

# Campaign strategy

## RUNNING BACK

23 Javon Ringer  
20 A.J. Jimmerson



## FULLBACK

45 Andrew Hawken  
35 Jeff McPherson



## QUARTERBACK

7 Brian Hoyer  
8 Kirk Cousins



## Meet the offense

The Spartans will try to be creative and get the ball to **Javon Ringer** in as many ways as possible – the more the better with this elusive RB.

And when the defense totally overplays Ringer, it will be up to **Brian Hoyer**, in his second year as the starting quarterback, to recognize the best way to exploit it.

More than likely, no one can replace **Devin Thomas**, but the receiver-by-committee plan – led by **Mark Dell** and **B.J. Cunningham** – should be productive enough.

In the end, it will all come down to the offensive line, specifically a revamped left side. Can they protect Hoyer, keep him healthy, and open creases for Ringer?

## WIDE RECEIVER

2 Mark Dell  
25 Blair White



## LEFT TACKLE

57 Rocco Cironi  
64 Brendon Moss



## LEFT GUARD

60 Mike Bacon  
67 Joel Foreman



## CENTER

65 Joel Nitchman  
60 Mike Bacon



## RIGHT GUARD

73 Roland Martin  
75 Jarod McGaha



## RIGHT TACKLE

79 Jesse Miller  
76 Mike Schmeding



## TIGHT END

83 Charlie Gantt  
85 Garrett Celek



## WIDE RECEIVER

3 B.J. Cunningham  
84 Deon Curry



**DEFENSIVE END**  
49 Dwayne Holmes  
47 Brandon Long



**DEFENSIVE TACKLE**  
97 Justin Kershaw  
96 Kevin Pickelman



**NOSE TACKLE**  
70 Oren Wilson  
93 Antonio Jeremiah



**DEFENSIVE END**  
89 Colin Neely  
58 Trevor Anderson



**LINEBACKER**  
43 Eric Gordon  
42 Ryan Allison



**MIDDLE LINEBACKER**  
55 Adam Decker  
54 David Rolf



**LINEBACKER**  
53 Greg Jones  
34 Brandon Denson



**CORNERBACK**  
37 Ross Weaver  
31 Ashton Henderson



**CORNERBACK**  
29 Chris L. Rucker  
9 Jeremy Ware



**SAFETY**  
38 Kendell Davis-Clark  
28 Mike Bell



**SAFETY**  
21 Otis Wilkey  
33 Danny Fortener

## SPECIAL TEAMS



**PUNTER**  
18 Aaron Bates  
10 Kyle Selden



**KICKER**  
14 Brett Swenson  
2 Matt Haughey

## Meet the coaches

- **Coach:** Mark Dantonio
- **Offensive coordinator:** Don Treadwell
- **Defensive coordinator:** Pat Narduzzi
- **Quarterbacks:** Dave Warner
- **Running backs:** Dan Enos

- **Tight ends:** Mark Staten
- **Offensive line:** Dan Roushar
- **Secondary:** Harlon Barnett
- **Linebackers/special teams:** Mike Tressel

- **Defensive line:** Tod Gill
- **Strength and conditioning:** Tommy Hoke, Ken Mannie
- **Speed:** Randy Gillon

## Campaign stops

News writer Dave Dye analyzes Michigan State's road through November:

AUG. 30, 8 p.m., Berkeley

Michigan State at California



TV: ABC

'07: DNP (Michigan State 2-1)

**Comment:** An upset here could generate momentum needed for a 7-0 start.

OCT. 11, TBA, Evanston

Michigan State at Northwestern



TV: TBA

'07: NW 48-41, OT (Michigan State 32-16)

**Comment:** The Spartans can't contain Tyrell Sutton and the Wildcats' spread.

SEPT. 6, noon, Spartan Stadium

E. Michigan at Michigan State



TV: BTN

'07: DNP (Michigan State 7-0)

**Comment:** The Spartans have won the last four meetings by a combined score of 206-34.

OCT. 18, TBA, Spartan Stadium

Ohio State at Michigan State



TV: TBA

'07: Ohio State 24-17 (Ohio State 26-12)

**Comment:** The Buckeyes have won six straight in the series and 19 of 23.

SEPT. 13, noon, Spartan Stadium

Fla. Atlantic at Michigan State



TV: ESPN or ESPN2

'07: First meeting

**Comment:** This one could actually be a test against a Sun Belt team on the rise.

OCT. 25, TBA, Ann Arbor

Michigan State at Michigan



TV: TBA

'07: Michigan 28-24 (Michigan 67-28-5)

**Comment:** Michigan State's last victory in Ann Arbor came in 1990.

SEPT. 20, 3:30 p.m., Spartan Stadium

Notre Dame at Michigan State



TV: ABC

'07: Michigan State 31-14 (Not. Dame 44-26-1)

**Comment:** The road team has won the last seven in this series. Do we hear eight?

NOV. 1, TBA, Spartan Stadium

Wisconsin at Michigan State



TV: TBA

'07: Wisconsin 37-34 (Michigan State 26-20)

**Comment:** Michigan State overcomes the hype about a typical letdown and upsets.

SEPT. 27, TBA, Bloomington

Michigan State at Indiana



TV: TBA

'07: Michigan State 52-27 (MSU 39-15-2)

**Comment:** The Spartans bounce back for a road victory in the Big Ten opener.

NOV. 8, TBA, Spartan Stadium

Purdue at Michigan State



TV: TBA

'07: Michigan State 48-31 (MSU 29-28-3)

**Comment:** The Spartans give Purdue coach Joe Tiller a rude going-away gift.

OCT. 4, noon, Spartan Stadium

Iowa at Michigan State



TV: ESPN, ESPN2 or BTN

'07: Iowa 34-27, OT (Iowa 20-17-2)

**Comment:** The Spartans get revenge for one of their most crushing '07 losses.

NOV. 22, TBA, State College

Michigan State at Penn State



TV: TBA

'07: Michigan State 35-31 (12-12-1)

**Comment:** Michigan State is 0-7 in State College since Penn State joined the Big Ten.

## Meet the defense

Whether he's in the middle or on the outside, LB **Greg Jones** appears ready to make a serious bid for first team All-Big Ten. He's only a sophomore, but he already is that good.

The defensive line must replace **Jonal Saint-Dic** and **Ervin Baldwin**, who combined for 18.5 sacks (10 by Saint-Dic) and eight forced fumbles (all by Saint-Dic). But Cincinnati transfer **Trevor Anderson** quickly will help fill that void. Michigan State also is starting to stockpile some young defensive linemen, including NT **Oren Wilson**.

Much scrutinized in recent years, the secondary, especially at cornerback, now is experienced and seemingly more talented. But can this group make the big play to help finish games?