

## Chapter 🏀 14 - Conner George

### 14-3 - Spartan Years (2019-2020) - Redshirt Senior Season



**Conner George**

During the summer of 2019, George participated in the Moneyball Pro-Am, playing on Team Exclusive.



**Team Exclusive's Conner George in Moneyball Pro-Am, Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at Aim High in Dimondale, Michigan (Al Goldis | For the Lansing State Journal)**

## 2019-20

The season will open with  
[@MSU\\_Basketball](#) on top of the national  
rankings!

Full poll ➡ [bit.ly/31KBwPg](https://bit.ly/31KBwPg)

NABC NATIONAL RANKINGS		
NCAA DIVISION I		
1	MICHIGAN STATE	792 (10)
2	KENTUCKY	754
3	KANSAS	687 (1)
4	DUKE	683 (1)
5	LOUISVILLE	670
6	FLORIDA	619
7	GONZAGA	544
8	MARYLAND	536
9	VIRGINIA	532
10	VILLANOVA	531

NABC @NABC1927 · Oct 24  
This is the first time [@MSU\\_Basketball](#) has ever been ranked No. 1 in the  
preseason coaches poll!



### MSU G Connor George Looks Ahead To the 2019-2020 Season



Click on Image for Video

Izzo said of his young star, "Conner George, another fifth year player, I've been pleased with Conner. He can really shoot the ball, and he's a great offensive rebounder."

On the eve of the 2019-20 season, for the first time ever, the MSU Spartans were ranked by the Associated Press as the preseason #1 basketball squad in the nation. On Saturday of that week, that squad was out in full force (see photo below) supporting the Spartans football squad that would host **Penn State** on October 26.



### Conner George (Looking over Coach Izzo's Left Shoulder)

The night before, on October 25, the Spartans men's and women's basketball squads held their annual Midnight Madness, with Coach Izzo making yet another "Izzcredible" entrance along with the members of the Spartans men's squad (Conner in back third from the right).



The meme below shows the Spartans challenging 2019-20 schedule that included tough non-conference games against top tier opponents, the first against #2-ranked Kentucky, followed by **Seton Hall**, Maui Invitational opponents, and **Duke**, 20 Big 10 Conference games, the first with **Rutgers** followed by a non-conference game against **Oakland**.



*Go Green !!*

# 2019-20

10.29	ALBION (EXH.)
11.05	KENTUCKY
11.10	BINGHAMTON
11.14	SETON HALL
11.18	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
11.25-11.27	MAUI INVITATIONAL
12.01	DUKE
12.06	RUTGERS
12.14	OAKLAND
12.18	NORTHWESTERN
12.21	EASTERN MICHIGAN
12.28	WESTERN MICHIGAN
1.02	ILLINOIS
1.05	MICHIGAN
1.09	MINNESOTA
1.12	PURDUE
1.17	WISCONSIN
1.23	INDIANA
1.26	MINNESOTA
1.29	NORTHWESTERN
2.01	WISCONSIN
2.04	PENN STATE
2.08	MICHIGAN
2.11	ILLINOIS
2.15	MARYLAND
2.20	NEBRASKA
2.25	IOWA
2.28	MARYLAND
3.03	PENN STATE
3.08	OHIO STATE

HOME AWAY

*#11*

Spartans' 2019-20 Schedule





For sure, redshirt senior Conner George returned to the Spartans basketball squad for his fifth year with the team (including his 2015-16 redshirt season).

2019-20 M. Basketball Roster

Matthew Mitchell Photography

George, Conner

**41 CONNER GEORGE**

POSITION: G	HEIGHT: 6-4
WEIGHT: 205	CLASS: Redshirt Senior
HOMETOWN: Okemos, Mich.	HIGHSCHOOL: Okemos

BIO RELATED STATS HISTORICAL



In his preseason comments on each member of the 2019-20 squad, Coach Izzo shared the following on Conner.

**G CONNER GEORGE, RS SR.**

“Conner George, another fifth-year player. I've been pleased with Conner. He can really shoot the ball, and he's a great offensive rebounder.”

**Coach Izzo's Preseason Comments on Conner George**



## CONNER GEORGE

6-4 • 205 • OKEMOS, MICH.  
R-SENIOR • GUARD

### CAREER STATS

Year	GP/GS	Min/Avg	FG-FGA	FG%	3FG-FGA	3FG%	FT-FTA	FT%	OFF-DEF	REB	AVG	PF/O	A	T.O.	B.L.	ST	PTS	AVG
16-17	10/0	12/1.2	1-2	500	0-1	.000	4-6	.667	0-3	3	0.3	0-0	1	2	0	0	6	0.6
17-18	16/0	54/3.4	3-15	200	0-8	.000	0-2	.000	7-11	18	1.1	6/0	0	2	0	3	6	0.4
18-19	13/0	28/1.5	4-8	500	0-0	.000	2-3	.667	1-5	9	0.5	7/0	1	0	0	1	10	0.6
TOTAL	44/0	94/2.1	8-25	320	0-9	.000	6-11	.545	8-22	30	0.7	13/0	2	5	0	4	22	0.5

### THE WORD

Awarded a scholarship for 2017-18, after initially joining the Spartans as a walk-on for the 2015-16 season • Earned his bachelor's degree in three years and is currently enrolled in graduate school • Excellent long-range shooter.

### 2018-19

Appeared in 18 games • Averaged 0.6 points and 0.5 rebounds in 1.6 minutes per game • Played a season-high five minutes against Bradley (3/21) in the NCAA Tournament, hitting a pair of free throws • Scored baskets in wins over ULM (11/14), Green Bay (12/16), Oakland (12/21) and Minnesota (2/9) • Selected to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honors Court, recognizing men's basketball players who carry a grade-point average of 3.2 or higher • An Academic All-Big Ten selection.

### 2017-18

Appeared in 16 games • Averaged 0.4 points and 1.1 rebounds in 3.4 minutes per game • Played a career-high 18 minutes, scored two points, grabbed a career-best seven rebounds, including five on the offensive end, in the first round of the PK80 Invitational against DePaul (11/23) • Also hit baskets in wins over Nebraska and Long Beach State (12/21) • Selected to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honors Court, recognizing men's basketball players who carry a grade-point average of 3.2 or higher.

### 2016-17

Appeared in 10 games, averaging 0.6 points in 1.2 minutes • Recipient of MSU's Tim Bograkovs Walk-On Award • Scored a career-high four points, going 4-for-6 from the free throw line in the Big Ten Tournament vs. Penn State (3/9) • Scored his first career points on a layup vs. Minnesota (1/11) • Saw his first action in the Green and White and grabbed two rebounds vs. Mississippi Valley State (11/18) • Academic All-Big Ten.

### 2015-16

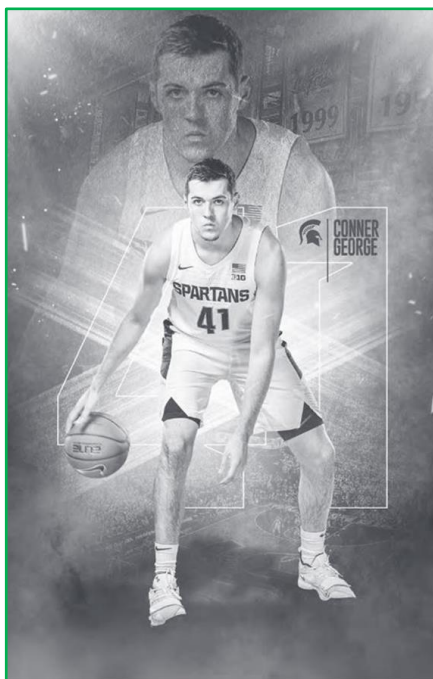
Redshirted.

### HIGH SCHOOL

2015 Lansing State Journal Dream Team honoree • Averaged 23 points and 10.6 rebounds as a senior, shooting 48 percent from the field and 83 percent from the foul line, playing for Coach Jeff Wonch • Made 38 3-pointers on the season • 2015 Class A All-State honoree as selected by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan • 2015 Associated Press Honorable Mention Class A All-State • Chose to walk-on at Michigan State over numerous Division II and III opportunities • Earned 2014 all-league honorable mention accolades, while leading Okemos to the Class A district finals.

### PERSONAL

Robert Conner George • Born Feb. 18, 1997 • Son of Jerry and Cathy George; Cathy is head coach of the Michigan State volleyball team • Earned his bachelor's degree in communication in May 2018 • Currently pursuing a Master of Arts in education.





Michigan State Basketball

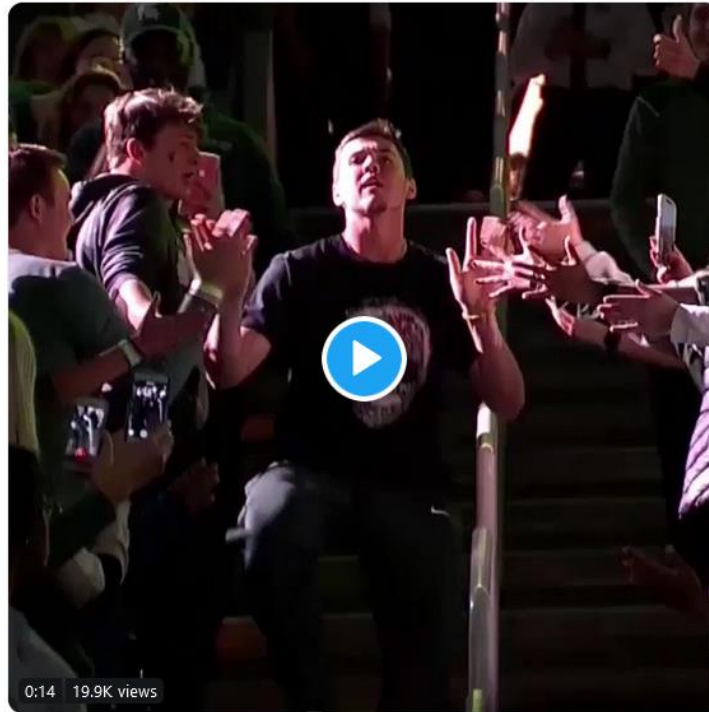
@MSU\_Basketball

Follow

Is CG ready for the season to start?

Bet on it.

#MSUMadness



4:19 PM - 27 Oct 2019

## 2019-20 MICHIGAN STATE ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CLASS	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL
0	Kyle Ahrens	G/F	6-6	210	R-Sr.	Versailles, Ohio/Versailles
1	Joshua Langford	G	6-5	200	Sr.	Huntsville, Ala./Madison Academy
2	Rocket Watts	G	6-2	184	Fr.	Detroit, Mich./SPIRE Academy (Ohio)
3	Foster Loyer	G	6-0	175	So.	Clarkston, Mich./Clarkston
5	Cassius Winston	G	6-1	185	Sr.	Detroit, Mich./Univ. of Detroit Jesuit
10	Jack Hoiberg	G	5-11	175	R-So.	Burr Ridge, Ill./Hinsdale Central
11	Aaron Henry	F	6-6	210	So.	Indianapolis, Ind./Ben Davis
13	Steven Izzo	G	5-8	150	Fr.	East Lansing, Mich. / Lansing Catholic
14	Brock Washington	G	6-4	200	R-So.	Southfield, Mich./Southfield Christian
15	Thomas Kithier	F	6-8	230	So.	Clarkston, Mich./Clarkston
20	Joey Hauser	F	6-9	220	R-So.	Stevens Point, Wis./Stevens Point (Marquette)
23	Xavier Tillman	F	6-8	245	Jr.	Grand Rapids, Mich./Grand Rapids Christian
25	Malik Hall	F	6-7	215	Fr.	Aurora, Ill./Sunrise Christian Academy (Kan.)
30	Marcus Bingham Jr.	F	6-11	225	So.	Grand Rapids, Mich./GR Catholic Central
34	Julius Marble	F	6-8	225	Fr.	Dallas, Texas/Dallas Jesuit
40	Braden Burke	F	7-0	245	R-Jr.	Stevensville, Mich./Lakeshore (Robert Morris)
41	Conner George	G	6-4	205	R-Sr.	Okemos, Mich./Okemos
44	Gabe Brown	F	6-7	210	So.	Ypsilanti, Mich./Belleville



### *Preseason Exhibition*

On October 29, the Spartans defeated **Albion**, 85-50, with George getting 8 minutes of playing time across the first and second halves, shooting 0-2 on field goal attempts, picking up two fouls, and grabbing two rebounds (one offensive and one defensive).



George with the ball as Albion's Josh Palo defends during the first half



George (left photo) Grabs One of Two Rebounds

## Non-Conference



On November 5, the #1-ranked Spartans opened their nonconference season at the Champions Classic but lost to #2-ranked **Kentucky**, 69-62. While George didn't play, he supported his team from the bench.



On November 10, the Spartans hosted **Binghamton**. With 4:24 remaining in the second half, George entered the game, grabbing four rebounds and making one assist. He was fouled twice and scored 3 points (3-4 from the foul line), with his last free throw upping the final score to 100-47.

