

The polishing of 'Little Murder' film



INSIDE
Stocks, 6B
Comics, 8B
TV listings, 11B
Puzzles, 11B

SPORTS

The Detroit News Saturday, November 21, 2009 | Section B



Michigan State, Michigan cruise to big victories

COLLEGE BASKETBALL, 3B

Ever so humble, a place like home

Memories remain as writer goes outside the box

Since 1992, I've had the best seat in the house at Michigan Stadium.

That's not bragging; that's a fact. All these years, on so many Saturdays in the fall, I've had the great fortune of sitting at spot B39 in the second row of the Michigan Stadium press box. The non-descript, green vinyl chair where I sit actually has number B42 stenciled in black on the back, but why change a combination that's worked so well for so long?

So chair B42 at spot B39 has positioned me in a prime loca-

tion in the Big House, smack dab on the 50-yard line — and don't think I've ever taken that for granted.



ANGELIQUE S. CHENGELIS

Not long after the conclusion of today's Ohio State-Michigan game, the press box, the place I've called home a few months each fall, usually alongside my colleague, Detroit News columnist Bob Wojnowski, will be torn down.

With it will go its character and blue-collar, functional feel, a non-descript space that offered no frills (and really, really lousy hot dogs — 'Death Dogs,' they're lovingly called), and fairly unpleasant restroom facilities.

Each row features a long counter with individual spaces for reporters and press box guests. Below the counter, a three-inch space where you can put notebooks, stats and anything that can fit because the work-space is so limited.

And really, what more does a

Please see Chengelis, Page 3B



John T. Grellick/The Detroit News

The hard-working media always assured that the Michigan Stadium press box lights were the last ones shut off after Wolverines home games.

Woodson says U-M needs time

Rich Rodriguez says he needs time to build a consistent winner at Michigan.

And Charles Woodson, the former Heisman Trophy winner at Michigan, says Wolverines fans need to remain patient.

"If they (U-M) stick with him the next two, three years, he can get some more players in that he needs to run that system," Woodson said Friday on Jim Rome's nationally syndicated radio show. "If they don't, then I think you're right back to the drawing board."

Woodson, now with the Packers, was asked about this year's 5-6 Michigan team heading into today's rivalry game against Ohio State.

"I haven't felt good all year," Woodson said. "It's been hard to watch, and when you have a rivalry, there has to be something to it. And the last — I don't know how many years — we can't find a way to beat (Ohio State). It doesn't make for a fun rivalry."

Angelique S. Chengelis

Wings give victory away

Detroit's 40-18 shots edge in regulation nets just one point

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
The Detroit News

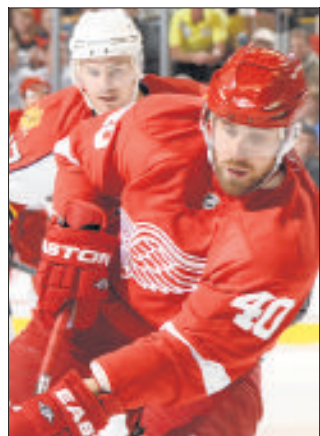
Detroit — It's hard to imagine a point feeling any more worthless than the one the Red Wings took from their 2-1 overtime loss to the Panthers on Friday at Joe Louis Arena.

"When you get a point when you'd been losing in the game, like we did in Edmonton earlier, that feels more like a victory," said goalie Chris Osgood, who returned after missing the last four games. "But when you are winning and you give it away, it feels like you've lost."

The Wings had a 40-18 edge in shots in regulation, and according to the Wings' statistics, they allowed the Panthers just eight scoring chances — two on the winning play.

