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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91176791
Party	Defendant MATTEL, INC.
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Submission	Defendant's Notice of Reliance
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

In the matter of Application Serial No. 78/751,105
Published for Opposition in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE on December 12, 2006

UMG RECORDINGS, INC.

Opposition No.: 91176791

Opposer

v.

MATTEL, INC.

Applicant

APPLICANT'S NOTICE OF RELIANCE RE: PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

Vol. 7 of 7

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Posted: Monday, 04 May 2009 5:54AM

Detroit To Be Featured On "Dr. Phil" Tonight

Detroit (WWJ) -- Detroit will get a little more national exposure tonight, with help from Dr. Phil McGraw.

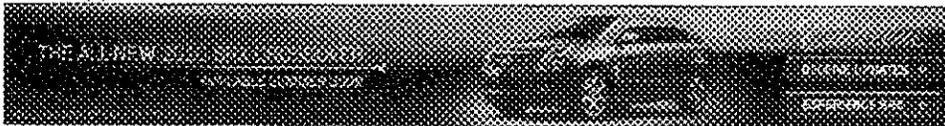
"Dr. Phil" was in Detroit last month and taped two free shows called "Reinvent Yourself," which will be featured on Monday's broadcast. McGraw was invited to Motown by WWJ-TV Channel 52.

The show was directed at unemployed workers and their families, with one show at Music Hall, and the other at I Am My Brothers Keeper.

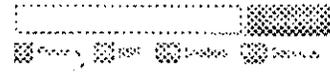
The Dr. Phil Foundation has pledged to match the first \$25,000 donated to the I Am My Brothers Keeper Ministry. McGraw also made a separate \$25,000 donation to an organization called Super All Year Detroit Family Health Clinic in Highland Park.

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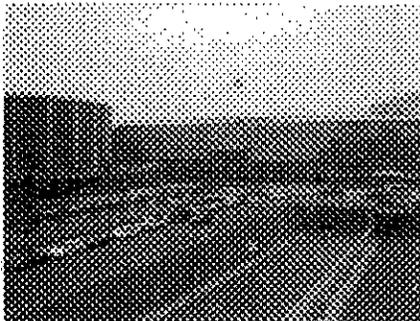
2011 Detroit Auto Show: Hello, Novi?

By Marty Rogoff May 09, 2009

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Under a Michigan's Canadian license

Shirley Price

would leave it in Cobo Hall for 2010—and likely miss a few more automakers who have declined to spend money at an auto show with a shrinking consumer audience, inside an aging facility, in a month that does nothing to tarnish the reputation of the city. Last year, a handful of brands pulled out of the show—Nissan, Porsche, and Suzuki among them—leaving main floor space available to new companies from China that don't even sell vehicles in the U.S. Yet

Officials think it might cost up to \$130 million to update the Rock Financial center in Novi to hold the show. The Detroit City Council recently turned down a \$268 million plan to renovate Cobo with new convention space.

For car fans, the decline of the Detroit auto show could be one more signal that the difficulties in Michigan run deeper than any quick fix.

[Detroit Free Press]

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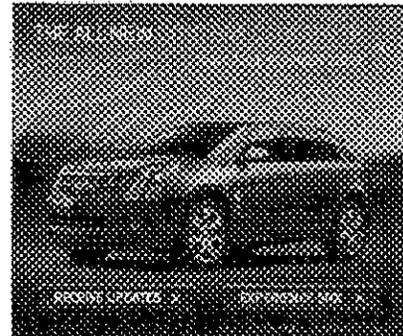
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By Tom Igo, Editor

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Exhibit: A
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Bing wins mayoral race in Motown

Ex-Piston gets 52.3% of vote

Star News Services

Wednesday, May 06, 2009

Former Detroit Pistons great Dave Bing has been elected mayor of Detroit.

The 65-year-old Detroit Pistons great defeated incumbent and fellow Democrat Ken Cockrel Jr. Tuesday in a special runoff election, 52.3 per cent to 47.7 per cent.

Bing will serve the balance of the term that belonged to Kwame Kilpatrick, who resigned in September and went to jail after admitting he lied during a civil trial to cover up an affair with his chief of staff. But Bing must run again in the regular Aug. 4 non-partisan primary and win the Nov. 3 general election to hold onto the job for a full four years.

Bing, a Hall of Fame player with the Detroit Pistons from 1966-75 and founder of a steel company, has no experience in politics but finished first in the primary.

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Detroit Elects Post-Kwame Mayor - It's Gonna Be a Hot Summer

Posted May 06 2009 6:07PM by [Madison J. Shaw](#)
Read more [BlackVoices, Kwame Kilpatrick, News](#)



A year ago, who knew that a political scandal in Detroit's city hall would result in such a sweeping change for the city?

But if there's anything Motown is good for it's being full of surprises, and voters (92,000 in a city of 821,000) decided to hand us a new one by electing NBA Hall of Famer [Isiah Thomas](#) to his new office in: for the remainder of disgraced ex-43rd [Kwame Kilpatrick](#).

Thomas' defeat of interim mayor [Ken Cockfield](#) comes at a time when Detroit could do without more bad news. With the auto industry tanking in the state - including the bankruptcy procedures currently being undertaken by Chrysler - an unemployment rate of 22 percent, the highest home foreclosure rate in the nation and a football team that failed to win a single game last season, the city is pretty much playing fiscal Rhetoric in an economic Chris Brown.

This means Thomas will face a summer of idle young people due to budget cuts in city services, unemployed factory workers, overstretched police precincts, a \$700 million in back and a city council that is indisputably from the east of [Tomball](#).

This kind of thing always takes for long, hot summers, just like the one in 1997 when a police beat down in an after-hours joint sparked one of the worst urban riots in U.S. history. Now, it's wrong to bet out predict a riot, but the economic conditions are certainly ripe for such an occurrence.

Thomas is said to be bringing in teams of people from the business community to accelerate job creation in the absence of a manufacturing plant there. That's admirable, and if what he's talking about goes through, it would be unprecedented because there is a lot of opportunity for the business community to finally come in and create free-market solutions to the problem there.

But job creation is just one part of the problem. There's also education in an underfunded, incompetent system with one of the highest dropout rates in the country, which has in the past refused attempts to bring accountability to the students, parents and teachers. The result is a need for more than 20 schools to be targeted for permanent joblocking.

Upon Thomas has to find a way to convince the people who are left to stay when the population has decreased from about 2 million in the mid-1950s to 820,000 and dropping. Plus, erasing city services, environmental damage and crime rate which has become so out of control that the city couldn't even have a [Coke](#) for [Kwame](#) celebration.

"So look, smart ass," you're probably thinking. "If you know so much, then what's the solution?"

Don't get me wrong, I don't expect to be mayor, but the D is my hometown, and Detroiters are my family. Believe me, they feel the same way about each other. However, the hard truth is that it is too damn difficult to look at critically. In many ways, as your family lives, so do you.

Most pundits have given up on Detroit, and, frankly, the only ones who haven't are Detroiters themselves. But that may well be the city's saving grace - the resilience of the natives. Both west and east sides are descendants of Southern plantation, Eastern European fields and Middle Eastern villages who headed to the city to seek out the hard times in hopes of a better day. To cut and run is just not in a Detroiters' programming.

That's not an easy solution to what ails Detroit. In large part, the city is caught up in an economic malaise that has overtaken the world and isn't coming to an end within the next year (no matter how much [Barack Obama](#) tries to justify you). It really will take the city to remember what it was like during the days of the [Red Sox](#), when the whole town seemed not only united but revitalized.

Or maybe even those rough weather days surrounding the 1994 World Series, when everybody wanted to be at Michigan and [Detroit](#) to witness [Kirby Gibson](#) and [Alan Trammell](#)'s victory.

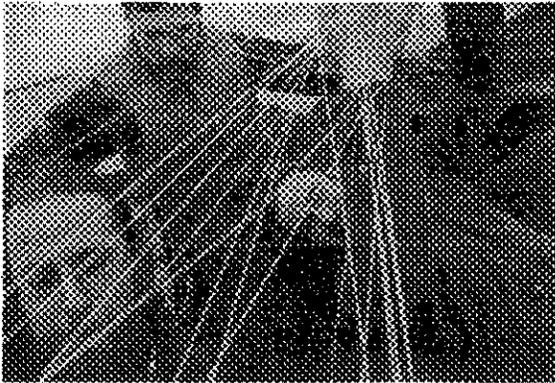
What I'm saying here is that broad-based investment in community-based entrepreneurship and focused micro-entrepreneurial work sets could turn the city from a working-man's town to a thick-and-juicy hot spot. Imagine avenues lined with firms and businesses of all types that keep money within the city limits and, to an extent, traded with the suburbs. The opportunity is there, if Thomas could just make it so that Detroiters have to deal with minimal red tape and overregulation.

Detroit should be allowed to save itself, rather than believe that politicians can do anything for the city. It has been clear for the past 40 years that they can't.

Although he's seen his share of controversy in the mayoral campaign, Thomas has also been a successful entrepreneur in his transition from NBA great to captain of industry. He'll do well to lead by example rather than lead from a position (or, God forbid, a pulpit).

Perhaps, if the city invited the world in and exchanged ideas and ideas, Detroit would become richer for the experience. Motown has never been an island, and it has never been isolated. Right now, it's the worst possible time for isolationism and deflection.

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CATCHING UP WITH... AKRON/FAMILY

By Fred Rabeck on May 7, 2009 5:00 PM | [Comments](#) | [Contact Us](#)
Photo by Sebastian Myrland

The human heart on Akron/Family's soul-baring *Love Is Simple* skips a few beats when original member Ryan Vanderhoof left to join a Buddhist community not long after its 2007 release. Since then, singer-guitarist Seth Olinsky, bassist Miles Boston and drummer Dana Janssen have spent the past year strengthening the 25-percent-smaller band's psych-rock muscle to make up for the difference. What emerged is *Set 'Em Wild*, *Set 'Em Free* (Dead Oceans), an Americana-soaked dub that aptly features a tie-dyed Old Glory on the cover. Akron/Family's America doesn't only intersect with *Mermaid Avenue*, though. The collection takes side trips into worldbeat, hardcore, soul and electronic music, but don't call it jamming if that's meant as a pejorative. *Paste* caught up with Olinsky at his Pennsylvania home to discuss his newfound respect for Woody Guthrie, standing the shakedown of Marvin's greatness and maybe finding out what Devendra Banhart is like.

Paste: How did a tie-dyed American flag get on the cover of your album, and how have people responded to it?

Olinsky: Around December 2007, we were about to do our first tour as a trio in England. There was going to be one less person onstage with us, so there'd be a visual difference. So we got our friend Amy from Levie Mountain Boys to make it, kind of in allusion to that giant flag hanging behind Dylan during that one tour in England. From that date on, we used it for every live gig. Later, we had the flag up in the studio when we were recording and I was looking at it, it had a lot of personal meaning to me other than being just political. When we took the picture, it looked so iconic and it looked amazing. Then, I started freaking out and thought that people would interpret it as a huge political statement and we'd get flooded with questions in interviews about our political stances, and what do we think of Barack Obama? I'm one of the least political people I know. It was the furthest thing from my mind, in a way.

Paste: I've read that your band has formed a musical community with other like-minded artists that is inspired by the collaborations of yesteryear within jazz circles.

Olinsky: When Ryan left, it sort of burst this sort of isolationist bubble and forced us to look outward. It's been a really cool year of befriending other musicians and learning tons about our music by teaching it to them. All of a sudden we had a network of all these friends. Media creates these scenes. We're playing a show in Oklahoma, and the kids were like, "What a Devendra Banhart live?" We didn't even know Devendra Banhart. He [was] just on the same label and categorized as the same type of music as us. Media types up these associations, but we kind of felt alienated by that. In the last year, we've gotten to build relationships with people like Megadeth, Greg Davis, Levie Mountain Boy, Hamid Drake and William Parker. Various jazz musicians, outsiders and insiders and friends. It started to actually feel like an extended family. It feels a lot more human.

Paste: How did you get song ideas across to each other while creating this album?

Olinsky: Part of the way that we communicate is by the common reference of the canon of music that's available to everyone. You look on anyone's iPod (or at least most people I know), and if you hit shuffle it could be Jay-Z followed by some Sade-like frequency thing or Billie Holiday, some Bach and then a Coltrane piece. They become reference material for conversations about songwriting and production techniques. A little less mesh-up, post-modernism to me and a little bit more of a basis for communicating ideas to each other and getting to a point. Nothing was off-limits. If we're all in the car listening to the New York rap station and there's some weird Middle-Eastern hook we think is cool, it's not like that gets turned directly into a song. But it could get referenced at some point in the recording process. It was never like let's start a band and let's make it sound a little bit like *Television* and sound a little bit like Talking Heads and that's going to be our stick, you know?

Paste: Case in point, "Everyone is Gutsy" ends with a distinct Marvinist feel.

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Olinsky: I'm not sure if people have picked that up yet. We did at least a third of the record in Detroit with engineer Chris Koltay at his Hi Bias Recordings on Michigan Avenue. Detroit is just a heavy, burned-out town. It's a heavy part of America: all of these beautiful old buildings crumbling and burned down from a time past in the auto industry. His studio is right around the corner from that old 30-story train station inside down by the old Tiger Stadium. You can hear people chipping marble off the walls. "Everyone" was one we tracked there, and it has that Motown thing with the reverb fading up and the strings fading out at the end. American soul music was a big influence in general on this record. Obviously some world music and West African music as well, but also Sly and the Family Stone. All of those Motown arrangements are just masterful: two drummers and tambourne. You don't even question it, it just sounds like Motown. It's incredible to hear just the bass track or the conga track. They're all simple little things, but when you put them together, they're magical.

Paste: How did "Last Year," which is one of the most straightforward tracks you've ever created, come together?

Olinsky: I got hugely into Woody Guthrie for a while last year and what I took away from it was a sense of simplicity. When I first heard him, I was like "Eh, it's ok." When I read his biography, I started to realize the scope of what he saw in human beings and how he turned that scope around and whittled it down into a simple piece of music that anyone can learn or play at home and understand. It's like this little doorway that everyone can walk into, and once you're inside it's this grand kind of vision of America. "Last Year" was written in the studio. We were tracking "Sun Will Shine," and I got inspired. It's the same chords and feel, and it was recorded in a few hours. On some of our older records, the lyrics were more spiritual and referencing specific things. I was trying to remove specifics and have words that were more overarching. More people could relate to them, but they would still have the same pregnancy of meaning. Not that I'm comparing us to Shakespeare or Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan or anything, but the common thread for all of these great writers is that they're able to put it in simple, common language. These very human tales, these very human emotions, these very human dilemmas that everyone goes through. People see it in print and they go, "Yeah that's what I was going through; they put words to what I felt." It's complicated, but to do it in a simple way is a beautiful thing.

Paste: What else has come of your new appreciation of Woody Guthrie?

Olinsky: I wrote this song called "Woody Guthrie's America," which we played at some of the shows on our last tour. We tried to record it and weren't totally happy with it. So we e-mailed a bunch of friends who are musicians to have them record different versions of it, and we'll just post it all free on the internet. It's going back to the idea of folk where everyone played and reinterpreted songs to tell their own story. Everyone from free-jazz percussionists to electro composers to folk singers take it on. We'll get that running in the next month and everyone can post and contribute.

Paste: "Gravelly Mountains of the Moon" ends with the repeated phrase, "Put me in, let me run with the ball." What is that about?

Olinsky: I have an idea for dream-form music where the song shifts. I'm talking to you, and all of a sudden I'm at my parents house, and then I'm at a football game. I don't know how I got from one place to the next in the dream, but you don't question where you are either. The idea is to try to create these shifts that are pretty jarring, but at the same time, you accept that you are where you are at the time. The reference came in because the last line before "put me in" ends with "approach," the idea was to rhyme "coach" with "approach," but not putting "coach" in there. Some playful word game. Only later I realized that was a John Fogerty song.

Paste: So if the NFL calls?

Olinsky: I'm down. I'm not too proud.

Tags: akron/family, catching up with

Categories: Features, Music

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May 7, 2009

Fresh Look

City will raze 4 more structures this year

Scott Spielman
Editor

If you remove it, they will come.

That's the concept behind Operation Fresh Look in the City of Romulus. The program, started five years ago by Mayor Alan Lambert, provides funds to tear down dilapidated and vacant buildings, leaving the land fresh for new development.

"I'm happy with the way it has worked so far," said Lambert.

He should be. The city has torn down about 260 structures since Lambert implemented Operation Fresh Look during his first term.

He said he came up with the idea on a drive from Romulus to downtown Detroit. Looking at the abandoned buildings in and around Motown caused him to look upon Romulus in a new way.

"There were probably about 25 buildings in our downtown (Romulus) that were deteriorating," he said. "It was nasty. I thought our image was important, so I made it a priority."

The program has caused some notable successes, such as the site of the Community Service Credit Union, which was populated by dilapidated buildings not too long ago.

The city will continue the program this year, too. The council unanimously approved more than \$16,000 that will fund the demolition of four more structures: one at 29535 Fcorse Road; one at 35963 Henman; one at 10301 Miriam and one at 35085 Goddard.

Van Assche Construction, a Romulus firm, will do the work.

"We've worked with them in the past," said Lambert. "They're great to work with; they always go a good job."

Lambert said the city has also toughened up ordinances to help deal with blighted properties, too. Demolition is a last resort, he added, but aesthetics are important.

"I think appearances are really important," said Lambert. "When you drive around town, it should look nice."

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DJ Hero, Band Hero and Guitar Hero 5 announced

Posted in [Activision](#) by Conner Flynn on May 7th, 2009

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Ramirez will still be loved in L.A.

A.

By Curtis Pashelka
Contra Costa Times

Posted: 05/09/2009 10:37:38 PM PDT

Updated: 05/09/2009 10:37:38 PM PDT

THERE IS NO DOUBT the paying customers in opposing ballparks will jeer Manny Ramirez at every opportunity once he returns from his 50-game suspension for using a banned substance.

But how will Dodgers fans in Los Angeles react?

To answer that question, ask yourself how Barry Bonds was treated at AT&T Park in his final years as a Giant. Or how you think Alex Rodriguez will be received once the New York Yankees return home Friday.

Like a hero, that's how.

The shock value of Ramirez's suspension will be long gone by the time he comes back July 3. Hey, he's just a statistic, considering six of the top 17 all-time home run hitters now have some sort of tainted legacy.

The Dodgers play against the Padres in San Diego July 3-5, against the Mets in New York July 7-9 and at Milwaukee July 10-12. But after the All-Star break, the Dodgers and their large contingent of fans will be clamoring to see No. 99 back in left field at Chavez Ravine.

"Los Angeles has some of the best fans," Dodgers fan Hugo Barraca told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Win or lose, we are coming to the games."

That's another thing. If the Dodgers struggle over the next seven weeks and lose their grip on first place in the National League West, maybe Ramirez's absence will be viewed as the reason.

More than likely, though, Los Angeles will do enough to stay at or near the top of the division, and having Ramirez back will only rekindle expectations for a trip to the World Series.

BACK IN MOTOWN: Dontrelle Willis returned to the Tigers clubhouse Friday, eager to put behind him the turmoil that has seemingly engulfed him since he signed a three-year deal with Detroit before the 2008 season.

Willis, who went on the disabled list in late March with an anxiety disorder, will make his first start for the Tigers this Wednesday at Minnesota. The A's are in Detroit May 15-17 but will not face Willis, an Encinal High graduate.

Willis did not record a win for the Tigers in seven starts last season as he battled a right knee injury and control problems, and finished with an 0-2 record and a 9.38 ERA. Now Willis says he has a more positive attitude and won't become frustrated if things don't go his way in his first few starts.

"I'm happy to get back to simplifying everything and have fun. My body feels good. ... I don't have any condition," Willis told the Detroit Free Press. "My condition is going out there and playing baseball and having fun. If God doesn't want me to do this, I'll find something else to do."

Willis made four minor league starts this year, including one for Toledo on Wednesday in which he gave up two runs in 7 2/3 innings. He walked four

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and struck out four, and reports had his fastball between 89-93 mph.

More important, though, it's nice to have a personality like Willis back in the big leagues in good health — mentally and physically. Fans have always gravitated toward him because of his competitiveness and his pitching style. And even though Willis wants to stay on a more even keel, let's hope he keeps that boyish enthusiasm.

"I'm happy," Tigers manager Jim Leyland told reporters. "I think he has worked his butt off. I'll be really happy if he wins some games. That's what this is all about."

UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM: Perhaps it wasn't so strange to see Arizona fire Bob Melvin as manager after the Diamondbacks got off to a 12-17 start. But it was a surprise to see vice president of player development A.J. Hinch get the job and not Campolindo High alum Chip Hale, Arizona's third base coach.

One would think that if the organization decided to hire Hinch, who played for four teams in the big leagues for six seasons but has never managed, it would make him interim skipper and not sign him through 2012.

If things continue to go poorly for Arizona this season and he loses credibility with his players, what then?

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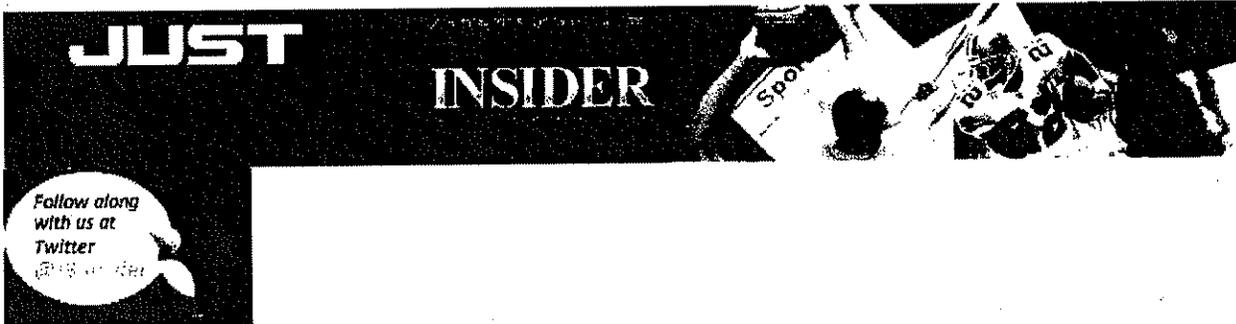
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Stanley Cup Playoff Betting: Game 5 - Anaheim Ducks vs. Detroit Red Wings 5:00 ET

By [Adam Markowitz](#) • May 10th, 2009 • Category: [NHL](#)



Anaheim Ducks
(48-36-5-3, +\$562)
+200



Series tied 2-2



Detroit Red Wings
(57-22-7-4, -\$1,465)
-240

Sunday might be Mother's Day, but for the boys on the ice, the only goal on their minds is getting one step closer towards capturing Lord Stanley's Cup. As a part of the [NHL playoff betting](#) festivities on Sunday, the Anaheim Ducks and Detroit Red Wings will do battle in the Motor City for the right to take a 3-2 series lead in the best-of-seven set. After fighting tooth and nail for the first three games of this series, the higher seeded Red Wings finally played the role of the dominant team, as they whipped the Ducks 6-3. Anaheim has already pulled off one shocker in Motown in this series. Can it happen again in Game 5? You can find the Ducks at **+200** and a total of **5.5 over +100** at [JustBet.com](#) right now!



Jonas Hiller
6-4, 2.14 GAA, .946 SV%



Chris Osgood
6-2, 2.12 GAA, .922 SV%

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in playoffs

in playoffs

Was Friday night Anaheim's last stand? The Ducks didn't even look like a team that belonged in the same rink as the Wings, and the statistics show it. Detroit ended up outshooting Anaheim 40-28, dominated the faceoff circle 38-26, and spent seemingly forever in the Ducks' zone at times, particularly in the second period when Anaheim had to kill off three penalties. Without a doubt, it was the worst game in the brief playoff career of G Jonas Hiller. Truth be told, Hiller is starting to become a victim of poor defense, as there have been times in both the San Jose series and the Detroit series that have felt like target practice. He hasn't faced fewer than 30 shots in a game in the playoffs, which makes a 2.14 GAA seem almost surreal. The Ducks play a very up-tempo style of hockey (61.0 total shots per game this season), but there's a point of ridiculousness, and they are right there. If the defense doesn't sure up and limit Detroit's chances, it could be a very, very long day for the Anaheim goaltender once again.

Fortunately for the Red Wings, a six-goal outburst took the attention away from G Chris Osgood's shaky performance in Game 4. Something just doesn't seem right with the veteran goaltender in his L/5 games, as he has allowed a total of 16 goals in those outings. Yes, he had a 3.09 GAA in the regular season, a number which is far too high for most teams to succeed, but in the playoffs, giving up 16 goals in five games is usually a recipe for disaster. The Wings sport the #1 offense in the NHL at 3.5 goals per game, and they also lead the league in shots per game (36.2), and power play percentage (25.7). C Johan Franzen and RW Marian Hossa both lit the lamp twice in Game 4. Expect to see more offense from both in Game 5.

If the Ducks have any chance tonight, Hiller must be nearly flawless. Scoring hasn't been an issue for Anaheim, but the defensive pressure is starting to mount. Playing overs in the playoffs usually isn't a winning formula, but in this case, until Osgood gets his act together and the barrage of shots slows down on Hiller, it's hard to see either team failing to reach three goals today.

Selection: Over 5.5 +100



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Adam Markowitz is a Sports Writer in his third year writing for North Shore Sports, INC. A graduate of

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Vol. XXII, No. 197
 Monday, May 11, 2009 | MANILA, PHILIPPINES

FREE PREVIEW

World Sports

Chuck Daly

COURTSIDE

ANTHONY L. CUAYCONG

I've got a confession to make. I never liked the Motown Bad Boys. I admired the talents of Isiah Thomas, Joe Dumars, Vinane Johnson, and even Dennis Rodman, sure, but I never cared much for their deliberate style of play on either end of the court. As efficient as they may have been on offense, they bored the heck out of me. And, man, were they especially brutal on defense, treading the fine line between heady resolve and unnecessary roughness.

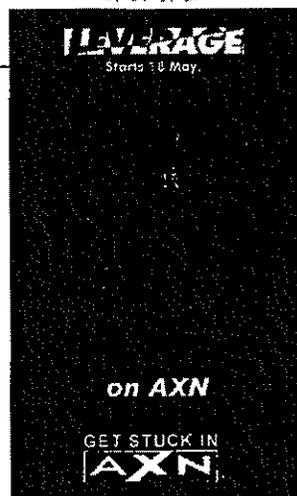
Ironically, my loathing for the Pistons never extended to their coach. In fact, I found myself in awe of the confident manner in which Chuck Daly steered his charges to success. In an extremely competitive setting that highlighted the virtues of superstardom and made such notables as His Airness, Larry Legend, Magic, and the Chuckster absolute game changers, he managed to get a gathering of seeming misfits to subscribe to a common cause, and follow through on their objectives.

This is our free preview of this article.

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World Sports

- › Denver grabs commanding 3-0 series lead
- › Button pips Vettel to Spain pole
- › Yao to miss rest of play-offs
- › LeBron James pours in 47 points to lead Cavs past Hawks
- › Dawson retains title with unanimous decision over Tarver
- › Cejka faces battle of nerve against Woods
- › Coach Chuck Daly, 78
- › Chess Piece — By Bobby Ang: "Cracks in the Petroff"
- › Courtside — By Anthony L. Cuaycong: "Chuck Daly"

Today's Top Stories

- Story tools
- Send story

Frank Girardot: Twittering while Santa Barbara burns

By Frank C. Girardot, Staff Writer

Posted: 05/11/2009 03:47:09 PM PDT
Try telling a story in 140 characters or less.

It's not as easy as it sounds, yet there are thousands of Twitter users doing just that.

As I'm writing this, I'm reading bite-sized chunks of those stories. And, as a newsman, getting a sense of what folks are discussing online.

Thanks to twitter.com/NationalDebt, I learned that the national debt is \$11,258,693,795,457.10. Twitter.com/detnews says Dave Bing is mayor.

Bing, a former NBA star, was sworn in on the same day GM threatened to move its HQ out of Motown.

In other news Twitter noted, Kobe says the Lakers are "a lil grumpy a lil bit quiet ... " following their 8-point loss Sunday to Houston.

Rachel Alexandra, the filly who won the Kentucky Oaks, will likely start in the Preakness Saturday. It could cost her owner a \$100,000 fee.

Closer to home, [blogdowntown](http://blogdowntown.com) noted that " Bart Simpson joined city and Metro officials to

kick off Bike to Work week."

LAist blogged a link and a photo with "More Bear Sightings: Cute Family Strolls in Duarte."

LA Observed points out that Vanity Fair takes on the untouchable Proposition 13, saying California should fix the unfair law.

While this all might seem quite frivolous, some of the most interesting coverage of Santa Barbara's Jesusita fire was done via Twitter.

Should we be scared? Should we embrace Twitter? I like it, and spent the last few minutes trying to write this 140-characters at a time.

A guy who got fired from the New Yorker wrote about his canning on Twitter in these 140 character segments. It was a fascinating read.

Online editor Rod Leveque calls writing to fit a set space a "modern-day haiku."

That's almost a haiku in itself.

The real problem with Twitter is the sense of information overload. I follow 138 sources ranging from blogs to quirky people to news sites.

Among the best are those updates that makes me want to read more. Example: "Suleman says her surgery will 'enhance' fertility" ... Another said: "Deal or No

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**Exhibit: A
Page: 748**

Deal: Governor says he'll release 2 versions of revised state budget Thurs, to show impacts of props losing."

Interesting he'll release it a week before the election. Of course anything the lame duck musclehead says at this point falls on deaf ears.

There are Twitter pitfalls. Updates that are merely advertising tick me off. Updates from dudes picking their noses are also less than fun to read.

This is the future. Something no science fiction writer ever dreamed up. But is it good information or just more Internet clutter?

I don't know yet, but I guess I'll keep on tweeting until I find out.

Frank Girardot is metro editor of the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group.

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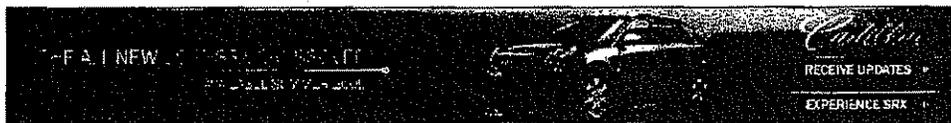
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Motown Move? GM Speculates on Moving From Detroit

By TCC Team May 11th, 2009

No Comments Email



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Enlarge Photo

Fritz Henderson, GM's new Obama-appointed CEO, has said that everything is up for review as the company tries to restructure. That may include a move from downtown Detroit if the terms and conditions are right.

GM doesn't have any plans to move yet. Of course, it had no plans to kill or sell Pontiac, Saturn or HUMMER until they made the announcements either.

Detroit as a city has a storied past and some truly impressive architecture, but it has long been on the decline. So a move away from Detroit to a more modern headquarters location could make sense

for a restructured GM, but it would spell even further heartache and hardship for Detroit and its economy. And it would reverse the integrations that brought GM downtown in 1996 from its nearby New Center headquarters building, which dates to the 1920s--electrical, plumbing and all

GM's plate is already full with its own problems. "It's more probable that we would need to accomplish our goals in a bankruptcy," said Henderson during a conference call with the press this morning. "There's still a chance for it to be done outside a court proceeding."

But that chance is growing slimmer by the day, apparently. Also on the cockpit for GM's radical reshaping is a major downsizing of its U.S. dealership base. Each GM dealer currently sells about 20 percent as many cars as the far fewer but larger Honda and Toyota dealerships in the U.S.

No candidate cities for a potential new location of GM's global headquarters have yet been announced, but GM does plan to tell its dealers which of the 2,700 across the U.S. will be getting the axe by the end of the week.