BINGHAMTON		Final		100		MSU	
STARTERS	MIN	FG	3PT	REB	AST	PF	PTS
X. Tillman	25	5-8	1-2	8	2	3	17
A. Henry	24	5-6	2-2	2	1	1	16
T. Kithier	20	5-5	0-0	3	3	0	10
R. Watts	23	2-9	1-7	2	2	1	5
C. Winston	26	7-16	3-8	2	11	1	17
BENCH	MIN	FG	3PT	REB	AST	PF	PTS
B. Burke	2	1-1	0-0	0	0	2	2
J. Marble	6	2-2	0-0	0	0	0	4
M. Hall	13	0-1	0-0	3	2	0	0
M. Bingham	12	5-9	0-2	6	0	1	13
G. Brown	13	3-4	0-0	0	1	0	7
S. Izzo	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
F. Loyer	12	0-3	0-1	0	2	2	0
K. Ahrens	13	2-5	0-1	4	0	1	4
C. George	4	0-2	0-0	4	1	0	3
J. Holberg	3	0-1	0-1	0	0	1	0
B. Wash...	2	1-2	0-1	3	0	0	2
TEAM		38-74	7-25	48	25	13	100
		51.4%	28.0%				



With 2:32 remaining, George received a pass at the top of the circle, beyond the 3-point line, and hit a 3-pointer which was nullified because the player who had thrown the ball to George was whistled for having his foot on the out-of-bounds line. But George made up the lost 3-pointer by making three out of his four free throw attempts, the last of which upped the Spartans final score to 100.



George Hits 3-4 from the Foul Line & Scores Spartans' 100<sup>th</sup> Point



On November 13, in the Gavitt Tipoff Games, the #3-ranked Spartans defeated #12-ranked **Seton Hall**, 76-73. While only ten Spartans played, George remained at the ready on the bench and post-game celebrated the Spartans victory in the locker room with his teammates.



George (#41) At the Ready on the Bench & Post-Game Celebration



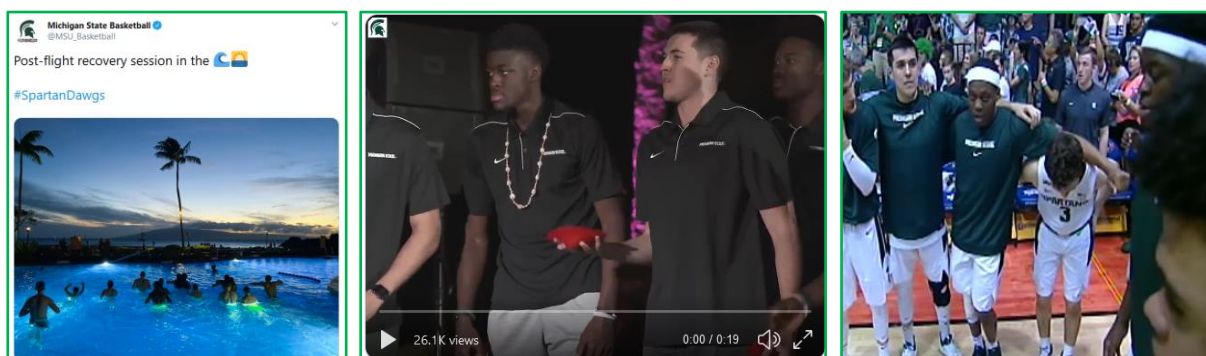
On November 18, the #3-ranked Spartans hosted **Charleston Southern**, George played in the game's first and second half for seven minutes, pulling in three rebounds (one offensive and two defensive) and scoring 2 points on two field goal attempts ([Source](#)). In the second half, with the Spartans holding a 41 point lead at 75-34, George entered the game with 6:17 remaining. At 5:27 remaining, George grabbed a rebound and scored a basket (bottom left photo), upping the Spartans to a 43 point lead at 79-36. At 2:15 remaining, George returned to the bench with Spartans holding a commanding 45-point lead at 87-42 and closing out the win with a final score of 94-46.



In the wake of the Spartans win over **Seton Hall** and **Charleston Southern**, and the loss of #1-ranked **Kentucky** to unranked **Evansville**, the Spartans rose to #1 in the 2019-20 season's second [Power 26](#), edging out **Duke** at #2. Up next was a trip to Hawaii for a game against the unranked **Virginia Tech** Hokies in the Maui Invitational.



While George's toss put MSU on top, 21-13, as champ of the pre-tournament cornhole competition (see middle photo below) on November 24, the next day the unranked Hokies upset the AP- and Coaches #3-ranked Spartans, 71-66. George only got on the court during the pre-game introduction of MSU's starting five. The loss to **Virginia Tech** put the Spartans into the consolation bracket to play **Georgia** on November 26.



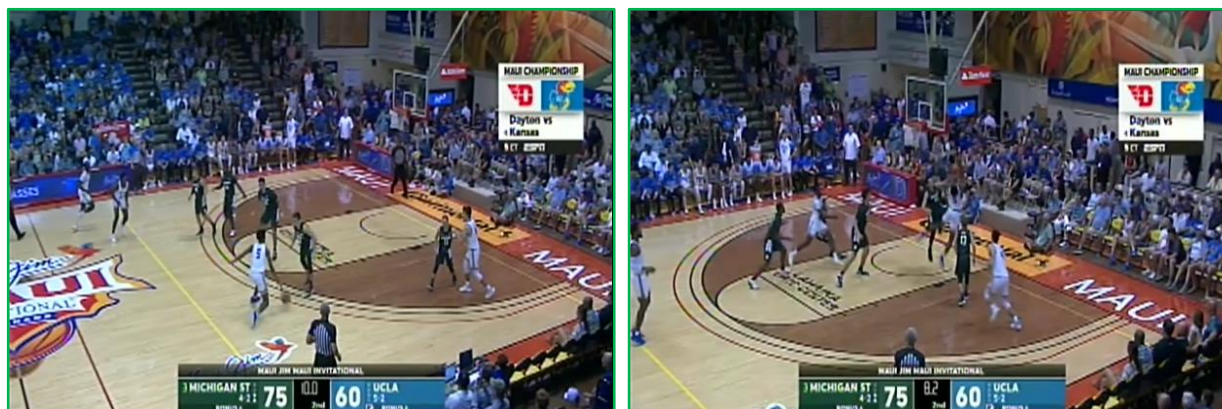
On November 26, MSU opened nearly a 30-point lead before **Georgia** roared back to cut that lead to a single point before the Spartans held on to win the game 93-85. Again George did not get into the game but supported the team from the bench.



**George (top right) Listens Closely to Coach Izzo in Pre-Game Huddle**

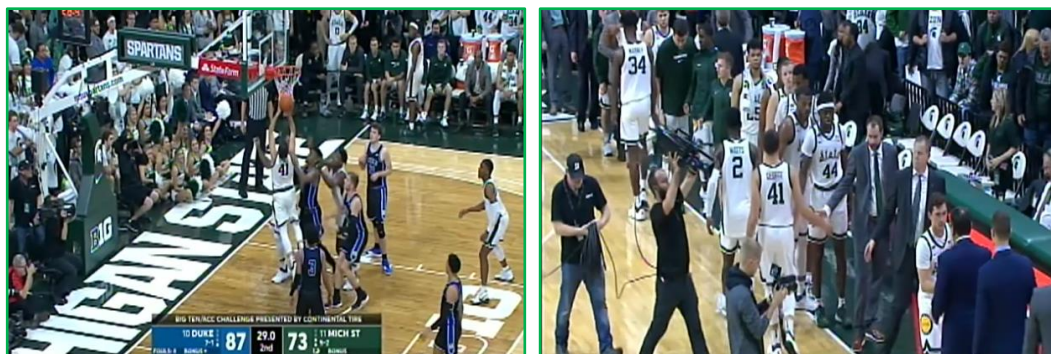


On November 27, in their last Maui Invitational game, #3-ranked MSU beat unranked **UCLA**, 75-62. With 27.6 seconds remaining, George entered the game and got into the stat book with a personal foul with a little over eight seconds remaining.



### George Guards and Fouls Duke's Ball Handler under the Basket

On December 3, in the ACC-Big 10 Challenge, AP-ranked #11 MSU fell behind by 22 points before losing to #10-ranked **Duke**, 87-75. The bright spot for **Okemos Chieftain** fans was George (41) entering the game at 39.4 seconds, ten seconds later scoring the Spartans last basket on a rebound put back, and, in effect, leading all Spartans in field goal percentage with 1000% shooting on the night.



DUKE

8-1

87

Final

75

11 MEIN

Michigan State

All State

☐

STARTERS	MIN	FG	3PT	REB	AST	PF	PTS
X. Tillman	29	9-14	0-1	8	3	3	20
M. Bingham	12	4-6	2-3	2	1	3	13
A. Henry	22	1-2	0-1	2	2	1	2
R. Watts	25	1-7	0-2	2	3	3	4
C. Winston	38	4-14	1-3	3	7	1	12
BENCH	MIN	FG	3PT	REB	AST	PF	PTS
J. Marble	3	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	2
G. Brown	21	3-7	1-4	5	2	0	8
T. Kithier	9	1-2	0-0	0	0	3	2
M. Hall	25	3-8	0-2	8	3	0	9
F. Loyer	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	1
K. Ahrens	11	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0
C. George	1	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	2
TEAM		28-62	4-16	32	21	15	75
		45.2%	25.0%				



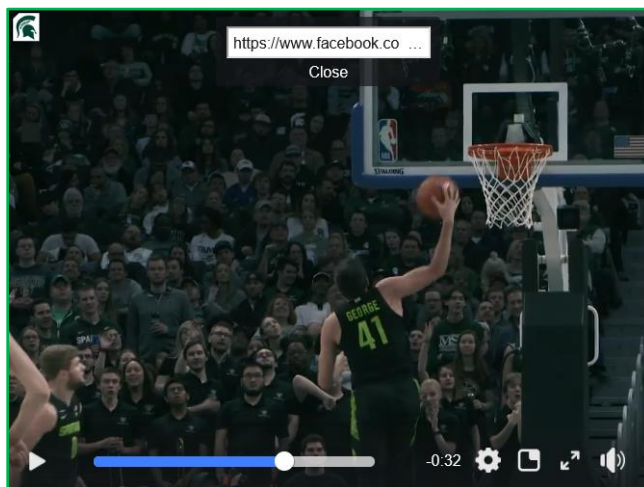


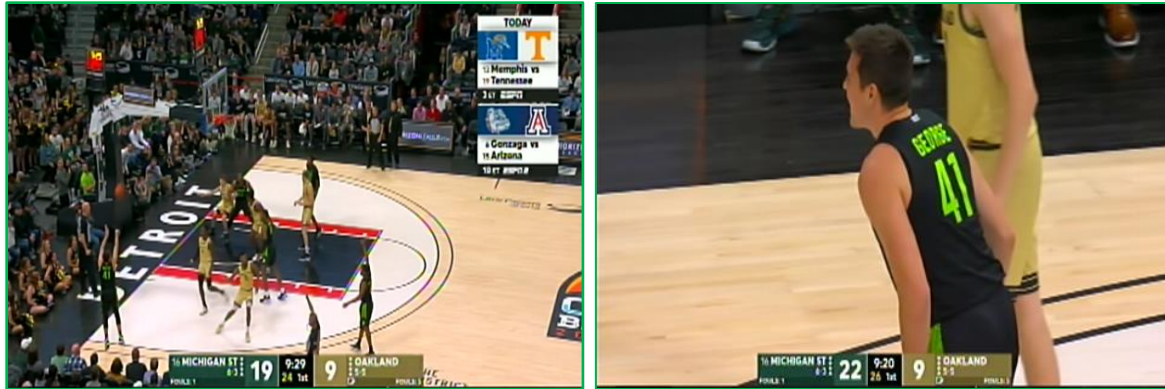
## Big Ten Conference

On the eve of the Spartans first Big Ten Conference game against **Rutgers**, **Michigan State** already had three losses, including to #2 **Kentucky**, unranked **Virginia Tech**, and #10 **Duke**, dropping the Spartans to #5 in the NET rankings, #11 in the AP rankings, and #12 in the Coaches rankings. But on December 8 the Spartans got back on the winning track with a 77-65 victory over **Rutgers**. While George didn't get a chance to play in this game, post-game he congratulated Steve Pikiell, the Scarlet Knights coach. However, despite the victory over Rutgers, the Spartans had fallen further in the national polls to #16 (AP) and #15 (Coaches Poll).



On December 14, the #16 Spartans defeated **Oakland**, 72-49, in a non-conference game played at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit. George played 10 minutes across both the first and second halves and scored his first 3-pointer as a Spartan on 1-3 three-point attempts, grabbed 5 rebounds (4 defensive/1 offensive), and picked up three personal fouls. George (#41) first entered the game at 11:13 of the first half.





