					.419			.470			.356			.718										
Career	Michigan State					114	1	528	22.6	54.1	.417	15.2	32.7	.466	7.3	21.4	.343	7.4	10.7	.695	19.5	14.8	4.2	1.1	2.6	3.3	59.9

Advanced

Season	School	Conf	G	GS	MP	TS%	eFG%	3PAr	FTr	PProd	ORB%	DRB%	TRB%	AST%	STL%	BLK%	TOV%	USG%	OWS	DWS	WS	WS/40	
1990-91	Michigan State	Big Ten	27				.466	.422	.281	.297													
1991-92	Michigan State	Big Ten	28	1	528	.501	.485	.327	.216													16.0	
1992-93	Michigan State	Big Ten	27				.511	.490	.429	.190													
1993-94	Michigan State	Big Ten	32				.517	.498	.441	.165													
Career	Michigan State					114	1	528	.506	.485	.396	.197											16.0

Career Summary

SUMMARY	G	PTS	TRB	AST	FG%	FG3%	FT%	eFG%
Career	114	6.9	2.3	1.7	41.7	34.3	69.5	48.5

NCAA Tournament Game Logs

Rk	Date	School	Opponent	Type	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1	1991-03-15	Michigan State	N Green Bay	NCAA W	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	1991-03-17	Michigan State	N Utah	NCAA L	0	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	2 Games				0	3	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Rk	Date	School	Opponent	Type	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1	1992-03-20	Michigan State	N Missouri State	NCAA W	26	4	9	.444	4	7	.571	0	2	.000	1	1	1.000	1	2	3	1	0	1	1	1	9	
2	1992-03-22	Michigan State	N Cincinnati	NCAA L	17	1	5	.200	0	2	.000	1	3	.333	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	4	3	
	2 Games				43	5	14	.357	4	9	.444	1	5	.200	1	1	1.000	3	2	5	2	0	1	2	5	12	

Rk	Date	School	Opponent	Type	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1	1994-03-18	Michigan State	N Seton Hall	NCAA W	0	29	5	8	.625	5	8	.625	0	0	0	2	2	1.000	0	2	2	1	3	0	1	3	12
2	1994-03-20	Michigan State	N Duke	NCAA L	0	22	3	7	.429	2	5	.400	1	2	.500	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	3	7
	2 Games				0	51	8	15	.533	7	13	.538	1	2	.500	2	2	1.000	0	3	3	3	0	3	6	19	

Game Log

Rk	Season	Date	School	Opponent	Type	GS	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL	BLK	TOV	PF	PTS
1	1990-91	1991-03-15	Michigan State	N Green Bay	NCAA W	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	1990-91	1991-03-17	Michigan State	N Utah	NCAA L	0	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	1991-92	1992-03-20	Michigan State	N Missouri State	NCAA W	26	4	9	.444	4	7	.571	0	2	.000	1	1	1.000	1	2	3	1	0	1	1	1	9	
4	1991-92	1992-03-22	Michigan State	N Cincinnati	NCAA L	17	1	5	.200	0	2	.000	1	3	.333	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	4	3	
5	1993-94	1994-03-18	Michigan State	N Seton Hall	NCAA W	0	29	5	8	.625	5	8	.625	0	0	0	2	2	1.000	0	2	2	1	3	0	1	3	12
6	1993-94	1994-03-20	Michigan State	N Duke	NCAA L	0	22	3	7	.429	2	5	.400	1	2	.500	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	3	7
	6 Games					0	97	13	29	.448	11	22	.500	2	7	.286	3	3	1.000	3	5	8	5	3	1	5	11	31

Of particular interest, in April 1987, the NCAA adopted the 3-point field goal as mandatory. Thus, when Kris scored on one of his two 3-points attempts three years later during the 12/1/90 game against **Bowling Green State**, he became the first **Chieftain** (male or female) to score a 3-point field goal as a **Spartan**.

After Michigan State

After his playing days as a Spartan, Kris played professional basketball with a team in France for two seasons.

On return to the U.S., he started to focus on employment opportunities off the basketball court. From September 1998-November 2005 he worked for 7+ years with Independent Bank as an assistant vice president (AVP). Since Kris has been employed for 13+ years as Asset Disposition Manager with a firm (First Centrum) specializing in construction of business and residential properties.

Kris is married, has a son and a daughter, and lives in Virginia's Loudoun County in the town of Purcellville, where he had attended Loudoun Valley High School his junior and senior years.

He is involved in supporting various charity and youth activities. On November 21, 2012, he participated in [Layups for Loudoun](#) to benefit [Loudoun County Special Olympics](#) in basketball games pitting alumni from different high schools. The benefit also hosts a game pitting Special Olympics athletes against their coaches. Recently a "close" game was won in the final seconds when a player on the athletes' team drained a jumper in the final seconds to defeat the coaches by one point.

On December 14, 2012, Kris returned to the Jenison Fieldhouse and scored five points playing in the Michigan State [Alumni Game](#).



On top of that, it was fun to hear the names and see the faces of players from the Heathcote years that I hadn't thought of in at least a decade: Kris Weshinskey, Jon Garavaglia, Daimon Beathea.