"We didn't have much puck luck tonight," coach Mike Bab-

Please see Wings, Page 4B



David Guralnick/The Detroit News

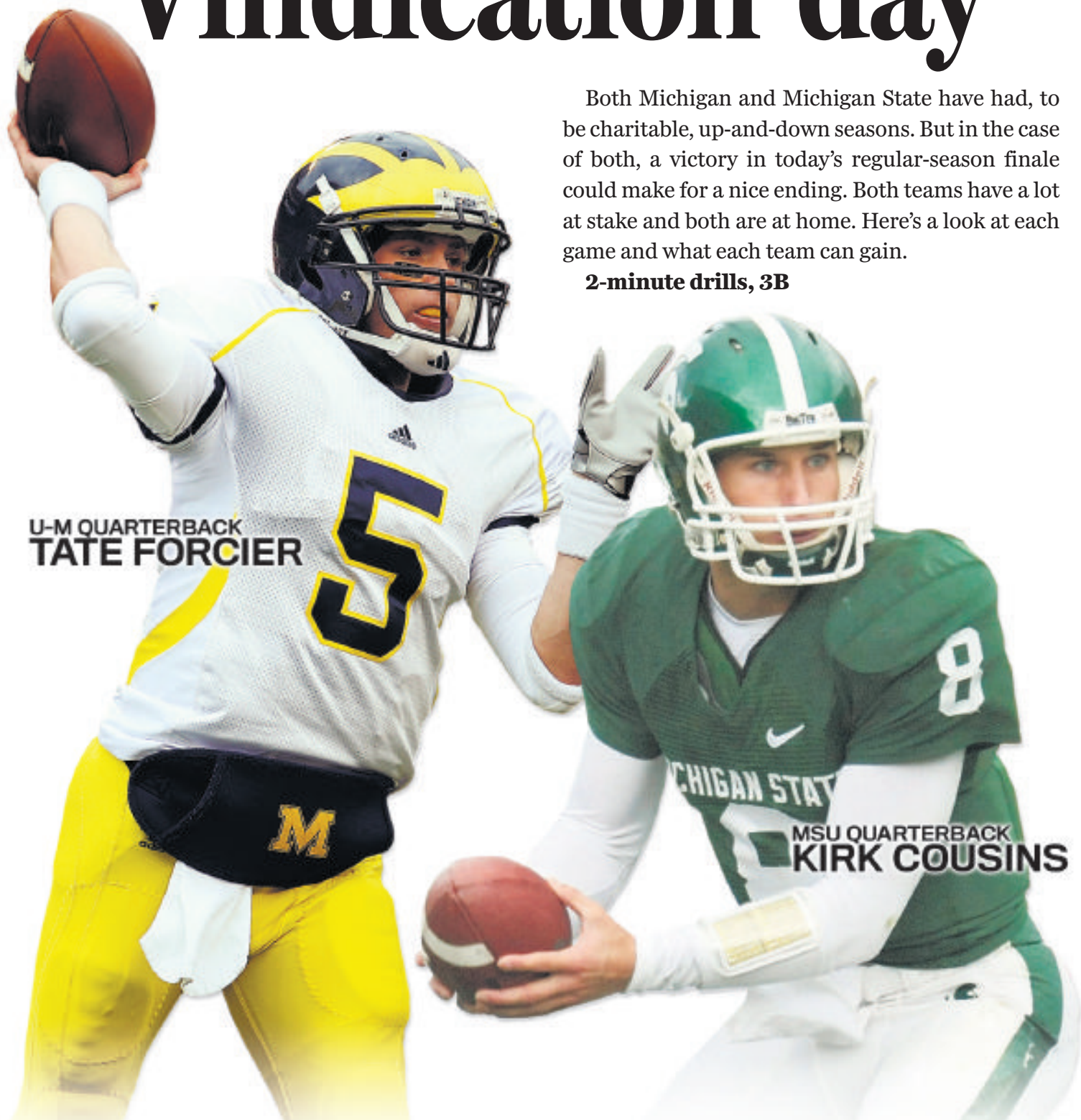
Wings forward Henrik Zetterberg assisted on Pavel Datsyuk's goal in the second.

Wings at Canadiens

Faceoff: 7 p.m. tonight, Bell Centre, Montreal
TV/radio: FSD, CBC/WXYT 97.1

Outlook: The Canadiens, who played in Washington on Friday, are without three key players — Brian Gionta (foot), Hal Gill (foot) and Andrei Markov (leg).