Nearby Warren, Michigan, is throwing its own hat in the ring, however, enticing GM to come set up its headquarters with even more new tax incentives on top of the \$100 million the city has already given GM. "We can save General Motors," said Fouts. "General Motors made Warren. We would like to return the favor. ... We're willing to go the extra mile. I want to welcome them with open arms. We're a clean, safe and friendly city."

[Auto News - sub required; Det:News]

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5 Comments

- Official: GM CEO Rick Wagoner Resigns Under Obama Pressure (@TheCarConnection.com)
GM Cuts Pontiac and 21,000 Jobs (@Marty Padgett's Inside Scoop on Auto News - The Car Connection)
Displaced Engineers To Receive Complimentary Green Training (@TheCarConnection.com)
Saao Taking Its Toys And Going Home, Maybe (@TheCarConnection.com)
GM Tosses Lifesaver at Saturn Sky, Pontiac Solstice (@Marty Padgett's Inside Scoop on Auto News - The Car Connection)

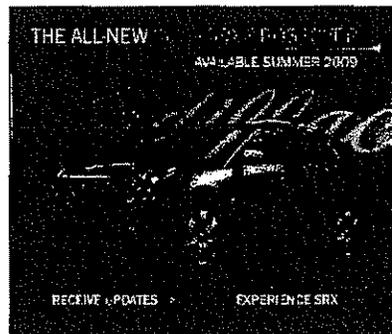
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TheCarConnection.com editors give you news and opinions on the latest, hottest, greenest, and fastest new vehicles on the market--and what's coming down the road.

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New Model Spotlight
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By Rex Roy, Editor

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FINANCIAL POST

Monday, May 11, 2009

What happens to the Motor City if GM hits the road?

Nicolas Van Praet, Financial Post

Presented by
National Post
Podcasts



Bill Pugliano/Getty Images

Do you own General Motors Corp. bonds and live in Canada? Do you have an opinion on the offer you are being made?

Please get in touch with us at: nvanpraet@nationalpost.com

Detroit is growing anxious over the possibility that General Motors Corp. could vacate its glass-towered corporate headquarters and leave Motown after the automaker's chief executive refused to rule out the move.

But what would you then do with seven gleaming skyscrapers housing 5.5 million square feet of office space in one of the most economically depressed cities on the continent?

"We're looking at, frankly, everything within our business" as we slim down, Fritz Henderson, GM chief executive, told reporters Monday when asked if the company was considering moving from the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit. "We don't have any such plan. But if we did, it would be motivated by business rationale, which would be cost, efficiency and speed."

GM, operating on US\$15.4-billion in loans from the U.S. government and another \$500-million in Canadian public funds, is racing to revamp its business and avoid a bankruptcy-protection filing that could come at the end of the month. The company is trying to convince bondholders to swap US\$27-billion in debt for a 10% stake in the company. Despite initial objections by lenders, the offer cannot be sweetened under orders from the U.S. Treasury, Mr. Henderson said.

GM bought the Renaissance Center, a group of seven interconnected towers on Detroit's waterfront across from Windsor, Ont., last year for US\$625-million and has used it as its worldwide headquarters since 1996. The complex is the roughly the size of five bank towers in downtown Toronto. Its centrepiece building is 73 stories high.

More than sheer size however, the Renaissance Center is loaded with symbolism. Built in the wake of Detroit's 1967 race riot as a way to revitalize the downtown core, the complex in many ways epitomizes U.S. auto manufacturing and hope for the city itself.

"What visible progress the city of Detroit has seen this decade - and there has been some - has been largely due to GM's presence in the RenCen," Detroit Free Press Columnist Tom Walsh wrote Monday. "A wholesale decamping

Exhibit: A
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of GM from the [towers] would be a staggering blow to a downtown already struggling with a high and growing vacancy rate."

Jim Fouts, the mayor of Warren, Mich., said last week GM could move to his city, where it already has its main engineering and design operations. Other suggestions have included Wilmington, Del., where the automaker is incorporated and frequently holds its annual shareholder meetings.

For Detroit, GM's exit would leave a scar that could be difficult to overcome. For the company itself however, finding a buyer for the buildings could be equally challenging.

"If you're selling an empty building right now, even in the good markets it's very very difficult," said Ross Moore, vice-president of research for property agency Colliers International. Commercial real estate values are down 30% from peak across the United States on average. Assets with "hair on the deal" problems, like a big anchor tenant leaving, will fetch even less, Mr. Moore said.

GM said earlier this year it would cut 10,000 of its 73,000 salaried workers. The ranks of its top executives will also shrink from 1,300 to 1,100. Many of those employees work in the headquarters.

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Activision just went bonkers and confirmed a whole bunch of heroes. The most notable is the long-awaited DJ Hero. We wondered what a DJ Hero controller would look like, and we finally get to see in the image above. How you play the thing is a mystery to us.

Music genres include "hip-hop, R&B, Motown, electronica and dance," and the game will let users create "original mixes". Activision is also putting the finishing touches on a family-friendly Band Hero game, as well as a Guitar Hero 5 followup.

All three games will hit this fall.

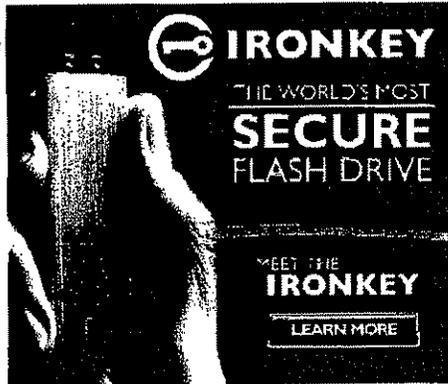
[Jovstiq]

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2 Comments to "DJ Hero, Band Hero and Guitar Hero 5 announced"

1. [May 7th, 2009 at 8:22 pm](#)

wily coyote Says:

I hope Fatboy slim and dj scribbles make the setlist!!!! I can't wait to play this. I already have over 400 bucks wrapped up in rock band with all the extra instruments, game discs and song downloads—whats another 400 right? Well worth the money to me though due to the replay value and party style game play. I am approaching almost 400 songs which is phenomenal for a game. I hope there will be some way to incorporate rock band's version of this into their existing games. Yes they will most certainly jump on this "band wagon" as well. Too cool of an idea not to copy it.

2. [May 11th, 2009 at 5:56 pm](#)

Dos Says:

Your great wily, i wish i was you.

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WZZM 13 News - Print Edition

Coach Izzo On Broadway!

Web Editor: [David Solano](#)

▪ 4 days ago

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (WZZM) - Michigan State men's basketball coach Tom Izzo does it all.

Whether it was guiding Sparty to the NCAA Final Four championship game against North Carolina in Motown or going to Broadway, coach Izzo is a man of many talents.

The Iron Mountain, Mich., native showed us another side when he starred in "Izzo Goes To Broadway" at the Wharton Center in East Lansing, Mich., on Wednesday, May 6.

The sold out crowd at Michigan State University watched Izzo and his wife Lupe twist and twirl around the stage. And I'm pretty sure Izzo busted out the vocals too.

Izzo's big event made noise across the country as ESPN even showed a clip of Izzo showing off his fancy moves that night.

The purpose of the production was to raise money for the American Cancer Society's Coaches vs. Cancer program, which has reportedly raised more than \$45 million for cancer research and prevention.

"I was pacing back and forth, but that stage was so small out there," Izzo told The Detroit News about his nerves before he took the stage. "There was nowhere to hide, you couldn't run anywhere."

The show's director, Greg Ganakas, who's an award-winning writer and the son of former MSU coach Gus Ganakas, was raving about Izzo's skills.

"He was really outstanding. He was a little nervous at the start, but he pulled it off."

Whether it's on the basketball court or displaying his stage presence, Izzo's a coach with a great heart and character that makes him one of the most respected leaders in college hoops.

David Solano



Tom Izzo, MSU Basketball Coach

GM's headquarters could be lost to economic crunch, says CEO

City of Detroit is worried the firm will leave skyscrapers

BY NICOLAS VAN PRAET, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE MAY 12, 2009

ARTICLE TOOLS
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Detroit is growing anxious over the possibility that General Motors Corp. could vacate its glass-towered corporate headquarters and leave Motown after the automaker's chief executive refused to rule out the move.

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"A wholesale decamping of GM from the (towers) would be a staggering blow to a downtown already struggling with a high and growing vacancy rate."

Jim Fouts, the mayor of Warren, Mich. -- about 30 kilometres north of Detroit -- said last week GM could move to his city, where it already has its main engineering and design operations. Other suggestions have included Wilmington, Del., where the automaker is incorporated and frequently holds its annual shareholder meetings.

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Daily News & Analysis

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Tuesday, May 12, 2009 3:59:00 AM

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It's an august April for automakers

Sindhu Bhattacharya / DNA

The first month of this fiscal brought some cheer to Motown, with domestic sales and production recording over 10% growth. This was largely on account of two-wheelers, which saw sales jumping almost 14% to cross the seven lakh unit mark at 700,995 units (616,468 units).

According to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), overall vehicle sales were just short of the nine lakh mark at 894,058 units (807,183 units), up 10.76%. However, overall exports registered a sharp decline at -10.04%.

During April, passenger cars reported modest growth of 4.2% at 102,899 units (98,752 units), but overall commercial vehicle sales remained negative at -11.25% with 29,842 units (33,626 units).

Coming to the two-wheeler growth story, eight out of every 10 two-wheelers sold in the domestic market are motorcycles, so it is no wonder that the segment growth was led by bikes. Though in percentage terms the growth was only 12.11%, as many as 60,766 more bikes were sold this April than in the same month in 2008 at 562,357 units (501,592 units).

Market leader Hero Honda, which accounts for every second bike sold in the domestic market, led this growth. Its overall sales were up 28.66% at 363,357 units. Sister company Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) also continued its good performance at 92,915 units, a growth of 37.42%. TVS Motor Co sold 102,985 units, a modest overall growth of 2.79%, whereas Suzuki Motorcycle India and India Yamaha Motors also posted high double-digit growth, selling 13,556 units and 15,120 units, respectively.

But Bajaj Auto, although managing to hold on to the second position in the two-wheeler pecking order after Hero Honda, posted a steep decline of almost 23% at 107,035 units during April. In fact, Bajaj's continued poor show has brought TVS within striking distance, with the Pune-based two-wheeler maker selling just 4,050 vehicles more than TVS.

Then, not only bikes but robust scooter sales also lifted the two-wheeler spirits. Variomatic scooter sales were 97,129 units (81,002 units), a growth of almost 20%.

Moped sales touched 40,915 units (32,944 units), a growth of 24.2%.

But unlike two-wheeler sales, the growth in passenger car segment was quite muted, with only 4,147 more cars being sold in April against well over 60,000 more bikes being sold during the same period.

The A2 segment - which accounts for more than 70% of passenger car sales - was the differentiator with sales here rising by 5,852 units to 79,339 units. But Maruti 800, Fiat's Palio and 500, Ford Fusion and Skoda Fabia remained spoilsports with each model reporting a decline.

In the A3 mid-size segment, Honda City and Maruti's twin models SX4 and Dzire led the increase, most other models sold well below last April's numbers. Surprisingly, the premium car segment showed good growth at 592 units (336 units), but the luxury segment sold only half the previous April's number at 31 units (62 units).

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FS Detroit Has Ratings Momentum For Game 7 In Motown

Red Wings Playoff Telecasts Up 32% From Last Season

By Mike Reynolds -- Multichannel News, May 14, 2009

The Nielsons figure to be higher with the Detroit Red Wings season on the line tonight at Joe Louis Arena.

The Red Wings-Anaheim Ducks will engage in Game 7 dramatics during the second round of the NHL playoffs, following Detroit's 2-1 loss in Orange County Tuesday. That game on May 12 scored a 13.5 rating, translating into 260,145 households for Fox Sports Detroit in the Motor City, according to Nielsen Media Research data. That made it the top show in the DMA Tuesday night and the fifth-most-watched game in the 12-year history of the RSN. Moreover, it came hard on the skates of the network's 17.1 mark for FS Detroit's presentation of the Red Wings's Game 5 win over the Ducks on May 10.

The RSN's coverage Tuesday night from 10 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. topped Fox's *American Idol* (a 13.2 in the 8 p.m. hour), NBC's *The Biggest Loser* (a 10.2 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.) and ABC's *Dancing With the Stars* (a 9.8 in the 9 p.m. hour).

During the 2009 NHL playoffs, FS Detroit has averaged a 12.0 rating in the DMA for seven Red Wings telecasts, a 32% increase from last year's postseason 9.1 average for five telecasts.

Tonight, FS Detroit holds regional exclusivity for the decisive seventh game, which faces off at 7 p.m. Versus has the national coverage.

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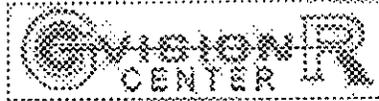
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(Neb.)-Nelson Sends Letter Warning of Serious Job Loss from Planned Auto Dealership Closings

By: Mike Jettner Printed on: 05/14/2009 09:16 AM

May 13, 2009 - Today, Nebraska's Senator Ben Nelson sent a letter to President Obama's automotive industry chief adviser expressing "great concern" about job loss in Nebraska and questioned the need for planned auto dealership closings announced by such companies as Chrysler and General Motors.

"In my home state of Nebraska alone, it is estimated that dealership closures could lead to the loss of between 2,000 and 3,000 jobs, while placing a significant hole in sales tax receipts," Nelson wrote in a letter to Steven Rattner, head of the Administration's Presidential Automotive Task Force. "Furthermore, it will be difficult to bring these jobs and revenue sources back to rural America. There are certainly steps which need to be taken to bring Detroit and "Motown" back to sustainability. However, we must also not forget how the closing of auto dealerships will affect Main Streets across America."

A copy of the letter is below:

Dear Mr. Rattner:

I am writing to you today with great concern regarding the closing of auto dealerships as part of the restructuring plans put forth to bring viability to the U.S. auto industry.

Auto dealerships play an important role in all communities, but nowhere more so than in rural areas. These dealerships are counted on as an employment base and serve as a prominent source of tax revenue. In my home state of Nebraska alone, it is estimated that dealership closures could lead to the loss of between 2,000 and 3,000 jobs, while placing a significant hole in sales tax receipts. Furthermore, it will be difficult to bring these jobs and revenue sources back to rural America.

In addition, dealerships are largely a source of revenue to manufacturers, not a burden. Dealerships purchase vehicles directly from the manufacturer, are responsible for their own costs for things such as salaries and health care plans for employees, and pay their own property investments and expenses.

I strongly believe that it is best to leave the decisions as to which dealerships will remain open and which should close their doors up to the free market. Therefore, as the federal government provides assistance and guidance to the auto companies during this restructuring, I would ask the Presidential Automotive Task Force to take a comprehensive look at the impact which closing these dealerships will have on our nation's economy. I would further ask the Task Force to provide the cost analysis developed by manufacturers for making decisions as to which dealerships will close and which will remain open.

Mr. Rattner, there are certainly steps which need to be taken to bring Detroit and "Motown" back to sustainability. However, we must also not forget how the closing of auto dealerships will affect Main Streets across America. I would appreciate your prompt response on this matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Ben Nelson

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Urgency in Motown

Datsyuk among those who must step up in Game 7 if Red Wings are to finish off pesky Ducks

BY MICHAEL LEE
MAY 14, 2009

DETROIT — HOCKEY REPORTER

If the Detroit Red Wings fail to win Game 7 tonight at home against the Anaheim Ducks, talented forward Pavel Datsyuk will be blamed for the defending Stanley Cup champions' playoff exit.

Just like Joe Thornton was deemed culpable for the San Jose Sharks' first-round departure and goalie Roberto Luongo was held accountable for the Vancouver Canucks' elimination earlier this week, all eyes will be on the struggling Datsyuk.

When Mike Babcock stepped off the plane yesterday from Anaheim, where the Wings dropped a 2-1 decision to Game 6 on Tuesday to hand the best-of-seven series 3-3, the Detroit head coach was queried as to why Datsyuk — who scored 22 times in 81 regular-season games — hasn't scored a goal in the second round.

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"Any time you're a winner and you haven't scored, it doesn't matter what anyone tells you about how well you have played or how many opportunities you have set up for someone else, we are always squeezing (his stick) a little bit," Babcock said.

"The big thing for him is that he's a real good player, he's a dominant player. He just wants to just play. Don't think too much and go out and play. It's a good day to break out for him is (tonight)."

This will be Datsyuk's second visit to the pressures of a Game 7. On the first occasion, he scored a power-play goal in the Wings' 7-0 thumping of the Colorado Avalanche in the Western Conference final in 2004.

"We need everyone to play well," Babcock said. "That's the key — you can't win at playoff time without everyone doing their thing."

For the most part, the key Detroit players have performed well. Nasonov's Chris Osgood has rebounded from his mediocre regular season. Jason Froese has scored eight times in 10 postseason games. Followed by Henrik Zetterberg's six and four Steve Mason Hossa.

But the 30-year-old Datsyuk has only one goal and three assists. He hasn't scored since the second game of the first-round sweep of the Columbus Blue Jackets and has only two assists in five games against the Ducks.

"I want to play better," he said. "I want to score. I want to come through. I look forward to Game 7."

Datsyuk had a chance to score the tying goal with two seconds remaining on Tuesday, but was turned aside by Anaheim goalie Jonas Hiller. Moments later, Ducks defenseman Scott Niedermayer, who will be participating in the final game of his NHL career, slapped Datsyuk in the head and the two skill players squared off in a rare fight the Detroit player refused to discuss.

Datsyuk matched his career high with 97 points in the regular season. His efforts were rewarded with nominations for the two outstanding player honors — the Lester B. Pearson Award (as voted by the players) and the Hart Memorial Trophy (as voted by reporters) — as well as the Frank J. Selke Trophy as the NHL's top

defensive forward and the Lady Bing Memorial Trophy as the most gentlemanly player.

The winner of tonight's game at Joe Louis Arena will advance in the Western Conference final against the Chicago Blackhawks in a series that isn't expected to start until Sunday.

The home team has won 65 per cent of Game 7s in NHL history, and the Wings has only lost a Game 7 at home since the Sharks upset them 3-2 15 years ago.

"We didn't think we were terrible [in Game 6], but we didn't think we were as urgent as we needed to be. We didn't wait on time and we turned over too many pucks," Behreke said. "I thought we made it way too easy on their goaltender."

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Philip Crowley, Publisher



5/20/2009 11:52 AM

Puck drops on Canes-Pens series Monday

By News 14 Carolina Web Staff

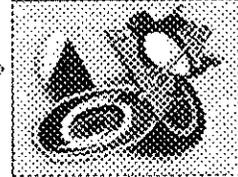
RALEIGH -- With a 3-2 overtime win Thursday night in Boston, the Carolina Hurricanes won their sixth consecutive playoff series and earned a spot in the Eastern Conference Finals for the third time since 2002.

The sixth-seeded Hurricanes will face No. 4 Pittsburgh, who defeated Washington in seven games, for the right to advance to the Stanley Cup Finals. The series gets under way Monday in Pittsburgh. Carolina's first home game, Game 3, will be Saturday in Raleigh. The puck drop for every game of the series is 7:30 p.m. See the full schedule below.

The Hurricanes were 2-2 in the regular season against the Penguins.

The winner of the series will move on to play either defending Stanley Cup champion Detroit or the Chicago Blackhawks. Their series gets going Sunday in Motown.

Pittsburgh faced the Red Wings in last year's Cup final, losing in six games. Detroit also defeated Carolina for the Stanley Cup trophy in 2002, winning the series in five.



The Hurricanes were 2-2 in the regular season against the Penguins.

EASTERN CONFERENCE FINALS

- Monday, May 18 - Carolina at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 21 - Carolina at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 23 - Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 26 - Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 29 - Carolina at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 31 - Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 2 - Carolina at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.

* - if necessary

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the ann arbor chronicle

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ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009

SUBSCRIBE

"There's Always Beer Afterwards"

For Motown-Ann Arbor Hash House Harriers, exercise is incidental

BY AMY WHITESALL

MAY 19, 2009



Motown-Ann Arbor Hash House Harriers for a person are navigating a sticky trail in Ypsilanti Township.

At the sound of a toy plastic horn, a pack of runners jogs down a road to nowhere and onto a faint trail in an undeveloped subdivision in Ypsilanti Township. The front runners point out white dots of flour on the ground and holler "On-On" to let the others know they're on trail.

When they reach a floury white "X," one runs ahead in each likely direction to look for the three white dots that mark the real trail. In moments, "On-on" echoes through the woods from one direction and the whole pack turns and plunges down a steep bank, crossing a flooded ditch on what looks like an old section of privacy fence.

As they disappear into the woods, "On-on" blends with birdcalls and the squawking of a duck. When they emerge, scratched and dirty somewhere on the other side, there will be beer.

The Motown-Ann Arbor Hash House Harriers describe themselves (as do hashers around the world) as a drinking club with a running problem. Some of the club's 80 members started hashing for the exercise, but they keep hashing for the camaraderie. Any exercise incurred along the way is somewhat incidental — a side effect of getting from one "beer check" to the next.

"It was started by (members of) the British military hoping to get back in shape when there were no wars," said Nancy "Mother Inferior" Marcott. "But the

active description of a hasher who's been hashing a year would be someone who can run 10 miles interspersed with swimming, rock climbing and large leaping, and has a huge beer belly."

But you don't have to drink beer to hash (we're pretty sure there were non-alcoholic beverages in the cooler, too, and people were seen drinking water, which they must have gotten somewhere). You don't have to run, don't have to be a particular age, don't have to have a nickname (though if you stick around long enough they'll gladly give you one you can't take home to Mother.)

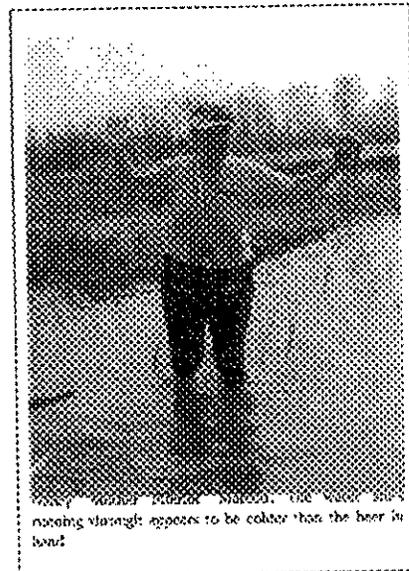
All you really need is a healthy sense of humor (actually, a sick one will do, too) and an old pair of shoes.

Hashes typically cover 4-6 miles on trails that can range from stroller-friendly to "abiggy" (riddled with obstacles including — but not limited to — water, fences and bush-inducing vegetation) with beverage stops along the way. It's not uncommon to find knee-deep streams. It's less common — but not unheard-of — to cross chest-deep, muddy-bottomed ponds in May.

The pack follows flour or chalk hash marks — dots, arrows, Xs and other signs — to pick out the true trail from any bogus ones the "hare" (the person laying the trail) might have left.

Marcott, who lives in Ann Arbor, has been hashing with the Motown-Ann Arbor group so long that her hash name is often shortened to "Mother" or just "Ma." She used to be a legitimate runner. After taking some time off she started hashing with the idea that it would get her back into shape. In the 17 years since, Marcott's role has shifted, nudged along by an arthritic knee. Now she leads a group of walkers at every hash — generally with a copy of the map so they can take the appropriate shortcuts to arrive at the beer check at about the same time as the runners.

There, happy four minutes — or at least a happy 15 minutes or so — while the day's designated hare takes off to mark the section of trail



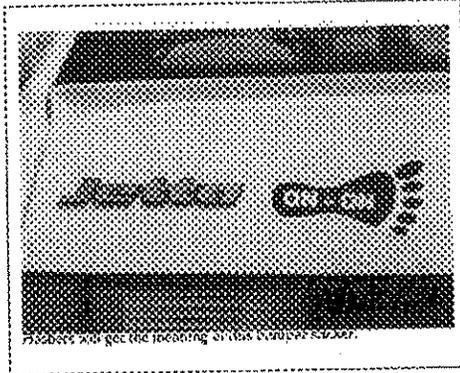
Hasher Nancy "Mother Inferior" Marcott, the water and nothing straight appears to be colder than the beer in hand.

Exhibit: A
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that leads to the next beverage stop.

"To a competitive runner and I enjoy the out-so-serious nature of this," said Dave "Diaper Rash" Dyaert, from Detroit. "It's not tanning, but it's fun anyway, and there's always beer afterwards."

Hashing goes back to 1936 and a group of British expatriates in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It's popular with expats around the world because of its ability to create instant camaraderie out of the shared ailment. Average age tends to be over 45, but hashers range at least 20 years in either direction. Someone in the Motown-Ann Arbor group hosts a hash just about every weekend through the summer.



After the hash, the group of 15-20 gathers at the "on-again" - usually a bar or restaurant - to eat, drink, sing raunchy songs and assess "down-downs" (penalty drinks) for misdeeds real, imagined or blatantly made-up.

Members of the Motown-Ann Arbor group have hashed all over the country and around the world. Larry "Minuteman" Tonda has hashed in Malaysia, England, Ireland, Wales and Costa Rica. Dyaert, who runs marathons and ultra-marathons, recently hashed with his wife in Las Vegas, where hashers they'd just met put them up for the night to save them a hub-to-hub drive back to Mesquite, Nev.

Likewise, the local hash welcomes visitors from other clubs. Toledo and Bay City hashers were on hand the day The Chronicle tagged along.

"I know people because of hashing that I would never know otherwise," said Shari Froids, a registered dietitian whose hash name comes from her tendency

to encourage people to stay hydrated. (Out of deference to her employer she declined to give her real name, but it's not Shari).

When she moved to Ann Arbor in 2006 she didn't know a soul and says she could hardly walk a block. Someone suggested she try hashing, and through the club she met people of all ages from all over southeastern Michigan, including Mark "Pearl Vein" Shehan, who's now her fiancé. Last year, encouraged by other hashers, she ran a half-marathon.

"To enjoy it you just have to be an open-minded individual who likes to socialize and be active," she said. "Your fitness level doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if you can only walk, or if you can run six miles. Everyone accepts everyone."

About the author: Amy Whitesall is a freelance writer based in Chelsea.

Section: Entertainment

The following terms describe the content of this article. Click on a term to see all articles described with that term: Beer, clubs, Motown-Ann Arbor, Hash House Harlots, running

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3 Comments

1. BY TEACHERPATT
MAY 16, 2009 AT 5:48 PM | PERMALINK

Okay from what I'm reading here...it's appropriate for walkers, too? I ask b/c this is something that's interested me, but I thought you had to run (my lungs suck...lifelong asthma = no running for me) And honestly Amy, you had me at "beer" :)

2. BY AMY WHITESALL
MAY 16, 2009 AT 2:45 PM | PERMALINK

Yep, walking is totally acceptable. Don't wear your good shoes, though.

3. BY SARAH
MAY 19, 2009 AT 9:20 AM | PERMALINK

I have been waiting for my Cleveland Marathon training and the race itself (which was on Sunday--ouch) to be done before I go out for my first hash. I love running and I love beer: what could be better than both at the same time? My philosophy when it comes to exercise is "I run so I can drink great beer," after all. Thanks for a great article!



May 16, 2009

ESPNChicago writer: Rivalry with Motown holds nice memories for Windy City

*POSTED BY KIRKLAND CRAWFORD
FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER*

On the eve of the Red Wings-Blackhawks series opener, ESPNChicago.com writer Jon Greenberg took the look back at the history of the Detroit-Chicago sports rivalry. Or at least a look back through Windy City glasses.

"When you say Detroit, a sporting man from Chicago thinks of the Bad Boys, the Jordan Rules, split lips, cheap shots by Dennis Rodman and John Salley — before they were saved — and of Chicago exile Bill Laimbeer, who will forever live in perdition," wrote Greenberg.

The column also compares the nightlives of both cities, pointing out the hot spots in Chicago are within the city limits, which may not be the case in the Motor City.

Greenberg also concede that Detroit may "need" the Stanley Cup championship more than Chicago, but that Illinoisans won't worry about that during the series.

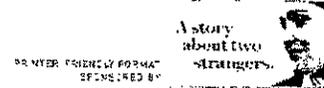
"In Chicago, we piss and moan when our sports teams don't win, as if it's the end of the world. In Detroit, the concerns, such as the auto industry, the economy, the existence of the city itself, are a little weightier," wrote Greenberg.

"So, depressed and downtrodden Detroit might need hockey, and another Stanley Cup, a little more than we do, but hey, sympathy isn't really the Chicago way, is it?"

http://sports.espn.go.com/chicago/columns/story?columnist=greenberg_jon&id=4167778
target="top">CLICK HERE FOR ENTIRE COLUMN

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May 17, 2009

Cadillac CTS-V

By LAWRENCE ULRICH

The original CTS-V, which arrived as a 2004 model, was amazing to drive. That car was also as crude as a strip-club bouncer and roughly as classy. The new version is far quicker, so much so that last year it became the world's first production sedan to cover the famous Nürburgring road course in Germany in less than eight minutes.

But perhaps the CTS-V's greater achievement is its transformation into a legitimate, polished luxury sedan.

All the bad behavior of the old model has been tamed — the axle hop off the line, the hodgepodge interior. In its place is a supercharged 556-horsepower Motown missile that reaches 60 m.p.h. from a stop in about 4 seconds and beats all others with a top speed of 191 miles an hour. But aside from big wheels and a chrome grille with enough chain link to wrap a penitentiary, you'd never guess this Cadillac was Ferrari-fast.

Last year at the Monticello Motor Club, a four-mile road course in the foothills of the Catskills, I was boggled by the CTS-V's explosiveness and can't-miss control. With a supercharged Corvette V-8 under the hood, the Cadillac likes to skip the boring chapters of its speedometer and race to the triple-digit climax. Yet G.M.'s groundbreaking magnetic suspension — first used by Corvette and Cadillac, now adopted by Audi and Ferrari — also delivered a surprisingly tolerable ride in the real world.

The steering doesn't offer the fingertip pleasures of the BMW, but it is accurate and confident nonetheless. Michelin developed a special rubber compound just for the Caddy's Pilot Sport 2 tires, which deliver unbreakable grip.

The cabin offers terrific touch-screen controls, a stitched leather dash and a pleasing layout. The standard seats are too soft and short-cushioned, but the optional Recaro-brand sport seats save the day. The Cadillac's Achilles heel — besides its 4,300 pounds of curbside pork — is its transmissions. The 6-speed manual feels pretty solid, but the shifter is awkwardly placed well back on the console. The automatic is lazy and vague in both automatic and paddle-shift modes, with a nasty habit of smacking into the engine's rev limiter and upsetting the car's momentum. A pair of dinky plastic shift buttons are a throwaway on a car that deserves proper paddles.

All told, the automatics in rival models feel like something from another, highly advanced planet.

Its awesome abilities aside, the midsize Cadillac's superchunk proportions make it less purely thrilling than the smaller M3. But what an effort! The Cadillac marches double-time into battle against anything from Germany or Japan. If only all of G.M.'s models showed this kind of commitment and competitiveness.

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05/17/09 7:29 PM ET

Red-hot Rangers bound for Motown

Texas (23-14) at Detroit (20-16), 6:05 p.m. CT

By T.R. Sullivan / MLB.com

ARLINGTON -- The Rangers are through with their American League West opponents for a couple of weeks. They now face a new challenge while enjoying their 4 1/2 game lead in the division.

They get to face another first-place team when they open up a three-game series against the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday night at Comerica Park. The Tigers have a one-game lead in the American League Central after sweeping the Athletics this weekend.

"It doesn't get any easier," Rangers outfielder Marlon Byrd said. "A first-place team, expectations are going to be up again. We're trying to gain some separation between ourselves and the teams in our division, so we have to go up there and keep doing what we've been doing, as far as pitching and defense."

