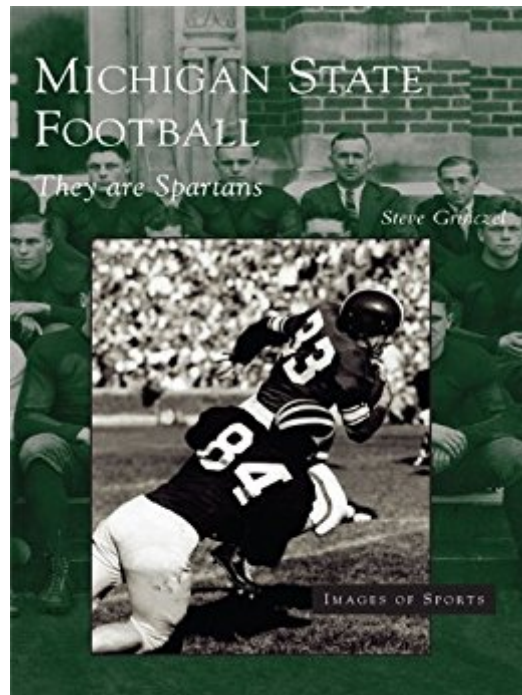




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# Michigan State Football: They Are Spartans (Images Of Sports)



## Synopsis

Michigan State University's football history is overflowing with famous, interesting, and colorful figures. From Gideon "Charlie" Smith, who in 1913 became one of the nation's first black collegiate players, to George Webster, the "Greatest Spartan of All Time," to Morton Andersen, who still holds the Big Ten record for longest field goal-they are all Spartans. Earl Morrall, Bubba Smith, Lorenzo White... the list goes on. Added to this list of tremendous players are legendary coaches like the "Biggie" Munn and Duffy Dougherty. And who could forget the famous 10-10 tie with Notre Dame in 1966 or the Rose Bowl victory over Southern Cal in 1987? Spartan tradition is more than the coaches and players on the field, however, and Michigan State Football: They Are Spartans offers many rare images and long-forgotten anecdotes about how the program became a player on the national stage. The early days as a farm college team, the development into a football power as an independent, the successful struggle to join the Big Ten conference, and of course, the historic rivalry with a certain team from Ann Arbor are all recounted in the pages of this book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a pictorial history of the football program of Michigan State University. It includes some of the oldest pictures, dating back to the Michigan Agricultural College (MAC) teams coached by MSU's 1st coach, Henry Keep. The book extends through the MAC becoming Michigan State College (MSC) and ultimately MSU. It leaves off with the inaugural season of John L. Smith. The book showcases the great players, coaches & personalities that were involved with the football program over the yrs. It includes the story of President John Hannah, who moved heaven & earth to get MSU into the Big 10 > the university of Chicago pulled the plug on its football program in 1939 & ultimately departed the conference. Perhaps most importantly for MSU fans, Grinczel's work covers the Golden Age of Michigan State football, which went from 1950-1971. These were the eras of Biggie Munn, Duffy Daugherty as coaches & Jack Breslin as the Athletic Director. Of course, no book of this type would be complete without pix from the heralded 1966 "Game of the century" against Notre Dame. The most unfortunate thing about the book is the timing. In other words, where it leaves off. The book ends with the 1st year of John L. Smith's disastrous coaching tenure in East Lansing. Smith was arguably the single worst hire in program history. Sure, Denny Stoltz & Bobby Williams were in over their heads, but it's always an unknown quantity when you promote someone to the position. Muddy Waters was a terrible hire, but at least he was an MSU alumni who coached under Duffy. JLS, on the other hand, was a complete outside-the-box (and I would argue outside-common-sense) hire who had no business walking the sidelines @ Spartan Stadium. During his tenure, it struck me as funny that a team that called themselves the Spartans would install a wimpy, finesse passing offense instead of playing the physical football it was always known for. Smith's failure was a double-whammy for MSU. When A.D. Merritt Norvell & MSU Prez Peter McPherson drove Nick Saban out of town, it set the program back 10yrs. After firing Bobby Williams, hiring JLS was a slap-in-the-face to season ticket holders. Meanwhile, Saban has since won 3 National Championships @ LSU & 'Bama. It would've been much better had the book left off with the victory over Georgia in the OUTBACK Bowl 2yrs ago. Obviously, books always have to come out @ some point, but the final page of this book is likely to leave a lousy taste in the mouth of die hard MSU fans.

The book did a good job of retracing the beginnings of the football program when MSU was an agricultural college to its entry into the Big 10, and the struggle to gain recognition despite National Championships in the 1950's. The author tended to breeze by the more recent decades, choosing to focus on notable players during those decades, and less on the coaching or the program as a whole. All in all, it was a very good read on the plane as I headed from Michigan to Pasadena for

the 100th Rose Bowl game. The Spartans won.

The book is what I wanted but for the price I wanted a bit more. It is very tiny for such a big price. Would not recommend unless someone is a die hard Spartan Fan. It is a Christmas gift so I am a bit disappointed.

Christmas present for someone else

This is a very good book about MSU football. With that being said I felt I paid too high a premium for a small, soft-covered, black and white photo book.

Good deal! Thanks

Fabulous photos, great inside stories. I love this book because I learned something new about my favorite team with just about every caption and accompanying text.

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