**“Conner George rattles in a three from the corner.”**

Following the Spartans’ victory over **Oakland**, the *Lansing State Journal* published the following [article](#) on Conner George by Graham Couch:

**Couch: For Conner George, time is precious, as is the hope he'll get to save MSU 'in a desperate time'**

[Graham Couch](#), Lansing State Journal Published 7:02 p.m. ET Dec. 14, 2019 | Updated 10:44 p.m. ET Dec. 14, 2019



Michigan State guard Conner George is high-fived by his teammates after coming off the court during the game against Oakland at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019. Michigan State won, 72-49. (Photo: Anntaninna Biondo, *Detroit Free Press*)

DETROIT – Conner George has toiled for five seasons at Michigan State for the precious 2 minutes and 20 seconds that came his way in the first half Saturday.

By now, perhaps no player in college basketball values time more than George.

These weren't his first meaningful minutes at MSU. Nor were they his last in Saturday's 72-49 blowout of Oakland at Little Caesars Arena. George, a 6-foot-4 walk-on from Okemos, has lived on the outside fringes of the playing rotation the last three seasons, always so dang close to being a regular and yet needing turmoil to strike for it to happen. He's MSU's emergency rotation guy.

Two years ago, he hauled in seven rebounds in 16 minutes at the PK80 tournament in Portland when Miles Bridges missed a game with an injury. Last March, in the first round of the NCAA tournament, George played the final five minutes of the first half in place of freshmen Aaron Henry and Gabe Brown who were struggling and in foul trouble. George's two free throws put MSU ahead as the Spartans grappled with Bradley.

"The kid works his ass off," MSU coach Tom Izzo said Saturday. "I mean, how you can do that for five years, I don't know."

George can tell you how. There's always been hope of something more, to have a regular place.... At last, however, he knows that's probably not coming, unless there's an injury or unexpected need — with this team, maybe 3-point shooting. Freshman Rocket Watts is out right now with a stress reaction in his left foot. As long as Watts is out, George will play, Izzo said.

"If I keep playing well," said George, who didn't see any time against Rutgers last Sunday in Watts' first game out. "Hopefully I can make more shots and then it'll be more easily convincing."

He hit one 3-pointer Saturday, a shot from the left side, putting the Spartans ahead 22-9 in the middle of the first half. It was a relief. George, a shooter by trade, was previously 0-for-10 from beyond the arc in his MSU career, never with more than one attempt in any one game before Saturday, when he took three, missing the last two.

"It felt really good just getting that off my chest," George said. "Me, (Matt) McQuaid, Kyle (Ahrens), we always joke about that — 'When am I going to make a 3?' And then everyone's been saying, 'You're going to make a 3 when it matters.' That's what we've been saying for two years."

George stayed at MSU dreaming of opportunities like Saturday's. And he stayed for his teammates, his friends and the program that, after all this time, is part of him. He could have left a year ago as a grad transfer, after graduating in three years.

Saturday's game was both a reminder of what could be elsewhere and why he stayed. George wound up guarding [Oakland freshman walk-on Blake Lampman](#) for a stretch. It was Okemos defending Haslett, a Meridian Mall showdown. Lampman played 27 minutes and is averaging more than 20 minutes per game for the Golden Grizzlies. That could be George somewhere other than MSU.



“I mean of course it’s popped up in my mind,” George said. “You question, ‘What should I do in the next couple years?’ At the end of the day, it was a really quick thought. I was like, ‘Naw, I’m here. I love it here. This is the best thing.’ I have no regrets.”

And he’s appreciated.

“CG is walk-on legend, a scout-team legend,” MSU point guard Cassius Winston said. “If they could hang jerseys for scout team players, he’d be up there for sure. He comes in, he works, he never complains. A lot of guys would be frustrated. I think I would probably be frustrated if I’m this close to the playing rotation for all those years. But he doesn’t complain, he supports, he’s loud on the bench, he’s cheering. And that’s the kind of guy you want to root for. When he hit his 3 tonight, I’m out there celebrating for him, because I knew how big of a moment that was for him.”



**Michigan State guard Conner George, of Okemos, and Oakland guard Blake Lampman, of Haslett, were matched up against each other at times Saturday at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit. (Photo: Anntaninna Biondo, *Detroit Free Press*)**

George’s other big moment Saturday came late — after his 9 minutes and 11 seconds. He got to check out of the game with the regulars, before garbage time, when he usually plays.

“It felt good,” George said. “It happened earlier this year, too (against Charleston Southern), and that one probably felt a little better honestly because (Saturday) I kind of messed up the last possession, when I fouled a dude. I fouled a dude twice in a row. So I was more just mad at myself.”

MSU might have been up big by then. But George doesn’t have time or possessions to waste.

“That’s why I’m going after every rebound,” he said. “Even when I’m getting subbed in, in the last two minutes of a game, those are important. People don’t think those are important. Those are important to me.”



**Michigan State guard Conner George tries to block Oakland guard Kenny Pittman Jr. (24) during the game against Oakland at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019. Michigan State won, 72-49. (Photo: Anntaninna Biondo, *Detroit Free Press*)**

George had five more rebounds Saturday. He has a knack for it — knowing to crash the glass when his man looks away, etc. He’s averaging 12.9 rebounds per 40 minutes for his career and has 12 in 21 minutes this season. Izzo has learned he can count on him for that.

“We didn’t just play him because we’re pissed off (at someone else),” Izzo said. “He gets every rebound. He gets every loose rebound known to man. He’s my non-athletic Tim Bograkovs. But he’s a much better shooter.”

George is in there because Watts is out. But on a team that’s shooting 31 percent on 3-point tries through 10 games, he’d have loved to hit a couple more 3s Saturday, just to plant that seed.

“I wish I hit at least one of those other two,” George said.

“I know that we are unfortunately one mishap or one injury or foul trouble away from me having to play. That’s kind of what gives me hope at the end of the day. And I’m not going to quit working for a situation like that where I could help save a team in a desperate time.”







### Conner's Got His Teammates' Backs

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, during Coach Izzo's weekly press conference, he indicated that with the injuries to two Spartan guards (Josh Langford & Rocket Watts) and Cassius Winston and Foster Loyer as the primary two guards, that "Conner George could be in line for more minutes" ([Source](#))



With the Spartans' December 18<sup>th</sup> game at **Northwestern** looming, [Spartans Wire](#) noted "Five Players to Watch", the fifth being Connor George:

## 5. Connor George

Okay, okay, hear me out, guys. Izzo recently stated that Connor George will play more minutes in the future. This means George is likely the third Guard in Michigan State's rotation. As a result, his importance almost goes without saying. Expect George to play at least ten minutes this next game against Northwestern. If he plays well, those minutes definitely go up. Hopefully, Connor George spaces the floor and continues hustling on defense.

On December 18 at **Northwestern**, the #15 Spartans won, 77-72. George (#41) played for only u about a minute in the second half but notched no other stats in the box score.

AVAILABLE GUARDS CAREER STARTS					
					
5 G CASSIUS WINSTON	3 G FOSTER LOYER	41 G CONNER GEORGE	14 G BROCK WASHINGTON	13 G STEVEN IZZO	10 G JACK HOIBERG
89	0	0	0	0	0
LANGFORD & WATTS: OUT					





Up next and before the balance of the Spartans' Big 10 conference games, #15 MSU took on the last two on its non-conference opponents. On December 21 Michigan State defeated **Eastern Michigan**, 101-48. George shot 1-2, scoring 3 points on a 3-pointer; missed two free throw attempts (0-2); grabbed four rebounds (two offensive and two defensive); had two turnovers; and played the last 9:29 minutes of the game, entering the game when the Spartans were ahead by a 49 point margin (83-34) ([Source](#)).



### George Was 0-2 on Free Throw Attempts



### But 1-1 on 3-point Attempts

[Spartan Avenue](#), in its “grade” assignments on player performance during the game, rated Conner George as follows:

#### Conner George: B+

Once again, Conner George came in and provided some solid minutes for the Spartans. He had three points and four rebounds in nine minutes and he's a great energy guy.

Near game's end, the Spartans' most tenured player – George (#41 – redshirt senior in his fifth season) attempted to pass the ball down the court to the team's least tenured player, walk-on freshman, 5'8" Stephen Izzo (#13). But the ball sailed over Izzo's arms, with BTN's play-by-play announcer adding “George throws that one over Izzo's head. George is used to throwing it to guys who are in the 6'7” neighborhood. And Stephen Izzo checks in at 5'8”.” Coming back down the court, Stephen reached out to George to thank him for George's effort to pass the ball to him.



### George (#41) Mentoring Izzo (#13)

On December 29, #14 MSU hosted non-conference opponent **Western Michigan** and won 95-62. George played seven minutes (on the court twice in the second half), scored two points on 1-3 shooting (0-2 on 3-point attempts), and grabbed four rebounds (1 offensive and 3 defensive). Yet [Spartan Avenue](#) was a bit stingy grading George's performance at a C+.

#### Conner George: C+

Conner George also played seven minutes and had a quiet showing with four rebounds and two points. He's an energy guy so his performance wasn't disappointing, but it was a small sample size.



**George Fakes a Pass & Drives to the Basket for Spartans' Final Basket Upping the Score to 95-59**





### George Grabs Game's Last Rebound & Dribbles out the Clock

On January 2, #14 MSU returned to Big 10 Conference play at the Breslin Center and rolled over **Illinois**, 76-56. With 1:20 remaining in the second half, George entered the game; with less than three seconds remaining Conner grabbed the last rebound of the game (a defensive rebound).



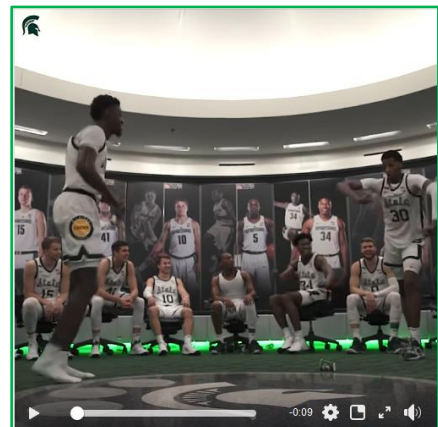
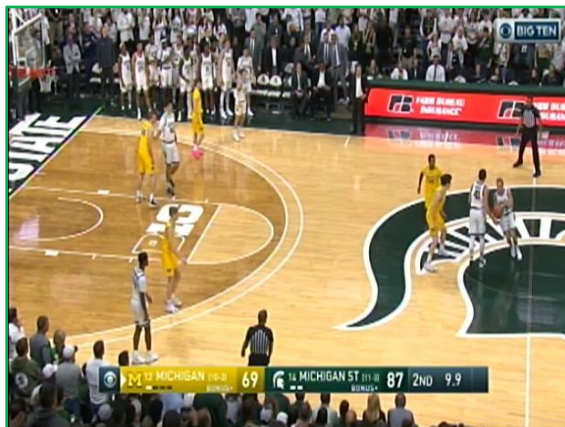
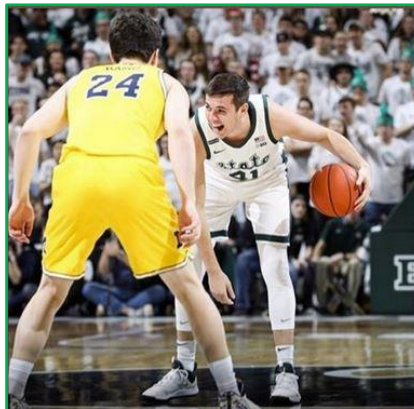
On January 5, the #14 Spartans hosted #12 **Michigan**, led the Wolverines the whole game, built a 19-point lead, and won, 87-69, with George cheering on his teammates all the way (see 1<sup>st</sup> photo below). At 4:19 remaining in the game, Spartan students in the Izzone held up poster heads of Spartan players (see George's face far left of 2<sup>nd</sup> photo). With 23.1 seconds remaining, George entered the game (3<sup>rd</sup> photo).



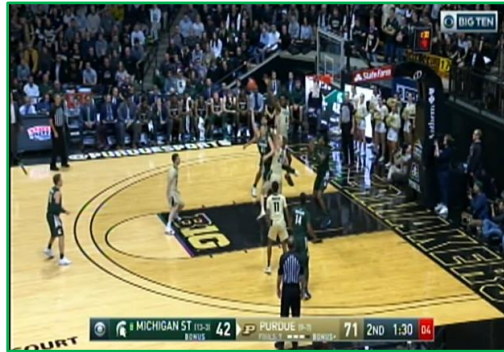




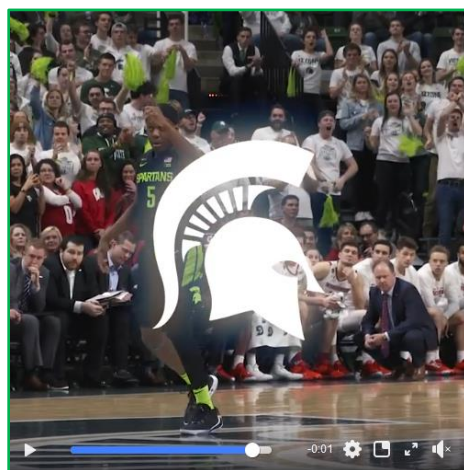
Within two seconds, George grabbed the game's last defensive rebound (1<sup>st</sup> photo below) and dribbled out most of the remaining time (2nd photo below) before handing the ball to Stephen Izzo (3<sup>rd</sup> photo) with less than ten seconds remaining. The fourth image is the video of the post-game celebration in the locker room.