The Tigers have won three straight and nine of their last 15 games. They also swept the Rangers in a three-game series at Comerica in the first week of the season. The Rangers also went into that series flying high after sweeping the Indians in the opening series of the season.

The Tigers have also won eight straight at home against the Rangers going back to last season.

"For some reason, we don't play well up there," second baseman Ian Kinsler said. "But we've been playing very good baseball, so it's very important for us to go up there and continue to do that."

Pitching matchup

TEX: RHP Brandon McCarthy (3-1, 5.92 ERA)

McCarthy is 1-1 with a 6.75 ERA in three starts in May. He went seven innings in his last start, his longest of the season, and the Rangers won, 6-5, in extra innings. He is 1-1 with an 8.40 ERA on the road with opponents hitting .355 off him. Overall, for the season, left-handed hitters are batting .315 off him while right-handed hitters are batting .219. He is 1-2 with a 5.11 ERA in 11 games, including four starts, in his career against the Tigers.

DET: LHP Dontrelle Willis (0-0, 7.71 ERA)

The statistics from Willis' return to the big leagues weren't encouraging, as he allowed four runs on eight hits over 4 2/3 innings against the Twins last Wednesday at the Metrodome. The actual pitching was better than that, and it gave the Tigers a chance to win. He threw 53 of his 87 pitches for strikes, and both of his walks came on close calls with 3-2 counts. He not only changed speeds, but showed an ability to bust pitches inside on right-handed hitters with a fastball that consistently hit the low 90s. Willis picked up a no-decision last September at Texas, where he gave up three runs on two hits over five innings with five walks.

Tidbits

Rangers starter Scott Feldman is winless in his last 13 starts at home. ... Jason Jennings' win in relief on Sunday was his first victory since July 24, 2007, while with the Astros. ... Rangers starters are 12-3 with a 3.25 ERA in their last 22 games. They have a 2.88 ERA in May.

Tickets

 Buy tickets now to catch the game in person.

On the Internet

-  MLB.TV
-  Gameday Audio
-  Gameday

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EW Home / Music / Reviews / Epiphany (2009)

MUSIC REVIEW

Epiphany (2009)

Chrisette Michele

More

C By Michael Wood

"I am not your porcelain doll," Michele tells a soon-to-be ex in one of the many breakup songs included on her sophomore disc. Judging by the fiery vocal performances found throughout the disc, you had better believe her: this neo-soul siren is all flesh and blood. Yet while it makes a virtue of Michele's strong-female fortitude, *Epiphany* all too rarely balances that heat with hooks — surprising, given the participation of Ne-Yo, R&B's premier melody man. Only in "Mr. Right," a toe-tapping Motown throwback, does she sound like the battle was worth winning. **C**

Download This: Listen to the song Mr. Right



NEO-SOUL / Debut from Chrisette Michele

Credits
 Release Date: May 19, 2009; Lead Performer: Chrisette Michele; Genre: R&B

Posted May 18, 2009

Print Email Print Comments Google Bookmarks Facebook Digg StumbleUpon More

COMMENTS

Lala Thu, May 21, 09 at 07:39 PM

EW music reviewers must be completely tone deaf. I cant understand how you always get reviews wrong especially of R&B artists

A Preston Thu, May 21, 09 at 12:51 PM

Sorry to put down that reviewer's grade, but I loved Chrisette Michelle's album! Better than the debut! I've played some songs more than 3 or 4 times! I liked the songs that Ne-Yo, Chuck Harmony and their Compound Entertainment production team contributed to most of their album as well as Rodney Jenkins and Allen Gordon. A little slick on a few numbers, but strong on melody. And I love Chrisette's voice on here--You do your thing, girl!!!!

A Del Thu, May 21, 09 at 12:02 PM

Once again EW gets it totally wrong! This is the best CD of 2009 so far! Chrisette is a genuine talent and this CD is fire! Ignore the review and go up this CD!

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 PRINT THIS

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Media paints grim portrait of Detroit

City's image takes a hit with international coverage of Big Three woes, foreclosures, decaying buildings

Louis Aguilar / The Detroit News

Detroit

For months, a stream of reporters and news crews from around the globe have parachuted into the Motor City, roaming the industrial ruins of the old Packard plant and the once-glamorous Michigan Central Depot train station.

They trot alongside homeless people or laid-off autoworkers for a day or two. Toss in a few foreclosed homes and the desperate condition of the Big Three, and the world's picture of Detroit as the symbol of America's humbled economy is complete — just a couple of years after its image was looking up, as a city on the rebound.

"From Motown to No-Hope town," blared a recent headline in the London Independent. "Requiem for Detroit" declared Rolling Stone. "Detroit: Human Cost of the Downturn," said the Sunday Times of South Africa.

In previous decades, Detroit was the image that came to the world's mind when it thought of racism or crime. Today, it's the face of the global recession. Forbes.com declared Detroit to be America's second "most abandoned city," behind Las Vegas.

Business leaders and boosters are hopeful the critical national and international coverage surrounding the bankruptcy of Chrysler LLC — General Motors Corp. is trying to avoid filing — won't further hamstring the city's attempts to lure visitors and businesses.

They offer the same advice today as they did when Detroit grimaced under the camera's glare following the 1967 riots, or during its infamy as America's murder capital: Keep calm, and carry on.

But it's a struggle.

"We've become the icon for everything that's gone wrong in the economy. And that's the story some of them are going to get, no matter what," said Randal Charlton, executive director of

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TechTown, Wayne State University's research and development center.

A prominent Chinese communist broadcaster recently asked Charlton if he felt threatened, living and working in Detroit. "Never," in the nine years since he founded a successful company in Detroit, Charlton said. His company is one of 70 that fill TechTown, in a refurbished Albert Kahn-designed industrial building.

"He looked absolutely bored," at the answer, Charlton said of the newsman. While the coverage further clouds Detroit's international image, Charlton sees a silver lining among international investors -- if they'll listen.

"When the average home in Europe is \$200,000, do you know how enticing it is to say, 'You want affordable housing? We have plenty of it,' " Charlton said.

"Our future lies partly in Chinese, Indian and European manufacturers. These are not people who intimidate easily. You want to know how much an advantage we have by being able to offer, say, a free, empty factory? That's priceless.

"What the world needs to see is we are embracing this crisis," he said. "So let's give it to them."

Michigan Economic Growth Corp. officials respond to the negative press by pointing to an Economist magazine report that rated Michigan among the top five states for attracting international investments.

"We remain very aggressive in courting international investment," said Bridget Beckman, spokeswoman for the state agency that promotes business growth and investment.

John Carroll, whose assignment is to attract foreign investors to the region on behalf of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, says the tone of negotiations hasn't changed from the recent spate of bad press.

"We have much to offer: an international border, an educated work force thanks to the global companies we've had based here for decades," said Carroll, executive director of the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership.

"It's more that the global downturn has changed everything. This press doesn't help. What I fear is the conversations and opportunities I never get to have with companies because the negative press has scared them away," he said.

Several out-of-town reporters who have been to Detroit recently said it's not their intention to beat up on the city. Even Dutch reporters who were carjacked at the former Brewster housing project aren't down on Motown.

"But you have to understand the place looks so extreme," said Jacqueline Maris, radio correspondent for the Netherlands' VPRO, which did a three-part series on the city.

"All those empty buildings -- and they were clearly wonderful places -- that is something very uncommon. The fate of the auto companies, these global icons of business, you must

understand what an amazing story that is for the world right now."

Maria Pia Mascaro, a New York-based correspondent for the French national daily Liberation, came to Detroit to report on urban farming.

"The media is looking for places that will never be the same after this global recession, and Detroit is a perfect example," Mascaro said.

"You are a city of tremendous innovation, of amazing music and culture. But it also true that you are ground zero when it comes to economic crisis. Don't you realize what an incredible opportunity that can be?

"The world is searching for solutions out of this mess, and Detroit can be one of the answers."

laguiar@detnews.com (313) 222-2760

Find this article at:

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20090519/BIZ/905190357/Media-paints-grim-portrait-of-Detroit>

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St. Louis Business Journal

Wednesday May 20 2009

\$300M sports complex proposed for Vandalia

St. Louis Business Journal - by Kelsey Volkmann

Officials from Vandalia, Ill., and representatives of **Motown Technology and Sports Facility Inc.** met in the Illinois state capitol Tuesday seeking support for a \$300 million sports and entertainment complex proposed for Vandalia.

The plans for the 2 million square-foot sports and entertainment facility include a 9,000-seat arena, restaurants, surf wave pool, a daycare, fitness area, courts for tennis, basketball, hockey, soccer, an IMAX theatre, bicycle manufacturing operation, arcade and 300-room hotel.

Motown Technology and Sports Facility Inc., led by CEO and Chairman Kenneth Bardwall, has partnered with **CB Richard Ellis** to secure additional retail tenants, according to city officials.

The three-year project is estimated to generate about 2,000 construction jobs with 900 permanent jobs.

As part of an agreement reached between the city and developer, West Bloomfield, Mich.-based Motown Technology has until Oct. 1 to obtain financing for the project.

Once fully constructed, the project will generate \$6.2 million in property taxes a year, a portion of which would be returned to the property as tax breaks, according to JoAnn Sasse Givens, economic development director for the city of Vandalia, which is about an hour outside St. Louis.

The complex will be located on 150 acres near Exit 61 on Interstate 70 with the aim of luring athletes and tourists from around the central United States. Givens said she approached the developer about building a sports complex with the hope of attracting visitors from St. Louis, Chicago, Indianapolis and Memphis.

"I felt we would benefit from some type of destination-themed venue here in the city of Vandalia with our central location," she said.

Construction is slated to begin in spring 2010 with plans to open for business by the end of 2012.

kvolkman@bizjournals.com

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Rendering copyright 2009, Motown Technology & Sports Facility, Inc., provided by Prime Design Systems Inc. and prepared by Architectural Illusions LLC.

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May 20, 2009

D-Train earns first Tigers win

Dontrelle Willis allows one hit

BY JOHN LOWE
FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER

Like any Motown manager, Jim Leyland wants his latest star to be more than a one-hit wonder.

"We want to build on this -- let it unfold and develop," Leyland said Tuesday night after Dontrelle Willis got his first Tigers win. "Take it slow, keep making progress."

Willis pitched 6 1/3 innings. He limited the mighty Texas Rangers to a first-inning double by Michael Young. For five straight innings -- the second through sixth -- Willis retired the side in order.

He gave the Tigers their fourth straight win, 4-0. And so -- 17 months after he arrived with Miguel Cabrera in the big trade with Florida, and after control problems, a prolonged trip to the low minors and a disabled-list stay with an anxiety disorder -- Willis began to reignite a career in which he has been the National League rookie of the year and a 22-game winner.

"I thought he *pitched* well," said Tom Grieve, the former Rangers player and general manager and now the team's TV analyst. "He really mixed his speeds up. He kept the hitters off balance."

"So if I'm the Tigers and I saw that, I'd be feeling pretty good, mainly because there was no sign whatsoever of any control issue."

Leyland said of Willis' performance: "He was really good. I'm so happy for him."

In the second inning, Willis showed how he'd taken charge. He struck out all three hitters.

After that second inning, the Rangers still hadn't gotten another runner when Leyland saw Willis shaking his pitching hand on the mound with one out in the seventh. Willis told Leyland and head athletic trainer Kevin Rand he was fine.

Leyland let him continue for one more pitch, his 100th. It was Ball 4 to Andruw Jones. As Willis left, he got a standing ovation from the Comerica Park crowd of 23,756.

"I appreciate it -- I know the city has been behind me the whole time," Willis said. "I think they see the sincerity of my work, going out there and working hard. I've never been someone to give up."

As Willis approached the dugout and the fans kept cheering, he applauded them by pounding his left hand into his glove.

"This is a great city, a great sports town," Willis said. "I was excited when I got traded here. Through all the adversity I've gone through, I was excited to go out there and play and showcase my stuff."

Asked how it felt to win, Willis said: "It feels great, because we're winning."

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Like his manager, he's aiming for more.

"I'm not content with my first win," Willis said. "I want to get as many as I can, because if I can play well, it's going to be a lift for this rotation."

One hit. One win.

Strike up the band.

<http://64.246.64.33/merge/tsnform.aspx?c=freep&page=mlb/scores/final/boxscore.aspx?GameID=25875> target="top">CLICK HERE FOR BOX SCORE

Additional Facts

D-train is back on track

Dontrelle Willis recorded his first win as a Tiger on Tuesday night. Here is the left-hander's game-by-game breakdown with Detroit.

DATE	OPP	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	DEC
Tuesday	TEX	6 1/3	1	0	0	0	2	5	W
5/13/09	MIN	4 2/3	8	4	4	1	2	0	ND
4/5/08	CWS	5	1	3	3	0	7	0	ND
4/11/08	CWS	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	ND
5/23/08	MIN	1	1	1	1	0	*3	0	ND
6/3/08	OAK	4	2	0	0	0	5	3	ND
6/9/08	CLE	1 1/3	3	8	8	2	5	2	L
9/15/08	TEX	5	2	3	3	1	5	4	ND
9/21/08	CLE	2 1/3	5	6	6	0	6	4	L
9/27/08	T.B.	5 1/3	4	3	3	1	3	5	ND
Totals before Tuesday		28 2/3	26	29	29	5	38	18	0-2

* includes one intentional walk

Now that is how you shut up the critics! In his second outing of the season, and just the 10th of his Detroit Tigers tenure, Dontrelle Willis notched his first victory of the season. Additionally, it was his first victory while playing for Detroit...

Got Tickets?: The D-Train Has Finally Arrived In Motown!



Now that is how you shut up the critics!

In his second outing of the season, and just the 10th of his Detroit Tigers tenure, Dontrelle Willis notched his first victory of the season. Additionally, it was his first victory while playing for Detroit.

Willis was tremendous on Tuesday night, pitching one-hit ball for over six innings, including retiring 17 straight Texas Rangers en route to the win.

Following the trade that brought Willis and Miguel Cabrera to Detroit, Dontrelle had a disastrous year that seemed to be a microcosm for a disappointing Tigers season in 2008.

Heading into this season, expectations were beyond lowered for the left-hander. He was not guaranteed a spot in the rotation, and many believed that he was a long shot to even make the team.

To make matters worse, Willis was diagnosed with an anxiety disorder and put on the disabled list to start the season. While many fans and national columnists alike questioned the sincerity of the ailment, there was no questioning that Detroit's investment in Willis seemed to be a poor one.

Sadly, this marked a low point in a once promising career.

Willis burst onto the scene in 2003, winning games and fans alike with his unconventional pitch delivery and contagiously charismatic personality. Willis won the National League Rookie of the Year award and set the baseball world on fire.

After a solid year in 2004, Willis won 2x games in 2005 and seemed to be a runaway train on the field.

But control issues haunted him over his remaining years with the Florida Marlins, leading the team to include him in their blockbuster trade with Detroit in 2006.

When Detroit added Willis, they hoped that they could help return him to his formerly award-winning level.

Additionally, many hoped that a positive, strong-willed, and successful African American player could help return baseball to the forefront within the urban community of inner-city Detroit.

With Black players currently comprising their lowest numbers to decades in baseball, there was a hope that

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Willis was just the type of role model that could help spur the popularity of the sport in the inner city.

With this victory, Willis reminds us that there is always a place in baseball for 26 year old left-handers that can throw in the mid-90's.

Obviously, this was just a first step, but that is how all journeys begin. And, as the spring blooms in Detroit, optimism is not far behind.

In the distance a whistle blows and the track rattles below your feet. A train is pulling into the station for a journey whose destination is not yet known. And while it approaches, scores of people are asking themselves if they plan on boarding.

I, for one, am hoping this is a long and exciting ride.

FEEDBACK

The Detroit Lions have spent this entire decade creating new mountains to climb—or at least moving down on the ones that are inherent to an NFL franchise. As they begin the 2009 season, the top of the mountain is still way off in the distance.

Motown Turnaround? 2009 Lions Look to The Future



The Detroit Lions have spent this entire decade creating new mountains to climb—or at least moving down on the ones that are inherent to an NFL franchise.

As they begin the 2009 season, the top of the mountain is still way off in the distance. But extreme changes throughout the organization might make these Lions climbers instead of descendents.

The Lions didn't wait until the end of the season to start turning things upside down. GM Matt Milten was the first to go in September, and a winless season destroyed any chance of Rod Marinelli returning as head coach.

Tom Lewand and Mark Mayhew moved up in the front office to president and general manager, respectively, and they plucked defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz away from Tennessee and made him head coach.

When you're rebuilding a house from the ground up, you need to have the right blueprints. For now Schwartz is reluctant to single out one unit over the other as he tries to lay the right foundation and get his football house in order.

"Defense is a focal point, but it's just one of three. Quite honestly, we needed to improve the offense and special teams also," Schwartz told reporters in Allen Park this week.

The majority of personnel turnover will come on defense, where it's likely that five new players will assume starting roles. The biggest additions coming to Detroit have strong ties to the state of Michigan: Veteran linebackers Julian Peterson and Larry Foote were standouts at Michigan State and Michigan, respectively, and are anxious to establish a winning tradition.

Foote told Sirius NFL radio that, while it's easy to get caught up in a team's win-loss record from year to year, it's really only about one thing: being in the playoffs and competing for a Super Bowl championship.

"There's only one winner at the end of the year. In my case, the Lions and the Patriots were in the same predicament last year—neither one of them made it to the playoffs. This year is a fresh start, and why don't we just work together and turn this thing around?"

Former Kansas City Chiefs head coach Gunther Cunningham is the newly installed defensive coordinator and is expected to push his players hard—and for good reason. Detroit was near the bottom in nearly every significant defensive category last year.

Returning linebacker Brian Sims is looking forward to Cunningham's 4-3 scheme that will allow him to play more naturally and instinctively.

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While the defense is at least bringing back some established players for 2009, the offense isn't quite as solid. Quarterbacks Jon Kitna and Dan Orlovsky are gone, and there are three quarterbacks in the mix right now: Veteran Donte Culpepper, the injury-prone Drew Stanton, and the No. 1 pick in April's draft, Matt Stafford.

Culpepper's unremarkable numbers (four TDs and six interceptions) in his five games last year didn't endear him to the Lions' fans, who are ready to be swept off their feet by Stafford.

Stafford's monster \$78 million dollar contract (\$41.7 million guaranteed) could ratchet up the pressure to get him on the field if Culpepper doesn't distinguish himself in September.

Schwartz may have to make a tough decision about throwing Stafford into the fire if Detroit can't get a win or two before its bye week.

FEEDBACK



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Souful Symphony: The Motown Sound

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Music » Concerts



Darrin Arwater leads the Souful Symphony through tunes originally popularized by Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, the Temptations, and the Supremes.

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Critic's Choice: For those of us born too late to see the amazing multi-act bills of 1960s soul revues that no doubt hit Pennsylvania Avenue back in the day, this Souful Symphony (pictured) program may be the ideal chance to hear the tunes from some of the greatest pop songwriters America has ever produced, and that so many of them put songs out on one incredibly consistent Detroit label remains one of the more unparalleled streaks in pop history. Darrin Arwater leads the Souful Symphony through tunes originally popularized by Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, the Temptations, and the Supremes. Just curious: Y'all tackling any of the post-1968 output by the late, great Norman Whitfield? (Sret McCabe)



Comments 14 | Recommend 2

Texas Rangers manage just one hit in 4-0 loss

11:00 AM CDT on Wednesday, May 20, 2009

By JEFF WILSON / Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

DETROIT – The ballpark had nothing to do with the outcome Tuesday night, although it might take an act of Congress for the Rangers to win at Comerica Park again.

They could have been playing on just about any field in professional baseball and not have had enough for Dontrelle Willis and the Tigers.

Willis and four relievers combined to hold the Rangers to one hit, and the Tigers scratched out runs in four innings en route to a 4-0 victory.

The loss was the Rangers' ninth in a row at Comerica, matching the club record for consecutive losses at an opposing park. It also snapped a seven-game winning streak that had seen them surge to nine games over .500 and a 4 ½ -game lead in the American League West.

"It's pretty crazy," second baseman Ian Kinsler said. "I don't know if they've got a voodoo doll or what."

Mostly, the Tigers had Willis. That and a parade of relievers including Joel Zumaya, who hit 100 mph on the stadium radar gun in the eighth.

Michael Young had the only hit, a two-out double in the first inning. Andruw Jones followed with a walk, but Willis retired the next 17 hitters before walking Jones again in the seventh.

That came on his 100th and final pitch. The performance, over 6 1/3 innings, goes down as remarkable for a pitcher who was so lost last year that he was sent to Class A Lakeland.

While Willis wasn't as good as he was while becoming a 20-game winner with Florida in 2005, he kept the Rangers off balance and got good defense behind him when they did hit the ball well.

"It's not the same Dontrelle," outfielder Marlon Byrd said. "He located his pitches, and made pitches when he had to. He had a little fade on his fastball and mixed it up anywhere from 86 to 92 mph. He did a good job."

Brandon McCarthy (3-2) did a good enough job that on many nights may have resulted in a victory. Though the Tigers scored single runs in each of the first three innings, he minimized the damage.

After needing 67 pitches over the first three innings, he needed only 35 to breeze into the seventh. He had 1-2-3 innings from the fourth through the sixth by following a basic tenet.

"Just throwing more strikes," McCarthy said. "The first couple innings, I couldn't get a feel for what I

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was trying to do. A lot of deep counts and bad pitches, making it way too tough on myself."

Detroit added a run in the seventh, but he closed out the inning on a season-high pitch count of 118.

He has pitched seven innings in back-to-back starts.

"Although he struggled in the first three innings, he still hung in there and gave us a chance," manager Ron Washington said. "Four runs with this club is nothing. We just couldn't muster anything against their pitching staff."

And that came as a surprising disappointment.

"That should never happen to us," Kinsler said. "We're not working deep in counts very often."

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COMMENTARY:

Thinking about Arrogance

by Fred Cederholm

I've been thinking about arrogance. Actually I've been thinking about the auto dealer terminations, Presidential prerogative, the so-called

automotive bailout, Motown, and some new "Supremes." Arrogance conjures up a sense of overwrought superiority, a haughtiness in demeanor, and/or an overbearing personality in dealings with others.

You see the automotive industry sub-crisis within the wider economic recession/ depression ratcheted up a few decibels last week. Roughly 800 Chrysler dealerships were axed from their automotive family. One day later, roughly 1,100 GM dealerships were disinherited from the GM clan. Such purges were unprecedented in any context. The fact that such separations were mandated at the executive level within the Federal Government as a pre-condition to economic assistance bespeaks volumes of how far out on shazy ground the Obama Administration now finds itself!

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Never in US history has anything similar occurred. The executive ruling powers of a presidency (or monarchy) have their validity for actions in the legal fiction of "quo warranto" - medieval Latin for "by what right, or prerogative (do you do this?)." Such powers are "legal fictions" in that they are not natural laws like gravity. Rather they have been made up over time and were created via enactments of a body of law as constrained by some over-riding constitutional document. The United States' Constitution defines the Legislative Branch in Article I, the Executive Branch in Article II, and the Judicial Branch in Article III. I can already see constitutional challenges looming on the horizon for so much of what the Obama administration has done, and far more coming from where the administration appears to be headed.

Our constitutional document may be dynamic, but no blank checks are granted to any branch -the roles of each are defined. The 27 words of the tenth amendment are also critical here: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Just because actions, policies, or events have occurred; doesn't mean they will stand the tests of time, or the court challenges. Silence gives consent only to the point when parties object and eventually seek remedy in our court system. Does it seem logical that ALL of the roughly 2,000 dealerships will simply roll over and accept "death from disinheritance"

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simply because someone in the Executive Branch said they must for their auto producing parents to get some of Uncle Sugar's money to stay in business?

Where is it written that the Executive Branch has the power to demand this of the selected dealerships? Where is it written that the Executive Branch can terminate Corporate Executives, or demand that they resign from their positions? Where is it written that the Executive Branch can terminate Corporate Boards of Directors, or demand that they resign from their positions? Are such events not the results as determined during the normal course of a bankruptcy? - not the pre-requisites to such a filing? How can one troubled auto company be given one timeframe for compliance while another (albeit larger one) receives a longer and presumedly more generous one?

It was the arrogance of the American auto giants which brought them to this sorry point in their history. Their belief that the public would buy whatever they chose to manufacture proved false. The public bought their cars elsewhere and the American big three saw their market share erode. Motown's days as the center of the Earth's automotive world are forever gone. Uncle Sugar's arrogance in "fixing/ saving" this industry will prove no more effective than the selective and arrogant approach already underway in the AIG bailout(s) and the wider financial services sector! The Obama Administration will soon find itself needing a far more "bailout friendly" Supreme Court - if they should ever hope their actions to date will not be overturned!

I'm Fred Cederholm and I've been thinking. You should be thinking, too.

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rights reserved. Fred
Cederholm is a CPA/CFE,
a forensic accountant,



and writer. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois (B.A., M.A. and M.A.S.). He can be reached at askiet@rochelle.net.

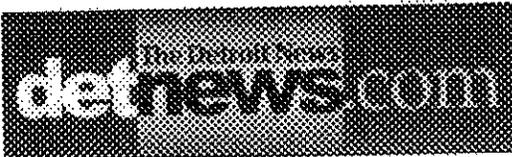
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This story was published on May 18, 2009.

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PRINT THIS

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Neal Rubin

Motown, Chi-town share more than good hockey teams



I've lived 14 miles from a California beach, two hours from Vail and six blocks from the Las Vegas Strip.

Now I live here, and I'm often asked why, which always strikes me as a tacky question. It's sort of like when people ask my wife, "Why'd you marry *him*?" But in my case, there's a simple answer:

Ignorance

I'd never been east of Denver for more than three days at a time before my friends Von and Nikki married in Chicago in 1983. I loved it: the bustle, the architecture, the restaurants, the Old Style.

So I went home to Las Vegas and applied to the two Chicago newspapers, and then I thought, "Chicago, Detroit, large Midwestern cities -- they gotta be pretty much alike." Which they are, in the sense that they each have ZIP codes.

Ultimately, I unpacked here in the other Chicago in time for the World Series in '84. And with the Detroit Red Wings crossing Lake Michigan for the third game of their playoff series against the Blackhawks on Friday, it struck me that this was a good time to compare two of my favorite places

OK, it struck my editor, but work with me here. Like, they have the "L," and we have L. Brooks Patterson.

We have the University of Michigan, and they have all the graduates. We burn down vacant houses, and they burned down the whole city

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There's a symmetry to it. They have Chicago dogs with that radioactive green relish, we have Coneys. They had Chris Chelios when he was old, we have him when he's older. We had Ben Wallace when he was good, they had him when he was expensive.

Sensing a connection, I reached out to my friend Geoff Dankert, the assistant news director at WFLD-TV in Chicago. He's a smart guy and a keen observer, and besides, I had his phone number.

Geoff grew up in Flint, went to high school in Traverse City, earned his degree from Michigan State and then climbed the TV ladder in Southfield at Channel 2 and Channel 7.

"Both cities have a fair amount in common," he says, "and it's not just that if you walk down a residential street here you're as likely to see a Michigan license plate as an Illinois license plate."

Each metropolis has proud and knowledgeable sports fans. Neighborhoods in Chicago, he says, feel much like Plymouth or Royal Oak. Chicago has the Cubs (your undisputed world champions for 1908), Detroit has the Lions (likewise, 1957).

In Chicago, lots of people get by without an automobile. "In Detroit," Geoff says, "when you see somebody on the bus or walking somewhere, you say, 'Poor guy. What happened to his car?'"

So that's a difference. But they have Kanye West, we have Eminem. They had Rod Blagojevich, we had Kwame Kilpatrick. They have Rush Street, we have rush hour. We have casinos, they have Gary, Ind.

They have Lakeshore Drive and we have Lakeshore Drive, but you can at least park close to theirs. We have the Big Three, more or less, and they have the Big Shoulders.

They had Tommy guns, we have Tommy Hearn.

They have the Gold Coast, we have lots of places where you can sell your gold jewelry.

They have the Blues Brothers and these days we have the blues, brothers. But my home team is ahead of the Blackhawks two games to none, I'm coming up on 25 years in a place I'm in no hurry to leave, and I'm feeling pretty perky about it all.

Ignorance may not be bliss, but it can get you someplace reasonably close.

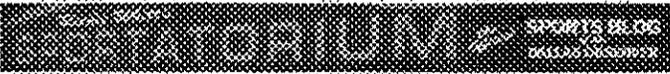
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Figs in Kelly Stand on the Air



Sportsmanship is Dead - If You're Girl and Country



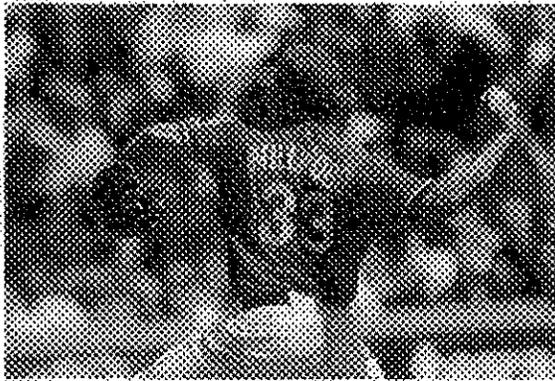
Museum of Cowboys?



Mowed Down in Motown

By Brian Mathis, Photo-Director

Thursday, May 14, 2009 @ 4:00 PM



© Dallas Observer, photo by Brian Mathis for the Observer

Well, you were warned.

Apparently, the Texas Rangers played down-town tonight in Detroit this week despite a three-game sweep. Just not so sure they played *baseball*. Especially in their *down-town* 1-0 loss to the Tigers, their franchise-record 17th consecutive defeat in Detroit.

Missing a 3-1 tie in the middle of the 9th, Kevin Millwood allowed a two-out RBI single to Miguel Cabrera on his 10th pitch. The good news is that for the first time in a long time the Rangers trust their starters. The bad news is they don't yet have a go-to-brain set-up man.

Then in the 9th, needing a run to tie it, manager Ron Washington grew conservative. After watching his team steal five bases - including three base three outs with two out - Erik Anderson sat on first during the suddenly struggling fan. Shuler's (in a 3-of-23 slump) spikeout. A dual throw, and Archer scores on David Murphy's one-out single.

Instead, with runners at the corners, Michael Young (who left six runs on base) grounded sharply into a game-ending double-play, forcing Game Series Season. All feed in Detroit. The Rangers won't visit Detroit again this year unless it's the playoffs.

And that's a good thing.

The Rangers are 0-6 in Detroit and 10-11 against the rest of the world.

Some mousing, lingering questions as Texas heads to Houston...

Should Washington have pitched Millwood in the 8th? What did Millwood think? Here.

Should the Rangers have been mousing in the 9th?

Do you still think the Rangers are magical?

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Car industry crisis takes toll in Motown

Anne Davies, Detroit
May 22, 2009 - 10:00PM

WARREN, Michigan, is a city with a sense of foreboding. The 138,000-strong community, just north of Detroit, built in the 1950s to house workers at General Motors and Chrysler plants, is at the epicentre of the job-shedding in the US car industry.

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The city has weathered the storms in the US car industry in the past. Sure, it has lost jobs in the past few years, but it looked on with a kind of smugness at its neighbours, Detroit to the south, and Flint to the north because it had avoided the devastating job losses and the resulting urban blight, racial tensions and crime that swept through both cities in the '70s and '80s.

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But this time there is real fear. The current economic crisis, which finally tipped Chrysler into Chapter 11 bankruptcy, will likely do the same for General Motors next week.

No one in Michigan quite knows how many jobs will go.

