

# Holiday airfares back on the rise



**INSIDE**  
Stocks, 6B  
Comics, 7B  
Puzzles, 9B  
TV listings, 9B

# SPORTS

The Detroit News Tuesday, November 17, 2009 | Section B



## Howard doing well as backup goalie

RED WINGS INSIDER, 2B

# Heathcote is still the master

Former MSU coach inspiring, teaching both Izzo and Few

BY ERIC LACY  
The Detroit News

**East Lansing** — When Jud Heathcote picked up the phone, the 82-year-old quipped with an ice-breaker of a question: So you want to figure out why I'm still alive? After two heart surgeries, two

knee replacements and another surgery to repair a hip, the colorful former Michigan State coach is mystified by his ability to avoid mortality.

"In all honesty, I didn't think I would live this long," said Heathcote, who retired from basketball in 1995 at 67. "I thought I would be dead by 70."

Nearly 15 years since Heathcote left East Lansing for the mountainous landscape of Spokane, Wash., he still projects an unforgettable wit that seems to

## Gonzaga at Michigan State

**Tip-off:** 8 tonight, Breslin Center, East Lansing  
**TV/radio:** ESPN/WJR 760  
**Records:** Gonzaga 1-0, Michigan State 1-0  
**Line:** Michigan State by 4

keep him strong. Continuous involvement in the game he loves helps. The college basketball Hall of Fame inductee will garner some recogni-

tion tonight when MSU hosts Gonzaga (8, ESPN).

The godfather of Spartan basketball has made quite an impact on the lives of Tom Izzo, his former assistant, and Gonzaga coach Mark Few, a longtime confidant.

It only made sense to begin a series between the two teams in the legend's honor.

"I wouldn't have scheduled this game if it weren't for Jud," Izzo said. "It means the world to me.

Please see MSU, Page 4B

## Porcello third in rookie vote

He came close, but Tigers pitcher **Rick Porcello** is not the American League's Rookie of the Year.

Oakland closer **Andrew Bailey** is the AL winner.

Bailey, an All-Star in his first major league season, was selected first on 13 of 28 ballots and finished with 88 points.

Texas Rangers shortstop **Elvis Andrus** was the runner-up with 65 points, one more than Porcello.

Florida Marlins outfielder **Chris Coghlan** was named National League Rookie of the Year.

Porcello, 20, went 14-9 with a 3.96 ERA.

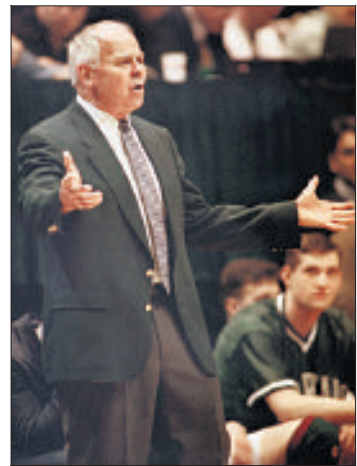
## AL Rookie of the Year Award

First-, second- and third-place votes and total points on a 5-3-1 basis.

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot
And. Bailey, Oak.	13	6	5	88
Elvis Andrus, Tex.	8	6	7	65
Rick Porcello, Det.	7	8	5	64
Jeff Niemann, TB	-	5	6	21
G. Beckham, Chi.	-	2	4	10
B.Anderson, Oak.	-	1	1	4



Porcello



Dave Martin/Associated Press

Hall of Famer-to-be Jud Heathcote inspired the MSU-Gonzaga series that begins tonight.

## Young Lions struggle

Rookies, second-year men have problems in Detroit's latest loss

BY JOHN NIYO  
The Detroit News

**Allen Park** — Detroit's youth movement spent much of Sunday's 27-10 loss at Minnesota spinning its wheels.

Quarterback Matthew Stafford showed some moxie under duress all afternoon. But tight end Brandon Pettigrew, the Lions' other rookie first-round pick,

had two more dropped passes and a costly late-hit penalty. Safety Louis Delmas didn't play in the game — despite being on the active roster — because of an infected tooth. Linebacker DeAndre Levy had some glaring missed tackles. And running back Aaron Brown was benched after repeated assignment errors in recent weeks.

The Class of 2008 didn't fare much better. Defensive end Cliff Avril was inactive after a poor showing at Seattle — "I kind of felt like it was coming," he said Monday — while running back Kevin Smith had a crucial fumble on the first play of the second half.

"I take that one across the

Please see Lions, Page 4B



Daniel Mears/The Detroit News

Lions rookie LB DeAndre Levy didn't have one of his better games in Sunday's loss.