On January 9, #8 Michigan State hosted **Minnesota** and won, 74-58, though George did not play in this game; three days later, January 12, the #8 Spartans lost at **Purdue**, 71-62, but George played the game's last two minutes, went 0-1 on a hook layup attempt (photo below), contested on three rebound attempts (one offensive and two defensive), and helped prevent Purdue from getting another score during the game's last 2 minutes.



On December 17, #15 Michigan State hosted and defeated **Wisconsin**, 67-55. While George didn't get on the court, post-game he and his teammates celebrated Cassius Winston's 817<sup>th</sup> assist to become the Spartans and the Big 10's all-time assist leader.



**George Congratulates Winston on Cassius' Record-Breaking 817<sup>th</sup> Assist**



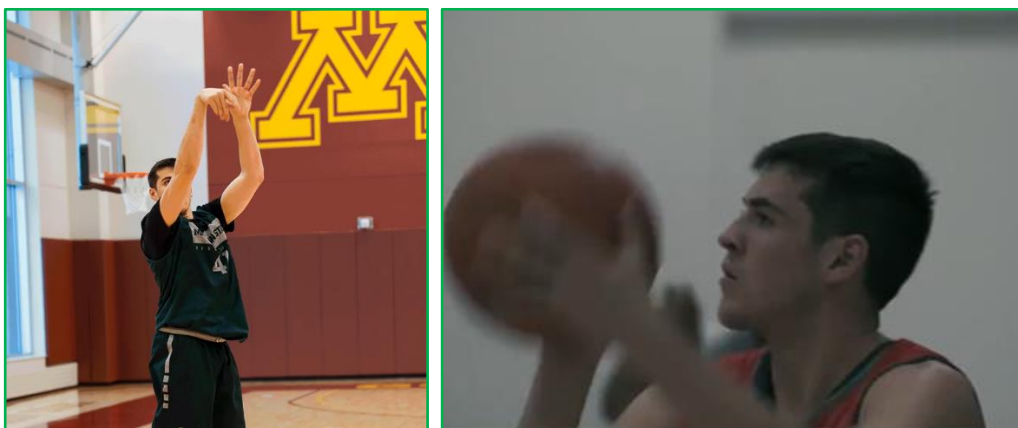
On January 20, *Spartans All-Access* featured one of its segments on Conner George.



On January 23, #11 MSU lost at **Indiana**, 67-63. George did not play.

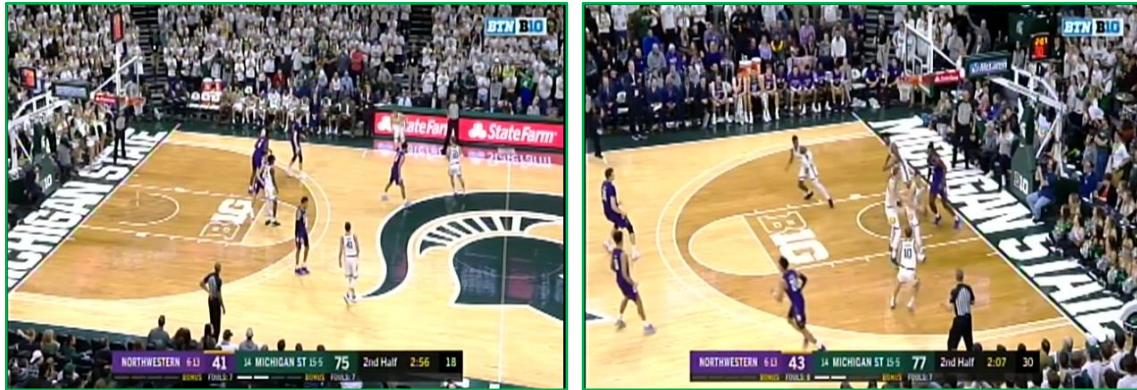


On January 26, the #14 Spartans recovered from the loss at **Indiana** with a 70-52 win at **Minnesota**. George (at pre-game practices in photos below) did not play.





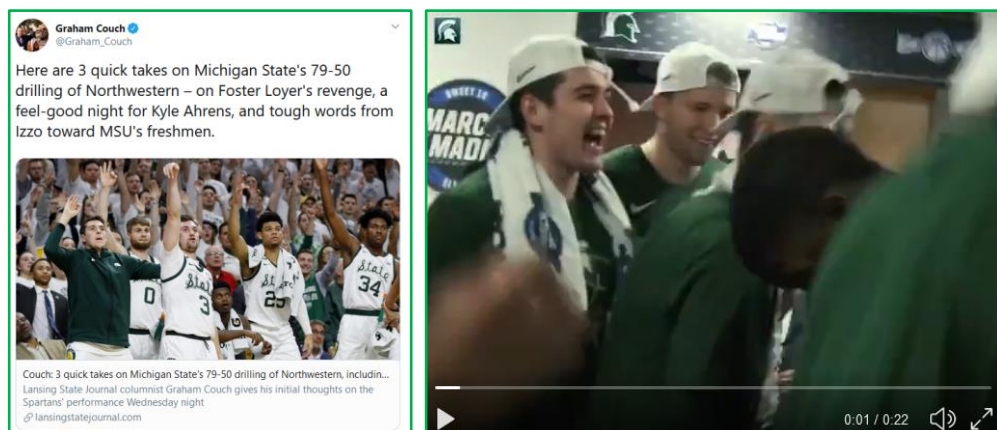
On January 29, at home, the MSU trounced **Northwestern**, 79-50. George entered the game with 2:58 remaining in the second half, played the rest of the game, and pulled in a defensive rebound.



**George Enters Game at 2:56 & Grabs Rebound at 2:07**



**George Attempts to Block a Dunk & Post-Game Celebration**



Over the next four games, MSU lost two on the the road (at **Wisconsin** and **Michigan**) and one at home against **Penn State** before finally pulling our a road victory at **Illinois**. George did not play in any of these four games.

- On February 1, on the road, the Spartans were edged out by **Wisconsin**, 64-63.



**George Deplaning in Madison**

- On February 4, at home, MSU was defeated by **Penn State**, 75-70.



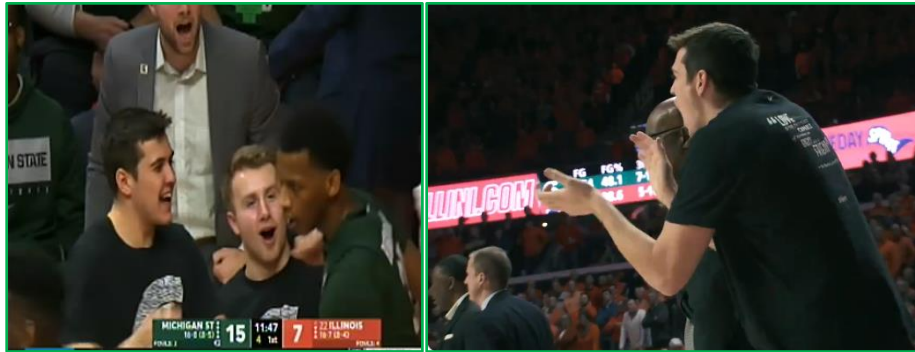
**George & Teammates in Pre-Game Warmup and Post-Game Lap**

- On February 8, at **Michigan**, the Spartans lost 77-68.

With the **Michigan** loss, MSU dropped out of the AP's Top 25 ranking. On Monday, Conner George (on the right the second photo below) and teammate Braden Burke boarded the plane for the Spartans flight to Champaign-Urbana for their next game against **Illinois**.



- On February 11, MSU, after blowing a 20-point lead and nearly snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, got back on the winning track with a 70-69 road victory over #22 **Illinois** on a nearly last-second dunk by Xavier Tillman. During one of the timeouts, George was quickly off the bench to congratulate teammate Marcus Bingham Jr. who had just swatted an **Illinois** player's shot attempt out of bounds (see left image below). Click on right image below for game highlights. George also congratulated Rocket Watts who scored 21 points as his career high as a Spartan (next two photos). Click on last image below for GIF of Spartans post-game celebration run through the tunnel



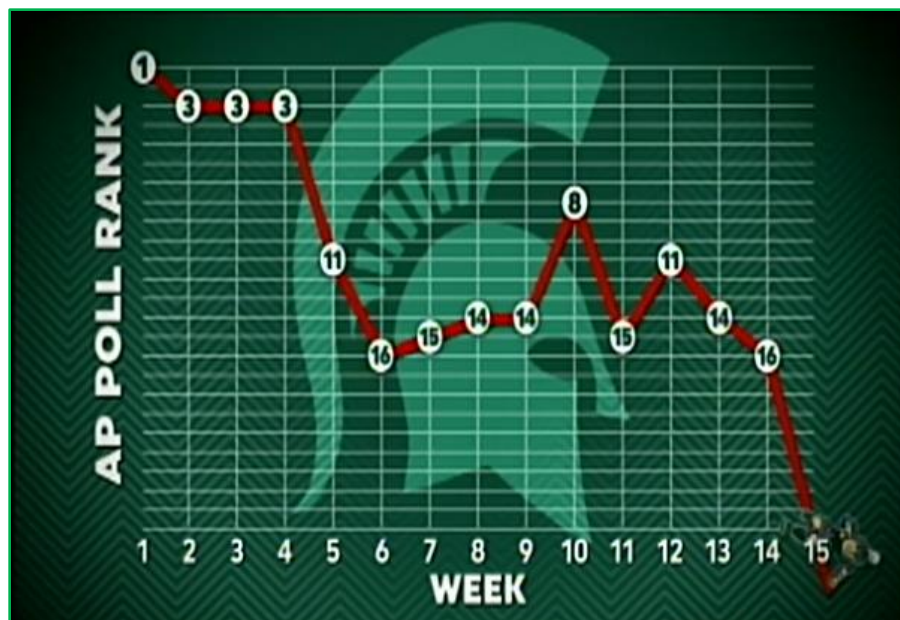
### Post-Game Celebration Run Through the Tunnel

During ESPN's coverage of the **Illinois** game, *Wendy's Wooden Watch* featured Cassius Winston as a candidate for the 2020 Wooden Award, including footage of George (wearing his #3 scout team red jersey) competing with Winston to grab a rebound on a missed free throw attempt during a Spartans practice session (see photo below).





On February 15, ESPN returned to East Lansing “on the banks of the Red Cedar” and the Breslin with at least one Conner George fan in the crowd that turned out early for ESPN’s *College Game Day*.



**MSU Spartans in AP Men’s Basketball Poll Through 15 Weeks**



**Conner George in Pre-Game Huddle**

Later that day the #26 Spartans (3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Big Ten at 8-5 and unranked in the AP Top 25) hosted #9 **Maryland** (1<sup>st</sup> place at 10-3).



**George and Winston Encourage Watts**

Behind by 15 points, the Spartans came back to take a seven point lead with minutes remaining, only to allow the Terrapins to go on a 14-0 run for a 67-60 win, dropping the Spartans into 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Big Ten. Conner did not play in this game.

	W-L	GB
 9 Maryland Terrapins	11-3	-
 13 Penn State Nittany Lions	10-4	1
 Michigan State Spartans	9-6	2.5



**February 18 – Happy Birthday, Conner, from Cassius Winston!**



**Kyle Ahens & Conner George at Practice**

On February 20 unranked MSU was at **Nebraska** (2-12 in the Big Ten) and picked up a much needed 86-65 road victory. Going into the game, Michigan State was in 3-way tie with **Iowa** and **Illinois** (each team 9-6) for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Big 10 behind 2<sup>nd</sup> place **Penn State** (10-5) and 1<sup>st</sup> place **Maryland** (12-3).



BIG TEN STANDINGS			
		CONF	OVERALL
7	M	MARYLAND	12-3 22-4
9	C	PENN STATE	10-5 20-6
20	I	IOWA	9-6 18-8
	X	ILLINOIS	9-6 17-9
	K	MICHIGAN STATE	9-6 17-9
	W	WISCONSIN	9-6 16-10
	R	RUTGERS	9-7 18-9
	M	MICHIGAN	8-7 17-9
25	O	OHIO STATE	7-7 17-8
	I	INDIANA	7-8 17-9
	P	PURDUE	7-9 14-13
	M	MINNESOTA	6-9 12-13
	N	NEBRASKA	2-12 7-18
	N	NORTHWESTERN	1-14 6-19



With the Spartans ahead 78-58 and 2:59 remaining, George entered the game (right photo above). Interestingly, Conner was on the court along with two Spartan guards: freshman Stephen Izzo (Coach Izzo's son) and sophomore Jack Hoiberg (**Nebraska** coach Fred Hoiberg's son) (also in right photo above). George played the balance of the game, had a defensive rebound, shot 0-1 on a layup attempt (see photo below), and had a personal foul ([Source](#)).