But with Chrysler and General Motors providing employment to 35,000 of the Warren residents, including 20,000 at the General Motors Technical Centre, the design centre for the global giant, most are expecting the loss of thousands of jobs.

Officially, unemployment in Warren is already at 17.7 per cent, well above the Michigan average of 12.9 per cent and the state's figures are well above the national average of 8.9 per cent.

"It's approaching depression levels, and by depression levels I think of one in five," said Warren's mayor, James Fouts. "The state of Michigan is the epicentre of the economic recession, and Warren is in near-depression," he said.

Chrysler shuttered most of its operations two weeks ago when it went into bankruptcy after it failed to sort out an arrangement with its bondholders in time to meet a deadline imposed by the Obama Administration's automotive taskforce. It's the body that holds the whip hand in determining the future of these companies after the Government tipped in more than \$US20 billion (\$A25.7 billion) so far to salvage the industry.

Chrysler workers are now on unemployment benefits that are about 75 per cent of their normal pay.

The plants are scheduled to open again in about six weeks when the good parts of the company are sold to Fiat. But several US plants, including at least one of the plants in Warren — the Sterling Heights assembly plant — with 3500 jobs will close permanently in 2010, and some workers fear that it won't actually reopen in the interim.

General Motors has been trying to reach an agreement with its bondholders, who hold \$US27 billion in debt, to accept about 20 cents in the dollar in the form of shares. But it needs 90 per cent acceptance by next Wednesday to pull off a restructuring without resorting to bankruptcy. The bondholders are major banks, mutual funds, speculators and even mum-and-dad investors who thought a GM bond was as safe as bricks and mortar.

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Turns out neither were all that safe in a downturn like this.

The more likely result is GM will go for a surgical bankruptcy, like Chrysler. This involves slicing the good assets out of the old General Motors, putting them in a new vehicle, and leaving the creditors to squabble over the cents in the dollar that might be squeezed out of the remaining unwanted assets.

During the process, 21,000 more jobs will go, taking GM down to a company the size Chrysler is now — around 60,000 — instead of the behemoth that straddled the postwar car market until the mid-1990s.

Also to go are iconic brands such as Pontiac and Saturn.

The Australian operations are considered viable because of Australian government subsidies, and director of GM news relations Tom Wilkinson said he did not think the bankruptcy process would alter its fate.

However, as the pressure on GM has increased, it has been forced to revisit the plans for parts of its international operations as well. Saab is being sold and GM is currently considering four offers to buy a share of its troubled European operations, where its products are mainly sold under the Opel brand.

Jay Baron, director of manufacturing research at the Centre for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Michigan, warned that bankruptcy, administered by the courts, added uncertainty, especially as the surgery required for a company the size of GM could prove more complex and lengthy.

But Mr Baron said Australia had some strong advantages that would be valued by the global group: an exporting culture, innovative suppliers, good R&D in lightweight materials that will be needed for fuel-efficient cars, expertise in automotive electronics and a competitive toolmaking industry that backs up new product lines.

The downside is that Australia has tended to build rear-wheel-drive vehicles when the trend is towards front-wheel-drive and it is expensive to ship from Australia. The future, he said, lay in making sure Australia had a "flex factory" capable of building several models.

Despite the looming deadline for GM, there is still much uncertainty around large parts of its business — even in the US.

In Warren, GM's troubles have manifested as a shutdown at the light truck assembly plant. The design functions have been steadily concentrated at the Tech Centre in Warren, but now the engineers and designers are waiting anxiously to see how many of them will survive the next round of cuts.

That's given Mayor Fouts an idea for saving his town. He has begun a vigorous campaign for GM to move its international headquarters from its huge glass Renaissance Centre in downtown Detroit, to the boxy GM technical centre in Warren.

That would come as a relief to Paul Boulanger, general manager at the National Coney Island Diner across the road from the Tech Centre. About 40 per cent of his customers come from GM and as the fear of losing their jobs increased, it has literally killed their appetites for eating out.

"At lunchtime the queues used to be out the door," Janet the waitress recalls as she surveys the two-thirds-full restaurant.

The problem for Warren — indeed for much of Michigan — is that this really is Motown, despite the years of rhetoric about diversifying.

The city gets 15 per cent of its tax base from GM and Chrysler, and the third largest taxpayer are the parts suppliers.

Mayor Fouts warned that with 62 per cent of his budget spent on public safety — that is, police — a pull-back would have severe repercussions. It will also curtail his ability to deal with urban blight.

But even the energetic Fouts cannot hold back the tide of foreclosures that are now taking place. It is no longer victims of subprime loans but people who have lost their jobs with General Motors, Chrysler or parts suppliers and just can't pay the bills.

"Our primary business is bankruptcy, so I don't have to tell you how busy we are," says John Kostopoulos, a lawyer. "A lot of auto workers are going that route. They have lost their jobs, they have depleted their savings so bankruptcy is their only option. They try to sell their houses and they can't, so they walk away."

Then there are the retirees. A large portion rely on pensions from the auto companies and even these are uncertain under the restructuring.

The crisis might have so far been confined to Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Alabama, but it is about to roll out across the country.

Chrysler has announced 789 dealerships will close in three weeks. General Motors has given notice to 1100 dealers and plans to close 2000 more.

At Mount Clemens, near Warren, the local Dodge dealership is losing its franchise at its two locations after 40 years in business. Seventy-five people will lose their jobs. "People were crying," said salesman Ted Harvey as he ruefully surveyed the remaining vans and SUVs in the lot. "It's not just a Michigan problem. It's starting to snowball. The average dealership has at least 50 employees, so just the first round, that's 40,000 people, and that's not counting when General Motors does it.

"I am OK because my children are grown. I don't have the problem of putting them through school or college, but I have got to work, I'm 57."

The political temperature is also starting to rise. As members of Congress throughout America learn their towns are to be touched by dealers closing, the realities of the fallout from the collapse of the US car industry are coming home to roost.

In the past fortnight, there has been no more talk about green shoots emerging. Instead America is bracing for a sharp rise in unemployment and another fall in consumer sentiment that will ripple across the nation.

This story was found at: <http://www.watoday.com.au/world/car-industry-crisis-takes-toll-in-motown-20090522-bi8x.html>



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Motown misery: Texas Rangers lose 11th straight in Detroit

06:52 AM CDT on Friday, May 22, 2009

By JEFF WILSON / Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

DETROIT – Two of the league's best pitchers this season battled into the eighth inning Thursday afternoon in a throwback pitching performance.

Edwin Jackson's pitch count climbed above 130, and Kevin Millwood lagged only slightly behind in the best game of the series between the Detroit Tigers and Rangers.

The outcome, though, looked a lot like the previous two games. The Rangers failed to hit in a key situation and lost their 11th consecutive game at Comerica Park.

Miguel Cabrera muscled a soft single off Millwood with two outs in the eighth inning to bring home the game-winning run in a 4-3 victory. It gave the Tigers their second three-game sweep of the Rangers this season.

"I'm so glad that we won't come back," manager Ron Washington said. "We put ourselves in position again, one hit away. We just couldn't get it done."

David Murphy went 3-for-3 with a solo home run that staked the Rangers to a brief 1-0 lead in the first inning, and Nelson Cruz hit a two-out, two-run double in the eighth to draw the Rangers even at 3-3.

But the Rangers missed four other chances with runners in scoring position, including in the ninth when Michael Young bounced into a game-ending double play with the potential tying run at third base.

The Rangers were 1-for-7 with runners in scoring position Thursday and 3-for-17 in the three games. They stranded nine runners in the finale and 19 during the series.

"Pitching and defense are still solid," Young said. "The guys did a good job on the mound. We picked them up defensively, but we have to make a couple adjustments offensively right now."

Millwood carried the Rangers into the eighth after allowing a solo homer to Clete Thomas in the first and a two-run shot to Curtis Granderson in the third. The right-hander allowed only two hits over the next four innings, and he got the first two outs in the eighth.

Placido Polanco, though, singled to center, and Thomas walked as Millwood missed outside on a full-count pitch. That brought up Cabrera, who had grounded out to Millwood in the first and popped out in his other two at-bats.

That convinced Washington and pitching coach Mike Maddux that Millwood was the right pitcher, even though they considered bringing in right-hander Darren O'Day.

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After a visit by Maddux, Millwood (4-4) went up and in with a first-pitch fastball, and Cabrera singled into center field to score Polanco.

"The only thing that bothered me was walking Thomas with Cabrera behind him," said Millwood, who threw 121 pitches. "I've got to make [Thomas] beat me. With Cabrera, I thought I made a good pitch, trying to stay off the barrel."

Said Washington: "You can't take anything away from the way Millwood left his heart out there. We talked about how we wanted to get Cabrera, but he's so dang strong that he pushed one out there."

That pushed the Rangers onto a flight to Houston. They return with the sense that they are still playing well.

The Tigers have supplanted the Rangers as one of the hottest teams in baseball with their sixth consecutive win. Jackson, who threw 132 pitches, improved to 4-2.

"We didn't really play that bad," Murphy said. "Overall, we're still headed in the right direction."

RANGERS KRYPTONITE

The Rangers have been powerless against the Tigers this season compared to their prowess against other teams:

Rangers vs. Tigers	Category	Rangers vs. all other teams
6	Games	34
0-6	W-L	23-11
.158	Batting avg.	.289
6.19	ERA	3.87



May 22, 2009

Motown to Cowtown? What kind of farms would work in Detroit?

*By Ron Dzwonkowski
Free Press Associate Editor*

There appears to be considerable momentum building for the farming of Detroit.

Most recently, a team of urban planners laid out a map for a smaller, greener city that includes the clearing and conversion of empty land into greenways, parks and farms. You can read about it at [freep.com: http://tinyurl.com/o5coqt](http://tinyurl.com/o5coqt)

In its early years, under the French, Detroit was, in fact a collection of "ribbon farms," along the riverfront, only 2-4 acres wide but running back as deep as 80 acres. This layout was practical for the 18th Century in the New World, because it gave residents neighbors within walking distance plus access to water and to the river, which was at the time the major avenue for transportation.

It wouldn't work today, of course, because Cobo Hall and downtown and other things are in the way.

But with Mayor Dave Bing exploring the idea of clearing sparsely populated stretches of the city and consolidating residential areas, maybe it's time to start thinking about what kinds of farms would work best in a new, agrarian Motor City. (Oops, that name might have to go. Maybe Detroit can become "Crop City.")

The city surely doesn't want massive "factory farms" packed with thousands of hogs or chickens. They don't do much for the scenery, and waste disposal and odors become a problem.

While there are some pretty vast stretches of Detroit's roughly 140 square miles that could be converted to agriculture, probably nothing large enough for a Texas-sized cattle ranch. (Now that would be power steering.)

Dairy animals need grazing land and milking barns and fences. Horse farms might be out of reach, too, although there is some appeal in Detroit as a new home of natural horsepower.

Apple orchards and other tree crops would take a few years to develop. The city needs a quicker injection of economic activity.

The planners who visited Detroit this week said it could one day resemble the English countryside, with a series of village-style neighborhoods linked by greenways. That also conjures images of sheep roaming the landscape. Pastoral, to be sure, but if you've ever traveled the English countryside, you know that flocks regularly wander across roadways, stopping traffic. Not sure the notoriously impatient drivers hereabouts wouldn't turn them into mutton stew.

So most likely, small cash crops. You may be thinking marijuana now that it's legal for medicinal use in Michigan, but the legitimate demand will be pretty small. Our growing season is relatively short, too, but we do have plenty of water. And people will always need to eat.

So I say, tomatoes. Maybe you say potatoes? In any case, let's NOT call the whole thing off. The farming of Detroit is a concept worth serious attention.

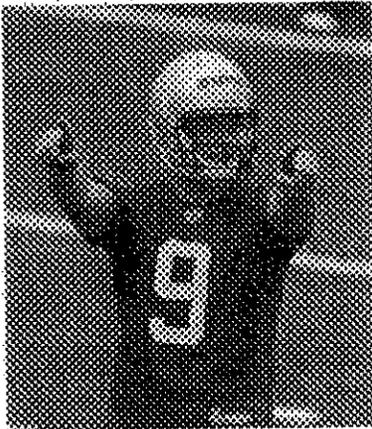
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sports - water cooler

Motown's money machine

Denver Post staff and wire services

Posted: 05/22/09 01:00:00 AM EDT



Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford, the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft, signals during drills at football minicamp at the team's practice facility in Allen Park, Mich., Friday, May 1, 2009. (AP) Charles O'Grady

Matt Stafford has gotten the hazing this week that any No. 1 pick would expect from his veteran teammates.

The Detroit Lions quarterback also has gotten something more important: respect. "So far, he's more than lived up to the hype --- he's been very impressive," defensive end Eric Hicks said. That didn't stop Hicks from getting in one verbal shot on his newly wealthy quarterback. After chasing Stafford on a bootleg, Hicks called over to the rookie and said, "Keep running like that. I'm picking up the hundred-dollar bills that are falling out of your pockets." *The Associated Press/AP file photo*

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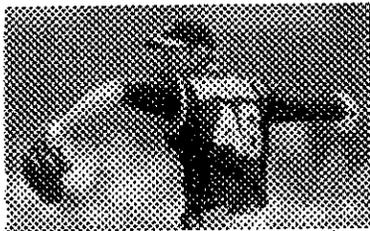
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mtb

Rockies spin some Motown magic

By Patrick Saunders
The Denver Post
Posted: 05/24/2009 02:10:20 PM MDT
Updated: 05/24/2009 08:52:55 PM MDT



Rockies starter Jason Hammel pitches against the Tigers in the third inning Sunday in Detroit. (Duane Borison, The Associated Press)

The Rockies — reeling after two blowout losses in Atlanta, and with the heat increasing daily on manager Clint Hurdle — suddenly look like a resilient ballclub. By taking two of three from the Tigers, they finished 5-5 on their 10-day road trip.

Colorado's heroes were familiar: Todd Helton. And unlikely: starter Jason Hammel and utility outfielder Matt Murton.

Hammel earned his first win in a Rockies uniform, allowing one run in six innings. He gave up six hits and got into trouble twice, but he never melted down.

DETROIT — Who would have thought the Rockies had this much Motown mojo in them?

But there they were, on a bright afternoon today at Comerica Park, walking off the field 3-1 victors over the Tigers and starter Dontrelle Willis.

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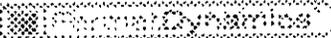
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Colorado Rockies

- View slide show of Dodgers-Rockies game May 25
- View slide show of Rockies-Tigers game May 24
- View slide show of Rockies-Tigers game May 23
- Discuss the team and uncover tidbits on All Things Rockies blog.
- Evaluate boxscores, roster and the latest team numbers on the Rockies Stats Page.
- Ask Troy E. Renck about the team or MLB in the Rockies Mailbag.
- Study previews, probable pitchers, lineups and in-progress gamecasts for NL and AL.
- Pore over pre-game stats matchups, boxscores and live scoring for NL and AL.
- Post photos of you and loved ones showing Rockies spirit.
- Swing for purple mountain majesties in Home Run Challenge.

Helton continues as an RBI machine. He tied the game 1-1 in the fifth, driving in Dexter Fowler with a double to right field off Willis. Helton soiled Willis again in the seventh, slicing a single up the middle to score Ian Stewart, giving the Rockies a 2-1 lead.

Murton, batting cleanup and getting the start in

left, followed up with a double to the gap in right-center, scoring Helton.

Helton's 2-for-5 performance improved his average to .342. He's already knocked in 31 runs, two more than he delivered all last season when he struggled with painful, chronic back problems.

Hammel averted disaster in the Tigers' one-run second inning. Though he walked Magglio Ordonez and Adam Everett, and gave up a single to Inge and an RBI-single to Dane Sardinha, Hammel escaped when Josh Anderson grounded out to Clint Barmes at second for an inning-ending double play.

In the sixth, Miguel Cabrera and Ordonez singled, but Ryan Spilborghs bailed out Hammel. Spilborghs raced into foul territory in the right-field corner to snare a drive by the dangerous Brandon Inge, ending the inning.

Rockies relievers Randy Flores, Manuel Corpas and Huston Street blanked the Tigers in the final three innings. Street picked up his seventh save

Wilks, trying to round back into the form that once made him an all-star, threw 6 2/3 innings, surrendering three runs on seven hits. Though he walked four, he kept his wildness mostly in check.

The Rockies host the National League West-leading Dodgers Monday afternoon at Coors Field.

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Scott gets fresh start in Buffalo

Tyler Dunne
BuffaloFootballReport.com

May 24, 2009

After three miserable years in Detroit, Jonathan Scott is thrilled to be in Buffalo. The difference between the two organizations is night and day, the offensive tackle told BuffaloFootballReport.com this past week. The story below...

Jonathan Scott was hours away from hitching a plane to Buffalo, N.Y. last August. His bags were packed. His career, rejuvenated. His attitude, refreshed. That's what happens when you're released by the Detroit Lions — newfound joy. After three miserable years in Motown, Scott was amped for a new start in Buffalo.

And at the last second, the Bills called. Jason Peters had finally decided to end his holdout. Scott's roster spot in-waiting was snatched away. He flew to Green Bay soon after, visiting with 10 more teams in all. Nothing stuck.

Thanks, Jason.

"It was a sticky situation with Jason Peters," Scott said by phone to BuffaloFootballReport.com this week. "I was going to sign with the Bills, but Peters came back."

But presto, here he is today, fighting with a batch of holdovers at offensive tackle to replace Peters. The Bills eventually signed Scott in December when Aaron Schobel was placed on injured reserve. Now, Peters is gone for good. After dodging O-15 futility by getting cut by the Lions, he feels liberated in Buffalo.

The atmosphere, the attitude. It's all completely different. Scott laughs that he gets paid to play in 15-below weather. But really, he'll take 70-below. Sure, Scott started here and there in Detroit. But over his three years in Detroit, football became less fun. The emotional high of blocking for Texas along Vince Young's Rose Bowl joy ride through USC's defense wore off after Scott was picked in the fifth round by the Lions.

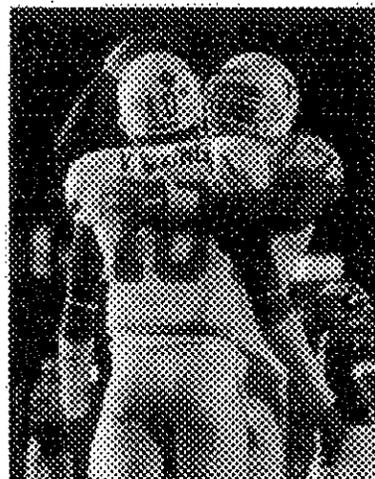
In Detroit, the life of a lineman was maddening. Scott said the communication breakdowns between the offensive coordinator and his offensive line coach ran rampant. One told him to step left on a play, the other said to step right.

"So which one do I do?" Scott said. "If I don't do it the offensive line way, I won't be able to play. If I don't do it the offensive coordinator's way then I'll never get on the field. There were always situations like that."

Chaotic fragmentation. The shoddy separation of powers triggered on-field breakdowns. Scott said the linemen became "chickens with their heads cut off." Who was supposed to block where was a play-to-play mystery.

"You can sense frustration throughout the entire team," Scott said. "Cancer is a disease and negative energy can be transmitted easily from one player to the next and one coach to the next. I've witnessed situations where coaches aren't on the same page. So when you try to change all that negative energy and do a 180 on game day, your chances aren't that great."

Scott praises Buffalo's coaches for being the antithesis of Detroit's chaotic bureaucracy. Basic nuances of the offense are linked in a clear hierarchy. At one recent practice, Scott was unsure how to block a certain play. He



Jonathan Scott had a solid collegiate career blocking for Vince Young. Getty Images

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asked position coach Sean Kugler for the answer. Kugler was unsure. Rather than haphazardly give Scott a knee-jerk answer (as Detroit coaches did), Kugler asked Turk Schonert for the answer.

It relayed back to Scott and the installations continued. Night and day compared to the Lions.

"The offensive line coach is on the exact same page as the coordinator, the coordinator is on the exact same page as the running back coach and the running back coach is on the exact same page as the head coach," Scott said. "All of the coaches are saying the exact same things when it comes to assignments."

Langston Walker and Brad Butler are penciled in as Buffalo's two starting offensive tackles for now, but shuffling and reshuffling is often inevitable. Injuries and production fluctuate at an unpredictable pace along the Bills' offensive line. So the towering, 6-foot-6, 318-pound Scott definitely has an open opportunity to crack the Bills' rotation. To differentiate from the pack, Scott is studying beyond his personal duties.

He's learning where Trent Edwards tends to drift in the pocket so he can instinctively slide into the proper real estate. He's learning which receivers run which routes and which backs bounce which direction.

In short, a broad understanding of the Bills' offense. Because in Buffalo — unlike Detroit — the offense functions in unison, Scott said. It's the Buffalo Philharmonic, instead of General Motors.

If a starter goes down at any position, Scott wants to be the one on speed dial.

"I want to be in a situation where they can say, 'Let's put Jon in. He can handle it,'" Scott said. "If guys get hurt, I hope they have faith in me to put me in at center, guard or tackle."

The Bills had multiple opportunities to draft a top-rated tackle in April's draft. Eben Britton in the first, William Beatty in the second, Jamon Meredith in the fourth. Talented, agile left tackles trickled to Russ Brandon throughout draft weekend.

No thank you. Instead, the front office loaded up at guard — wise overkill to prepare for the vicious 3-4 defenses in the AFC East. The flip side of this theory is that underdogs like Scott get an unexpected green light. More eyeballs will be focused on Scott. After a delayed arrival to Buffalo, he can finally breathe a sigh of relief. He's out of Detroit, out of misery.

"(In Detroit), if you pleased one person, you'd piss off the next," Scott said.

And seeing the Bills coast through the draft without a pinch of panic to take an offensive tackle is encouraging. Finally, Scott feels he has an opportunity to cash the check on his potential.

"(The draft) definitely gives a gleam of hope that they want us to compete for that spot," Scott said. "I just want the chance. I'm not looking for any handouts."

thdunn@gmail.com



Scott has been stuck on some bad Lions teams in his young career. Getty Images

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5/26/2009

Motown's new hits come from Red Wings defensemen

By Kevin Allen, USA TODAY

DETROIT — Any analysis of how the defending Stanley Cup champion Detroit Red Wings might be improved this season has to center on what could be called the "big bang theory."

Although the Red Wings are traditionally gritty, they are leading playoff teams with 32.5 hits a game. The Chicago Blackhawks are second at 30.5. The Red Wings seem to be hitting more and with bigger payloads. Rookie Darren Helm has a team-best 67 hits, but the most noticeable hitters are defensive partners Niklas Kronwall and Brad Stuart.

"They are not racing around trying to get (hits)," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said. "But if they're there, they take them."

GAME 4: Wings take 3-1 series lead

INJURY UPDATE: Red Wings hope Lidstrom, Datsyuk return; Draper out

Kronwall and Stuart each has 38 hits, but Kronwall is drawing more attention because he left Chicago's Martin Havlat woozy with a devastating hit in Game 3.

In talking about Kronwall's prominence as a hitter, Babcock brought up Scott Stevens' name because of the similar way they would hunt down their prey.

"(Kronwall) is not a big man, so he has to use timing and momentum and he does a good job of that," Babcock said.

Stevens was about 25 pounds heavier than Kronwall (189).

Detroit's Henrik Zetterberg understood Kronwall's body-checking ability first as an adversary in the Swedish league.

"I had some close calls in Sweden with him," Zetterberg said. "He just has good timing and he knows when to step up. I'm glad he's on my side."

Kronwall seems to be able to fly under a puck carrier's radar.

"You look up and he's standing still, but as soon as your head goes down, he's coming," Zetterberg said. "You've got to beware."

Zetterberg calls Kronwall one of the NHL's top open-ice hitters. "Most of the time it's clean hits," he said. "He doesn't come with his elbow or leave the ice. He just comes with his shoulder."

Big hits have played a significant role in playoff series. Detroit fans talk about Stevens decking Siava Kozlov in the 1995 Finals as a turning point in that series.

"I think we all are adults, and we're playing this game for many years," Kronwall said. "I don't know if intimidation is that big."

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However, Kronwall does appreciate that a big hit is inspirational. "When I see (Stuart) making a big hit, it just gets you fired up," he said. "It makes you want to go out and do the same thing."

In Game 4, Stuart's hit forced Havlat out of the game.

Although Kronwall's hitting has been talked about nationally since Game 3, the Red Wings view him as someday replacing Nicklas Lidstrom, 39, as their No. 1 defenseman. With Lidstrom missing a playoff game for the first time Sunday, Kronwall was a power-play catalyst.

Said Babcock: "If I'm building a team in the (NHL), I want Kronwall on my team."

Find this article at:

http://www.usatoday.com/sports/hockey/nhl/wings/2009-05-25-detroit-hits-feat_N.htm

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BASEBALL

'D-Train' starting to settle in Motown

By Jon Paul Morosi
May 26, 2009



DETROIT -- The All-Star Game visited Detroit four years ago, and Major League Baseball seized the opportunity to roll out its promotional campaign for the inaugural World Baseball Classic. Officials organized a news conference at a fancy hotel in nearby Dearborn, with a video, colorful banners and prototype jerseys.

Baseball officials wanted to showcase the game and lend legitimacy to the new event. Some of the participating nations had one player -- wearing the country's jersey -- on the date for the announcements.

Derek Jeter and Mark Teixeira were in town for the Midsummer Classic. Roger Clemens and Jake Peavy were, too. But someone else represented Team USA before the baseball world that day. It was a person who, at that moment, might have been as much the face of baseball in the United States as anyone else.

Dontrelle Willis.

Willis, on his way to a 22-win season, was at the peak of his charisma-driven popularity with the Florida Marlins. There was no sign then of the many trials to come: the injuries, a trip to the minor leagues, a lost season. In response to one question about the WBC, Willis flashed a smile and replied, "I just hope I make the team." The ballroom erupted in laughter.

Of course, he was going to make the team. This was *Dontrelle Willis*, for crying out loud. He had the big smile, the big leg kick, the big statistics. He was a black star from inner-city Oakland, someone who could reach a demographic that was playing the game in decreasing numbers. Even better, he genuinely *wanted to help kids get involved with baseball*.

Well, he pitched in that All-Star Game and gave up two earned runs in one inning. He pitched in the WBC and didn't fare too well, either. He went 12-12 for the Marlins in 2006 and 10-15 the year after that. Rick Kranitz, the former Florida pitching coach, said in an interview last week that Willis "wasn't the same" after Grady Sizemore stepped on his pitching hand during a game on June 14, 2007.

Willis' walk rate and ERA were climbing. His salary was, too. So, the budget-conscious Marlins traded him to Detroit with Miguel Cabrera at the '07 winter meetings.

Somewhere in that chain of events, he began losing his way.

Willis signed a three-year, \$29 million contract extension before throwing his first pitch for the Tigers. Perhaps that was not such a great idea -- for either side -- because he seemed to place undue pressure on himself from the moment he arrived in Lakeland, Fla., for spring training in 2008. He had severe control problems. He spent some time on the disabled list with a sprained right knee -- and several weeks on the roster of the Single-A Lakeland Flying Tigers.

He appeared in eight big league games last year, including seven starts, but didn't earn a victory. He worked determinedly during the offseason, only to have the control issues return in the spring. On March 29, he was placed on the disabled list with an anxiety disorder -- a startling but not unprecedented move for a big league baseball player.

Willis declared that morning that he would return to the big leagues. ("I know I will," he said then.) But it was not easy to believe him. After all, he had been diagnosed with a potentially serious mental illness. What type of treatment would he undergo? Would he be able to pitch again?

He began a rehabilitation program in the minors, and the initial reports were mixed. As April turned to May, they became more encouraging. And last week, finally, the day arrived: Willis won a game for the first-place Tigers, after pitching 6 1/3 shutout innings against the Texas Rangers.

Kranitz, now the Baltimore pitching coach, followed Willis' start that night on the out-of-town scoreboard at Yankee Stadium.

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"I'm very, very proud of him," Kranitz said in an interview last week. "I couldn't be happier. I didn't see any of the highlights, but I'm just so happy for him."

Willis was back on the mound Sunday, and what transpired against the Colorado Rockies might have been more meaningful than his victory five days before. Willis lost, but he put forth another effort that was worthy of a win. He held the Rockies to one run over six innings before allowing back-to-back run-scoring hits in the seventh.

The final line: 6 2/3 innings, three earned runs, four walks, four strikeouts. Most major league pitchers can put together one decent start, if given the opportunity. But two in a row? Maybe this is becoming a genuine comeback story.

"Some people might've folded, might've made excuses," Willis said. "I didn't do any of that. I just continued to work hard, and I'm continuing to work hard right now."

"I'm proud of what I've done in this game thus far. I work hard. I think the effort shows out there. I care about this. When it's all said and done, I'll be able to hold my head up. At the same token, I'm not content. I still have good stuff, to compete at the highest level. I think it's been showing."

Willis seemed unsure about his diagnosis at the time he was placed on the disabled list. When asked after Sunday's game if he's confident that he was, in fact, suffering from an anxiety disorder, he said, "Not really. I just played bad. ... It was a blessing, going on the DL, to find myself and get myself in the routine. ... I appreciate the Tigers giving me the leeway to work hard and (get) comfortable."

The Tigers submitted documentation of their diagnosis to the commissioner's office, which certified Willis' assignment to the disabled list. Anxiety disorders are typically treated with counseling and/or medication. Willis said he didn't need either treatment.

"I just told them, 'Let me play,'" he said. "That's the counseling for me. Let me do what I know how to do."

Regardless of the specifics, it's quite safe to say that Willis was in a gloomy place not long ago and is now pitching capably in the major leagues: 1-1 with a 3.57 ERA after three starts.

Manager Jim Leyland said Willis did a "great job" on Sunday, adding, "He's changing speeds. He's using his pitches. He pitched very, very well. He competes. I've been impressed. Twice in a row now. Rather than make a big deal about it, just let him keep going out there."

"Each start, I'm going out there and earning his respect," Willis said of Leyland. "I appreciate Skip giving me those chances."

Willis, 27, is no longer a power lefty. He touched 90 mph on Sunday only a small percentage of times. The Rockies swung and missed at only four of his 105 pitches. But improved command has enabled him to generate easy outs with his two- and four-seam fastballs. His curveball and changeup look formidable. The movement on his sinker is vastly improved, Tigers catcher Dane Sardinha said.

All of a sudden, pitching doesn't look so hard anymore.

When asked if he thinks often of how far he's come, Willis said, "No. I'm here now. I don't dwell on stuff like that. I'm not a vindictive guy, as far as making people feel like, 'I told you so.' I don't get anything out of that. I just want to play baseball at the highest level. I'm here now, and I'm having fun. Hopefully everybody sees the sincerity in that."

"He's back," fellow starter Edwin Jackson said. "That's all that really matters. He's back in the league, back where he's supposed to be. He's pitching. He's having fun. That's what it's all about."

When Willis' odyssey began on that March morning, it seemed very possible that he wouldn't be in the organization -- much less the rotation -- by the end of May. But Kranitz remembered something about Willis' outings in Florida, a trait that now applies to his career at large.

"Second and third, nobody out, you always saw the best in Dontrelle," Kranitz said. "Always."

Willis wasn't necessarily at his best on Sunday. But he was better. For that, the Tigers ought to be grateful. And Willis should be proud.