# More heat comes Rodriguez's way



John T. Greilick/The Detroit News

Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez's ire over an official's call may pale in comparison to that coming his way over the team's losing, and, now, the revelation that his program failed to file logs on player workout times.

## Embattled coach needs positive sign

**Ann Arbor**  
It all keeps piling up, the losses, the defensive collapses, the noise. Rich Rodriguez's program hasn't gone anywhere positive yet, and now it sits at a dangerous crossroad, fair or not, premature or not.

## BOB WOJNOWSKI

**More inside:** Beating Ohio State means everything. **3B.**

The Wolverines could lose their seventh straight Big Ten game Saturday and finish 1-7 in the conference, dead last. They could get battered by the Buckeyes again. And Monday, Michigan released an internal audit that showed the football staff did not file monthly logs of players' workout times, as the school required.

The NCAA investigation hangs over Rodriguez, and so does the sense he could buckle from the weight of everything. For all the change he brought — and many at Michigan craved — he struggles to make it fit, from his spread offense to his loose personality, to his "outsider" status, to his do-it-my-way style. He sounds determined but looks increasingly weary, as if not exactly sure what hit him.

Perceptions could change quickly with one stirring victory over rival Ohio State, and yes, anything is possible. But the way the Buckeyes play defense

Please see Wojo, Page 3B



David Guralnick/The Detroit News

Alexandra Cocklin, in blue, beat her Marian teammate for Miss Volleyball.

## Marian star is Miss Volleyball

**Alexandra Cocklin** of Birmingham Marian was named Miss Volleyball.

Cocklin, a 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter, won the award in voting by the coaches association over her teammate, libero **Rachel Charles**.

"It's probably one of the greatest feelings I've ever had," Cocklin said. "It means a lot to be rewarded for doing something I love to do."

Cocklin, who will play at Akron next year, is a four-year varsity player for Marian. So is Charles, who is headed to Lehigh.

"It's a great feeling to have one of our players named Miss Volleyball," Marian coach **Irick Gardner** said. Marian, 75-2 and ranked No. 1, will face Utica Eisenhower in a Class A quarterfinal at 7 tonight at Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse.

## Titans owner fined \$250,000 for gesture

The NFL fined Tennessee Titans owner **Bud Adams** \$250,000 for making an obscene gesture at Buffalo fans while celebrating his team's victory over the Bills in Buffalo.

Adams was seen making the gesture while in his luxury suite and again on the field after Sunday's 41-17 victory.

Adams, 86, issued an apology a couple of hours later, saying he got caught up in the excitement.

## Contact us

You can reach Ruben Luna, Sports Editor, by calling (313) 223-4642, faxing (313) 496-5248 or at ruben.luna@detnews.com.

# Pistons' trip could provide measuring stick

BY TED KULFAN  
The Detroit News

**Auburn Hills** — It's still difficult to gauge who the Pistons are at this early stage of the season.

Maybe they are who we think they are — to paraphrase former NFL coach Dennis Green — a 5-5 team that can look like an extremely dangerous team on certain evenings.

An opportunity for a clearer picture of who they are, or better yet, how good they really are, could come into focus this week.

The Pistons begin a four-game, six-day West Coast trip tonight in Los Angeles against the defending champion Lakers (7-3).

The next evening, the Pistons are in Portland to face the Northwest Division-leading Trail Blazers (8-3).

Detroit concludes the trip with back-to-back games Saturday in Utah (4-6) and Sunday in Phoenix (9-2).

"It'll be a challenge," Ben Gordon said of the Pistons' first extended trip of the season. "Right

off the start, arguably the best team in the league, the defending champions (Lakers). It's important to bring out our best game from the start."

The Pistons think they've played well enough to be better than 5-5. They haven't been blown out in any of the losses, hanging around in every game, in position to potentially swipe a victory.

On the surface, earning a victory in any of these next four games will be difficult.

## Pistons at L.A. Lakers

**Tip-off:** 10:30 tonight, Staples Center, Los Angeles  
**TV/radio:** FSD/WXYT 97.1

**Notable:** The Pistons defeated the Lakers at Staples Center last season.

"We're getting better and better every game," said Will Bynum, whose individual game is

doing the same. "Just focus on the little things and we'll be fine. We've come a long way since the start of the season. The key for us is to just keep getting better each game."

"We haven't given up in any of these games. That's kind of been the character of this team — we're going to play hard every single possession and give it our all."

"We'll be fine."

ted.kulfan@detnews.com  
(313) 223-4606