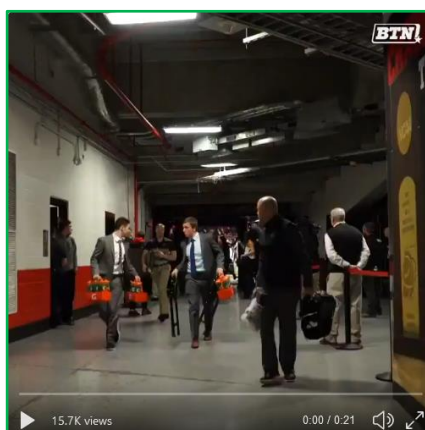
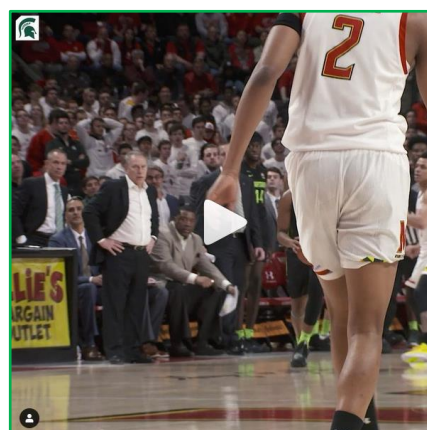
After the game, Stephen Izzo, Conner George, and Jack Hoiberg greet the Cornhuskers players and coaches (see photo below).



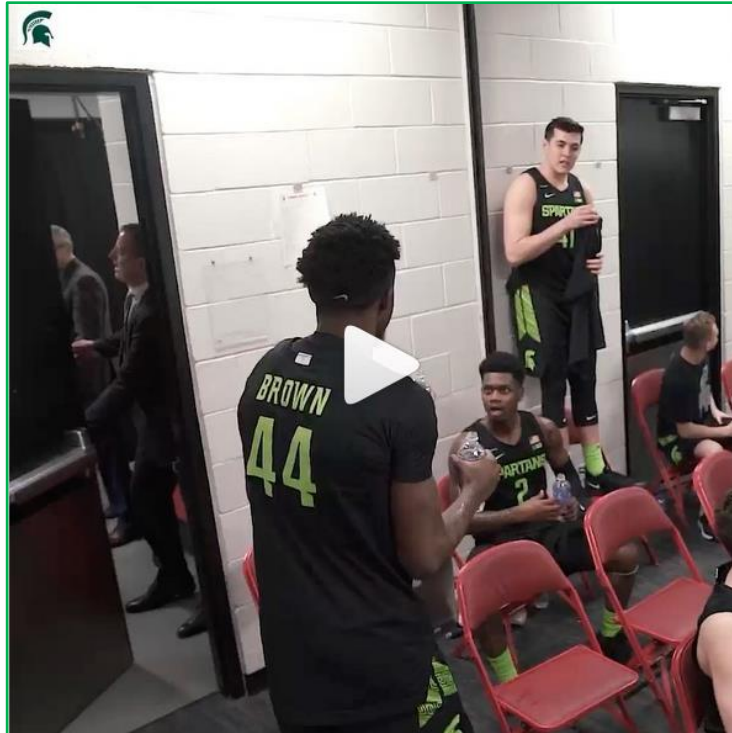
Over the next three Big 10 games against AP-ranked opponents, MSU was the victor though George didn't play in any of these games. On February #25 MSU (10-6 in the Big 10), defeated #18 Iowa (also 10-6), 78-70.



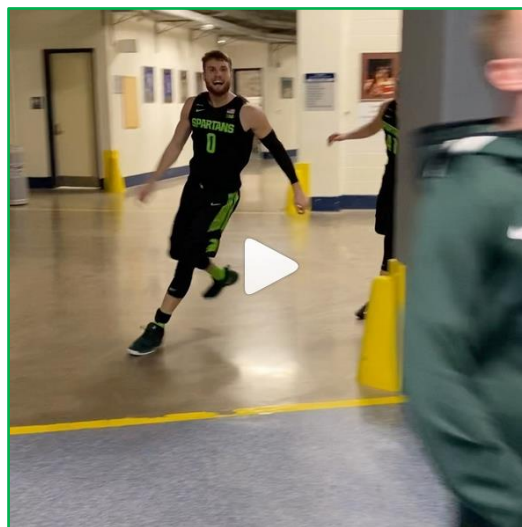
On February #24, at #9 Maryland, the Spartans downed the Terrapins, 78-66, a game that was highlighted by Cassius Winston's buzzer-beating backcourt swisher just before halftime (see videos below).







On March 2, at #20 **Penn State**, #24 MSU won, 79-71. The win (plus **Rutgers** downing **Maryland** the same day) put the Spartans into a tie with **Maryland** for first place in the Big 10.



### *Conner's Senior Day*

As the Spartans prepared for their last game of the Big 10 regular season game against #19 **Ohio State**, there was increased media attention to the game also being the annual Senior Day game, this year honoring the team's four seniors: Cassius Winston, Joshua Langford, Kyle Ahrens, and Conner George.





**The Only Colors**

March 6 at 4:51 PM · 🌐



With Senior Day this weekend, we bid farewell to an incredible group of seniors.



THEONLYCOLORS.COM

**Thank you, seniors**

We say goodbye to George, Ahrens and Winston ahead of senior day



**Michigan State Basketball** @MSU\_Basketball · 19h



At Senior Day this Sunday we will also be honoring #41, @ConnerGeorge3



#SpartanDawg



💬 2

↻ 24

❤️ 447







[Link to Best Stories](#)





### [Senior Conner George Relishes Memories of his MSU Career](#)

*By David Greenberg (For MSUSpartans.com)*

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Michigan State senior guard [Conner George](#) was used to playing in the big moments, thanks to being a standout in baseball and basketball at nearby Okemos High School.

Okemos had the ball with 2.4 seconds left, the score was 56-54 in favor of DeWitt, one of the Chieftains' rivals. The baseline out of bounds play was called "butter." George started at the low block, ran up, set a screen at the elbow, then cut through the defense like a hot knife, darting toward the wing just beyond the 3-point line. As time expired, the horn blew, and the scoreboard lit up 57-56: George, an all-state player, had hit the game-winning bucket.

"He's a guy you love to have on your team and hate to play against..." Eric Behan, George's high school teammate, said. "He would be more excited about his teammates' success than his own. He would go out and score 30 and be much more excited about me going in at mop-up time and scoring a bucket or two."

The time came to decide where George, an acclaimed player in the Lansing area, would play in college. He had to weigh his options – get more playing time at a smaller school, or see fewer minutes as a walk-on at MSU.

His father, Jerry, and his mother, Cathy, MSU's head volleyball coach, were there for him throughout the process. She put her MSU ties aside to help guide her son.

"I wanted to make sure it was his choice, and I wanted to make sure he thought it all through," Cathy said. "I asked the question to him to make sure and said, 'If you are going to make that decision to go to Michigan State, you may never play, and if you don't, you still have to be a great teammate'. There are going to be times when it's going to be really tough on you because I know what a competitor you are, and you want to be in the mix, but there are no guarantees.'"

Knowing all the possible outcomes, George selected his dream school. Looking back five years later he has no regrets choosing the Spartans.

"We've done so many cool things and been to so many places, gone overseas, been to a Final Four, won championships, it's just everything I could have asked for and more," George said.

It hasn't always been perfect, as George has missed being on the floor.

"It's been hard for him, because he loves being in the big moments, but he loves being in the moments here," Cathy said. "His whole thing is the intensity of the team, the teammates, the love he has for everybody and the excitement for being a part of such high-level basketball."

Conner said his parents helped to further his passion for sports because they were so involved with athletics.

"My dad ran track in college, my mom played volleyball and now coaches...They've always pushed me, and they've always wanted what's best for me at the same time," he said. "They were always looking out for me and pushing me to become a better person, better athlete."

George was a skinny 6-4 freshman when he came to MSU, so his coaches told him to gain weight in order to see playing time. From that point on, he gained nearly 30 pounds over a year and a half.

"From sophomore through senior year, I've gotten a lot better and more comfortable knowing that I might have a chance to play if someone gets hurt," George said. "I never would have thought I would be in that position my first year here. It's cool knowing that you can play in this environment."

George has earned his title as the leader of the scout team throughout his time at MSU.

"[Scout team] knows if we're not bringing our game, if we're not playing hard in practice, they're not going to play as hard in practice and they're not going to get as good of a look," George explained. "We have to bring it every day and even though people don't see it, obviously fans don't see it, but everyone [on the team] notices it. We're just trying to get the team as prepared as possible for the next game."

As high school teammates, Behan said he and George have experienced, "lots of ups and downs together. Emotional times, and exciting times," and said there aren't, "many people I like more than Conner."

"It's a completely different role that he's playing in now. Conner's always been such a great leader, but now he's got to lead in a different role," Behan said. "I don't think I've seen anyone lead so passionately. He's always the first guy off the bench, always clapping for his teammates... that's a tough change for someone who played every meaningful second in high school."

When his jersey number is called during games, both Spartan fans and his teammates help to return the favor.

"I never really expected for the fans to be cheering for me," George said. "They were chanting 'Cooonnnneerrrrr Geeeeooooorrrrggeeee,' they were chanting my name, and I was like 'This is sweet.' Then you get on the court and you just look around and it's packed, there are so many people. I could've never imagined playing in front of that many people."

Head Coach [Tom Izzo](#) said the scout team's hard work does not go unnoticed by the rest of the guys.

"We try and do everything we can for the scout team because they've been so good with our team," Izzo said. "[Conner George](#) is the leader of that team... I've just been so impressed with him and so pleased with everything. He's been a hell of a guy for my program."

Senior guard [Cassius Winston](#) gives a lot of credit to George, recognizing his daily efforts.

"[Conner]'s a legend. He gave everything he had to this program for five years. He's a guy who gives everything to the program, everything to Michigan State," Winston said with a smile. "He doesn't complain, comes into work every day. He's a scout team legend, his jersey should go right up there with everybody else."



Praise like that from a player like Winston is not something George takes lightly.

"That's an honor to hear, especially from Cassius, because you know his name's going to be in the rafters one of these days," George said. "To know that what we do as a scout team and by other walk-ons is getting noticed, especially by people like [Cassius] and all of them, it's really nice to hear."

Growing up watching his mother coach, George witnessed MSU's close-knit community. After experiencing it first-hand over the last five years, there's only one way to describe the relationships he's made.

Family.

"MSU is a family atmosphere. Everyone says it, but it's really true," said George. "Once you're a part of it too you realize it takes it to another whole level. This is the best decision that I've ever made. I couldn't be more happy and grateful to have had this experience."







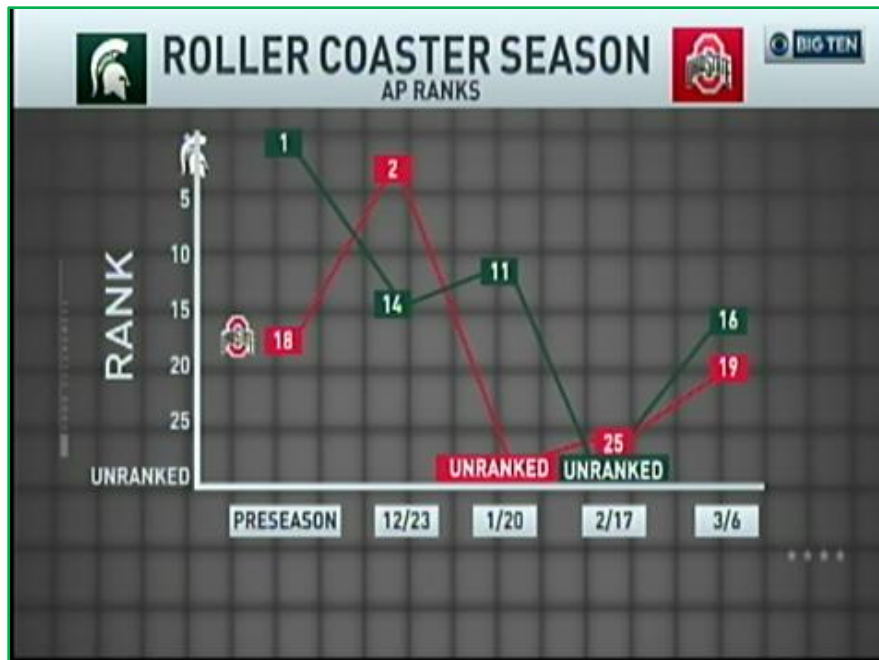


[WATCH: Tom Izzo shares memories of MSU basketball seniors](#)

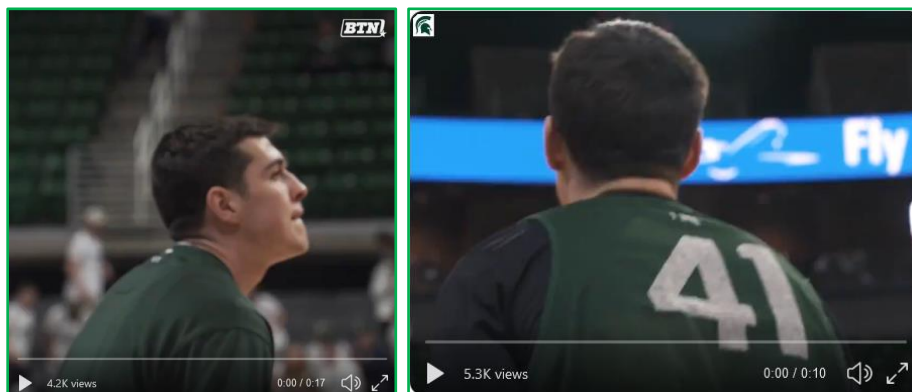
### **2020 Big Ten Championship Game**

Going into MSU's game against **Ohio State**, the Spartans had gone through a "roller coaster season" from having been pre-season #1 to being unranked and rebounding to #16, with the match against the Buckeyes standing between ending the Big Ten regular season in a tie for the league championship or a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. "Three weeks ago, the Spartans were 2.5 games back in the conference standings after having lost four of their previous five games. Tom Izzo said then that Michigan State would need "more than a miracle" to come back in the Big Ten race" ([Source](#)).