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Detroit: Ain't Too Proud to Beg

Broadcast: 26/05/2009

Reporter: Tracy Bowden

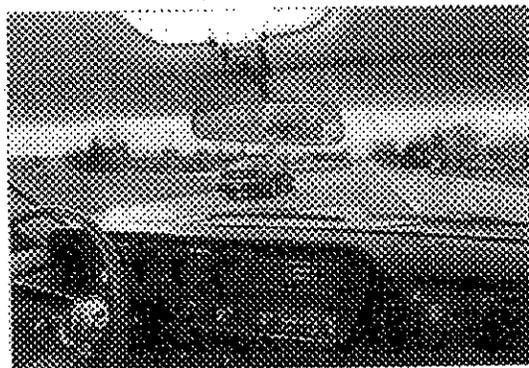
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[Martha Reeves clip](#)

It was big, it was shiny and it was brassy. Few things symbolised the wealth and optimism of a post-war America more than the big car and the Motown sound.

And perhaps few things symbolise the decline of American capitalism more than the sight of the country's biggest car makers going cap in hand to Washington begging for a bail out. General Motors has until June 1 to come up with a survival plan, or face bankruptcy



Cruising in a 1967 Pontiac GTO

There is one positive note being struck in Motor City though - aka Detroit, Michigan. The city is gearing up to celebrate the 50th anniversary of music from the likes of Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye. The sound known as Motown based its production style on the car assembly line, invented here by Henry Ford in 1913.

Cruising Detroit in a perfectly preserved 1967 Pontiac GTO, Tracy Bowden finds a once proud city in deep depression, along with the fortunes of what used to be the world's biggest industrial company, General Motors.

The city centre looks like a ghost town - since its heyday in the 1950s more than half the population has left, leaving a hollowed out shell of abandoned factories, derelict houses and deserted streets.

Fifty years ago American car companies dominated the world. Four out of every five cars were made in the US, half of them by GM. Now they're facing bankruptcy and their workers, many of them African-American, are fearing unemployment and poverty.

So what went wrong? According to a former long time senior GM executive, there was a crucial failure to innovate.

"Whenever there was a situation where you could do something that was hard and painful but which would really solve the problem, or you did the minimum amount necessary, they always took that latter path."

ROBERT KLEINBAUM, FORMER GM EXECUTIVE

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American car companies became complacent and moved too slowly to make greener cars. Their Asian and European competitors moved in on the market with small, fuel efficient cars and non-unionised workforces.

The Big Three - GM, Ford and Chrysler - have already shed tens of thousands of jobs this decade, many of them moving offshore, and the city's decline really started in the oil shock of the 1970s. Even the Motown label left town then. But long time Detroit residents say things have never looked this bad.

But city councillor Martha Reeves - yes, as in Martha Reeves and the Vandellas of Motown fame - sees some hope amidst the doom and gloom. Like many fellow Detroiters, she believes the city will survive, and thrive again, just like the music.

"I think Motown mood is a good time and a party, I think anytime you put on a Motown record you are going to see sunshine, the Temptations sing "I Got Sunshine" there is sunshine in the music." MARTHA REEVES,
DETROIT CITY COUNCILLOR

Further Information

Detroit Free Press

Amongst the camera rushes for this story, editor Simon Brynjolffssen became aware of a fascination our cameraman Louie Eroglu seems to have for plastic bags.

Transcript

KEN GRACE: This is a 1967 Pontiac GTO. It's got a 400 cubic engine and 360 horsepower, four-speed transmission - so exactly the way it was built in 1967.

BOWDEN: Meet Ken Grace, my guide to the muscle cars of Detroit. He had one much the same when he was seventeen. Detroit's teenagers won't have the option of owning a new Pontiac. General Motors has just killed the Pontiac brand - yet another sign that one of the world's best known companies and its home town are in desperate trouble.

KEN GRACE: Back in the 60s and 70s you could see people in the city of Detroit walking the streets, and the factories were full of cars and full of employment, some running three shifts. It was an honour to say 'yeah I'm from Detroit'. A tough city, a lot of issues, but you were proud because everybody around the world drove our vehicles.

BOWDEN: A city which worships the car, doesn't have much of a public transport system. The monorail, called the people mover seems more for show than effect, but it does give you an uninterrupted view of a city in decline.

Once the murder capital of America, now businesses are being killed off and residents have fled. Building after building vandalised or awaiting the wrecker. Eerily too, the streets of motor city are empty of traffic.

The most striking thing about the centre of Detroit these days is how quiet it is. On almost every street there are signs of urban decay and a sense of desolation and there's disbelief that the big car companies centred

here could be in so much trouble.

Ford, which is in the best shape, recorded a two billion dollar loss in the first three months of the year and that was viewed as something of a triumph. General Motors, once the biggest car company in the world looks like it will have to go into bankruptcy to survive.

ROBERT KLEINBAUM: There are no companies that are too big to fail. If Lehmann's can fail with its 100 year history, I think GM could fail, and I don't think it's too big to fail.

SARAH WEBSTER: When I moved to Detroit in 1999 this town was rolling in profits from the SUV business. Everyone got bonuses that year, they even gave out free computers at Ford and they had a plane flying around town thanking workers for their great contribution.

CARMEN SEATON: I never imagined that in a million years for General Motors, the number one company in the United States to be in this predicament, no way.

BOWDEN: This is not simply a story of another industrial town falling on hard times and few know that better than Dick Purtan - Detroit's veteran, top rating radio announcer who was spinning discs back in the 60s.

So was there a real energy about Detroit?

DICK PURTAN: Oh yeah a big time energy. Remember in those days, Detroit would have been the fifth largest city in America. And then I have seen in the... what, 45 years that I have been here, it's gone from 5th to 6th to 7th to 8th to 9th to 10th and I think currently we're the 11th rated market or city in America.

BOWDEN: Detroit became the emblem of American know how and can do, the capital of industrial prowess. But it had more. It had its very own high energy soundtrack and like Dick Purtan's listeners, the world came to love it as well - Motown.

DICK PURTAN: I was thrilled to be here because this was a real happening town. And one of the reasons it was happening was two reasons, the auto industry was thriving, people were thriving here big time... but Motown was booming.

BOWDEN: Forty years on, Ken Grace is still cruising the city listening to Motown music. It brings it all back.

KEN GRACE: On my radio I have a 1960s station and it plays Motown... Stevie Wonder... the Supremes.

MARTHA REEVES: This is a historic city because of motorcars and Motown was adapted from the name, motor city... Motown.

BOWDEN: Martha Reeves and the Vandellas were a big hit back then. She still belts it out, but has another stage too, making law as a Detroit city councillor.

MARTHA REEVES: You know it was a good feeling to have songs that you recorded when you were twenty one, twenty two years old and then when you sing them you can feel that young. You can think back and total recall to the day that you recorded it.

BOWDEN: Reeves started recording in Studio A at Motown Records. It became known as Hitsville USA, borrowing a production style from the car industry.

MARTHA REEVES: And in our history, Berry Gordy worked at Ford Motor Company and he thought of running a company as an assembly line. Once the doors open they never shut. We started up with two tracks... two recording tracks. Went from there to four. Hitchhiker, Stubborn Kind of Fella, Come and Get These Memories, Almost Like a Heatwave were all cut with four tracks.... and we grew from there.

BOWDEN: What would have been your favourite hit from those days that you recorded in Studio A?

MARTHA REEVES: Oh you can't pick one. We've had some wonderful recordings and.... they're like children.

BOWDEN: Could you give us a burst of Heatwave before we leave? Come on a few bars.

MARTHA REEVES: Well it's hard to do without the band and the girls but my favourite part is [singing] 'sometimes I stare into space, tears all over my face. Can't explain it, don't understand it. I ain't never felt like this before..... It's time to go.'

BOWDEN: Martha Reeves will be among those Detroiters celebrating fifty years of Motown this year, but she's keenly aware that there's not much to smile about. She's watching her city run out of gas and its once great institutions being junked.

MARTHA REEVES: I have been asked that question, how are we surviving the fact that half of the cars in our city are foreign, that our cars aren't selling anymore. Our big three are considering lay offs and die outs and the industry is not what it used to be, it used to lead the city.

BOWDEN: A forced marriage with Fiat is Chrysler's way out of bankruptcy. The big daddy of them all, General Motors, looms as the biggest potential disaster. It's closing plants and desperately negotiating a survival strategy. People who thought they had secure jobs, are facing the reality that the wheels are falling off motor city.

MITCH SEATON: That's something that you, you know you feel in your stomach every day. You know you're thinking about it. You can't get it off your mind, you know? You would want for it just to be over, one way or the other. Let me know something.

BOWDEN: Mitch Seaton started working for General Motors thirty years ago.

So what was the image of the company then? I mean what did you expect if you got a job at GM?

MITCH SEATON: That you would be able to retire you know with a certain amount of dignity you know? High wages, good benefits, you know.

CARMEN SEATON: When we were children growing up in Michigan or in a city of Inkster or Detroit, we always knew that that was the ultimate job to get because so many people drove nice cars and had nice homes.

BOWDEN: Carmen Seaton also works at GM. Like many families, they've been the backbone of the car industry for generations.

CARMEN SEATON: We have so many people. I have four or five aunts, I have two uncles, I have a sister, two brother-in-laws and actually two grandfathers that both my grandfathers are retirees from the automotive industry.

BOWDEN: We're at one of the many branches of the United Autoworkers. The guest of honour is Dick Johnston, a veteran GM employee. There's a lot of love in the room for the committed unionist. Even so, high wages and generous health and pension benefits demanded by the Union over many decades have been a factor in the car industry crisis.

DICK JOHNSTON: When I first started, General Motors was really booming. Where I'm working at now in Ypsilanti - there was 16... 17 thousand people when it first started. It's gone from that down to sixteen hundred people, which is a big drop from what it was when I first started.

BOWDEN: In the 50s Detroit was booming and they built big monuments like this. Spirit of Detroit - strong resilient, trusting in God to look after the people - maybe. But by the 80s, Japanese and other foreign car companies had started non union plants in America's south. They were cheaper and more efficient and they were building the cars Americans wanted.

Former GM executive, Robert Kleinbaum lives about an hour's drive outside the Motor City.

ROBERT KLEINBAUM: And they didn't believe it because they're so isolated from the market place. I hope it will be remedied.

BOWDEN: He says GM ignored public concern about gas guzzlers and moved too slowly to make greener cars.

ROBERT KLEINBAUM: Wherever there is a situation where you could do something like really hard and painful, but that would really solve the problem, or you do the minimum amount necessary, they always chose that latter path whether it was with the union or their own capacity or their management of their own brands, they were always very reluctant to do the hard things that would really fix the problem.

BOWDEN: Under GM's latest restructuring scheme, the US Government would own half the company and the union retirement trust would have around 40%. Still minority shareholders could scuttle the scheme, forcing the company into bankruptcy.

ROBERT KLEINBAUM: The whole purpose of bankruptcy, Chapter 11 bankruptcy in North America is to permit the kind of restructuring the company desperately needs to do. The nice thing about Chapter 11 is you can write off your debt right? So that's the whole point.

BOWDEN: Clean slate.

ROBERT KLEINBAUM: So that's the whole point.

BOWDEN: Sarah Webster is one of the most influential voices in Detroit as the automotive editor of the Detroit Free Press.

At what point did you start to realise that it was reaching crisis point in the industry?

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SARAH WEBSTER: I think it was at the end of 2005 that we started to write about the really enormous layoffs of sixty and seventy plus thousand workers and I think that that was the time when we started to see that there was a dramatic change in the workforce taking place.

BOWDEN: What's the feeling amongst locals now?

SARAH WEBSTER: It's almost like losing a loved one or something. They go through all that whole range of emotions you hear about where they're in denial and then they're angry and then they're sad and depressed.

BOWDEN: Drive down almost any street in the inner city and there are boarded up houses and disused factories. Once grand buildings like the city's railway station have been abandoned and yet the city seems powerless to stop urban decay and to reclaim the wastelands. All this plus a recession which locals say hit Detroit long before the rest of the country.

Of course there are some who prosper even in the worst of times. Jeff Darwish has been tooling around the suburbs near the Ford factories buying and selling houses for 24 years. He might feel for the locals but his vehicle of choice is a fancy German import. We met in Willow Street, Dearborn.

JEFF DARWISH: This is a middleclass area with good folks, Ford Motor Company, a lot of people work for Ford right here and work for the local hospitals and school teachers. It's a good area.

BOWDEN: So what's happened to the value of homes?

JEFF DARWISH: It's plummeted. People have been saying 30%, I'd say more about 40-50%. This house here was in its heyday about three or four years ago worth about one sixty to one-sixty-five, we just sold it for fifty-six thousand and I didn't sell it overnight. It took about a month to sell it.

BOWDEN: Most locals can't afford new houses or new cars. With sales down by as much as half, car yards are bulging with unsold stock. Many are the designs of the past, big fuel hungry vehicles. Dealers are being sacked by the big three car makers and going to the wall.

This city is all about the car. You can't go anywhere or do anything without one. Despite the gloomy predictions, General Motors reckons it has a sparkling future with some fantastic vehicles to match so we're going out to the company's tech centre to take a look.

As GM management deals with the present, this clutch of designers is looking to the future. And as the accents reveal, they're a long way from home. They all started out with Holden in Australia.

MIKE SIMCOE: By the time the public are presented with a product we are two, three, four years ahead - we're doing the next cycle product. So we're happily in a position where we can always look to the future and recognise that everyone relies on us for the future and that's our part in saving the company.

BOWDEN: As they design the look of the next generation of cars, other teams are working on revolutionary concepts. The hydrogen powered car is Mark Vann's baby.

MARK VANN: This is a very special vehicle. It's a Chevrolet Equinox fuel cell electric vehicle. It uses no

petroleum whatsoever and the only emission is pure water vapour.

BOWDEN: So this vehicle is a vital part of convincing the Obama Administration that this company can be viable.

MARK VANN: Absolutely. You know we look at this as saying that this is our best foot forward. You know that in America, you know a lot of people you know have only thought of General Motors as building large SUVs. We can build very compelling vehicles.

BOWDEN: In fact the Obama Administration is now ordering companies which are drowning in red ink to become cleaner and greener.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: For the first time in history, we have set in motion a national policy aimed at both increasing gas mileage and decreasing greenhouse gas pollution for all new trucks and cars sold in the United States of America.

ANNOUNCER: [Detroit Motor Show] Ladies and gentlemen the future of automotive transportation has entered the building.

BOWDEN: Another of GM's green options was showcased at this year's auto show in Detroit.

ANNOUNCER: I present the revolutionary Chevrolet Volt.

BOWDEN: The Volt as the name suggests is an electric vehicle running on rechargeable batteries and it's due to be on sale from next year.

ROBERT KLEINBAUM: The Volt's wonderful but it's not going to be a commercially important car for a very long time. Commercially important in terms of generating positive cash and the President's task force saw that very clearly. It's basically five or six years down the road is the time horizon.

BOWDEN: GM executives plot the company's future in the tower which dominates Detroit's skyline. But Washington is in the driver's seat. GM has already borrowed more than 25 billion dollars from the Federal Government and says it needs another ten billion to survive. The deadline for GM is the 1st of June.

MITCH SEATON: Anxious is not the word. It's more like a frightening thing cause someone tells you that on June 1 your job is over. You've got to make some decisions. Well, you know, your life is going to change.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: I would love to get the US Government out of the auto business as quickly as possible.

BOWDEN: Mitch and Carmen Seaton are putting their faith in the new President. Back in January, they drove their motor home for 24 hours through a snow storm to witness his inauguration in Washington.

MITCH SEATON: I dug two big trenches all the way out to the street. I figured if I can get it out, you know if I can get it on the freeway, we were good to go if I didn't get stuck between here and the freeway.

BOWDEN: So you really wanted to be there.

MITCH SEATON: We were going to be there for sure. I wanted my boys when they're my age to be able to say I was there because you know, the first African American President to be inaugurated so I wanted them to be there.

BOWDEN: A photo of the family with a remarkable likeness of the President has pride of place on the living room wall.

CARMEN SEATON: I'm very very frightened but I am optimistic. I really am.... especially with Obama. I believe that Obama believes, you know knows that we have to be here and he's actually going to, I believe that he's actually going to make sure that GM become viable.

DICK PURTAN: We have to have an industrial base. Detroit has always been the industrial base. I hope that it will come back to being the industrial base. I think we have to have a sense of pride and realise who we are and we must remain. We can't just give it all away.

BOWDEN: Martha Reeves maintains high hopes for the motor city and looks to the spirit of Motown.

MARTHA REEVES: I think Motown mood's a good time at a party. I think any time you put on the Motown records you see the sunshine, the Temptation's say "I've got sunshine" there's sunshine in the music.

BOWDEN: Car assembly lines lifted many African Americans into the middle class and Motown was another ladder to success and the American dream. The people of Detroit would like to think that the glory days of the city can come again.

SARAH WEBSTER: It's all a cycle. This place is very innovative and will rise again and there will be different things that come out of Detroit in the future.

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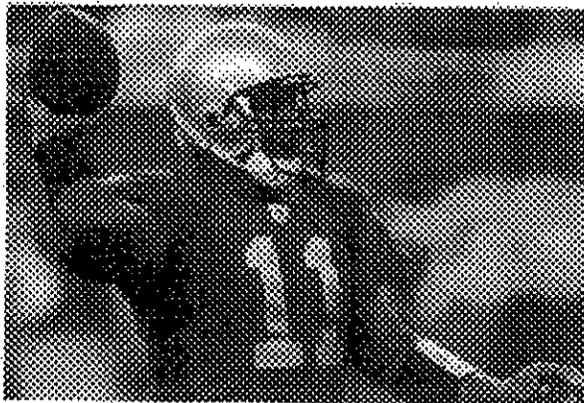
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Five years ago, Daunte Culpepper was on the verge of writing his own ticket to Canton. He was the ringmaster of one of the greatest offenses ever. If it weren't for Peyton Manning filling the record book, he would have an MVP in his trophy case...

Daunte Culpepper: Motown Needs You to get Your Roll On



Five years ago, Daunte Culpepper was on the verge of writing his own ticket to Canton.

He was the ringmaster of one of the greatest offenses ever.

If it weren't for Peyton Manning filling the record book, he would have an MVP in his trophy case.

Daunte has more credentials than the entire locker room combined. The team wants to follow him--there hasn't been a football player in Detroit with his leadership skills and moxy since the 90s.

We need him to be stiff-arm blitzing DB's to the ground, to spin out the way of linebackers and defensive linemen.

Detroit needs to see him throw 70-yard bombs down the sideline to Megatron.

The entire state needs to see his knee at 100 percent and for him to just find a glitex of his old self.

Stafford needs Culpepper to show him how to win, how to study, how to be a pro, and a leader of professional athletes. It is obvious Daunte is already loved in the locker room.

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Culpepper could own Motown in about five games. In a way, he deserves this chance. The city deserves this. The players need a battle tested veteran like him to show them the way. He has done it before.

There isn't another player in the Detroit locker room that has the potential to change everything for himself and the fans. Detroit has not had a leader at the quarterback position in a very generous decade.

It's what the fans need. And it's what Daunte needs. Give Hollywood something to think about. Culpepper should be angry at the entire NFL for writing him off and eager to change their perception of him.

The Red Wings are on their way to the Stanley Cup Finals, the Tigers are leading their division and if the Lions found a way to compete, this city would ignite.

The city wants to believe he is healthy, that he is back to the Daunte that beat us up twice a year. Forget Matthew Stafford for a year or two, I want to see Culpepper throw the ball like he used to.

I want to see him high five the entire team.

I want to see him talking to the defense!

I want to see him and Calvin develop a chemistry that hasn't been in Detroit since Herman Moore was out leaping everyone on a fade route. This entire city would look up to him if he could just let us resemble an NFL team for 16 weeks.

We all know Stafford is the future at some point, but it doesn't have to be now.

The only question is: is Daunte ready to take an entire city on his back?

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June 2, 2009

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[Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm](#)

Governor of Michigan

Posted: May 27, 2009 05:26 PM

Michigan Will Lead the Green Industrial Revolution

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The battle against global climate change was kicked into a new gear this month, and Michigan is leading the charge.

That's right: Michigan.

The so-called "rust belt" state that has been putting cars, trucks, and SUV's on the road for over 100 years is putting the pedal to the metal on making the U.S. less reliant on fossil fuels.

As Governor of the state that has been ground zero for the nation's economic crisis, I was proud to stand with leaders of the UAW and ten automakers as [President Obama announced a truly historic, aggressive national agreement to lower greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles.](#)

Out with the old gas guzzlers of the past. Out with the old thinking of the past. Out with the old politics of the past. Out with the old rust belt.

May was the first month of the New: new technology, new ideas, and a new era of cooperation that will purposefully drive Michigan and America into the new clean-energy future.

Michigan's Big Three automakers, the UAW, Michigan's world class engineers – they are working together to reduce more greenhouse gas emissions than ever before in this country's history. It's not Silicon Valley. It's not Route 128. It's Motown that is making a more significant impact on global climate change than any other place in America.

In addition to the new fuel efficiency standards, May was also the month that five innovative new Michigan companies submitted their applications to the Department of Energy to receive federal funding to design and build the advanced batteries that will power the electric vehicle of the future. Their applications are backed by \$700 million in state incentives.

In Michigan, we're not only redesigning the current generation of vehicles to be more fuel efficient, but as the world's epicenter for automotive research and design, we're literally redesigning the entire notion of the automobile. The Chevy Volt will be the first ever mass produced car designed around a lithium ion battery pack rather than an internal combustion engine. Ford is preparing for the introduction of a full line of new hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles, and just announced their first fully electric vehicle will be made at an efficient Michigan factory. Chrysler is also electrifying its product lines, with announcements to come. The key challenge we need to overcome to make the transition to an electric vehicle fleet is perfecting the battery. To meet that challenge, world class companies like [A123 Systems](#), [Johnson-Controls-Saft](#), [KD Advanced Battery Group](#), [LG Chem](#), and [Sakti3](#) are partnering with Michigan's Big 3 automakers and Michigan's Dow Chemical to put the world's best battery engineers to the work on solutions.

As the [Arsenal of Democracy](#) during World War II, Michigan was called upon in a time of crisis to transition our auto manufacturing base to tanks and B-1 bombers. Today, Michigan will use our manufacturing know-how and infrastructure to make green energy products – fuel efficient cars, advanced batteries for electric cars, wind turbines, solar panels, smart grid technology, carbon-fiber materials, energy efficient building materials, and more. We have reinvented ourselves before, and we will do it again. Hard work is in our DNA, and no state is hungrier than Michigan.

Some doubters on this website have advocated "pulling the plug on Detroit." Instead, I invite you to plug in to the power of American ingenuity and American transformation. Plug in the new electric car, made in America, by your neighbors in communities across the country. In Michigan, we're plugging in to a new paradigm. We are reimagining and remaking the American automobile, the American industrial sector, and our nation's energy future. Watch – Michigan will lead a green industrial revolution. I invite you to watch us, encourage us, and join us.

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http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jennifer-m-granholm/michigan-will-lead-the-gr_b_208360... 6/2/2009

Nothing Can Stop Eminem's *Relapse*

Wed., May 27, 2009 11:00 AM EDT



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Eminem just discovered a 13th step to recovery.

Nearly five years since his last studio album, the rehabbed rapper has returned to No. 1 as *Relapse* sold 608,000 copies, per Nielsen SoundScan, for his fifth straight chart-topper.

The Motown MC last crowned the charts with 2004's *Encore* and his retrospective *Curtain Call: The Hits* in 2005.

Eminem also lowered the boom on a pair of rock superstars. *Relapse* dropped **Green Day's** *21st Century Breakdown* to No. 2 (with 166,000) and bested **U2's** *No Line on the Horizon* (484,000 back in March) as the year's biggest bow.

Six other newcomers hit the Top 10.

Roping in the No. 3 spot, **Kenny Chesney** sold 89,000 copies of *Greatest Hits II*, a CD-only release. **Method Man & Redman** followed at No. 4, selling 63,000 copies of *Blackout! 2*. **Dane Cook** laughed it up at No. 5, selling 61,000 copies of *ISolated Incident*, while **Busta Rhymes** sold 59,000 copies of *Back on My B.S.* at No. 6.

Tori Amos and **Kate Voegele** wrapped up the Top 10, with Amos' *Abnormally Attracted to Sin* selling 41,000 at No. 9 and Voegele's *A Fine Mess* taking the 10 spot on 37,000.

Other notable debuts included **Mat Kearney's** *City of Black & White* at No. 13, **Eric Clapton & Steve Winwood's** *Live from Madison Square Garden* at No. 14 and former *American Idol* champ **Ruben Studdard** at No. 36 with *Love IS*.

The slew of new discs drove sales up 13 percent compared to last week, but the tally was still down 9 percent compared to the same sales week in '08.

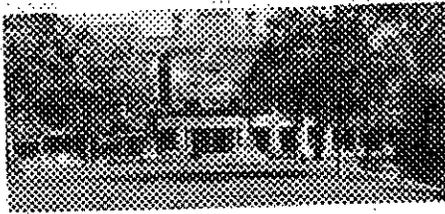
Here's a Top 10 recap:

1. *Relapse*, Eminem
2. *21st Century Breakdown*, Green Day
3. *Greatest Hits II*, Kenny Chesney
4. *Blackout! 2*, Method Man & Redman
5. *ISolated Incident*, Dane Cook
6. *Back on My B.S.*, Busta Rhymes
7. *Hannah Montana: The Movie* soundtrack, various
8. *The Fame*, Lady Gaga
9. *Abnormally Attracted to Sin*, Tori Amos
10. *A Fine Mess*, Kate Voegele

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Summer entertainment hits all the right notes at Legacy Village

Posted by jxixkffe May 27, 2009 14:14PM



ROSEMARY DOWNING/SUN NEWS This lawn is your ticket to summer fun.

Summer is all about the great outdoors, and for those who like to enjoy the great outdoors shopping, Legacy Village fits the bill. It's a large complex that offers entertainment all summer long.

Legacy Village in Lyndhurst has a lovely, large green space, centrally located and surrounded by sidewalk cafes. At the far end of this expansive lawn is a bandstand that features live music every weekend starting this month.



ROSEMARY DOWNING

One evening last year, friends and I strolled the walkways, did some relaxed shopping, and took in all the sights and sounds.

Children played on the grass, parents relaxed on lawn chairs or blankets, and an older couple danced. It was such fun to hear the music, watch the people, and experience the balmy breezes.

The festivities at Legacy are well thought out and appeal to all ages.

At 7 p.m. Friday, the first concert of this summer will take place in the bandstand. The concerts are free and will continue on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through mid-September.

The featured music will include a variety of genres, such as pop, rock, Motown, jazz, big band and more. Friday and Saturday concerts are scheduled from 7-10 p.m. The Sunday concerts will be 3-6 p.m.

Here's the line up for this weekend: Friday, pop and dance group **Run Avril Run**; Saturday, Motown act **Soul'd OUT**; and Sunday, swing band **The Emperors of Swing**.

Legacy Village will also host Art in the Village from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 6 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 7. More than 100 artists will be on hand to display \$15 million worth of artwork. The work will be all original. Admission and parking for the event are free.

How about sitting on a blanket on a warm summer night while watching a movie? A series of Moonlight Movies will be shown on the third Wednesday of June, July, and August. "Kung Fu Panda" will be shown June 17, and "Madagascar 2" will be featured on July 15. The title of the Aug. 19 movie will be announced soon. Each movie will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Legacy Village is at the intersection of Richmond and Cedar roads.

WHAT'S THE SCOOP? Get additional information by calling the Legacy Village Management Office

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at (216) 382-3871.

Rosemary welcomes your comments, your questions and all of your suggestions. Contact her at downingrosemary@yahoo.com.

Categories:

Comments

Footer

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 PRINT THIS

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Amber Arellano

Detroit schools' moment?

Union and school leaders rally teachers to embrace change



You could almost feel the hunger to hope.

Thousands of teachers poured into Detroit's Cobo Center Tuesday morning, waving homemade school flags and buzzing with excitement. They were so geared up, they seemed as if they were the ones who are supposed to graduate from school this spring.

The 6,000-plus crowd came to an unprecedented rally to discuss major reforms to their teacher union contract, a move that is necessary to radically overhaul Detroit schools for the sake of the city's children.

This could not have happened even a few months ago. But things are moving forward swiftly - and positively -- in Detroit public education for the first time in decades.

Robert Bobb, the miracle worker known as the Detroit Public Schools' emergency financial manager, is cleaning up the district's cesspool of corruption. He is firing dictatorial, incompetent administrators. He is closing half-empty schools and designing new ones.

And to many observers' great surprise, the Detroit Federation of Teachers -- one of the country's most regressive, militant local teacher unions -- actually took a step into the 21st century on Tuesday by co-hosting a historic conversation about union reforms that are boosting student achievement in other U.S. big cities.

So significant was this week's rally, national American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten flew to Motown to urge her members to support reform. The national AFT leaders have been downright embarrassed by the Detroit local's obstructionist reputation.

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The rally came on the eve of contract talks between Bobb and the union. Powerful people are pushing the union to significantly amend its contract, including President Barack Obama's administration, which has made clear if Detroit wants education stimulus money to overhaul its sorry schools, it has to show Washington it is truly ready to change.

The question so many teachers wondered on Tuesday, they admitted: Will these reforms take hold?

This time, can we really hope?

Mixed signs

The answer: The signs are mixed. Certainly Bobb's common sense leadership is making a difference.

There's also a new alignment of philosophies and goals shared by Bobb and to some extent, union leaders. That was evident Tuesday as they rapped on Cobo's stage. Bobb said he shared educators' weariness about the commitment of Detroit adults' to their children.

"I haven't heard a conversation in this city where adults talk about student achievement," Bobb said. "They talk about who among their fraternities and sororities are going to keep their jobs" with the district.

He added with fire: "We have too much politics. And as my grandma would say, too much self-centeredness!"

"Yeah!" teachers cheered.

Despite the upbeat tone, the usual Detroit clouds were lurking on Tuesday. Detroit Federation of Teachers Keith Johnson spoke for a powerful internal union faction as he bashed (all too predictably) outsiders such as U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and the press, rather than taking greater responsibility for his union's obvious role in the district's pathetically low student performance.

He even took a few potshots at Duncan, who visited Detroit earlier this month and offered the Obama administration's support to improve Motown's schools.

This was particularly ironic -- and sad -- considering Detroiters have complained for years that the feds haven't cared about the city. Finally, a president shows direct interest, and Johnson thumbs his nose at Duncan -- the very leader who will decide whether Detroit will receive hundreds of millions of dollars in stimulus money.

Wearily hopeful

Still, it was striking to hear teachers speak enthusiastically about their schools' future, a rarity for many educators here. One senior teacher told me for the first time in her 30-year-plus career, "I believe we can do it."

The weariness, the apathy, the skepticism that has grown over Detroit over decades, choking its belief in its ability to do things better, was still present on Tuesday.

Yet for the first time in my experience covering Detroit education, off and on, over more than 15 years, these killers of progress were balanced, however temporarily, by a new and fragile sense of hope.

Amber Arellano covers educational policy for the Detroit News editorial board and writes a weekly online column. E-mail her at aarellano@detnews.com

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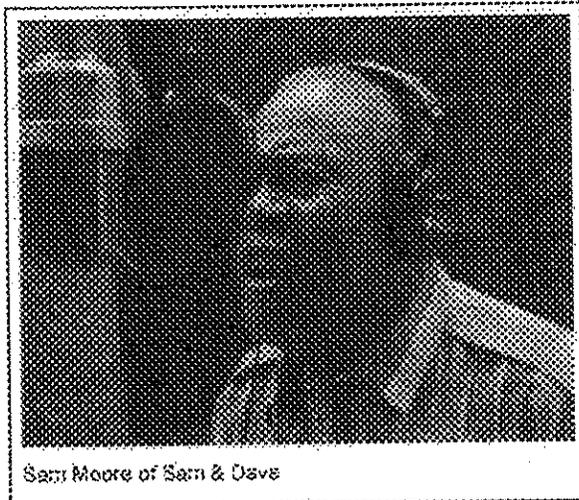
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Performance Royalty showdown in Motown

2009-05-28 15:07:00



Sam Moore of Sam & Dave

Detroit is ground zero for the fight over whether to require radio stations to pay performance royalties to record labels and artists. Bill author Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) is conducting a town hall meeting Monday on the topic on his home turf -- with Motown artists set to face off with black-owned radio.

