

Sales down at area flea markets



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SPORTS

The Detroit News Saturday, November 14, 2009 | Section B



Michigan State breezes to its first victory

COLLEGE BASKETBALL, 3B

Tigers shouldn't trade Granderson

I understand the economics around here, and I understand the nature of baseball. The Tigers have some tough decisions this offseason.

But if they're really thinking about trading All-Stars Curtis Granderson and Edwin Jackson, I think they're nuts.

General manager Dave Dombrowski would be creating two huge holes in the pursuit of,



BOB WOJNOWSKI

well, what? Cost-cutting? Not really, not a lot. Improving the roster? Not short-term, not likely.

Speculation often swirls this time of year, and that's fine. Dombrowski might merely be sniffing for a too-good-to-be-true deal, hoping to fleece the Yankees or Cubs out of top prospects. But if this is part of some new long-term direction by the Tigers, it makes

no sense to me.

Owner Mike Ilitch has spent admirably, sometimes recklessly. His hunger to win is indisputable, evidenced by the fateful late-season acquisitions of Jarrod Washburn and Aubrey Huff. Ilitch has signed off on lucrative deals that now hamper the Tigers, but he can't suddenly swing the other way and punch fans in the gut by dealing two of the team's better, younger, more popular players. I know attendance dropped

nearly 25 percent this season, but the Tigers still finished fourth in the American League at more than 2.5 million, solid considering the economy and the sometimes-dreary lineup.

Reasonable deals

Granderson, 28, is a center fielder in his prime, and while he needs to hit better than .249 (and much better than .183 against lefties), he provides power, speed, defense and fan flair. And he's owed a reason-

Tigers Insider: Who could Tigers get for Granderson, Jackson? **2B.**

able \$23.75 million the next three years.

Jackson, 26, is a right-hander who was superb the first half of the season, not nearly so hot after that. Still, he finished with a 13-9 record and 3.62 ERA, and he has exactly the mix of promise and hard-throwing talent every team craves. He could

Please see Wojno, Page 2B

James asks NBA to retire No. 23

LeBron James wants NBA players to give up their No. 23s to honor **Michael Jordan**.

"I just think what Michael Jordan has done for the game has to be recognized in some way — soon," James said.

James is willing to switch to No. 6 — his U.S. Olympic team number.



James

Johnson, Stafford working out kinks

Due to injuries, duo has only played four full games together

BY JOHN NIYO
The Detroit News

Allen Park — They're on the same page. But they're not quite ready to finish each other's sentences yet.

Clearly, Matthew Stafford and Calvin Johnson — No. 1 and No. 2 picks, respectively — are the cornerstone pieces to the Lions' offense. But they've only had bits and pieces of quality time together in games, which might explain why the offense has been stuck in neutral the first half of the season.

It probably explains the overblown exchange between the two caught on camera in last week's 32-20 loss at Seattle. Stafford's third and fourth interceptions were intended for Johnson. On one, Johnson broke inside while the pass went outside. On the other, Stafford's deep ball down the sideline was underthrown.

Please see Lions, Page 4B



Johnson

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS WITHIN GRASP



Bryan Mitchell/Special to The Detroit News

Sterling Heights Stevenson's Marcus Beaurem, lying left, loses his grip during a punt return and Detroit Southeastern's Daniel Burke (not pictured) recovers. But it did no harm in the Division 1 regional final, as Stevenson won, 38-32. Complete high school coverage on 5B and at detnews.com.

Robinson might start for Michigan

BY ANGELIQUE S. CHENGELIS
The Detroit News

There are strong indications Michigan backup freshman quarterback Denard Robinson will not only see more playing time today against Wisconsin, but he might make his first career start.

Freshman Tate Forcier, who has started all 10 games this season, has struggled recently with injuries and on the field. Speculation this week regarding Forcier's starting status has been rampant.

Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez said Monday during his weekly news conference he has wanted to play Robinson more.



Robinson

Forcier helped lead Michigan to a 4-0 start, but it has lost five straight in the Big Ten and is 5-5 with two games remaining — at Wisconsin and home with Ohio State.

Michigan needs one victory to become bowl eligible.

Forcier has been the primary quarterback all season. He has completed 56.2 percent of his 217 attempts for 1,636 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also has five interceptions. Forcier has rushed for 246 yards and three touchdowns on 104 carries.

"I've asked Tate that he's got to play and act beyond his years, and sometimes that's a struggle for him," Rodriguez said Thursday during his weekly radio show.

Robinson, meanwhile, has not seen much game action in recent weeks. Known for his speed, he has gained 284 yards and five touchdowns on 54 carries. He has completed 11 of 22 passes for 179 yards and two touchdowns.

"I sense a little something every week with him," Rodriguez said Wednesday. "There might be one play where you say, 'Oh, boy, he's really starting to get it.'"

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MORE COLLEGE FOOTBALL

MSU: The Spartans hope to slow down Joey Elliott and Purdue's potent passing game. **4B**

U-M: The Wolverines must find a way to run the ball well against the stingy defense of Wisconsin. **4B**

Former No. 1 Duval likely losing Tour card

Former world No. 1 **David Duval** is likely to lose his PGA Tour card next year after missing the cut at the Children's Miracle Network Classic.

Duval finished at 5 over par at Disney World on Friday in the final event of the season.

He entered the week at No. 125 on the money list, the last spot to earn full status on tour. He is projected to finish outside that mark, but will have conditional status because he is in the top 150, allowing him to enter about a dozen tournaments.

Duval said he already has signed up for qualifying school.

Contact us

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David Kohl/Associated Press

Chad Ochocinco will lose \$20,000 after showing a \$1 bill to an official.

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