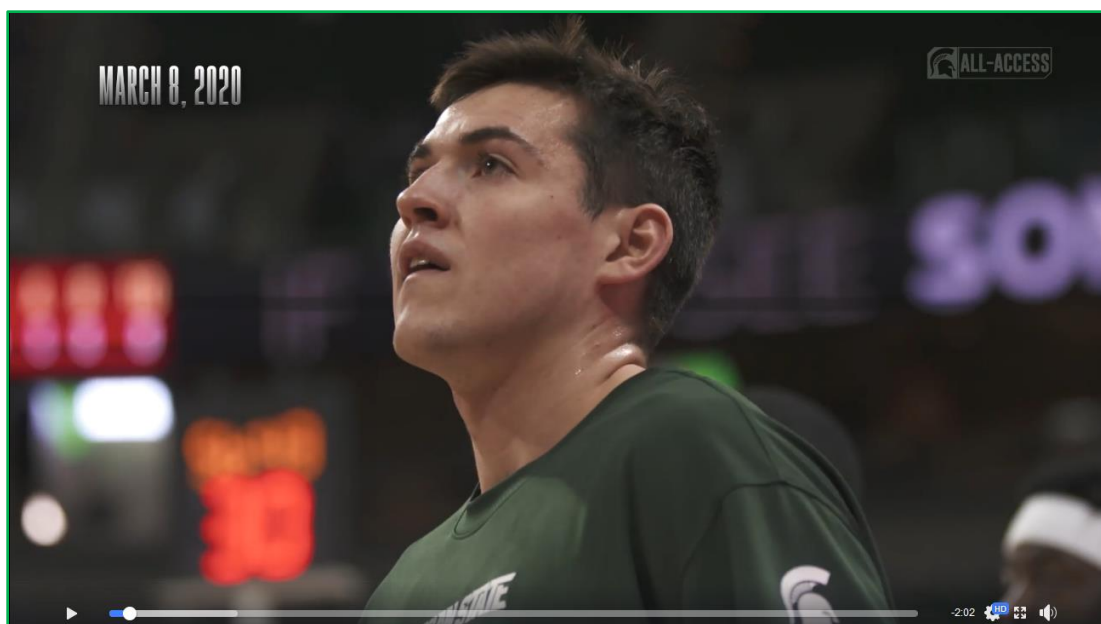




Below are some videos of George and the Spartans warming up before the game.



The Spartans proved up to the challenge, defeating **Ohio State**, 80-69, and clinching a Big Ten Championship share with **Wisconsin** and **Maryland**.



With 2:17 remaining in the second half, George entered the game and made it into the box score shooting 0-1 on a field goal attempt.

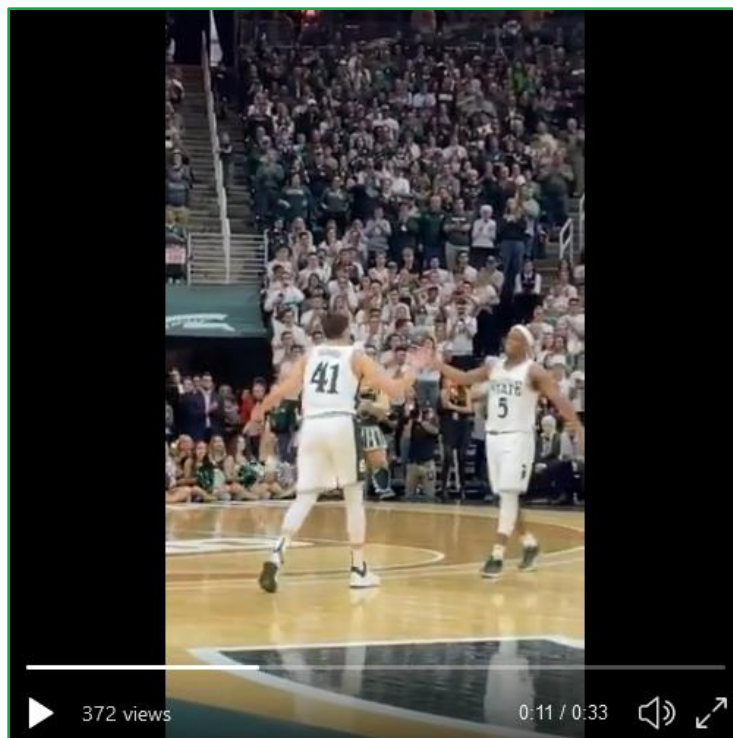
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES! SENIORS - CAREERS AT MICHIGAN ST ENTERING TODAY			
			
<b>CASSIUS WINSTON</b>	<b>JOSHUA LANGFORD</b>	<b>KYLE AHRENS</b>	<b>CONNER GEORGE</b>
<b>MOST ASSISTS IN BIG TEN HISTORY</b>	<b>75 STARTS, 847 POINTS</b>	<b>12 STARTS, 355 POINTS</b>	<b>37 POINTS, 55 REBOUNDS</b>



**George in Last Huddle & Checking Time Left on the Clock**



At 23:8 Geoge checked out of the game but not before hugging fellow senior teammate Kyle Ahrens (see first video below) and going to center court to kiss the Spartan logo (see videos at top of next page).



**Conner George on Senior Night Winning a B1G Championship**



Okemos High School AD Retweeted

**Seth Wells** @SethTVSports · 1h  
Okemos native Conner George checks out on his senior day. #MSU  
@OkemosHSAD @CBSports



751 views 0:00 / 0:14

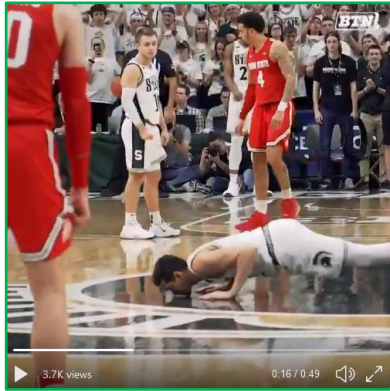
Conner George #MSU Senior Day



1,245 views 0:00 / 0:14



3.7K views 0:13 / 0:49



3.7K views 0:16 / 0:49



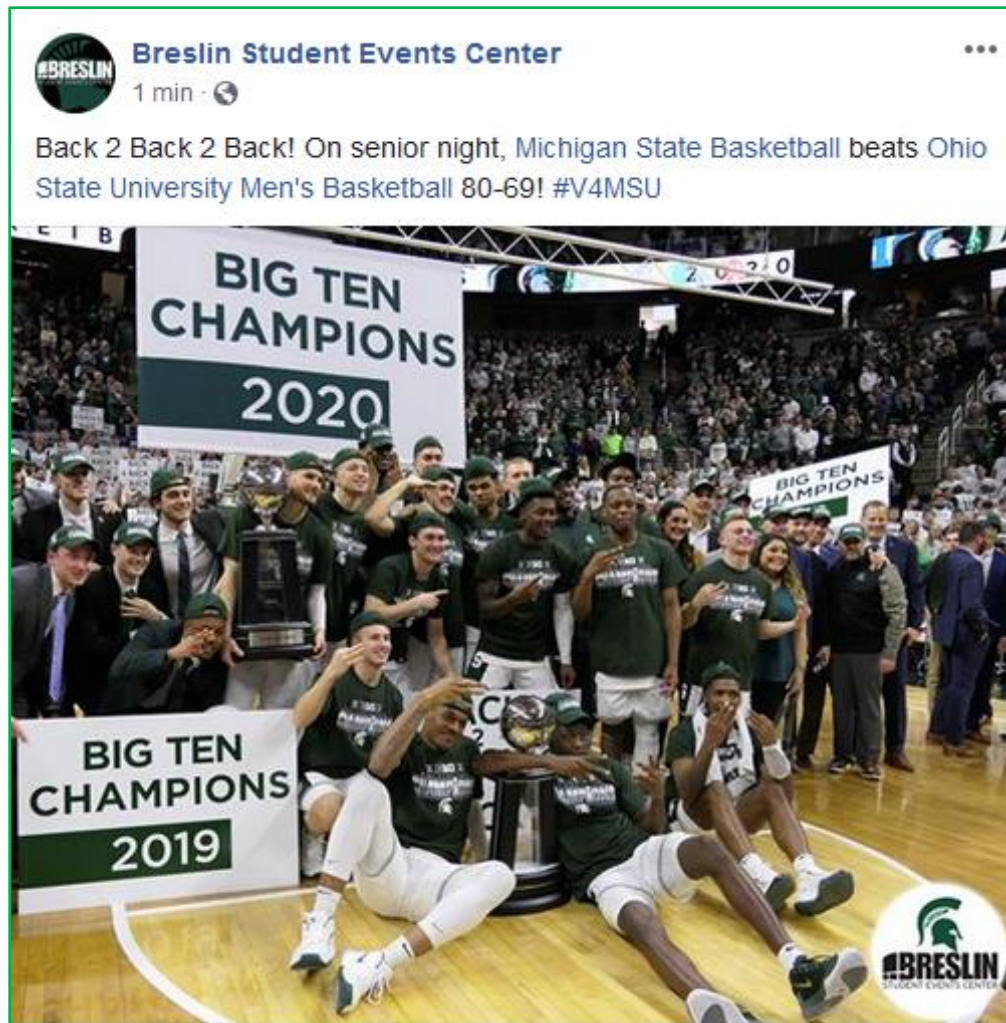


### Post-Game Senior Day Ceremony for Conner George



### Spartan Fan Enthusiasm for Conner George





**Spartans Celebrate Their Big 10 Championship Three-Peat**



Ryan Kelly, in an article titled “Michigan State Basketball: Impact of 2019-20 senior class for Spartans” (published on the [BustingBrackets.com](https://bustingbrackets.com)), provided the following comments on Conner George:

Walk-on senior forward Conner George may not have played a lot of minutes during his time in East Lansing but he is a valued member of the program. . . . After red-shirting his freshmen year, he only appeared in 10 games as a redshirt freshman. His highlight that season was [scoring four points](#) by making four free throws in a home win over Penn State. In his sophomore year, it appeared in a couple more games than the year prior and his biggest contribution that season was playing a career-high 16 minutes in a victory in the PK80 tournament game against DePaul.

In his junior year, George played in 18 games and played significant minutes in the Spartans NCAA tournament victory over Bradley. This season even though George has not played a lot of meaningful minutes on the court, he still provides leadership through his experience in his five years at Michigan State. He did however play well in this season's game against Oakland where he played 10 minutes and had five rebounds in the Spartans non-conference win. ([Source](#))

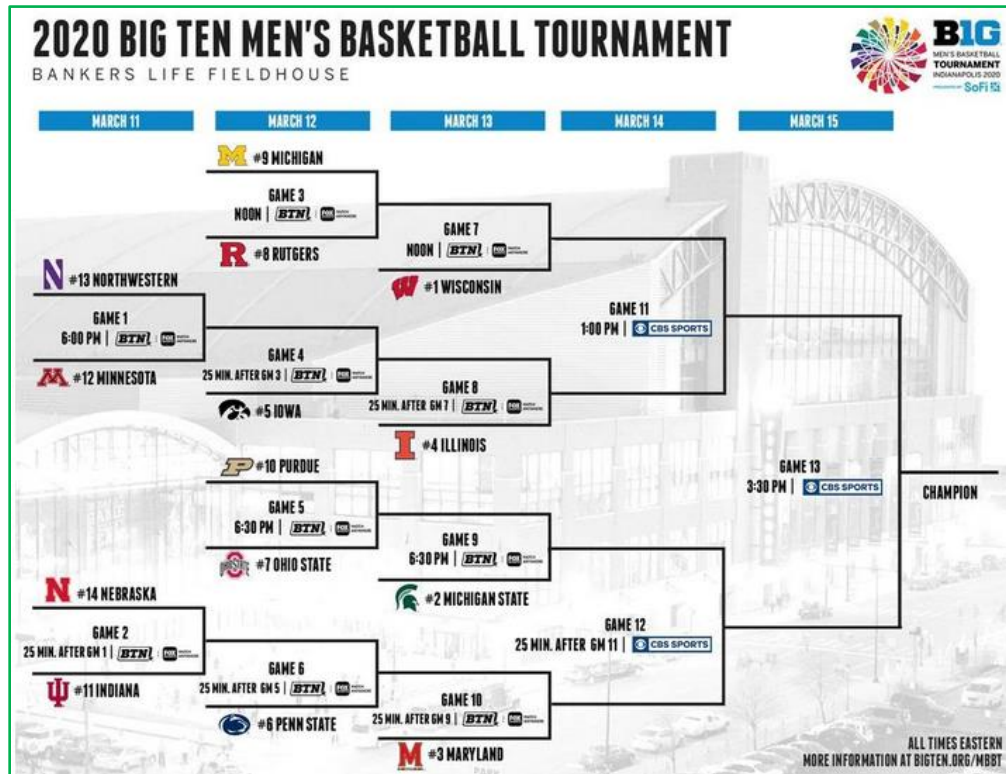
On March 9, MSU held their annual Men's Basketball Banquet was held at the Breslin Center (see photo below).