According to the Detroit News, artists speaking for the idea of making radio pay royalties will include Sam Moore of Sam & Dave, Duke Fakir of the Four Tops and Martha Reeves, the singer turned politician who is currently a member of the Detroit

City Council.

Radio One, which has a cluster of stations in Detroit, has been fighting back against the Conyers bill as an attack on black-owned radio. There's no word yet on which local radio executives will speak against the bill in Monday's town hall session at the Detroit City-County Building.

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council has estimated that if Conyers' bill, H.R. 848, becomes law, more than a third of all minority owned radio stations in the United States face bankruptcy or forced sales.

RRR/TVRR observation: The artists need to be set straight on who has been denying them their financial due. Radio -- black radio, white radio, whatever radio -- played their music and created demand for people to buy their records. The record companies got the cash. Did they split it up in an equitable manner?



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decline.

Meanwhile, new Mayor Dave Bing has been amazingly inept, proving why businessmen often make such poor politicians. He clearly misjudged the process, indicating to Bishop that he believed the problem last year was just that interim Mayor Ken Cockrel wasn't at the table.

Wrong. Cockrel was up all night crafting the deal and the City Council sabotaged it. So what has Bing done? He's courted Conyers, et al., on a plan that Patterson has laughed at and will never make it through the Legislature.

Off to a roaring start, Mr. Mayor.

If he can find a face-saving way to make a deal at the annual Mackinac Public Policy Conference this weekend, great. If not, it's time to hand the keys to Novi so the entire state doesn't suffer for Detroit's arrogance and incompetence.

Now I believe that without a vibrant Detroit, Michigan will continue to perish. If I had my way, we'd establish a metropolitan government, since Southeast Michigan is irrevocably tied together, something that would make Brooks' head spin a la "The Exorcist."

But Cobo has become a circus, as part of the city's decades-long psychodrama. The budget has been in crisis for years, now \$280 million in the red. Detroit Public Schools are corrupt, mismanaged and hemorrhaging students, with the state appointing two emergency financial managers in a few years.

As always, too many Detroit politicians would rather play the victim and blame Lansing than solve the city's problems. Some in the D would love to see the NAIAS bolt just so they can whine about (and exploit) the injustice of it all.

We don't need Detroit leaders willing to destroy the city in the name of saving it. What Michigan needs is the auto show - whether it's in Motown or not.

Susan J. Dumas is a political analyst for Michigan Information & Research Service. She can be reached at sydumas@gmail.com or <http://susanjdumas.blogspot.com>. Tags: Cobo Hall, Dave Bing, Detroit, Detroit City Council, Detroit Public Schools, Ken Cockrel Jr., L. Brooks Patterson, Mike Bishop, Monica Conyers, NAIAS, North American International Auto Show, Topac Hurst

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Posted by **msufan801** on 05/20/09 at 10:51AM

that's what happens when you let your city be run by corrupt crack heads that think being elected to office is like winning the lottery

Inappropriate? Alert us.

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Posted by **latransplant** on 05/20/09 at 11:32AM

Very interesting read. I confess I haven't followed this issue too close. I think I will now.

Inappropriate? Alert us.

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Posted by **goninego** on 05/30/09 at 10:28AM

Detroit started this Us vs. them back in the 80's. Detroit is under the illusion that the burbs rely on Detroit for their well-being thus explaining the city council actions. What this might be is the lesson Detroit needs. Its the city that relies on the burbs. I'm all for moving the show to Novi. I'm all for GM to move their headquarters to Warren. Then finally the burbs will be getting repayment for carrying the burden of Detroit for all these years.

Inappropriate? Alert us.

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Posted by **luvmichigan** on 05/30/09 at 10:40AM

Great insight. I wish there was more we normal citizens could do to talk some sense into the city council.

Inappropriate? Alert us.

[Post a comment](#)

Posted by **sanity123** on 05/30/09 at 2:26PM

Detroit (and Michigan as a whole) has had a leadership vacuum since at least 1973. It looks like Michigan politics is far more corrupt and inept than most states. When I graduated college, I left the state thinking the economy wasn't diversified enough, way too dependent on the automobile industry which, even then, wasn't building any vehicles that I wanted. When I came back, nearly three decades later, guess what? Same problems plus deteriorating infrastructure. I'm also not impressed that campaigns tend to be mud-slinging sessions rather than actually

How Wall Street Almost Killed Detroit

By *matthew.debord*

Created 05/31/2009 - 9:02pm

[Shifting Gears](#) [1]

Slowly, the blow-by-blow accounts of how Chrysler and [General Motors](#) [2] (GM) ended up in bankruptcy court are beginning to emerge. It's actually pretty simple: Wall Street screwed Motown.

OK, sure, Detroit made some bad bets on trucks and SUVs and got killed when gas prices spiked last summer. But now that executives for Chrysler, already in Chapter 11, no longer have to spin comments for public consumption, a story is taking shape. The *Washington Post* has a [good piece on the subject](#), [3] with rueful commentary from deposed CEO Robert Nardelli.

The business of selling cars can look complex from the outside, but it really boils down to a basic issue: Automakers want to build vehicles at a profitable price point and then create financing opportunities for customers. (Forget whether vehicles are good for the environment—that doesn't enter into the analysis.) Very few people pay cash, and pay in full, for a new car. This has created, over time, a proliferation of options: Sweet short-term, low-interest financing deals can be run, incentives can be offered, special leasing offers can be set up, dealers can turn lightly used cars into "certified pre-owned" vehicles and sell them for more than regular old used cars, etc.

Credit keeps this train rolling. So when the credit markets seized up last year, the automakers couldn't obtain operating capital (well, GM and Chrysler couldn't—Ford secured its cash hoard earlier), customers couldn't get loans to purchase new vehicles and couldn't arrange lease financing, and the industry ground to a halt. Restructuring morphed into survival. And then lurched into bankruptcy.

At the core of this gruesome phenomenon was something starkly un-American. But we should have seen it coming. In the past decade, the finance industry edged closer and closer to the third rail of American life: ownership of tangible assets. This went beyond the shuffling of stocks and bonds that traditionally made up the business of Wall Street. Obviously, the big blowup came in the housing market. But clonking the auto market didn't do anyone any favors, either. Most Americans borrow lots of money to buy two things: houses and cars. That's all the leverage they're worried about.

As almost everyone knows, buying a new car is a questionable financial move. You're purchasing a depreciating asset that depreciates in a frightful hurry: Drive it off the lot and you lose 15 percent of the car's value. But you don't buy a new car to make money—you buy a new car because you want a new car. At a level, you suspend financial wisdom in order to obtain pleasure. And even if you go for utility, a simple A-to-B machine, well, there's pleasure in that, too.

Can you say act of faith? Really, buying a new car, and particularly an American car, represents an investment not in yourself but in the idea of U.S. manufacturing. You are using your credit score to borrow money from a bank to invest in the ongoing prosperity of people whose job it is to make cars. That includes UAW workers, executives, designers, parts suppliers—a whole matrix of economic roles.

The shameful shenanigans that took place in the global credit markets undermined this act of faith—and in doing so exacerbated management challenges in Detroit that were already near-insurmountable. This was deep damage. Back when buying a home was profoundly difficult and the U.S. carmakers were just beginning to establish what would become the signature industry of modern life, the extension of credit was a key business strategy.

The automakers themselves—Ford and GM—loaned people money to buy their products. In doing so they created powerful credit franchises that would endure for decades. And this was stable, flexible credit. People weren't borrowing hundreds of thousands; initially, they were borrowing a few grand, later maybe \$20,000 to \$30,000, depending on the vehicle. You could have a so-so credit score and still get a loan. Interest rates varied greatly, but they rarely approached the usurious levels we're now seeing from the credit card issuers.

So let's be honest: Wall Street almost killed Detroit. But Wall Street is paying the price. And still screwing Detroit to a certain extent, as we seem to have infinite patience with the profligacy of the banking sector while taking the opportunity of GM and Chrysler's bankruptcy to vent out disgust with Motown. But think about it. If we are going to change as a society over the next 50 years, it is what we have always done well that will lead us. Making things that allow the individual American to imagine a better existence. Now, more than ever, the auto industry and the finance business need each other. It's going to hurt, but they need to learn to love again.

 [4]
[matthew.debord](#) [5]

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Reality TV a popular career move for Motown's jobless

Andrew Clark in Detroit
The Observer, Sunday 31 May 2009

A larger smaller

For hard-bitten US car workers, the prospect of seven weeks on a tropical island sounds just too enticing to pass up. A casting call for the reality show Survivor attracted 300 people on a weekday afternoon at a suburban bar in Detroit.

"There would be nothing to worry out there. You wouldn't have to worry about paying the rent," said Rob Koleski, an electrician laid off by Ford who recently lost his home to foreclosure. "I think this place is horrible. I just want to get out of here."

A hit for 18 seasons, the US version of Survivor takes contestants to remote locations varying from Samoa to Vanuatu and Micronesia. After grub-eating contests, physical and mental competitions, the last survivor gets a prize of \$1m (£672,000).

Heather Kuh, organiser of the audition for the television network CBS, said: "Our casting calls have been getting bigger, which I'm attributing to the economy."

One of those queuing at Roosevelt's, a sports bar in suburban Sterling Heights, joked that he was in line because he "refused to participate in the recession".

Another hopeful, Ray Gralewski, said he was recently made redundant from a car parts firm.

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THE POINT AFTER

BY SAUL LOEB, SENIOR WRITER FOR THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
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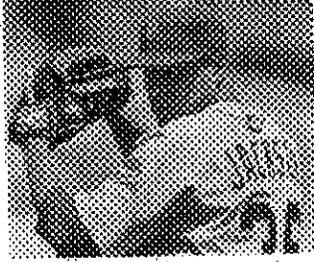
Monday, June 02, 2009

Former Rays' pitcher Edwin Jackson still mowing them down in Moscow

The wash-washing may resume.

Edwin Jackson, the one who got away, was mowdown again.

Jackson, the former Ray, was mowdown again for the Tigers on Sunday. He threw another eight innings, and he allowed only two hits, and he won again. Sigh.



For Jackson, it appears the light has been switched on: He is 5-3 on the year, and his 2.30 era is fourth in the league, and his 57 strikeouts are tied for eighth. Opponents are hitting only .216 against him.

In other words, wow.

A year ago, as you remember, Jackson was the odd man out. Let's face it: The Rays had to trade someone to make room for David Price, and Jackson was the guy who was left out of the rotation in the playoffs. So why not him?

Well, this is why not. Coupled with the awful starts of Scott Kazmir and Andy Carpenter, the Rays could use a little of what Jackson is throwing right now.

Does that mean the Rays made a bad deal? It's too soon for a final grade on that: outfielder Matt Joyce, the return for Jackson, has just been called up to the majors. This could work out fine for Toronto Bay.

But, yes, early returns suggest the Tigers got the better deal. Sometimes, players simply develop. It happens. Did you hear what former Ray (and current Orioles) Aubrey Huff had to say about Jackson Sunday?

"He wasn't even close to that (in Tampa)," Huff told the Washington Post. "He has developed probably some of the nastiest stuff in the league this year."

Good for Jackson.
Bad for the Rays.

(AP photo)
Posted by Gary Shelton at 04:50:08 PM on June 1, 2009
in [2009 Baseball](#)

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Times columnist Jerry Rotten and Gary Shelton know it ain't easy enjoying an entire market or sports fan's one newspaper at a time. So, to emulate the access, they are bringing readers to the Web site. They'll dance, they'll sing. You may even scratch yourself. And, this time, they're inviting you to take part in the debate.

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MEET THE AUTHORS

John Ruzarski joined the Times as a sports writer in the Manatee County Bureau in 1985. He became the Times beat writer for the University of South Florida in 1987 and took over the University of Florida beat a week after Steve Scalet's firing in 1991. He later worked on the Magic/SEA, Baseball, and Doral Rays/baseball beats. He became a columnist in 2002. He can be reached at jruza@tampabay.com.

Gary Shelton joined the Times in 1990 as the National Football League writer and became a sports columnist two years later. He writes a column several times a week, his subjects ranging from the founder of the forgotten, from the Super Bowl to a vacant QB. He can be reached at shelton@tampabay.com.

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mowing them down in Motown

- 7) Jay from St Pete Beach on Former Rays' pitcher Edwin Jackson still mowing them down in Motown
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Good lord I am so sick of hearing about this. Last year, everyone was BEGGING the Rays to get rid of Jackson...now, he is doing well, and everyone wants to b***h and complain about the trade. "Oh No!" they say, "I wanted to keep him, I was one of the few that did!" So, then, where were all these people that wanted to keep him last year? They have sure showed themselves now.

Everyone who keeps going back to this is just uneducated. Jackson always did have a tremendous upside, but at the time, it was the right trade to make. We had plenty of pitching, and someone needed to go to make room for Price, and we needed a right fielder. I do not understand why Joyce has spent so much time in the minor leagues, but I am sure that next year both of the Gabes will be gone (THANK GOD!) and we will see Joyce.

Think about this, for a minute, I present to you the starting lineup for the 2010 Tampa Bay Rays.

Starting Pitchers:

1. Shields
2. Garza
3. Price
4. Kazmir (I have faith that he will figure this thing out)
5. Niemann/ Davis/ Sonnanstine/ Talbot (spring training battle royale!)

Relievers

Howell
Anybody but Wheeler
Anybody but Nelson
Bradford (hopefully)
Balfour
Anybody but Percival
Shouse????

OK, bullpen can use some work- fill in 2 or 3 more holes....

TRADE BAIT- Sonnanstine, Gross, Kazmir, Kapler, Niemann???

Starting lineup (this can be devastating if everyone performs up to what they are capable of)

1. CF Upton....-.270 avg 15 HR- 50 RBI
2. LF Crawford (if he returns) .310 avg 10 HR- 60 RBI- 250 SB
3. 3B Longo...-.300 avg 40 HR- 130 RBI
4. 1B Pena...-.240 avg 40 HR- 110 RBI
5. DH Burrell...-.260 avg 30 HR- 90 RBI
6. 2B Zobrist...-.280 avg 30 HR- 80RBI
7. SS Bartlett...-.355 avg 20HR- 75 RBI
8. RF Joyce...-.265 avg 20 HR- 80 RBI (because Bartlett will ALWAYS be on base)
9. C Navarro....who cares just sit behind the plate and catch the damn ball. OK OK OK- .275 AVG 5 HR 25 RBI

Figure out that bullpen and there isn't a single hole in there anywhere.

Upton can be an incredible leadoff hitter, they need to figure out a way to speed up his bat so he can catch up with the heater, or put some muscle on that scrawny little body of his.

If Crawford comes back, which is a BIG if....he will do the same thing he always does. Slap doubles down the left field line, infield singles to the SS, BOMBS to dead center field (Ok maybe not, but where the hell did those come from???) , steal 400 bases a year and

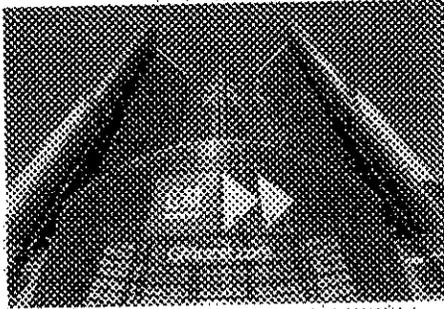
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USA TODAY Open Road: A conversation about the cars and trucks we drive
As GM says it will close 14 plants, it sees one in bold a steel car... GM's China
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Jun 01, 2009

Good news for Motown: General Motors will stay in Detroit

10:49 AM
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Here's another bit of good news for Detroit.

General Motors will not abandon its headquarters in Detroit's Renaissance Center as part of its restructuring, *The Detroit News* says.

In a briefing to Michigan's senior congressional delegation, President Obama assured representatives in a call Sunday that the automaker will remain in downtown Detroit. Motown has been decimated in recent years by the flight of businesses. Many big buildings stand empty. The automaker had hinted it might leave and had an offer to move to Warren, Mich., where its technical center is situated.

The News quoted Warren Mayor Dan Feete as saying his trade town has always been GM's stronghold. GM would lose "hundreds of millions and millions" by moving its headquarters, Feete is quoted as saying Sunday night.

Of course, even if GM does stay, it may be a shadow of its former self. A lot fewer employees will be reporting for work at that Detroit headquarters.

Photo of GM's headquarters in Detroit by Paul Senechal/AP

Page
Detroit Motors
Previously: GM says it will close 14 plants, it sees one in bold a steel car... GM's China
News about GM: Love feed at USA TODAY's The Open community

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June 1, 2009

Motown's spirit needs Lord Stanley more

By Francis DiClemente

Although it is very premature, this year I am not bemoaning another Stanley Cup title in the Motor City.

I have always respected players like Chris Osgood, Chris Chelios, Niklas Lidstrom and Kris Draper – just to name a few. But as a die-hard Rangers fan, I must admit I have grown tired of seeing the men in the Winged Wheel sweaters hoisting the Cup at center ice and hanging another banner at Joe Louis Arena.

However, considering the effect of the economic downturn in Detroit, my attitude is a little different this year. With GM filing for bankruptcy, Chrysler's assets being sold to Fiat, jobs vanishing and countless properties in foreclosure, the denizens of Detroit need something to boost their spirits. They need something to look forward to and something to feel good about.

Well of course the Lions are not the answer, and no Michigander can take pride in the Maize and Blue losing to the Buckeyes five years in a row. The Pistons are preparing for the NBA draft, and while the Tigers are sitting atop the AL Central, there's a lot of baseball left to be played.

And besides, the city is nicknamed Hockeytown. Detroit sports fans are puck maniacs; they are smart and enthusiastic when it comes to their hockey. So it makes sense that they should turn to their beloved sport and the Wings to resurrect their downtrodden spirits.

And while I am sure Pittsburgh has had its own share of economic troubles, the Steel City is indeed Steeler Country and the Pittsburgh Steelers are the Super Bowl champs.

So I have decided this year, if Gary Bettman hands the Cup to Lidstrom once again, I won't be thinking about the fact that my Blueshirts have not tasted sweet liquid from the rim of the Cup since 1994.

Instead, I will be smiling about the laid off autoworker who will be celebrating with his or her friends at a local tavern or with family members in the living room.

Sports are a blessed diversion. They allow us to forget our sometimes mundane existence, live vicariously through elite athletes, connect with others and celebrate collectively.

And this year, more than ever, while everything else seems to be fleeing the Motor City, the people of Detroit need the Cup to stay home.

Francis DiClemente is a writer and video producer in Syracuse, New York.

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NHL looks into Caps' steroid allegations

CANWEST NEWS SERVICE JUNE 1, 2009

The National Hockey League has commenced its investigation into allegations current or former members of the Washington Capitals purchased performance-enhancing drugs.

Last week Richard Thomas was charged with drug dealing in Lakeland, Fla., and after his arrest told police he'd sold steroids to members of the Capitals as well as baseball's Washington Nationals.

"We're following very closely the developments in Florida as the case progresses," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly told the Washington Post on Sunday. "We think it's important from the league's perspective to investigate this because any allegations of this type are concerning."

The league has already spoken with some of the team's training and front office staff, but Daly wouldn't say how long the league investigation will take.

MOTOWN SWEDES: The pipeline from Sweden to Detroit which seems to produce star hockey players at a prodigious rate likely won't end any time soon.

Nicklas Lidstrom, Henrik Zetterberg, Johan Franzen, Niklas Kronwall, Tomas Holmstrom, Mikael Samuelsson and Jonathan Ericsson have all played key roles for the Red Wings.

Ericsson is among the second generation of Swedish players making the move to Motown.

"And I won't be the last of them," said Ericsson, a defenceman who is suiting up for his first playoff run, told NHL.com. "Hakan Andersson (chief European talent finder for the Wings) and his scouts have found players in every part of our country. North, south, east and west. Elite league down to Tier 2 and Tier 3 leagues.

"They've made every young hockey player in Sweden want to play in Detroit."

With so many of their countrymates already in the locker-room, it's no surprise Detroit has become a prime destination for Swedish players.

"The language is not as much of a barrier as it would be somewhere else," Franzen told the website. "It feels a little more like home. There's always someone there who can understand what it means to trying to cope with a new language . . . in a new culture."

POORLY DRAWN: The Pittsburgh Penguins' inability to win faceoffs since the first round of the playoffs

Exhibit: A
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has carried into the final, with Detroit winning 71 per cent of the draws in Game 1.

That's an unusually one-sided percentage that allowed the Red Wings to repeatedly control the tempo and keep the puck in the Penguins' zone.

The Pens won 55.7 per cent of their faceoffs during the opening round against Philadelphia, winning 44 more draws than the Flyers. They've since dropped to 49 per cent, losing 22 more than they've won. Sidney Crosby has gone from winning 63.5 per cent of his faceoffs in the first round to 52.9 per cent, and Evgeni Malkin (45 per cent) and Max Talbot (43.8) are well below 50 per cent.

"Sometimes in a game when you're getting beat in one aspect of the game, you can get a little frustrated and not focus on what you need to do. We have a game plan," coach Dan Bylsma said.

No one needs to remind Detroit of the importance of winning faceoffs against Pittsburgh, according to centre Darren Helm. "We're determined to destroy teams on faceoffs," he said. "We focus on faceoffs every game."

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Tuesday 2 June 2009



Model D's 4th anniversary is this week. Graffiti by Gambese1er at 5 Elements Gallery in Corktown | Marvin Shaouni

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Detroit In The News

June 2, 2009

Moving from Mobtown to Cowtown
Source: [Detroit Free Press](#)

Will Detroit get back to its agrarian roots? It's time to explore the idea, see what we come up with.

Excerpt:

In its early years, under the French, Detroit was, in fact a collection of "ribbon farms," along the riverfront, only 2-4 acres wide but running back as deep as 80 acres. This layout was practical for the 18th Century in the New World, because it gave residents neighbors within walking distance plus access to water and to the river, which was at the time the major avenue for transportation.

It wouldn't work today, of course, because Cobo Hall and downtown and other things are in the way.

But with Mayor Dave Bing exploring the idea of clearing sparsely populated stretches of the city and consolidating residential areas, maybe it's time to start thinking about what kinds of farms would work best in a new, agrarian Motor City (Oops, that name might have to go. Maybe Detroit can become "Crop City.")

[Read the entire article here.](#)

Neighborhoods: [Downtown Detroit](#)

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Struggling Motown loses the beat

Print

By Bernard Simon in Detroit

Published: June 2 2009 03:00 | Last updated: June 2 2009 03:00

Detroit has something much more important on its mind right now than General Motors' bankruptcy.

Besides being America's car capital, the city is obsessed with ice hockey, and for the second consecutive year the hometown Red Wings have made their way to the final round of the Stanley Cup, the sport's premier trophy. The Wings were also last year's champions.

Many Detroit hotels were packed to capacity over the weekend for the first two games in the best-of-seven series between the Wings and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"I'm celebrating the Red Wings, not thinking about General Motors," said a waitress at Andiamo, an upmarket Italian restaurant in the Renaissance Centre, the complex that also houses GM's head office and a thousand of its employees.

However, whatever the excitement over hockey, there is no escaping Motown's malaise, including at the RenCen. Parts of the Marriott Hotel that occupies the main 73-storey tower have been roped off. Boarded-up storefronts abound in the shopping atrium and food court below.

Detroit appeared to be edging towards a comeback a few years ago. Several of the city's architectural gems, built in the motor industry's heyday in the 1920s, have been beautifully restored.

A trickle of young people began returning to the town centre to live in renovated lofts.

Some businesses moved back too. The city's biggest abandoned building, the 31-storey Book-Cadillac Hotel, reopened last October as a Westin, with luxury flats and penthouses on the top eight floors.

Boarded-up buildings still abound but the downtown streets are generally clean, with little hint of the lawlessness that once made them a no-go zone. However, such green shoots are wilting as the motor industry crisis takes its toll. Michigan's unemployment rate reached 12.9 per cent in April, the highest among the 50 states. The Detroit area also has one of the highest home foreclosure rates.

The Detroit Free Press newspaper reported last week that many cells in the city-centre Wayne County Jail were empty; not because crime was dropping but because the cash-strapped city police department employed half the number of officers it did a decade ago.

The city council does not have the funds for a much-needed expansion and renovation of the Cobo Con-vention Centre, where the Detroit motor show is held each January. Unless the money can be found elsewhere, the show - like so many people and businesses - could move to the -suburbs.

To add insult to injury, the mayor of Warren, which borders Detroit, has been trying to persuade GM to move its headquarters to its sprawling technical centre in the area. Detroit's city fathers forestalled the move last week by providing the RenCen with generous tax incentives.

In any case, GM has been seeking a buyer for the complex for more than a year as part of its drive to raise cash.

Yet these problems are for another day. The Red Wings triumphed 3-1 in both the first two games of the Stanley Cup finals on Saturday and Sunday night.

"It's not the motor city any more", says one car industry consultant. "It's hockey town."

For a slideshow on Detroit and GM's fall from grace, visit www.ft.com/gmaudio

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Comments 0 Recommended 0

A Finals Dream Deferred

Download story podcast

8:24 PM PDT on Wednesday, June 3, 2009

By MATT CALKINS
The Press Enterprise

Staff writer and wannabe poet Matt Calkins laments that the dream matchup between LeBron and Kobe won't take place

Before poppets of theirs shared a house on TV

Before either could lay claim to league MVP

Story continues below



AP photo

The much-anticipated NBA Finals matchup between LeBron James and Kobe Bryant will need to wait another year

Before they won gold in last year's Summer Games

I begged for a Finals between Bryant and James

I pictured Black Mamba in his venomous pose

Slashing for buckets and streaking free throws

Joining opponents as he eyed his fourth ring

Smelling it, tasting it ... but then came the King!

And LeBron would respond with a flurry of jabs

Half Peter Pan -- half buttering ram

He'd drop triple-doubles and score 40 or more

But would it be enough to outdoel 34?

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That was the riddle I hoped would be solved
In a Finals that featured the game's most evolved
And while fantasies rarely come to fruition
This one, it seemed, was a dream on a mission
It started with Cleveland ousting the Pistons
With dominance akin to Ali versus Liston
James served Detroit its worst beating in years
The song heard in Motown? "Tracks of My Tears"
Kobe's first round also proved to be cake
Despite a slight hiccup in a game in Salt Lake
But once he and his squad kicked things into gear
The Jazz drowned its sorrows in 3-percent beer
For King James round 2 would be more of the same
Averaging 34 points (yawn) and eight boards per game
Four two-digit victories? The Cavs weren't just winners
They were playing a video game set on "beginner"
And LA just had to beat a team without Yao!
OK ... guys ... like ... anytime now
After Game 7 the team was all smiles
But why stretch it out? Frequent-flyer miles?
Whatever. Big deal. We were just one round away!
From a Finals with Kobe and the great LBJ!
Sure, the Cavs lost Game 1 and nearly Game 2
But then -- *LeBron at the buzzer* -- again he comes through!
And with fate clearly on the Cavaliers' side
And LeBron's superstardom now bona fide
And with the Lakers locked in -- I'd got my fix
As Kobe and ... huh? Magic in six?
Suddenly we wouldn't have that dream title bout
The biggest letdown in sports since Casey struck out
And as a sofa becomes the new throne for King James
I suppose that's (cliché warning) why they play the games
Sports rarely provide the results we desire

They roll balls through Buckner and fill Cubs fans with ire

They leave our teams inches short of first downs

And seidom let horses win Triple Crowns

So I welcome the series to come with the Magic

Kobe and Howard? That's weilll short of tragic

I'll watch with excitement, not with chagrin

But I'll still often wonder "What could have been"

Reach Matt Calkins at 951-368-9649 or mcalkins@PE.com



2009 Playoffs: [Game Coverage](#)

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Sports Travel

Motown And The Steel City Hit The Ice For The Stanley Cup

June 4, 2009 at 1:33 PM | [0 Comments](#)

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The Stanley Cup Finals are in full swing this week, as the Pittsburgh Penguins and Detroit Red Wings hit the ice to battle for one of the sporting world's most famous trophies. The Penguins may have next generation stars like Sidney Crosby, but the Red Wings know what they are doing and handed the Penguins a defeat in last year's finals.

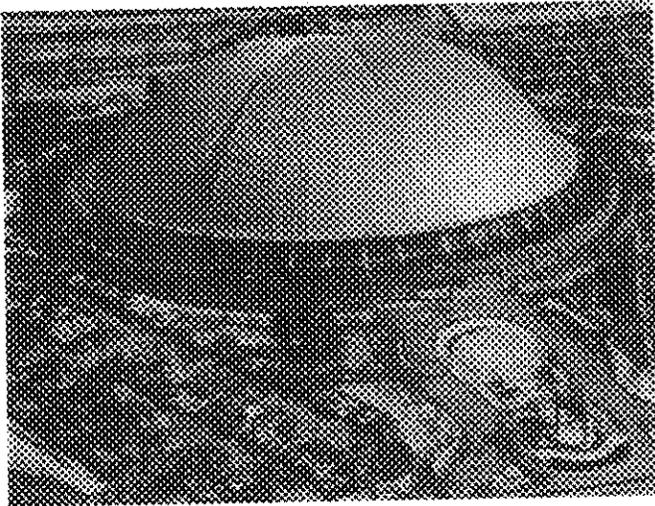
Both cities follow their teams closely, so most eyes will be focused on the ice. However, if you feel the need to wander, here's what each arena has to offer for those less interested in the game.

• Joe Louis Arena

Detroit's Joe Louis Arena, named after the famous boxer, has been the Red Wings' home since 1979. New stadium plans have been suggested, but for now, The Joe is still their home. With a seating capacity of over 20,000, it is definitely not a welcome place for opposing teams to get too rowdy.

The city of Detroit is all business when it comes to hockey, so there isn't a world of other attractions for taking the attention off the game. Drink your wine spritzers before you head to the game, as beer is the beverage of choice at this place. If you still don't have tickets, check the scalpers outside as we're pretty sure some GM execs have given up their place within the arena's 86 luxury suites.

If you can't get a ticket, even with the above advice, just go next door to the Hockeystown Cafe. The place is huge, will definitely have the game in high-definition, and you can drink yourself silly on bottled beers that cost nearly as much as those at the game.



Mellon Arena

Pittsburgh's Mellon Arena has been alive and kicking since 1961, but its time is limited, as it will be replaced by the Consol Energy Center beginning in late 2010. Due to its unique design, Mellon is usually just referred to as *The Igloo* and is known for having the largest retractable stainless steel dome roof in the world, something that remains closed for the hockey games.

Creative concessions are pretty limited here, as Aramark runs the whole place. They brag about having favorites like Pizza Hut, but we'd recommend hitting up the nearest Frimutti Brothers sandwich shop; it's less than a mile's walk away on Cherry Way.

As with visits to any major sporting event, ensure that you fill up on the liquid courage early, so you can really tell the referees what you think. It's Penguin-policy to cut fans off at the beginning of the third period.

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[The Louis Arena Photo: [Wikimedia](#); Mellon Arena Photo: [Wikimedia](#)]
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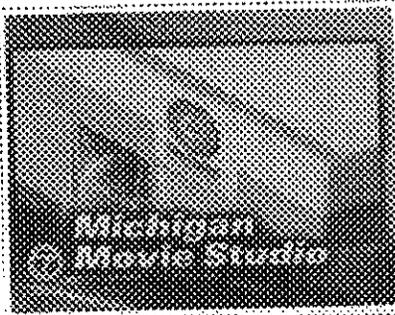
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Motown Motion Picture Studio Unveiled

Last Update: 6/04 3:39 pm



Pontiac, Mich. (WXYZ) - Executives for one of the motion picture studios planned for the Detroit area are showing off the beginnings of their facility.

