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The Detroit News Wednesday, November 18, 2009 | Section B



Drops still a problem for Stafford, receivers
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MSU's Cousins has developed

QB's career taking off at just the right time for Spartans

you see how a high school senior who already stands 6-foot-3 will put muscle on that 170-pound carriage? Can't you see the budding leadership skills? Can't you see the potential for a kid from Holland Christian High to become a dynamite Division I quarterback? No, they couldn't see it. Not then, not four years ago, after Cousins had broken an ankle in

Cousins stats

Comp.	Att.	Yards	TD	INT
169	273	2,305	17	5

the first game of his junior season and played in only a handful of games that autumn.

"Most schools were impressed with my arm, but I weighed 170 pounds and I ran a 4.9 (40-yard dash)," Cousins said Tuesday during a midday break at Spartan Stadium. "The other (quarterback recruits) couldn't do anything throwing the ball I



Dale G. Young/The Detroit News

Kirk Cousins had a hard time getting college programs to take notice of him, but Michigan State finally did.



LYNN HENNING

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Irish eyes are speculating

With Charlie Weis' tenure at Notre Dame all but officially over, people are starting to speculate on his replacement.

One name that came up this week in a story by **Al Lesar** of the South Bend Tribune is MSU coach **Mark Dantonio**. Other coaches mentioned: **Bob Stoops** (Oklahoma), **Urban Meyer** (Florida), **Brian Kelly** (Cincinnati), **Jim Harbaugh** (Stanford) and **Chris Peterson** (Boise State).



Dantonio

Tigers will not undergo fire sale

Dombrowski: Trade will be made for betterment of team, not dumping salary

BY LYNN HENNING
The Detroit News

Baseball's hot-stove stewards are waiting for the Tigers to make their day.

They figure it's a matter of time before a supposedly cost-cutting franchise announces the trades of center fielder Curtis Granderson and starting pitcher Edwin Jackson, either or both of which could deal in the works.

But a popular national view that Detroit is slashing payroll took another hit Tuesday from Dave Dombrowski, the Tigers president and general manager.

"I can assure you 100 percent that we do not have any kind of fire sale, or salary dump, or whatever you might call it, taking place," he said. "I can also tell you that I've been part of that in my career, so I know what that situation is like.

"In that situation, you go to your owner and say, 'This is not a good trade, but I can move this salary. Would you still want me to do this?' And he says, 'Yes,' and you just move the salaries ... I've done that, but not here."

Dombrowski endured forced selloffs when he was general manager of the Expos and Marlins.

Dombrowski would only say that "conversations" continued with respect to just about any name on the roster, which in Dombrowski's view makes 2009 little different from previous seasons.

He would not speak specifically

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Money ball: Tony Paul breaks down the hot-stove season. 4B

NO. 2 MICHIGAN STATE 75, GONZAGA 71

MSU punches back

Spartans overcome 13-point deficit to win

BY ERIC LACY
The Detroit News

East Lansing — Michigan State sure didn't get a cute and cuddly mid-major opponent Tuesday when West Coast Conference power Gonzaga came to town.

Nearly four years after the two teams squared off for a finesse-filled, triple-overtime thriller in the Maui Invitational, the rematch had a completely different feel.

It was a Big Ten-style brawl featuring 46 fouls, and the nation's second-ranked team trailed most of the way before counter-punching to a 75-71 victory.

"They took it to us for at least 30 minutes," Spartans coach Tom Izzo said. "They punched us in the mouth, picked us up off the ground, punched us in the mouth, picked us up off the ground and punched us in the mouth again."

The Bulldogs dominated in the paint early with 7-foot center Robert Sacre and 6-8 forward Elias Harris. They both finished with 17 points.

Down 13 late in the first half, Michigan State couldn't get a real advantage until Kalin Lucas drove the lane for an acrobatic layup with 34.6 seconds left for a 73-70 lead.

Lucas finished with 19 points and scored the basket a couple minutes after teammate Durrell Summers made a 3-pointer for the team's first lead (68-67).

Summers praised his team for its resolve after

Please see Spartans, Page 3B



Photos by Dale G. Young/The Detroit News

Durrell Summers (15) starts the celebration as the final buzzer goes off. Summers had 21 points on 8-for-9 shooting.



Tom Izzo gets his point across to an official. Gonzaga had 24 fouls the Michigan State's 22.



Ryan Remiorz/Associated Press

Brandon Shanahan won three Stanley Cups in nine seasons in Detroit.

Former Red Wing Shanahan retires

Former Red Wing **Brendan Shanahan**, 40, announced Tuesday that he wouldn't play again. After going through training camp with the New Jersey Devils, the team he spent his final season with, he and the club mutually parted unexpectedly shortly before opening night of the season.

Shanahan ranks 11th in career goals and is the only player with 600 goals and 2,000 penalty minutes.

Greinke wins Cy Young; Verlander finishes third

Zack Greinke won the American League Cy Young Award on Tuesday, easily beating out **Felix Hernandez** after a spectacular season short on wins but long on domination.

Greinke went 16-8 with a major league-low 2.16 ERA for the Kansas City Royals. Hernandez was 19-5 with a 2.49 ERA for the Seattle Mariners.

Greinke received 25 of 28 first-place votes. **Justin Verlander** of the Tigers was third with one first-place vote.

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

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