

# Bargain retailer wins in recession



**INSIDE**  
Stocks, 8B  
Puzzles, 10B  
TV listings, 10B

# SPORTS

The Detroit News Friday, November 20, 2009 | Section B



**Defensive end Avril seeks consistency**  
LIONS, 2B

## Dantonio still right coach for Spartans

I can remember, three years ago this week, making another hundred or so phone calls in the latest quest to learn who Michigan State would hire as its new head football coach.

There were names of every flavor:

Steve Mariucci, Todd Grantham, Charlie Baggett, Pat Shurmur, Brian Kelly, Ron English, Jim Harbaugh (then at the University of San Diego and very interested in the Michigan State job), and a few others of less serious candidacy.



LYNN HENNING

The guy who was three weeks away from being hired was Mark Dantonio at the University of Cincinnati. He was hardly an unknown. He had the credentials. He certainly wanted the job. Messages had been left at his office in hopes he might fan a flame or two. He simply preferred to keep his mouth shut until he had finished business with the Bearcats.

Whatever you make of Dantonio

Please see Henning, Page 6B

## U-M woes confusing to students

BY GREGG KRUPA  
The Detroit News

Ann Arbor — When Peter Martin applied to colleges, he sought a mix of academic rigor and athletic achievement. The schooling comes first, Martin says. But football is an essential ingredient.

"My mom is from Grosse Pointe Farms and she went to a couple of games here," said Martin, who is from West Chester, Pa. "By the time I was in high school, I was a big Michigan fan. I applied to Duke, Penn State, Boston College and some other places because they are all really good schools with a tradition of good teams in at least one major sport. But I chose Michigan.

"Football is a very big deal — especially now that I am a student here," said the junior, who majors in communication arts. "I immerse myself in it, every day. And, when I went to my first game against Appalachian State as a freshman, it was like winning all of the time was expected, here. They were expected to be good. And, now, they're not."

Michigan, infamously, lost to Division I-AA Appalachian State in 2007.

Please see U-M, Page 6B

"WHEN THEY TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED, I WAS LIKE IN A DREAM... I ABSOLUTELY FEARED FOR HIS LIFE."  
Susan Hanna, mother of Mark Hanna, a Sterling Heights Stevenson junior who lost a kidney on a tackle and nearly died



Photos by Daniel Mears/The Detroit News

Mark Hanna is excited just to be able to stroll the field and watch his Sterling Heights Stevenson team in the football playoffs.

# LIFE VICTORY

BY TOM MARKOWSKI | The Detroit News

Sterling Heights

When his Sterling Heights Stevenson High football team plays Clarkston on Saturday in the state playoffs, Mark Hanna will be in a wheelchair rooting from the sidelines.

He would rather be at his cornerback position, but realizes he is lucky to be there at all.

It was Oct. 23, in the regular-season finale against Warren Mott, that Hanna made a routine tackle that cost him a kidney — and nearly his life.

Mott quarterback Ben Filimon had the ball and was running upfield when Hanna made the unassisted tackle. It wasn't a particularly hard hit. Hanna crouched and Filimon came in low and caught Hanna's left side, just below the rib cage, with his helmet.

No one knew it at the time, but the blow shattered Hanna's left kidney, nearly cutting it in half. Internal bleeding started immediately.

Hanna's life was in danger, but remarkably he stayed in for four more plays and made another tackle. When play was stopped for a timeout, Hanna became more

aware of his injury.

"It felt like a cramp," Hanna said. "I went back to the huddle and I went to D.J. (Mershman, a senior defensive back) and said, I don't feel good, and I was seeing double. D.J. said, you probably got the wind knocked out of you. I thought, at worse, it was a fractured rib.

"When that whistle blew (for the timeout), I said, 'OK, I can come out now.' That's when the pain hit me. Our trainer on the sideline said it was probably a rib. That's when I started to feel sick."

Hanna was on the sideline approximately 15 minutes before he attempted to

get his mother's attention. Add to this the time he spent on the field after the hit, and it was close to 25 minutes before Hanna was taken to Troy Beaumont Hospital.

Susan Hanna, as usual, was sitting near midfield with her husband, Mark. Like everyone else, she didn't notice anything wrong until her son came off the field, talked with the trainer and seemed to be in pain.

"I know when the hit took place now," she said. "We've looked at the tape so many times. ... He made a good tackle. I

Please see Life, Page 4B



Stevenson High teammates visit after practice with Mark Hanna and his mom, Susan. The cornerback played four more downs after his injury.



Robin Buckson/The Detroit News

Empty seats are not unusual at Lions home games this season.

## Lions, Browns are blacked out

No need to cover your eyes.

The Lions' game against the Cleveland Browns — a matchup of 1-8 teams Sunday at Ford Field — won't be televised locally.

The team failed to reach a sellout before the NFL's 1 p.m. Thursday deadline. On Wednesday, the Lions had more than 7,000 tickets remaining for the Browns game.

It's the third blackout in five home games for the Lions this season — Washington and St. Louis were the others — and the eighth in the last 11 games dating to last season.

John Niyo

## Gibson bags 10-point buck

Kirk Gibson scored again during Michigan's 2009 firearms deer season. The former Tigers outfielder and coach took a huge buck Tuesday morning from state land near his ranch in the northeast corner of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

The deer was old — 7½ years by Gibson's calculations. It was also a 10-pointer.

"Big swamp buck," Gibson said Thursday.

Lynn Henning

## Two GLIAC stars are trophy finalists

RB Jaique Bell of Wayne State and QB Brad Iciek of Grand Valley State are among nine finalists for the Harlon Hill Trophy, which goes to the nation's best Division II player.

Iciek is a finalist for the third straight year.

The award will be presented Dec. 11 in Florence, Ala.

Bell

## Contact us

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