Vindication day



U-M QUARTERBACK TATE FORCIER

MSU QUARTERBACK KIRK COUSINS

Both Michigan and Michigan State have had, to be charitable, up-and-down seasons. But in the case of both, a victory in today's regular-season finale could make for a nice ending. Both teams have a lot at stake and both are at home. Here's a look at each game and what each team can gain.

2-minute drills, 3B

Ohio State at Michigan

The rivalry: Michigan leads the series, 57-42-6, but has lost five in a row and seven of eight since Jim Tressel took over at Ohio State. That includes a 42-7 loss at Columbus last season, Rich Rodriguez's first in the series.

The stars: For Michigan, freshman QB Tate Forcier and senior DE Brandon Graham. For Ohio State, sophomore QB Terrelle Pryor, who nearly came to Michigan, and S Kurt Coleman.

What's at stake: For Michigan, it's the last chance to secure a bowl bid. When the Wolverines got off to a 4-0 start, it was hard to imagine they would need to beat the Buckeyes to avoid missing a bowl for the second straight season. But in losing six of seven, the criticism of Rodriguez and his program has increased. It hasn't helped that the Wolverines are being investigated by the NCAA. A victory against the Buckeyes would go a long way toward quieting the critics.

For Ohio State, the only thing at stake is an outright Big Ten title. The Buckeyes clinched a trip to the Rose Bowl last week with a 27-24 victory over Iowa and with it, a share of their fifth consecutive conference title. It will be Ohio State's first trip to Pasadena since 1997.

Kickoff: Noon, ABC/WOMC, CKLW

Line: Ohio State by 11 1/2

Records: Michigan 5-6 (1-6 Big Ten); Ohio State 9-2 (6-1)

Forcier photo by John T. Grellick/The Detroit News

Penn State at Michigan State

The rivalry: Penn State leads the series, 13-12-1, and has won 12 of the last 16. The home team has won 11 of the last 13. The teams play for the Land Grant Trophy. In 1993, the game became the regular-season finale for both teams.

The stars: For Michigan State, sophomore QB Kirk Cousins and junior LB Greg Jones. For Penn State, senior QB Daryll Clark and junior LB Navorro Bowman.

What's at stake: Michigan State cleared its biggest hurdle last week by beating Purdue, 40-37, to become bowl-eligible. A victory today could accomplish a few things, however. First of all, it would send the Spartans someplace warm for the holidays, likely San Antonio, where a Big 12 team would await in the Alamo Bowl. Secondly, it would give coach Mark Dantonio a victory over a ranked team and put a positive end to what has been a difficult season, with five losses by a total of 23 points.

Penn State still could have a shot at a BCS bowl with a victory, even though it lost to Ohio State and Iowa at home. Bowls like the Nittany Lions because of the fans and TV ratings they bring.

Kickoff: 3:30 p.m., ABC/WJR

Line: Penn State by 3

Records: Michigan State 6-5 (4-3 Big Ten); Penn State 9-2 (5-2)

Cousins photo by Dale G. Young/The Detroit News



Getty Images

Former U-M star Charles Woodson finds it tough to watch these days.

Knicks have decided to pass on Iverson

Not even the lowly Knicks want Allen Iverson.

Knicks president Donnie Walsh said the team won't pursue the former Piston despite its 2-9 record.



Iverson

Iverson was waived by the Grizzlies on Tuesday and became a free agent Thursday night. Walsh said he didn't feel Iverson was the right fit because the team wants its younger players to gain experience.

Former MSU LB faces felony charges

The Michigan Court of Appeals has reinstated felony charges against former Michigan State football player SirDarean Adams.

The court said a Lansing-area judge should have sent Adams to trial on charges of unarmed robbery and assault. He and others were accused of taking a wallet and a cell phone from a student in a parking lot in Meridian Township in 2007.

Adams was a linebacker with the Spartans in 2007, his last season. He could not be reached for comment.

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