**Conner George (#41) between Rocket Watts (#2) & Josh Langford (#1)**

## 2020 Big Ten Tournament / 2020 NCAA Tournament

With the win over **Ohio State**, the Spartans moved up to #9 in the AP ranking, #12 in the Coaches Poll, and to a 2<sup>nd</sup> seed in the 2020 Big Ten Tournament. The Spartans first game, scheduled for Friday, March 13, was to be against the winner of the March 12 2<sup>nd</sup> Round game between 10<sup>th</sup> seed **Purdue** and 7<sup>th</sup> seed **Ohio State**.



On the eve of the Spartans departure for Indianapolis, the team's spirits were given a special boost on learning that former Spartan great Draymond Green had gifted each player with a set of Beats wireless earphones.



But within 24 hours the Spartans postseason was turned upside down. On Thursday, March 19, as the team prepared to travel by bus from East Lansing to Indianapolis, news broke that Coronavirus-related health concerns had led the Big Ten Conference to cancel the Big Ten Tournament; then, within just a few hours, the NCAA announced that the NCAA Tournaments was also cancelled. In a flash, the Spartans men's and women's 2019-20 basketball seasons had come to an abrupt halt. This, for the men's team, left up in the air whether there would be a national champion for the 2019-2020 season. One Tweet offered the following:



Whether true or not, Conner George, ever the Spartan supporter, posted the following later in the day.



In any case, in just a blink of the eye, fans of the Spartans had gone from March Madness to "March Sadness."





Jeff Miller shared a link.

9 hrs

This is truly March Madness, but not the kind we were looking forward to. I feel sorry for all the players, coaches, families, schools, etc. And I'm especially disappointed I won't get to see Cassius Winston, Kyler Arhens and Conner George play in Green & White again. Tom Izzo will have to wait for another shot at that second title, but this was the right thing to do.

[https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/\\_/id/28893285/ncaa-tournaments-canceled-coronavirus](https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/28893285/ncaa-tournaments-canceled-coronavirus)



ESPN.COM

### NCAA tournaments canceled over coronavirus

The NCAA has called off its men's and women's basketball tournaments...



Sean Vergowven shared a link.

Admin · 7 hrs

Here is Izzo's statement:

"I'm obviously disappointed to have our season come to such an abrupt end. It goes without saying, this is something that none of us have ever experienced," Izzo said. "I feel most for our seniors, for guys like Cassius and Kyle and Conner, who wanted to have one last shot at March Madness. Telling them their career was over was extremely emotional. But these are unprecedented times and some things are bigger than basketball. The primary concern for all of us is the health and well-being of our students-athletes, staff and fans."



SPARTANSWIRE.USATODAY.COM

**MSU HC Tom Izzo issues statement on NCAA season ending abruptly due to Coronavirus pandemic**



b\_nov13



The deep disappointment felt by all Spartans over the cancellation of the Big Ten and NCAA Tournaments was perhaps best summed up by former Chieftain-cum-Spartan player Anthony Ianni who posted the following Tweet:



Yet, despite the disappointing shutdown of the 2019-2020 basketball season, the Spartans shared with **Kansas** being “the only schools to start and end their season in the @AP Top 10.”



But “what if” the Big Ten Tournament had been allowed to play out beyond just the first two games. Which team might have survived to win the championship? One web site ([Detroit Sports Nation](#)) answered this question and proposed the following not totally implausible but possibly slightly biased outcome (see second image below).

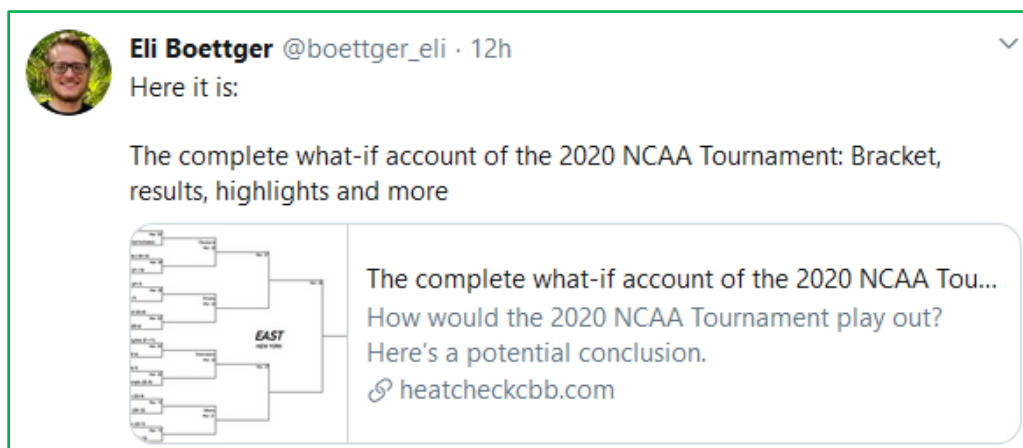


### MARCH 15 GAME (Championship Game)

Game 13 #9 Michigan 65 vs. #2 Michigan State 66

**MICHIGAN STATE WINS THE 2020 BIG TEN TOURNAMENT!!!**

Finally, not that this is any consolation, one sports writer-cum-prognosticator (Eli Boettger) provided a “[complete what-if account of the 2020 NCAA Tournament](#)” including the bracket, results, and highlights (see below Tweet)





In this “what-if” visioning of the 2020 NCAA Tournament, the championship game came down to #2 **Villanova** vs. #2 **Michigan State**.

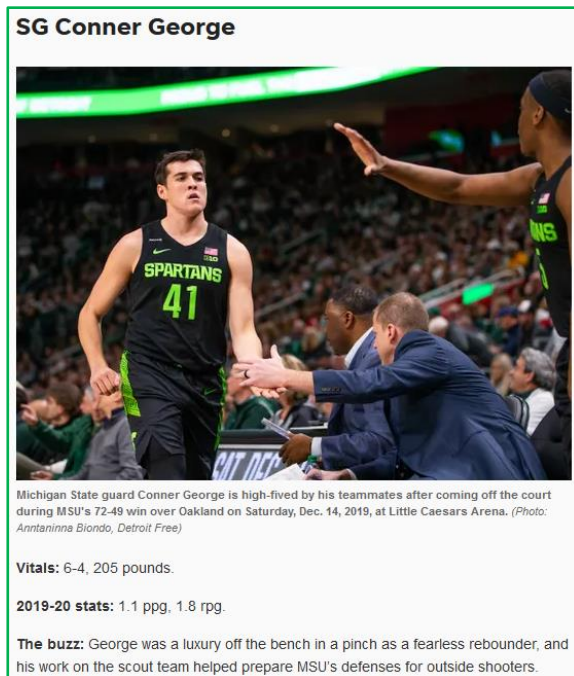
So it all comes down to this: Villanova eyeing its third title in five years and Michigan State aiming for its first championship since 2000. The Spartans started things off with a number of jump shots and easy baskets around the rim, taking a 21-14 lead into the under-8 timeout. Jermaine Samuels helped bring the Wildcats within a possession at 34-32 at halftime, scoring 10 points in the first period.

Despite the production all season from Cassius Winston and Xavier Tillman, it was Gabe Brown who ended up being the unsung hero for the Spartans. Brown finished the day with 13 points (11 in the second half), seven rebounds and a massive loose-ball save that led to a breakout opportunity for Winston to extend the Michigan State lead to seven with 51 seconds to go. Collin Gillespie pocketed a triple to get within four with 10.6 seconds remaining, but two free throws for Winston sealed the title. Michigan State is the 2020 national champion. Michigan St. 79, Villanova 73 ([Source](#)).

Ironically, a season that began with Michigan State as pre-season #1 ended, at least for **Conner George** and Eli Boettger, with the Spartans (22-9) as the “in our dreams” 2020 national champion, two decades after being the actual national champions in 2000. In the end-of-season Division I rankings, the Spartans finished #12 on the Coaches Poll and #9 on the AP Poll. Further, a testament to the MSU Spartans being the comeback kid of the 2019-2020 Division I basketball season, the ESPN Basketball Power Index (BPI) had **Michigan State** (22-9) ranked #4 behind **Kansas** (28-3), **Duke** (25-6), and **Gonzaga** (31-2).

Perhaps the biggest anomaly in the BPI, Michigan State was the preseason No. 1 team and had some momentum heading into the Big Ten tournament. Four-straight ranked wins to end the season saw Michigan State finish with a share of first place in the standings. A trendy pick before the season began for Player of the Year, Cassius Winston leaves the Spartans with 18.6 points per game as a senior.

In the wake of the cancellation of the conference and NCAA tournaments due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the NCAA ruled that winter sports seniors, such as MSU's Cassius Winston, Kyle Ahrens, and Conner George, would not be allowed one more year of eligibility so they could return to the Spartans to play one additional season. Analyzing how this ruling would impact on the 2020-2021 Spartans squad, Chris Solari of the *Detroit Free Press* counted Winston, Ahrens, and George as “[out](#)” – but provided the following sendoff for George (see left image below), while one fan in an Instagram post couldn't show enough appreciation for George (see right image below).

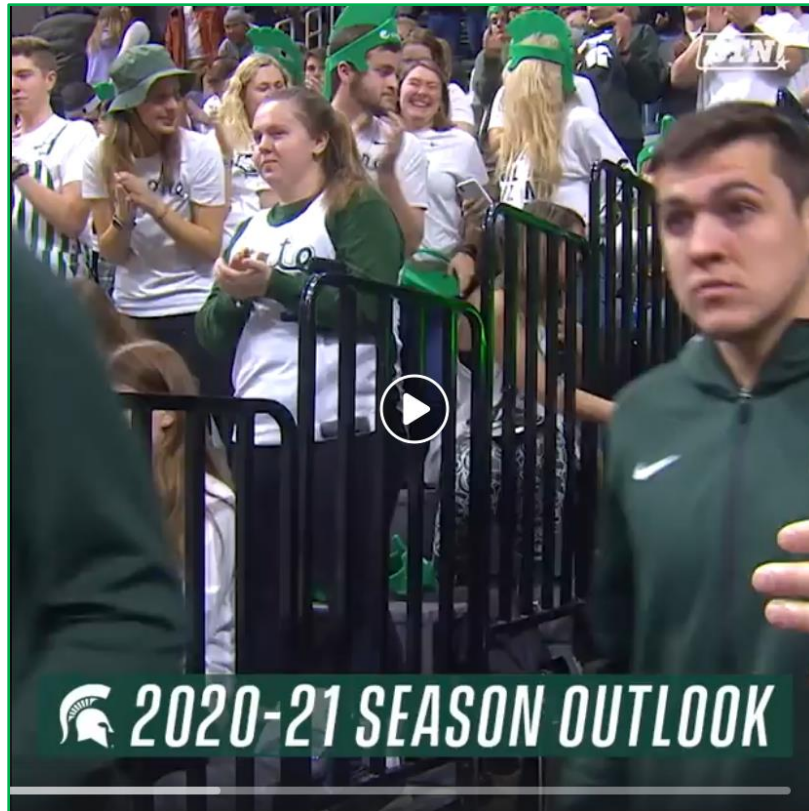


When asked about his senior players, Coach Izzo stated:

“Conner George has probably been as good a scout team player and as good of a student and representative. Of course his mother is a coach. I think he has a good understanding of what it’s like for me and our staff. And he brings a great perspective to everything.” ([Tom Izzo reflects on careers of outgoing seniors](#)” 3/21/2020)



**Coach Izzo Recaps the 2019-2020 Season**




Spartans All-Access Video's 2020-21 Leads with Conner George



Grandson Braden happy with his Cassius Winston & Conner George T-Shirt



## Conner George 2019-20 Game Log

	<b>41 CONNER GEORGE G</b>		KEY STATS						
	MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS		GP	MIN/G	PPG	REB/G	AST/G	FG %	
			14	3.6	1.1	1.8	0.1	31.3	