WATCH AN INTERVIEW ABOUT THE STUDIO IN THE VIDEO PLAYER ON THE RIGHT

The Motown Motion Picture Studios will be built on the site of the old General Building in Pontiac. The facility will be home to over 3,000 jobs when it opens. Once the studio opens, training will be provided for those hired.

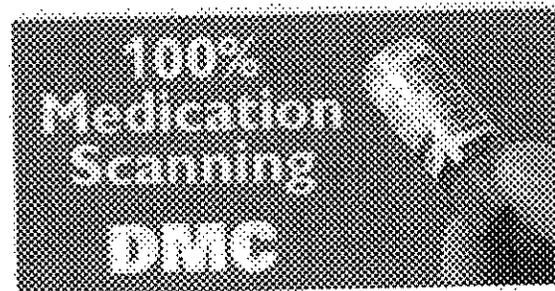
Plans are still be finalized for how workers will be hired. The studio is working on a website that will be used to apply for the jobs. It will be launched later this summer. Contact information is already online, and executives say they are accepting resumes. You can [click here](#) to visit the website.

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Does your hospital scan your medication?

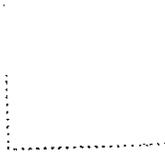
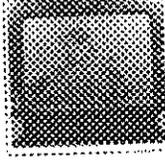
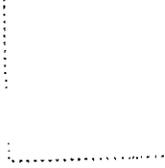
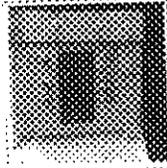


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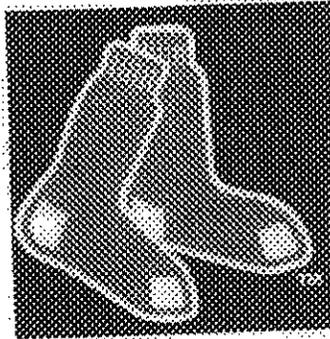
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Sports Redux: Beckett, Bats In Motown Bash

This was the kind of Red Sox game we've been waiting for. Well, mostly on the strength of a no-hit bid by Josh Beckett (he got into the seventh untouched) and some powerful offense, the Sox dusted the Tigers 10-5. A two-run J.D. Drew homer in the first got things started, and it was a 4-0 lead when the wild and crazy eighth inning started. In the top half, the Sox sent ten men to the plate and scored six of them, with back-to-back RBI doubles by Ortiz!) and Votto pulling the game out of reach.

Oh so we thought. With two on and one out in the bottom of the eighth, a Pedroia throwing error led to the first Tiger run, and then errors by Green and Lowell helped load the bases, which Curtis Granderson (who had broken up the no-hitter in the 7th) tripled home. Suddenly, it was 10-5. Takashi Saito sweetened out the ninth, walking two and hitting a batter, before finally inducing a game-ending fly ball from Josh Anderson. Whew.



Tim Wakefield goes for the sweep, today, before the Sox finally come home for what seems like the first time in forever, to spend the weekend hosting the Rangers.

By Michael Feiler • Sports on June 4, 2009 at 8:58 AM

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June 7, 2009
10:00:00 AM SINGAPORE REPORT

Motown blues

By Cheo Chai Han, The Bureau Chief

DETROIT: GROWING up in Singapore, there was an escaping the ubiquitous signs of the power and influence of the American economy.

I saw them in the Hollywood movies that flooded the theatres, the neon signboards of the American multinationals and fast-food chains that dotted the skyline, and the gravitational pull that Wall Street exerted on the region's stock markets.

Since September, however, the headlines have been painting a very different picture of the world's largest economy - catastrophic meltdowns in the financial and housing sectors, joblessness at a 25-year high and the demise, or near death, of once iconic global firms like Lehman Brothers and General Motors (GM).

Read the full report in Saturday's edition of The Straits Times.

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June 5, 2009

Pittsburgh columnist: Motown Stanley Cup parade officially Staal-ed

BY GENE COLLIER
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Dan Bylsma walked to the bench before Game 4 on thin ice, literally, metaphorically, every which way but loose. He was wondering whether a couple of essential hockey elements that his Penguins were clearly capable of would ever turn up in real life again.

He probably had forgotten the last time he had seen a short-handed goal, for example, because it certainly wasn't in this postseason.

Wilkes-Barre perhaps?

Bylsma could have been forgiven for not remembering the last time the Penguins scored any strain of goal in the second period, because it surely wasn't in this Stanley Cup final.

But there was one thing, one immensely important thing, that the head coach not only remembered, but had what he called "assurance" for: He remembered what Jordan Staal had said about 11 hours earlier.

"I thought Game 3 was much improved over Game 1 and Game 2 from Jordan," Bylsma explained after the morning skate. "Again, each team poses a different kind of obstacle down low in the offensive zone, which is where Jordan is really good. And some teams are physical, some teams are a little more passive-zone type of defensive-zone coverage.

"For a guy like Jordan, who needs physical contact to be good down low, to protect the puck, it's not there. Another area where the game is tough against Detroit is the neutral zone. They have guys back, four guys back a lot. So the speed through the neutral zone he did get in other series, it's tougher to come by right now. Those are areas we all have to fight through.

"He was better in Game 3, and he assured me he'd be better in Game 4."

And so he was, and now that Motown Stanley Cup parade is officially Staal-ed.

With the Penguins killing piggy-backed hooking minors to Evgeni Malkin and Brooks Orpik midway through the second period, Staal swooped in on Chris Osgood, held off Brian Rafalski and flung one into the net, his third goal of the playoffs but the first of his career that looked as though it might change history.

"It felt pretty good," Staal grinned. "Max (Talbot) made a great play to get it to me and I saw that Rafalski was kind of flat-footed, so I just kind of buried my head and went for it. It was one of the biggest ones of my career for sure, especially in a game like that. It's pretty exciting."

To get any kind of grip on the significance of Staal's goal last night, you need to examine the way in which Game 4 and the Stanley Cup itself were slipping away from Bylsma's team at the time Staal

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found the net at 8:35 of the second period.

Further, you need to know what Staal's goal ignited: a monumental rush of adrenaline that triggered three Penguins goals in five-and-a-half minutes and a resultant 4-2 lead.

"We are where we need to be now," said defenseman Hal Gill after the Penguins clipped the Red Wings by that very 4-2 margin for the second game in a row. "A lot of things go into changing this series, but seeing Jordan go down there, driving to the net, that was really big for us."

The counterbalancing deflation under way on the Detroit bench led directly to a two-on-one involving Malkin and Sidney Crosby, and Crosby did not waste that opportunity, pumping in his 15th goal of the playoffs to put the Penguins ahead. Barely four minutes later, Crosby and Chris Kunitz went tic-tac-toe with Tyler Kennedy, who put the eighth Penguins goal in two games behind the quivery Osgood.

"Jordan's goal was huge," Crosby sighed. "They had a little bit of momentum at that point. They had two power plays right in a row and it was three minutes into the power plays before he scored. That was a huge momentum shift. We bounced back right away after that."

That the Penguins could manage a two-goal lead against Detroit was not news, but the circuitous path to last night's lead was fraught with peril.

Jonathan Ericsson understood the implications of the first-period whistle in his ear almost immediately, and so did the throbbing Mellon Arena sellout. No wonder the Detroit defenseman skated up to the referee as though he had just been told he needed a second laproscopic appendectomy in three weeks. All Ericsson had done was high-stick Kunitz at 16:27 of the first period, but the Penguins already had a 1-0 lead on a power play goal from Malkin, and now had a second man-advantage against Detroit's combustible penalty-killing unit.

But 10 seconds into the Penguins' power play, Bill Guerin committed the same sin, and Rob Scuderi chose that situation for perhaps his only glaring mistake of these playoffs, a horrendous giveaway by the Penguins best defenseman to Red Wings rookie Darren Helm, who buried it to tie the score.

The crowd, geared up for a 2-0 Penguins grip, was looking at 1-1 and a series of blown opportunities that eventually led to a 2-1 deficit.

"We had the game going pretty good," said Red Wings coach Mike Babcock. "The crowd was pretty quiet, and (Staal's goal) hurt us for sure. It sucked the life out of us."

And it was practically assured.

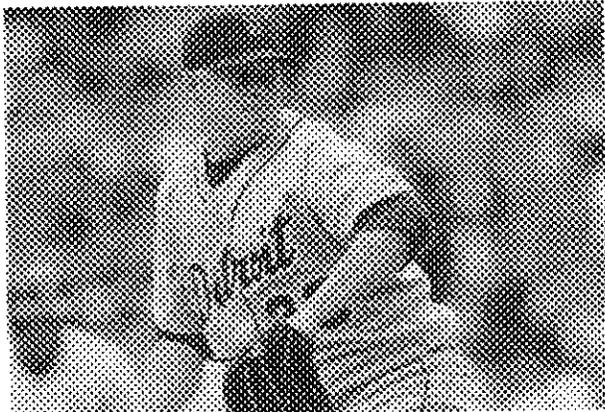
Gene Collier can be reached at gcollier@post-gazette.com.

Free Press sports writer Paul Barrett will live-blog Game 5 of the Stanley Cup finals Saturday night at freep.com. Stop by to get a game update or discuss the action with Paul and fellow fans.

J Elliot Lambie of Hazan recently offered his opinions on Randy Johnson's pursuit of 300 wins, which came to a successful end yesterday at Washington...

Bloggers of the World, Unite! 300 wins, Sad Days in Motown

by John Farent (Contributor)



(Photo by Nick Lottis, Yahoo Images)

J Elliot Lambie of Hazan recently offered his opinions on Randy Johnson's pursuit of 300 wins, which came to a successful end yesterday at Washington. You might recall that the Nationals are the former Expos, which is the team Johnson broke in with, and where he won exactly three games before being shipped off to Seattle.

Many kudos to the Unit on that historic accomplishment. From a freakishly tall guy who had no clue where the ball would go when he pitched, to a five-time Cy Young winner, it has been an honor to watch his greatness develop.

So much for the good news

Over the past three days the Tigers have been pounded into submission by the bullies from Boston.

Sadly, Detroit offered little resistance, both from the offense (if you can even call it that anymore), to the pitching staff. Dovy Arzando Galarraga offered a decent performance among the starters, and the bullpen was a combined terrible at worst, shaky at best in all three games.

Getting swept is never fun, getting swept at home is worse, and getting swept at home, by Boston, without putting up a real fight is maddening. A quick check of this morning's standings show the Kitties still sporting a 2.5-game lead though. It can't be that bad, right? Right? The Tigers' biogeophere disagrees.

Rogo of Desiglate Robot-rtzn thinks the Tigers are rapidly becoming the Knicks and compares Dave Dombrowski to Isiah Thomas. Ouch.

fan at Bless You Boys leads the parade of fans leaping from the D-Train bandwagon.

Rurt at Mack Avenue Tigers passed along some notes from Lynn Hornung, and outlined what he believes the Tigers must do going forward. He's been banging the Zach Miner to the rotation drum for a while now.

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and I agree. I just hope to see him starting for Colorado or Seattle soon.

Rock n Rye of (746 miles) From the CoPa offers a short post on the train-wreck that was, and wonders if Dontrelle has thrown his last pitch as a Tiger.

Blake at the Spot Starters gives us some historical perspective on Dontrelle's efforts yesterday.

Jen of Old English D laments the inconsistencies of this Tigers team so far.

To all of this I say that I agree, to a point. From what I saw of Willis yesterday, he was getting squeezed a bunch in the third. If he gets a call on one or two of those pitches to Pedroia or Drew, the Sox have to start swinging, and maybe the inning ends differently.

But he didn't get those calls and they didn't have to swing, and the end was what we all witnessed. Ugly.

This article is also featured on Always A Tiger

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FEEDBACK

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Detroit's Youth: Stay or go?

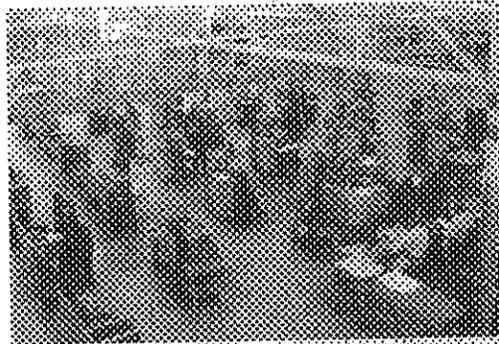
The young people of Motown have a tough choice: Go where the jobs take them or stick around Detroit and tough it out.

Improvise and adapt

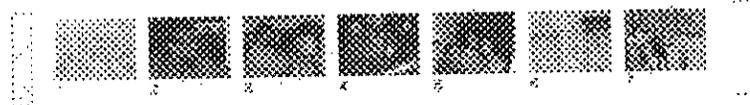
The Focus: HOPE school in Detroit once trained machinists for automakers. But as the industry declines it's pivoting into different markets, such as military equipment and precision manufacturing for the medical industry.

By Todd S. Sherry and John

NEXT Where the money is



HOPE school in Detroit



Last updated Nov 12 2009 10:24 AM ET

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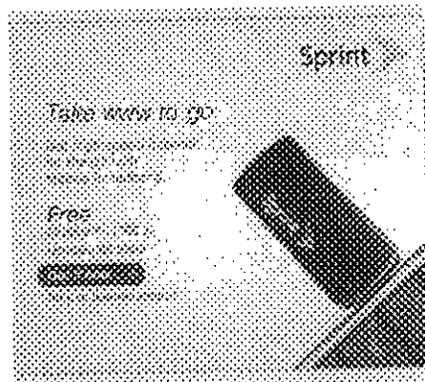
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Detroit's downfall

- Jump-starting an American car boom
- GM plans major summer restructuring
- Let GM and Chrysler go bankrupt, Americans say



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Posted on Mon, Jun. 8, 2009

NHL Notes

Familiar ring

Mike Babcock doesn't always have his team in the Stanley Cup Finals. It just seems that way because the coach has done it three times in his six seasons behind an NHL bench.

Babcock helped the Detroit Red Wings hoist the Cup last year against Pittsburgh. His Anaheim Ducks lost to New Jersey in Game 7 of the 2003 finals, when Babcock was a first-year coach in the league.

With Detroit ahead of Pittsburgh, three games to two, Babcock could win another title tomorrow night, and at the expense of one of his former players and assistants, Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma.

Babcock demands that his players skate and hit hard at both ends of the ice and crash the net to score the gritty goals. He has won more games in the playoffs (58) and regular season (282) than any other NHL coach in his first six seasons.

Game 6 looms large

Detroit travels to Pittsburgh for Game 6 in a series in which the home team has won every game.

If the Penguins survive, they'll have to play Game 7 in Detroit, where they have been outscored by 20-5 while losing five of six in the last two Finals.

Their 5-0 loss on Saturday night is already being styled the "meltdown in Motown."

"We've come back, we've bounced back," Bylsma said. "We've battled in the face of adversity. We've come back and won a Game 7 at Washington. This is a group of guys I believe in and am confident in."

- Associated Press

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Find this article at:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/sports/20090608_In_the_Crease.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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**Lower your Energy Costs!
Get Your Government Tax Credit!**

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Motown wonders: Where did our love go?

By Froma Harrop
The Providence Journal
Posted Jun 08, 2009 @ 08:04 PM

The alternative to a government rescue of General Motors is the collapse of the industrial Midwest. Nonetheless, there's been a surprisingly large amount of dumping on the Chapter 11 bankruptcy plan. The government-sponsored deal seems to have stirred up resentments for every ideology.

From the left, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich asks why the Obama administration doesn't instead spend the money retraining GM workers to do "something useful," such as building light rail cars. Oh, is America finished with the automobile? I hadn't noticed. In any case, why can't Americans make both light rail cars and automobiles?

On the right, Logan Robinson, a law professor at the University of Detroit Mercy, deems this "a Big Government, Big Labor, Big Green reorganization, which I think is going to make it very tough for GM to compete against the world-class competition it faces in the Toyotas and Hondas of this world."

Also coming from the right, Allan Meltzer, an economist at Carnegie Mellon University, sees GM as simply hopeless. "GM failed the market test," he says. Story over.

Megan McArdie, a free-marketeer for theatlantic.com, says that the plan will merely "preserve these old jobs making cars that people don't necessarily want."

Old jobs? People have been making bread since biblical times, but there are still jobs for bakers. The point of this agony is to create a company that makes cars people want.

True, GM lags in creating fuel-efficient vehicles, but that doesn't mean it can't catch up. It is preparing to launch the GM Volt, a plug-in hybrid in 2010.

Meanwhile, sales of the Ford Fusion, which comes in a hybrid version, were up 9.4 percent in May over the same month a year ago. Sales for the competing Nissan Altima fell 47 percent. If Ford can do it, why couldn't a restructured GM?

Meltzer worries that government involvement would "weaken the capitalist mentality in this country." Currently a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, he would have preferred a Chapter 11 bankruptcy without taxpayer participation.

"Chapter 11 doesn't mean all the plants are going to close and all the people are going to lose their jobs," he explains. But who the heck would buy a car from a bankrupt GM without the government behind it (and its warranties)?

Meltzer is sure of heartache ahead. "The rest of us (taxpayers) are going to be paying large sums of money," he says. And "they (GM) are not going to make an adjustment and tomorrow be producing cars that people want to buy."

But he doesn't really know that.

John Paul MacDuffie, a business professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and an auto industry expert, is "cautiously optimistic" about the plan. He was concerned about a timid approach. On the contrary, four of the eight GM brands are being dropped and the work force cut further, along with its gold-plated benefits. He sees the new GM better able to compete with foreign makers.

MacDuffie's fear of political influence in the business decisions has not been realized. "Today there were a lot of plant closings that would not have been possible," he says, if politicians were running the show.

The government's role should make the bankruptcy resolve more quickly, MacDuffie adds. If all goes well, the plan will raise GM's capitalization, and the government can sell its shares.

For the industrial heartland, the matter goes beyond the fate of General Motors. It's about the survival of the steel, glass and plastics industries that supply Detroit. More Americans work for the suppliers than for the "Big Three."

If this doesn't work out, then it's on to Plan Z. Given the stakes for Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, the dice must be rolled.

From Harrop is a member of The Providence Journal Editorial Board.

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Motown String Music A Detroit Pistons blog

Top 22 Pistons Commercials

A top notch Pistons blog, *Pistons Nation* compiled the Top 22 Pistons commercials of all time. This is an amazing collection of commercials featuring your beloved Detroit Pistons, past and present. Check it out and weigh in with your opinions.

Will the Pistons Move Their First Round Pick?

 by Packey on Jun 9, 2009 7:00 AM CDT in News

There are a number of mock drafts out there that have the Pistons picking anyone from Terrence Williams to B.J. Mullens, but what mock drafts do not "mock" are potential trades involving draft picks. About a week ago, Draft Express reported that the "word on the street" is that Detroit is talking trade with the Oklahoma City Thunder. The rumor is that the Pistons would send their 1st round pick (No. 15) and Amir Johnson to the Thunder for cash.

Right now, the Pistons have just under \$20 million to spend come July 1 when the free agency period starts. By giving up Amir and the first round pick, the Pistons would have close to \$25 million and would presumably pursue both Carlos Boozer and Ben Gordon (more) aggressively.

The question is whether or not it's worth it to have more money to spend (or waste, depending on your opinion) on an injury prone Boozer and another guard in Ben Gordon. Is the only way to get these two really by freeing up more cap space? I think not. Dan Feldman of *Piston Powered* believes the rumor's untrue and won't happen because:

\$5 million in cap room is not as valuable as a young, athletic forward who has a low-paying expiring contract and the 15th pick. You don't just give away two positive assets and get nothing in return.

I'd like to think the Pistons can utilize their draft position and make a productive pick. They drafted the No. 15 pick just fine in 2007 when they took Rodney Stuckey, but other than Stuckey and Mateen Cleaves in 2000 at No. 14, the middle of the draft is, for the most part, unfamiliar territory for the Pistons. They are usually near the top of the lottery or near the butt of the first round. By trading their current first round draft pick for an already proven NBA player, they would know exactly, or at least have a better idea, of what they are getting as opposed to gambling on a player based off of college numbers and, say, how many times the player could bench 185 lbs at the pre-draft combine in Chicago.

The only problem with selling the draft pick is as I already mentioned. It also gives the Pistons a little more money to spend on a fairly weak free agent class this summer. Unless the Pistons are willing to wait for the summer of 2010, which Dumars has said he is not, gaining more money at this point might just be feeding guys like Boozer, Gordon, Millsap, and Okur lucrative offers that they may not necessarily deserve.

SB Nation's own, Tom Martin from the Houston Rockets blog, *The Dream Shake*, reached out to me asking if I thought the Pistons were willing to sell the 15th pick because he heard something of the sort from ESPN's Chad Ford and claimed his Rockets are a team looking to buy a pick. All I had heard was the rumor I received from the aforementioned Draft Express report (that was subsequently discussed on Detroit Bad Boys) from the week before. I didn't have a drawn out response for Tom, but it definitely made me think a little outside the box, though.

Could selling the pick to the Rockets set up some sort of sign-and-trade deal involving Ron Artest, too? I know a lot of Pistons fans would love to have Artest despite the 2004 brawl. What about bringing Shane Battier, who I coincidentally went to high school with, home to Detroit? Do the Rockets have enough money to not give up a player of their own as part of the deal? Is that something the Rockets

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Motown String Music - A Detroit Pisto...

enough money to not give up a player of their own as part of the deal? Is that something the Rockets and/or Pistons would be interested in anyway? Honestly, I don't think so, but I've seen crazier things happen.

Then another similar rumor surfaced yesterday. Dime Magazine reports that the Pistons are interested in trading for New York Knicks' PF David Lee. Dime Mag presumes Lee is the Pistons third option, behind Paul Milsap and Carlos Boozer, but a trade involving Amir Johnson and the No. 15 pick could be in the works if New York were to agree. While I've heard the David Lee talks before, this particular rumor doesn't exactly make much sense to me. If Lee is indeed the Pistons' third choice, behind free agents like Boozer and Milsap, then a pre-draft trade would mean Detroit either has a pretty good idea that Boozer or Milsap would not sign with them after July 1 (which they can't since rules forbid negotiations to take place before then) or they're not willing to wait and make offers to their top two choices. I would think with a GM as smart and savvy as Dumars, they'll likely wait until Free Agency starts after the draft to see if they are able to land Boozer or Milsap rather than make a potentially impulsive pre-draft trade for their lesser option.

Obviously these are just a few teams the Pistons could work with and aren't the only options out there. I'm merely touching on the few rumors that have been brought to my attention in the last week. I'm interested to hear what you think could happen between now and the draft, or now and the beginning of the season even. Do you see the Pistons moving their No. 15 pick? If so, for who/how much? If not, who do the Pistons draft?

Do you think they could trade their pick immediately following the selection or the draft? For example, let's say the Oklahoma City rumor has some truth to it, but the Thunder do not want to risk someone else selecting B.J. Mullens before No. 15 and lose out on the player that enticed them to make a deal with Detroit in the first place. Therefore, they tell the Pistons to pick Mullens at No. 15 if he's there and then they have a deal. Otherwise, the Pistons go on with their normal selection and there is no deal. Really, anything could happen.

Use the comments and let's hear what you all think.

2009 NBA Summer League Schedule

Scott Schroeder of SB Nation's Ridiculous Upside posted the 2009 NBA Summer League Schedule which will take place in Las Vegas from July 10-19.

The Pistons kick off the summer league on Friday July 10th against the Sacramento Kings. They wrap up their summer league schedule the same way they ended their 2009 season: against the Cleveland Cavaliers (hopefully this will be a W, though).

As soon as the rosters are complete and available I will be sure to post those for you.

Could former Pistons Iverson, Brown Reunite?

Iverson was reportedly seen in Charlotte recently and Larry Brown has gone on the record as saying he loves Allen.

Iverson would probably have to take a huge pay cut for this to happen, but it's not a bad situation for him. He'd be with a coach who, for the most part, tolerated his style of play and was able to get the most out of him while coaching him to an NBA Finals.

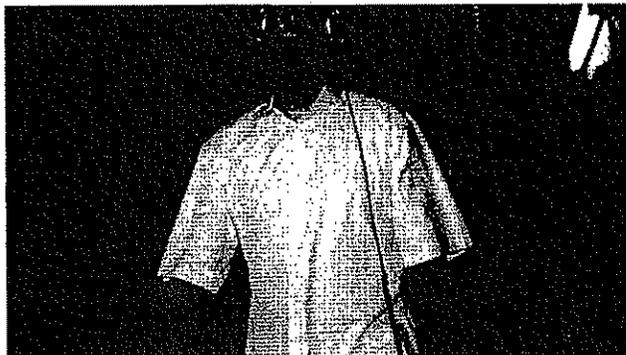
In my opinion, as long as he's not our problem anymore I don't really care where he ends up. I have similar sentiments toward Rasheed, too. It's interesting these rumors hit the news on back-to-back days.

Rasheed to the Cavs?

 by Packey on Jun 5, 2009 12:24 PM CDT in News

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by Allen Einstein - NBAE/Getty Images

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Slam Online is reporting that Rasheed Wallace and the Cleveland Cavaliers are beginning negotiations for a two-year deal worth \$10 million per year. There were reports that 'Sheed would retire unless he received \$6 million next season, so obviously \$10 million would be more than enough to convince him to stick around.

This report comes about a week after Dwight Howard dominated the Cavs in the Eastern Conference Finals, knocking them out of the playoffs. This past Monday, *MLIVE's* A. Sherrod Blakely wrote a piece that said Howard's play may increase Wallace's stock. The reason for that is because Rasheed has done a remarkable job of neutralizing Dwight ever since Howard's arrival in Orlando. Since then, Rasheed and the Pistons are 14-4 against the Magic in the regular season and 8-1 in the playoffs.

With the Cavs probably nervous as can be that their superstar LeBron James might leave after next season, they are probably feeling the pressure to put together a championship team immediately. By signing Rasheed, the Cavs would be hoping (praying) he would be that last piece of the puzzle to get them over the hump a la the Pistons in 2004. It could work, but giving 'Sheed \$10 million per year definitely smacks of desperation.

Morning Shootaround: Potential 2nd Round Draft Picks, Another Point Guard, and Ben Wallace Retiring?

 by Packey on Jun 3, 2009 6:10 AM CDT in Morning Shootaround

It's now June 3rd and that means we are just a few weeks away from the NBA Draft. I would say I can't contain my excitement, but taking a look at past drafts and this year's draft class matched up with our slot, that would be a bit of a lie. The date I'm really looking forward to is July 1. I will admit though that having four draft picks does make the draft more interesting. Things will start to get much more serious around here in the coming weeks. Stay tuned.

Until then, here are some links worth looking at; almost all coming from around the Pistons-sphere:

-  I posted about ten different mock drafts last week, but only three included second round picks. Well, *Life on Dumars* has a very good list of potential players the Pistons should look at with those three second round picks. After looking at the write up and highlight video, Lester Hudson intrigues me, a lot.
-  Dave Dial at *MLIVE's Full-Court Press* has the pre-draft measurements of all the players that could potentially be drafted by the Pistons. You can get the rest of the official measurements from the combine over at Draft Express.
-  Dan Feldman at *Piston Powered* wonders if the Pistons really need another guard. The Pistons seem to be loaded at the guard position, but with Joe Dumars admitting at his news conference in May that Rodney Stuckey is more of a combo guard, the question is worth asking.
-  *Pistons Nation* draws a very distinct difference between the Bad Boys 1991 walkout on the Bulls without shaking hands and LeBron's walkout on the Magic last week. I see the issue with

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Lebron leaving the floor without shaking hands or talking to media, but I really don't see why it's such a huge deal.

According *Full-Court Press*, Ben Wallace is mulling over retirement. Ben Wallace is considering retirement because of recent injuries and he claims to not have the same passion he once possessed. I think that's been evident ever since he left Detroit. It's funny what a butt-load of money can do to a poor man's work ethic.

John Davis of *Pistonscast* wonders what free agents the Pistons should sign this offseason in his latest podcast. Mr. Davis' podcast is pretty fun to listen to, so I highly recommend you go over there and subscribe to the episodes. I promise you won't be disappointed. Personally, I like the 24 second shot clock segment he does with his other host, Deven Khruccell.

Wages of Wins breaks down the Top 15 players at each position based on how many wins they produced. You'll be shocked to learn that Richard Hamilton is not even listed, but Tayshaun Prince and Antonio McDyess are. Thanks to @Brguiker on Twitter for pointing me to this interesting link.

Remember there are some cool new features for FanPosts and even FanShots that all you Pistons fans should take advantage of.

New Features for FanPosts and FanShots

by Packey on Jun 2, 2009 12:37 AM CDT

The SB Nation tech team just finished redesigning some things and among some of the new features introduced today were enhancements to the FanPosts, and even FanShots.

FanPosts, as most of you already know, are basically a blog within the blog for fans. Fans can use them to write about whatever is on their mind assuming it's relevant to the Detroit Pistons (when done on this site).

Since this community is rather small for the time being (I hope to change that as next season approaches) I don't really have many rules about the FanPosts. I just ask that, whatever you write, it be thoughtful, somewhat organized, edited, and relevant to the Pistons.

As for FanShots I'd prefer that links to other sites with only a few lines of thoughts be done through that venue. If a FanPost or FanShot is really good I'll promote it to the front page.

Well, with SB Nation's new features, I think FanPosts and FanShots might be a lot more fun (and easier) for fans to try more frequently, especially if you have a Twitter account.

Here is a rundown of the redesigned FanPosts and FanShots editor taken directly from our SB Nation Blog Huddle.

Share on Twitter

When you publish a FanPost or FanShot let your friends (or followers as they're called) know via Twitter. We've built an easy tool into the FanPost and FanShot editors that automatically creates a short URL back to your post and lets you send that to your Twitter stream along with a quick message. You can set this all up from your account settings screen, or right within the FanPost and FanShot editors. See more detailed instructions below.

Redesigned FanPost Editor

We've made a few changes to the layout and features of the FanPost editor:

- 1) **Bigger textarea** - more space to explain why ranking systems can't be objective or your GM should be fired immediately
- 2) **Spellchecker** - this isn't a spelling bee, it's a sports blog network
- 3) **Draggable jump bar** - we combined the intro and extended entry sections of a post and made it easy to decide where to split them
- 4) **Sidebar inserts palette** - tools to insert images, videos and quick, relevant, timely links in your post

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5) **Easy status + save** - we made the auto-save message more obvious, combined it with the post status and made the whole thing a big button you can click to save as often as you want (without reloading the whole page)

6) **Autotagger** - adding player, team and game tags to your post helps everyone find your opinion on those subjects; we just made it super easy: write your post, click that 'run autotagger' button and we'll tag your post the most relevant players and teams + link them up as well. If you don't feel like clicking that button, we'll run that process for you when you publish.

A help box that explains all of this in more detail will open up the first time you try out the new FanPost editor. Now go fire it up on your favorite blog and try it out!

Twitter Instructions

1) **LINK YOUR TWITTER ACCOUNT:** Login to SB Nation, click your screen name in the network bar up at the top of the page, then click 'Edit Account'. From there click the 'Associate a Twitter stream with your account' link and follow the instructions to hook it up.

2) **SHARE FANPOSTS + FANSHOTS ON TWITTER:** Now when you click 'New FanPost' or 'New FanShot', you'll notice a checkbox at the bottom of the screen that you can click to reveal a text area to write your tweet. We take care of generating the short URL. All you have to do is click the 'Publish' button. BTW, if you skipped step 1 you can link your Twitter account directly from the FanPost and FanShot editors. And we make sure you won't lose your work in the process.