White Team: (125)

David Thomas 14
Charie Bell 13
Morris Peterson 13
Adam Wolfe 11
Delco Rowley 9
Austin Thornton 8
Kelvin Torbert 8
Antonio Smith 6
Dujuan Wiley 6
Steve Cherry 5
Jon Zulauf 4
Idong Ibok 3
Andre Rison 3
Tim Bograkos 4
Mateen Cleaves 4
Jon Garavaglia 4
Gerald Gilkie 2
Anthony Hamo 2
David Hart 2
Andre Hutson 2

Dark Team: (118)

Ray Weathers 18
Steve Smith 13
Isaiah Dahlman 11
Darryl Johnson 11
Aloysius Anagonye 9
Travis Walton 8
Kevin Willis 8
Matt Steigenga 6
Dwayne Stephens 5
Kris Weshinskey 5
Mike Peplowski 4
Ralph Walker 3
Jason Aertz 3
Daimon Beathea 3
Bill Cawood 2
Terry Donnelly 2
Anthony Miller 2
Edgar Wilson 2

Unofficial Scoring at Michigan State Alumni Game (12/14/12)

Kris also coaches two AAU travel teams for seventh graders at the [Loudoun Basketball Academy \(LBA\)](#) and is a group coordinator for three teams of seventh graders, one of which includes his son Marek.



**Loudoun Basketball Academy (LBA) Coach Weshinskey
and Michigan State Coach Tom Izzo (March 5, 2017)**

Kris also appears at high school basketball camps to talk basketball and demonstrate shooting.



**Guest speaker Kris Weshinskey @VikingStrongLV camp talking
basketball and demonstrating shooting.**

Looking Back



Via phone calls, a one-on-one meet and greet at a Mexican restaurant in Northern Virginia (where both Kris and I live), and emails, Kris kindly responded to the “looking back questions I had for him, as follows.

Why did your family move from Michigan to Virginia – and did you have any strong feelings about changing high schools from OHS to LVHS?

I moved to Virginia between my sophomore and junior years because my father got a new job out here. I was very unhappy about moving but once I got out here, I was happy we moved. I went to a great school with great teammates. Was a great change for me.

What was the biggest challenge transitioning from varsity basketball at OHS to varsity basketball at LVHS?

It was not a difficult transition at all. From the first week I moved here, the boys were playing in a summer league and I fit right in. They were coming off a State Runner up finish so it was a great atmosphere. My teammates out here were more gung ho basketball than they were at Okemos.

At the time you moved to Virginia did have any idea, even imagine or dream, of coming back to East Lansing to play basketball for Michigan State?

I never had visions of being able play back at MSU. I remember one time my sophomore year at Okemos thinking, "maybe it would be nice to play at a Grand Valley or somewhere like that." I went to a summer camp in PA with a new teammate of mine at LVHS that summer and realized that I had a shot to play somewhere.

Apparently you are the only male Chieftain to play basketball for MSU on a four-year scholarship. Did you have scholarship offers from other colleges or universities and why and how did you decide to enroll at MSU?

I had a lot of offers. Before my senior year in high school started, I had narrowed my choices down to MSU, Wake Forest, and Virginia. In the end I just really wanted to go back home. I was a big MSU basketball fan when I was in middle school. Went to games at Jenison, etc. When they started recruiting me, I was pretty excited. There was a comfort in being around some familiar faces. Plus Coach Izzo was such a great recruiter. He was the main reason I came.

What were the biggest challenges in making the transition from playing basketball at the high school level to playing basketball at MSU?

The speed of the game is the toughest part; that and the size and strength of all the players. Bigger stronger faster athletes moving at those speeds was eye opening. It took a few games to adjust. Obviously we practiced with the team but it's not the same. Also, never taking a possession off defensively was something that took a lot of focus. One lazy moment affected the game. It seemed like every time you let up just a bit, you were getting beat.

What were the most exciting moments (or highlights) of your basketball career at (a) OHS; (b) LVHS; and (c) MSU?

At Okemos, my sophomore year, there was one specific highlight that stood out. I had dunked a handful of times in the spring of my freshman year at an AAU practice. Then I never could or never really tried to dunk again for a long time. My first real dunk was actually in a game and not practice. We were playing at Charlotte and I realized in warmups that I was really getting up. So in the 2nd half, I got a breakaway and without hesitation, I dunked it. I was so giddy that coach Stolz had to pull me out of the game. That memory always stuck with me. At LVHS we had a district championship game at home against Osborne HS. It was packed and loud and crazy in there. Our center hit a buzzer beater to win the game and it is still the craziest I've ever seen a gym after a high school game. Great memory. At MSU it would have been hitting game winning shots my sophomore year against Cincinnati and Illinois. Great memories to have!

In what ways did your former OHS, LVHS, and MSU coaches help you to improve your skills and IQ as a basketball player?

I think in early HS, Dan Stolz was a huge influence on me. He coached me my freshman year and I really looked up to him. I respected him a lot as a player and as a coach. I respected Stan Stolz a ton as well. But on the player development side, Dan had a big effect on me. My coach at LVHS did more than I ever expected or deserved from a recruitment point of view. He made calls, wrote letters, etc., to get my on the radar. I owe most of my recruitment to him.

Could you share some memories of your on-court and off-court relationship with MSU basketball head coach Jud Heathcote?

I got along well with Jud off the court. He was a great jokester and story teller and I always enjoyed needling people. So he and I got along well in that regard. He could take being needled as well as he could give it. I used to imitate him walking which always got everybody laughing, including him. On the court he was a tough cookie. He was certainly a tough coach to play for, but he definitely helped me to become tougher and more thick-skinned. I think I'll leave it at that :)

What other memories do you cherish as you “look back” on your career as a basketball player in high school and at MSU?

The friendships I made at MSU are still strong today. We have a great alumni group that is still close. Coach Izzo has done an amazing job of making us all feel like part of the program even after all these years. We are all lucky to be part of something special. It's not like that anywhere else.



Magic Johnson with Kris and Son

Big Ten Basketball Tournament, Washington, DC – March 2019)



Kris Weshinskey & Kerry Byrnes (March 27, 2019)