GAME LOG															
NOVEMBER 2019															
DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	OREB	DREB	TOT	AST	PF	BLK	STL	TO	PTS
11/10	vs. Binghamton	W 100-47	4	0-2	0-0	3-4	2	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	3
11/18	vs. Charleston Southern	W 94-46	7	1-2	0-1	0-0	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	2
11/27	at UCLA	W 75-62	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
DECEMBER 2019															
DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	OREB	DREB	TOT	AST	PF	BLK	STL	TO	PTS
12/03	vs. Duke	L 75-87	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
12/14	at Oakland	W 72-49	10	1-3	1-3	0-0	1	4	5	0	3	0	0	0	3
12/18	at Northwestern	W 77-72	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12/21	vs. Eastern Michigan	W 101-48	9	1-2	1-1	0-2	2	2	4	0	1	0	0	2	3
12/29	vs. Western Michigan	W 95-62	7	1-3	0-2	0-0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	2
JANUARY 2020															
DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	OREB	DREB	TOT	AST	PF	BLK	STL	TO	PTS
01/02	vs. Illinois	W 76-56	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
01/05	vs. Michigan	W 87-69	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
01/12	at Purdue	L 42-71	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
01/29	vs. Northwestern	W 79-50	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEBRUARY 2020															
DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	OREB	DREB	TOT	AST	PF	BLK	STL	TO	PTS
02/20	at Nebraska	W 86-65	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
MARCH 2020															
DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	MIN	FG	3PT	FT	OREB	DREB	TOT	AST	PF	BLK	STL	TO	PTS
03/08	vs. Ohio State	W 80-69	2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 2019-20 Season Statistics for Conner George

## Career Statistics as a Spartan (through end of the 2019-2020 Season)

### 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
2016-17	<a href="#">Michigan State</a>	<a href="#">Big Ten</a>	10	0	1.2	0.1	0.2	.500	0.1	0.1	1.000	0.0	0.1	.000	0.4	0.6	.667	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	10.50
2017-18	<a href="#">Michigan State</a>	<a href="#">Big Ten</a>	16	0	3.4	0.2	0.9	.200	0.2	0.4	.429	0.0	0.5	.000	0.0	0.1	.000	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.4	7.10
2018-19	<a href="#">Michigan State</a>	<a href="#">Big Ten</a>	18	0	1.6	0.2	0.4	.500	0.2	0.4	.500	0.0	0.0		0.1	0.2	.667	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	12.34
2019-20	<a href="#">Michigan State</a>	<a href="#">Big Ten</a>	14	0	3.6	0.4	1.1	.313	0.2	0.6	.333	0.1	0.5	.286	0.2	0.4	.500	0.6	1.2	1.8	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.1	10.76
<b>Career</b>	<b>Michigan State</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>.317</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>.440</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>.125</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>.529</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>10.17</b>

## 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
2016-17	Michigan State	Big Ten	10	0	12	1	2	.500	1	1	1.000	0	1	.000	4	6	.667	0	3	3	1	0	0	3	0	6
2017-18	Michigan State	Big Ten	16	0	54	3	15	.200	3	7	.429	0	8	.000	0	2	.000	7	11	18	0	3	0	2	6	6
2018-19	Michigan State	Big Ten	18	0	28	4	8	.500	4	8	.500	0	0		2	3	.667	1	8	9	1	1	0	0	7	10
2019-20	Michigan State	Big Ten	14	0	50	5	16	.313	3	9	.333	2	7	.286	3	6	.500	8	17	25	1	0	1	2	6	15
Career	Michigan State		58	0	144	13	41	.317	11	25	.440	2	16	.125	9	17	.529	16	39	55	3	4	1	7	19	37

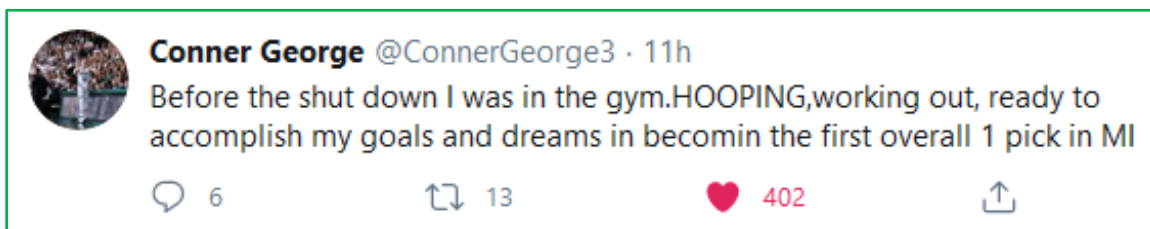
**CBSSports.Com** reported the following profile (see next page) on George's stats as a Spartan through his four seasons of eligibility as a Spartan:

CAREER SHOOTING STATS														
SEASON	TEAM	G	MIN	FG	FGA	FG%	FG3	FG3A	FG3%	FT	FTA	FT%	PTS	AVG
2016-17	Michigan State	10	12	1	2	50	0	1	0	4	6	66.7	6	0.6
2017-18	Michigan State	16	54	3	15	20	0	8	0	0	2	0	6	0.4
2018-19	Michigan State	18	28	4	8	50	0	0	-	2	3	66.7	10	0.6
2019-20	Michigan State	14	50	5	16	31.3	2	7	28.6	3	6	50	15	1.1
TOTAL		58	144	13	41	31.7	2	16	12.5	9	17	52.9	37	0.6

MORE STATS												
SEASON	TEAM	G	MIN	REB	RAVG	A	AAVG	STL	SAVG	BLK	BAVG	TO
2016-17	Michigan State	10	12	3	0.3	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	3
2017-18	Michigan State	16	54	18	1.1	0	0	3	0.2	0	0	2
2018-19	Michigan State	18	28	9	0.5	1	0.1	1	0.1	0	0	0
2019-20	Michigan State	14	50	25	1.8	1	0.1	0	0	1	0.1	2
TOTAL		58	144	55	0.9	3	0.1	4	0.1	1	0	7

Albeit Conner's George career at Michigan State came to an abrupt end due to the Coronavirus outbreak and the cancellation of the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments, Conner nevertheless remained upbeat on his future as he shared in the following March 20 Tweet:



While George did not get the chance to play in one more game as a Spartan, like Cassius Winston (2019 Big Ten Player of the Year and 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> All-American Team), Conner also can say (as did Cassius): "I went out a champion!"

George conveyed his appreciation of the Spartan community (teammates, coaches, and fans) in the following letter (below) and video (next page).

M. Basketball | 4/2/2020 4:14:00 PM

## A Special Thanks from George to Michigan State

East Lansing, Mich. - Michigan State men's basketball redshirt senior **Conner George (Okemos, Mich./Okemos)** and his classmates each took time to say farewell to the Spartans following the conclusion of the 2019-20. The letter from George is the second of three this week.

Dear Michigan State Basketball,

Through these last five years, my experience here has been kind of up and down, kind of a rollercoaster. As an individual, in school, in basketball, on and off the court, it's just been a great experience. Many highs, many lows. We've won a lot of games, lost a few heartbreakers and that comes with the territory of playing Division I basketball, but the one thing I'm never going to forget is the friendships and bonds that I've created throughout my five years here and all of the support we've gotten from the fans, no matter what. If it was good times or bad times, you guys always stuck with us. That's something I'll be appreciative of for a long time.

We were in practice when everything kind of happened and the previous day was kind of chaotic as well. We knew as a team that something bad could happen and games might get canceled in the near future. We went to practice, truly thinking we were going to play in the Big Ten Tournament and then at the very end, they called it and word traveled pretty fast in the gym. We all kind of looked at each other like this could be it. It was a sad moment, knowing at that point it wasn't all over yet, but knowing that it could very well possibly be done. When the NCAA canceled the tournament, it felt like someone was taking something away from you, like an opportunity to achieve what you've worked so hard for over five years, but you have to look at the bigger picture and realize it's not just us. It's the world that is being affected and it's something we have to take seriously.

Going out on top, winning a Big Ten Championship was really exciting and it's something I've never going to forget, especially because of what happened a few days later. That just makes the Big Ten Championship that much more meaningful to me and a bunch of the guys on the team. We didn't get exactly what we wanted out of this season, but we finished on top and we did get to hang another banner in the Breslin which is something we try to do every year.

To my teammates, I know you're always going to work, but it goes by fast and you guys hear that every day and coach is always preaching it, but just keep working hard and you never know what's going to happen the next day. You can never get that day back. Take each and every day and act like it could be your last because you never know when something like this could happen and it's taken away from you in the blink of an eye.

Thank you to the fans for all of your support. You stuck with us no matter what. I couldn't be more happy, be more appreciative of you for never giving up on us and being behind us. Especially when you go into neutral court games and you are always the ones showing up, and always cheering louder than the other team, we feel that when we're playing. The energy just goes up and always feel your presence.

Go Green ... *Conner George*





**Chieftain Conner George** on His Career as a **Spartan** (click image to play video)

As a footnote, **Conner George**, the most recent of **The Chieftain Fourteen**, has the distinction of holding the longest tenure (five seasons) of any of the 13 prior **Chieftains** who played basketball for Michigan State, contributing over those five seasons to the legacy of both **Spartans** and **Chieftains** basketball.

## Looking Back

Following the end of the Spartans 2019-2020 season, I again reached out to George to ask a few “looking back” and “looking forward” questions. Conner kindly responded with the following answers.

**At Okemos High you were a standout sharpshooter, once scoring 41 points in a game. While you never had enough playing time as a Spartan to have a comparable game, it was a quite memorable moment when you finally hit your first (and I think only) three-pointer as a Spartan. What were you thinking and feeling when you saw the ball on that shot go through the net?**

*The game vs **Oakland** at Little Caesars Arena was in fact my first three. It felt really good to finally get that off my chest. It was a big confidence shot for me because it was early in the game and I wasn't entirely stiff or cold. I was ready to go at the beginning of the game because Coach told me he was going to get me in, so I was definitely ready to shoot that. Also, a little bit after the **Oakland** game, I had a three-pointer late in the game vs **Eastern Michigan**.*

**Looking back on your basketball career, five seasons as a Spartan, and given that you were a starter at Okemos High and primarily on the scout team at Michigan State, what did you most enjoy about playing basketball as a Spartan?**

*What I most enjoyed about playing basketball at Michigan State honestly would simply be the relationships that have been formed. There a lot of unique and amazing opportunities that this program has given me, but something that I will always cherish is the people that I have been blessed to be around for the past 5 years. It's crazy because it went from me being an 18-year old freshman looking up to all of the older guys, and then the next thing I knew all of those guys were gone and I was the 23-year old 5th year senior. Outside of Kyle [Ahrens] the team was completely different compared with when i got there but it has been awesome getting to know every single person.*

**With the truncated 2019-20 season, due to the cancellation of the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments, what memories are most special to you in terms of the other players you played with and the coaches who coached you? Which players were your roommates over your five seasons? When you were on the scout team, was your role primarily to guard/defend Cassius (or another player)?**

*I think just hanging out with the team as a whole, whether it was after practice or during the off season. We always were able to find something to do whether it was go to a team dinner somewhere, or go to the movie theater and watch a movie together.*

*The freshmen year my roommates were Deyonta Davis, Matt McQuaid, and Kyle Ahrens / Sophomore year: Eron Harris, Matt, and Kyle / Junior/Senior years: Jack Hoiberg, Matt, and Kyle / 5th year: No roommates.*

**In which one game across your four seasons of eligibility as a Spartan did you feel you made the greatest contribution to the Spartans winning the game?**

*I think the game I had the biggest impact on had to have been against **DePaul**. Miles was hurt and we were in foul trouble. When I came in the game was close and I felt like I gave our team a bit of a spark to pull out a victory. That game for sure!*

**How close are you to wrapping up your Master's program? Have you finished classes?**

*Just a few days ago I finished my last class, so am now wrapping up my Master's, with my last assignment due on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and hopefully that goes well and I wrap up my schooling.*

**Do you now have a better fix on what line of work (job) and career path you'd like to get into after graduation? Any rock solid offers already lined up? And have you accepted on any offer?**

*I do not yet a firm offer but I have been talking with people in two areas—medical sales and sports advertising.*

**Lastly, the thought occurs that there might be some job opportunities within the MSU Athletic Department where your education/training in communication and five seasons of experience as a member of the men's basketball team might be a good fit—perhaps a job that would provide a pathway to working part-time as an assistant coach (e.g., developing scouting reports and directly working with and mentoring the scout team). I can't help but think that, if you "survived" Coach Izzo for five years (and he with you!), you two likely share a special chemistry. Do you have any thoughts about this that you'd like to share?**

*I am very interested in sticking around sports and would love to stick around MSU if I could, that's for sure! I love it here and I love this program. I'm sure i could ask Izzo to help me and he would gladly, so we will see. I'm excited to see what the future holds.*







Michigan State Basketball   
@MSU\_Basketball

We had **SEVEN** Academic All-Big Ten honorees for the 2019-20 winter sports season 🙌

[#SpartanDawgs](#)