Please, feel free to take advantage of all these really cool tools SB Nation provides. FanPost and FanShot away.

Report: Carlos Boozer going to Pistons or Nets

Boozer (when healthy) has played very well the last three years, posting All-Star numbers. He turns 28-years old near the beginning of next season and thus is at the beginning-to-middle of his prime, so if Dumars is planning on building a winner right away Boozer wouldn't be a bad pick up.

Thanks to reader BennieBladesFan for pointing this out in the FanPosts. I also like the point already made in the comments about Joe Dumars not making a deal with Boozer without implementing some type of stipulation regarding Boozer's injuries. Boozer has missed significant time in three of his seven seasons in the NBA and it'd be a shame if we spent a lot of our money on him just to see him miss 40 games.

Walter Hermann Might Leave the NBA

Walter Hermann might return to Spain to play for Pamesa Valencia. Hermann spent four years in Spain after starting his career in his native Argentina.

I'm a big Walter Hermann fan, but this doesn't surprise me. He doesn't seem to fit in with the Pistons scheme, or any other team's really. Or else he would have had a more prominent role with the lowly Bobcats and the Pistons this year, right? Overseas, he was an MVP and a Slam Dunk Champ.

2009 Mock Drafting the Pistons

 by Packey on May 26, 2009 6:29 PM CDT in News

Recently I've been wondering, as I'm sure all of you have too, who the Pistons will take in this year's draft. Since we are under a month away from the big day, I want to leave you a list of all the reputable 2009 Mock Drafts around the internet and who they are guessing the Pistons will select.

Most mock drafts only have the first round, but I will list the selections from the 2nd round if the site provides those as well. What I have been planning on doing these final few weeks is going through the more popular mock drafts and analyzing the guesstimated Pistons picks. Stay tuned for those.

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Chad Forde's 2009 Mock Draft on ESPN:

1st Round, 15th pick overall: **Austin Daye SF/PF**; 6'10"; 190 lbs.; Sophomore from Gonzaga

SI.com:

1st Round, 15th pick: **B.J. Mullens C**; 7'0"; 275 lbs.; Freshman from Ohio State

NBADraft.net:

1st Round, 15th pick: **Tyreke Evans SG**; 6'6"; 219 lbs.; Freshman from Memphis

2nd Round, 36th pick: **Dante Cunningham SF**; 6'7"; 230; Senior from Villanova

2nd Round, 39th pick: **Jeff Pendergraph PF**; 6'9"; 230; Senior from Arizona State

2nd Round, 44th pick: **Jerel McNeal SG**; 6'3"; 200; Senior from Marquette

Ridiculous Upside:

1st Round, 15th pick: **Terrence Williams SG/SF**; 6'6"; 220; Senior from Louisville

Inside Hoops:

1st Round, 15th pick: **Tyler Hansbrough PF**; 6'9"; 250 lbs.; Senior from North Carolina

Draft Express:

1st Round, 15th pick: **Austin Daye SF/PF**; 6'10"; 190 lbs.; Sophomore from Gonzaga

2nd Round, 36th pick: **Toney Douglas PG/SG**; 6'1"; 196 lbs.; Senior from Florida State

2nd Round, 39th pick: **Rodrigue Beaubois PG**; 6'2"; 182 lbs.; Cholet International

2nd Round, 44th pick: **Jodie Meeks SG**; 6'4"; 204 lbs.; Senior from Kentucky

The Hoop Doctors:

1st Round, 15th pick: **Eric Maynor PG**; 6'2"; 175 lbs.; Senior from VCU

NBA FanHouse:

1st Round, 15th pick: **Terrence Williams SG/SF**; 6'6"; 220; Senior from Louisville

NBA Draft Depot:

1st Round, 15th pick: **James Johnson PF**; 6'8"; 235 lbs.; Sophomore from Wake Forest

2nd Round, 36th pick: **Victor Claver PF**; 6'10"; 218 lbs.; Pamesa Valencia

2nd Round, 39th pick: **Rodrigue Beaubois PG**; 6'2"; 182 lbs.; Cholet International

2nd Round, 44th pick: **Toney Douglas PG/SG**; 6'1"; 196 lbs.; Senior from Florida State

Hoops Hype:

1st Round, 15th pick: **Terrence Williams SG/SF**; 6'6"; 220; Senior from Louisville

There are a lot of good choices here and I think a lot of them will depend on what kind of offers the Pistons have received for current players and what they might be able to get done after the draft. No matter what, I know whoever Dumars picks he'll have a plan, and I will trust that plan.

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2-, 3-wheelers save motown the blushes in May

Sindhu Bhattacharya / DNA

The growth in domestic two- and three-wheeler sales have been the only bright spots in an otherwise lacklustre month for motown. Though overall domestic vehicle sales were up 8.85% to 929,596 units (853,969 units) during May, the two high profile vehicle segments — passenger as well as commercial vehicles — posted declines. And analysts point out that given the continued high cost of sales (discounts, loan melas etc, specially in passenger vehicles), June is unlikely to bring much cheer, at least for passenger vehicles.

In May, two-wheeler sales were up by about 12.45% to 727,937 units (647,358 units) while three-wheeler sales were up 5.28% to 30,036 units (28,530 units). But PVs (which include passenger cars, utility vehicles and multi purpose vehicles) posted a decline of 0.79% in domestic sales at 140,823 units (141,940 units). And CVs continue their decline - although the extent of decline has lessened - by about 15% to 30,800 units (36,141 units).

Let's look at passenger cars first. All but the compacts declined in the domestic market during May. Within the compact cars, only Maruti (M800, Alto, WagonR, Zen, Swift, A Star, Ritz), General Motors (Spark, UVA) and Tata Indica posted an increase in sales while all other car companies reported declines. Overall, compact car sales grew 11% to 88,861 units (79,983 units). The mid-size sedans, executive, premium and luxury car segments — all reported lower sales than May 2008.

In two-wheelers, while Hero Honda continued its good run, Bajaj Auto made substantial gains in the 125-250 cc motorcycle space — presumably on the strength of brisk sales of the new XCD 135, besides old warhorses such as the Pulsar. It sold 78,188 units (76,280 units) in this segment compared with just 18,207 units (14,459 units) by Hero Honda and 36,200 units (27,066 units) by Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India.

Scooter sales continued to grow, closing May at 108,265 units (97,403 units). Even mopeds showed growth at 42,443 units (35,286 units).

For commercial vehicles, the overall decline was due to a steep fall in the M&HCV segment at 12,181 units (19,492 units). Light CVs continued to do well, at 18,619 units (16,649 units).

Industry experts point towards the sporadic bus buying by state governments under the JNURRM programme and indecision on repossession guidelines as the major reasons for continued decline in CV sales. Though the extension of depreciation benefit has helped, unless the overall economic situation improves this sector is unlikely to ascend the growth path.

On the export front, the last two months have been disappointing with a decline of almost 2.7%. In May, total vehicle exports were 119,817 units (114,110 units).

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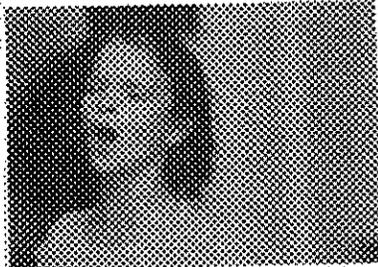
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Jacksonville Mass choir perfects Motown sound

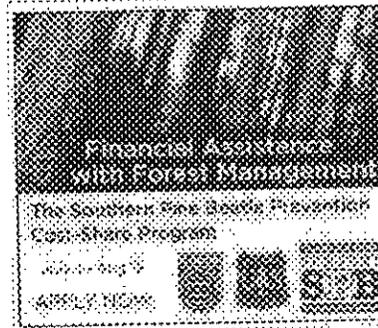
Ain't no note too high ... ain't no bell no too low

BY THOMAS WOODHURST/STAFF WRITER STORY UPDATED AT 12:25 PM ON TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009

Photo 1 of 2



STAFF WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER Thomas Woodhurst Singer Kathryn Jackson performs during a song at the Jacksonville Mass Choir rehearsal on Tuesday. The choir has been preparing for a trip to Philadelphia this week.



As a child growing up in New York City, Dana M. McDuffie had to carry around a lot of disappointment.

She auditioned for the all-city choir three times. She even won, she was named down.

But instead of allowing that experience to harden into a chip on her shoulder, McDuffie decided to coin it into gold.

For starters, she didn't give up on her love of music and singing. McDuffie became an accomplished commercial producer in the world of advertising. She also became production manager for the Ritz Theatre and Lavilla Museum and founded the acclaimed choir, the Ritz Voices.

Still, the sting of that early disappointment stayed with McDuffie.

"After being rejected the third time, I said, 'That's OK. When I get old enough, I'm going to start my own choir,'" McDuffie said.

And in 2006, that's just what she did.

She founded her own non-profit, Arioso, and through it created the Jacksonville Mass Choir. It's a citywide youth choir that has been swang audiences all over the city and country with their contemporary gospel, jazz and rhythm-and-blues stylings.

"I swore to myself that I was going to have an all-city choir ...," McDuffie said. "I just sort of carried that with me."

So far, the dream that was built on McDuffie's childhood disappointment is becoming a delight for everyone else.

The mass choir recently performed at Snyder Memorial Church downtown during the Jacksonville Jazz Festival, and with the Noel Franklin Quintet in November. They'll be doing a five-city tour, and a gospel holiday concert at the Reina Theatrical, McDuffie said.

Last year, they performed at the Apollo Theater and to a sold-out crowd in Philadelphia, where they performed a tribute to the sounds of Philadelphia - a place that nurtured legendary artists such as John Coltrane, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and the Roots.

They also sang during President Barack Obama's campaign stop at the Obama Obama Convention Center last fall, as well as at the University of North Florida and other venues.

"The city calls on us quite a bit, so we do a lot of patriotic songs," McDuffie said.

Auditions for the mass choir are held during rehearsals at Unity Church throughout the summer season, which begins June 1 (go to www.jacksonvillemasschoir.com for details). All youths are welcome to try out by singing a favorite song, she said.

"They come inspired in sing any song they want, so they're not too nervous," McDuffie said.

They also don't have to read music to become a member, she said. They'll learn that - along with a few other things - once they're part of the choir.

"They end up learning (how to read music), and their grades improve and their discipline improves," McDuffie said. "It ripples across the board."

Around 25 to 30 kids usually show up to audition, she said. And even though the choir when she hits the age range as 12 to 24, McDuffie said they're quite flexible.

"On paper it says 12 to 24, but we have three 7-year-olds," McDuffie said. "If they're talented and can deal with the rigors of the program, we let them in."

"But they won't treat any differently than the big kids."

During a recent rehearsal at Unity Church's Grouse Hall in Riverside, 7-year-old Sarah Mills was keeping in with the big kids.

She roared on the 1970 Jackson 5 song "ABC" as her older sister sang backup. The choir was rehearsing for a performance in Philadelphia on Wednesday, where they'll be singing Motown and gospel.

Even though that hit was made more than 30 years before Sarah was born, she sang clearly and confidently.

No fear there.

"Well, I thought that I really had the voice to make it in the choir, because every day I would be singing at school, in the theaters and on the playground," said Sarah, who attends Trinity Jackson Elementary School.

"I know that I wasn't shy at all."

Helping youths to fix their confidence and a path to success through the arts is one of the goals of the choir - and probably one of the reasons that McDuffie was named Arts Educator of the Year by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville in 2007.

The travel also helps recode them as well.

"Some of them have never been on an airplane," McDuffie said.

It's an education that seems to resonate.

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"I've been with the choir for two years," said 18-year-old Enaris Inman, who is president of the chorus at Paxon High School.

"I've always loved music, and you know, it's just a fun thing to do, and it's very unique for me to find a group of young people who are focused on the same thing, and who have the same love of music as I do."

While Enaris said he hasn't quite figured out how his choir experience will fit in with his college plans - he plans to major in French and pre-medicine - he thinks the lessons he's learned by being a part of it will help him work it out.

"With Ms. McDuffie, everything is a course in life," Enaris said. "She teaches you everything from time management, to how to treat others, to how to present yourself."

After singing a stirring rendition of Gladys Knight and the Pips' "Midnight Train to Georgia," 16-year-old Kathryn Jackson, a student at Trinity Christian Academy, said: "I think it's wonderful how we can go from gospel to Motown to choral. I know that I've become a better musician because of this."

Fomenting cultural diversity is also one of McDuffie's aims.

"When people see kids of different cultures singing together, it not only affects the kids, it affects the audience," she said. "Because then, it's not just the kids learning about diversity."

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User Comments



BRAVO!

Submitted by L.E.L. on Mon. 6/8/2009 at 10:58 pm

Yes, so much is gained by our youth when they are active in the arts. Because of your determination, others benefit. Thank you, Ms. McDuffie, for giving of yourself when you could have just given up on your dream. Your musical and inspirational talents continue to be of much need in our Jacksonville community.

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Concert Photos: Pennywise and Pepper

CD Releases: Placebo, Mos Def, Black Eyed Peas...

The Asteroids Galaxy Tour: BeatCrave Fav

By Lindsey Darden

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I have a sick obsession with the sixties, seventies, and eighties. These three decades of breakthrough music left the good ol' days of Pat Boone behind and introduced new acts that came on the scene with a style of sound that we know now as rhythm and blues, Motown, garage punk, bubble gum pop, and all others. Somehow our pick of the day, The Asteroids Galaxy Tour, is tooting to the brim with original material known to seamlessly cross generational lines yet remain fresh and modern.

Watching a music video of theirs, and we are onslaught with multiple styles we normally wouldn't think would fit together - components of soul with Blondie-like visuals underneath a transcendent layer of disco psychadelics. Never to go by aesthetics alone, it was their single "Around the Bend" that shot them to pseudo-universality - which apparently was personally selected by Steve Jobs, the chairman of Apple himself, for use in an iPod Touch commercial (no fooling, that's got to do wonders for one's ego). Having recently released a debut album entitled *Fruit*, the Denmark-based outfit will be touring Europe this summer with reigning pop princess Katy Perry.

We really dig that The Asteroids Galaxy Tour refuses to be limited to one sound, and that they've instead chosen to spread their outs as it were to form a super-hybrid pop-alt genre. They behold an innovative style just as inspiring as the musical acts they have been influenced by. Check out The Asteroids Galaxy Tour in our HeaterCrave Fav series below, and if you agree as much as we do, be sure to vote for them in Friday's poll!

Pick of the Day: The Asteroids Galaxy Tour

Band Members:

- Matte Lindberg (vocals)
- Lars Iversen (bass, keys)
- Miloud Carl Sabri (trumpet)
- Sven Mønmild (saxophone)
- Mads Brinch Nielsen (guitar, keys)
- Rasmus Valltorf (drums)

Label: Small Giants

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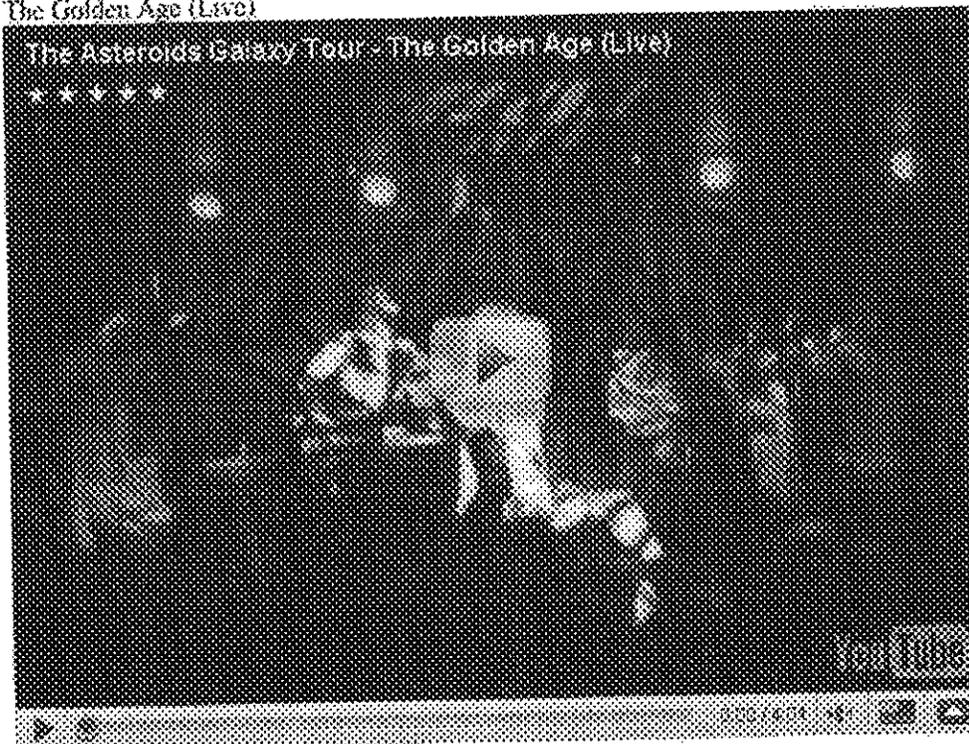
Type: Alternative/Psychedelic

Discography:

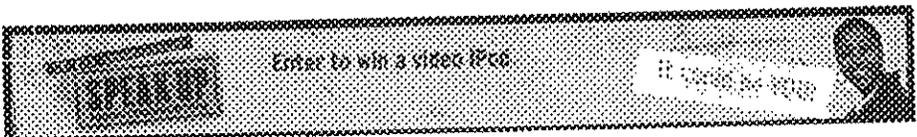
- Fruit (2009)
- Here (2009)
- The Sun Ain't Shining No More EP (2009)
- Around The Bend EP (2008)

Videos:

The Golden Age (Live)



Around the Bend



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Current conditions for local cities

City	Pittsburgh
Current Temperature	70°
Sky Conditions	Cloudy
Forecasted Temperatures	
Time	5:00pm
Time	8:00pm
Sky Condition	Chance of T-showers
Temperature	73°
Temperature	71°

Full Forecast...
 Current Radar...

- Weather Features:
- 5 Day Forecast
 - Closings
 - Forecast Forecast

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 [Redacted]

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Searching For The Cheapest Way To Motown?

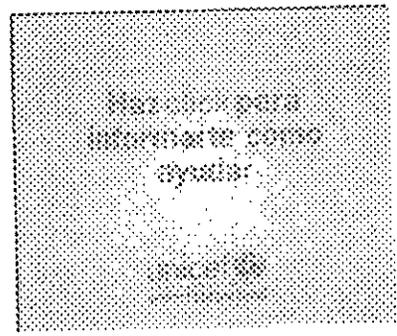
Hot Deals For Pens Fans

Posted: 4:26 pm EDT June 10, 2009 | updated: 5:25 pm EDT June 10, 2009

Searching For The Cheapest Way To Motown?

Hot Deals For Pens Fans

Friday night in Detroit is the final Stanley Cup game -- it's the end of the road for the Pittsburgh



Penguins.

But what about the road getting there? It's more than 300 miles away so many fans say they will drive.

"Not too many game sevens happen," said Lance Triplett and that's why the Pens fan decided to make the trip.

After Tuesday night's big win, local fans are desperately trying to get tickets for Friday's final. For Sara Heston's husband, the brain is higher than usual.

"How much is he willing to spend? I would say no more than a thousand dollars per ticket," said Heston.

The Fox Chapel fan bought Penguins merchandise for a Stanley Cup party she's hosting, but her husband and son love their eyes on Detroit.

"For my son to see it. To see the win and the cup...it's right up there with the Super Bowl," said Heston.

Channel 11's Judice Costanzo set out to find the cheapest and most expensive tickets to the game.

On stubhub.com prices ranged from \$600 on the low end to \$8,900 a seat (at the high side).

The game ticket may be your most costly expense, but it's just the beginning.

There's gas to get there, meals and a place to stay.

Channel 11 called several hotels to get the best rates.

The cheapest we found was the downtown LeLand for \$74 a night. The Hyatt Dearborn at \$129 and rooms at the downtown Courtyard Marriott are going for \$145.

Lance Triplett knows that going to the big game is a privilege, and has his message for most fans who'll be watching from home.

"We can still hear you up there. It's only four hours away!" said Triplett.

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6/11/2009



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June 10, 2009



Michigan Works to Remake Itself Without King Auto

By **BILL VLASIC** and **NICK BUNKLEY**

DETROIT — The former General Motors Centerpoint truck plant in Pontiac, Mich., is another empty building that served for years as a reminder of the declining fortunes of American automakers.

But the day after G.M. filed for bankruptcy, it was bustling with activity.

Ed Montgomery, the Obama administration's director of recovery for auto communities and workers, was touring the building with camera crews in tow.

Amid all the grim auto news, it was as good a photo op as he could have hoped for — the building was the future home of the Motown Motion Picture Studio.

The state, with the help of incentives, lured 25 film crews to Michigan last year to shoot movies like "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and "Gran Torino," from Clint Eastwood, and officials are hopeful about a new growth industry.

"I'm very optimistic about the project," said Mr. Montgomery, adding that the studio could create 3,000 new jobs. "That's an excellent start."

But any promising starts in Michigan are overshadowed by the brutal reality of the state's economic plight. Just across the street from the building Mr. Montgomery was touring, workers at a huge G.M. truck plant learned the day before that their factory would be closing, one of seven more Michigan plants the automaker plans to shut down.

G.M. has promised to use its tour through bankruptcy to become a more nimble and competitive company, but Michigan faces an even tougher task in reinventing itself.

For all the talk of California's economic woes, the distress in Michigan is greater. About 800,000 jobs have been lost in the state — about one in every six — since 2000, and its unemployment rate has reached 12.7 percent, higher than any other state.

The fallout has been even worse in heavily populated southeastern Michigan. Manufacturing jobs in the seven-county region that includes Detroit have fallen 51 percent since the beginning of the decade, and auto-related positions have fallen 65 percent.

The economic crisis has been so severe that Michigan, with a \$1.4 billion budget shortfall, is closing eight prisons to save money. It is also canceling more than 130 road and bridge repair projects because the state

Exhibit: A
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cannot come up with enough money to get matching federal funds.

"Movie studio jobs are going to be measured in the hundreds," said Don Grimes, an economic forecaster at the University of Michigan. "It's nowhere near the replacement numbers for what's going on."

On a broader level, the troubles of the auto industry are having a profound impact on the overall United States economy. The industry — with Michigan as its center — now accounts for only 1.5 percent of the nation's economic output, down from 3 percent in 2007 and 5 percent at its peak in the 1950s.

The automakers have historically played a big part in ending recessions. Car companies, in the past, would increase production and add workers to satisfy pent-up consumer demand after a downturn. But now, the industry's troubles may be prolonging the misery.

"If not for the problems in the auto industry, this recession would have been much milder," said Ben Herzon, an economist at Macroeconomic Advisors, in St. Louis.

In Michigan, the state's leaders are hoping to build on what's left of the once-mighty Big Three automakers, and attract new jobs tied to the alternative-fuel vehicles of the future.

The state has authorized tax credits to support a new battery manufacturing plant for G.M., and similar assistance for three other proposed battery projects. The jobs created will number in the hundreds at first, but state officials are hopeful that Michigan will be at the center of battery development nationwide.

Still, battery production has a long way to go to match the jobs being lost. On Monday, G.M. opened a new battery lab at its Warren, Mich., technical center that will be used by an existing team of about 1,000 engineers. On the same day, the company said it would cut an additional 400 union jobs by shutting down medium-duty truck production in Flint.

Michigan is also pursuing wind-power technology, solar-panel manufacturing, even production of railroad cars — any viable industry that might be interested in hiring the thousands of engineers who used to work in the auto industry.

"This community still has a lot of things going for it," said Senator Carl Levin, Democrat of Michigan. "This is the heart of the automotive research capital of the world, and there's a strong structure to build on."

The bankruptcies of G.M. and Chrysler have, if nothing else, kept both of the automakers alive for the foreseeable future. The state has thus avoided its worst nightmare — that G.M.'s headquarters in Detroit and Chrysler's sprawling technical center in Auburn Hills would be added to the list of vacant buildings along the Interstate 75 automotive corridor.

The research and development campuses at the Detroit automakers, as well as new operations occupied by Toyota and Hyundai, are the foundation for growth in new technologies like lithium-ion batteries.

But those operations cannot replace the tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs that G.M., Ford, Chrysler and their suppliers have shed in recent years.

White-collar positions have also steadily decreased at all the automakers and their suppliers. In response,

Exhibit: A
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Gov. Jennifer Granholm started a retraining program in 2007 — “No Worker Left Behind” — to provide up to two years of free tuition to unemployed workers. So far, more than 60,000 people have signed up.

Providing education for laid-off workers is a priority for Governor Granholm, who joined Mr. Montgomery last week on his tour of the Pontiac movie studio.

“We are not interested in looking in the rearview mirror,” she said. “We need to be able to play both offense and defense.”

Retraining is essential to broaden the skills of factory workers and others in the hardest-hit segments of the economy. “The recession is just crushing industries that tend to employ people with less education — construction, manufacturing, retail stores,” said Mr. Grimes.

Classrooms at community colleges across the state are jammed with former auto industry employees trying to prepare themselves for a new career.

Greg Cortis, 36, had been a contract worker at G.M.’s huge technical center in Warren, Mich., for three years before he was laid off in October. He is taking courses in carpentry, electrical work and other construction skills in Oakland Community College’s facilities management program.

Leaving the auto industry behind, after a total of 15 years in the business, was difficult, he said, but a fact of life in today’s Michigan. “You’ve got to work,” said Mr. Cortis. “I don’t want to be on a two- or three-year unemployment extension.”

Louis Uchitelle contributed reporting from New York.

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[Iceman - a fan's perspective of the Thrashers](#)

Mid-Week Ramblings

12:11 pm June 10, 2009, by Bill Tiller (Rawhide)

Showdown in Motown

This one's for all the marbles...it's now or never...there is no tomorrow...both team's backs are against the wall... nothing will be left on the ice...it all comes down to just one game...this is why you fight all year for home-ice advantage...

That's right folks...break out the game seven clichés because for the first time since Carolina defeated Edmonton in 2006, hockey fans will be treated to a Stanley Cup Finals all-deciding game number seven. The Showdown in Motown takes place Friday night.

Home Cookin'

All six games played so far in the Stanley Cup Finals have been won by the home team. The Wings have outscored Pittsburgh 11-2 in the three games played so far in Detroit while the Penguins enjoyed a 10-5 goals edge during the trio of matches played in Pittsburgh.

We've Seen This Movie Before

Watching as the Finals go the full seven has not been an uncommon occurrence in this decade. Beginning with the Colorado Avalanche, (coached by Bob Hartley), defeat of New Jersey in 2001, five of the last eight SCF have gone the full distance. The exceptions being when Detroit beat Carolina four games to one in 2002, the Ducks besting Ottawa 4-1 in 2007 and last year when Detroit took Pittsburgh in six.

During the 1990's, only one SCF made it past six games...when the Rangers topped Vancouver in 1994.

Still On The Milk Carton



Marian Hossa did nothing to have his picture removed from the milk carton in Tuesday night's game six. For the series he's accounted for one primary and a pair of secondary assists. He has six goals and nine helpers for the entire playoffs...all six goals coming in three games.

The Wings are going to need him to step up Friday night, don't ya think?

Save Of The Series?

The record will show that the winning net-minder in game six of the 2009 Stanley Cup Finals was Marc-Andre Fleury. But even after stopping 25 of the Red Wing's 26 shots on goal, he needed a little help from a friend. In the dying seconds of their 2-1 win, Penguins defender Rob Scuderi knocked away a couple of point-blank attempts... first with his stick, with his left leg and finally with the ankle... to secure the win.

Should the Pens prevail Friday night, they could be considered the saves of the series. Of course, if Detroit comes away with the win, maybe Zetterberg's goal-line stop in game #1 could be considered as such.

Fear The Power Of The Burrito



sniff...sniff... Was that you
Coach?

It seems as though Pittsburgh Penguins coach Dan Bylsma has a pre-game ritual involving...eating burritos.

As Puck Daddy states in his piece...

It was in the playoffs when his ritual became big news. The Penguins were playing the Washington Capitals in the Eastern Conference semifinals, and the NHL scheduled back-to-back games in the two cities on a Friday and Saturday. Bylsma came into the Pittsburgh Qdoba on that Friday and purchased two burritos --- eating one at the store and "packing the other one on ice to take to D.C." according to Brooks.... The coach ate the burrito in the nation's capital, and the Penguins won on both Friday and Saturday nights. "At that point I said, 'Oh crap, this is for real.' He's not playing around. This is something he really believes in." Brooks recalled.

Since it's brought him success so far, I guess he will be packing some of these burritos as he travels to Detroit, eh?

Hey listen, I totally understand the power of a burrito... especially after spending time in the SUV with my teenage sons after a Taco Bell run

Arizona Law

Meanwhile, out in Arizona, the bankruptcy hearing for the Phoenix Coyotes began yesterday

The big news that came out of the proceedings was that the NHL was instructed by the judge to consider how much a relocation fee would be if indeed the team was uprooted and moved from Arizona.

Heater Wants Out of Ottawa

Dany Heatley wants out of Ottawa. Apparently frustrated with the way he was used last season, he's had his agent J.P. Barry inform the Senators that he'd like to be traded. Of course, we in Atlanta are familiar with such a request from Heatley. Just prior to the 2005-06 season he did the same to Thrashers' general manager Dan Waddell. Different reasons and circumstance, mind you...but basically the same request.

Heater is coming off a season in which his production, 39 goals and 10 assists, was the lowest since becoming a Senator and he still has five more years left on a contract that pays \$7.5 million per.

So, should Bryan Murray respond in the same fashion Waddell did and capitulate to the request or stick to his guns after stating that he expects Heatley to honor his contract and play in Ottawa?

Emery Flying Back To Play With Philly

Exhibit: A
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Ray Emery has left Mytishkhi Atlant of Russia's KHL, and has signed a contract to play with the Philadelphia Flyers. This means that Martin Biron will probably be swimming in the UFA pool this summer.

Money For Nuthin'



That ain't
workin'

We were all happy to hear that Marty Reasoner was re-signed by the Thrashers this week. The deal will pay the centerman \$1.2 million this season and \$1.1 million next. That's a great deal for the team IMHO

But you do realize, of course, that this coming season Alexei Zhirkov will be paid almost as much money to not play for the Thrashers, (\$1.67 million) as Reasoner will be paid to actually play.

In case you're wondering... Braydon Coburn will earn \$1.3 million this season skating for Philadelphia and is slated to become an RFA next summer.

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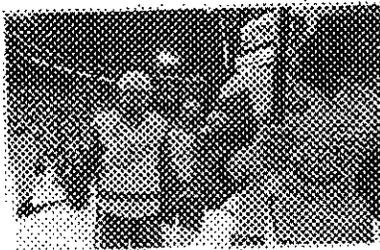
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THN at the Stanley Cup: It all boils down to a Motown Game 7



Steve Yzerman
Detroit Red Wings

DETROIT - If there's one thing to which the Detroit Red Wings will bring focus going into Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final, it's that history heavily favors them to win the most important game of their season.

That's because the Stanley Cup final has gone the distance on 14 occasions in NHL history and the home team has won 12 of those games. In fact, a road team has not won Game 7 of the final since the Montreal Canadiens did so in 1976 against the Chicago Blackhawks.

The Red Wings will not spend the next two days fixating about their situation. They know the Penguins will not get the favorable matchups at home that led to the brilliance they displayed in their own and in Game 6. Evgeni Malkin and Ruslan Fedotenko, of all people, were demoted to over-

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own and to Game 6 and Ken Stoughton (they gave potential unrestricted free agent) and Brooks Orpik were prominent at the new end.

Actually, one Red Wings fan did take some credit as a Pittsburgh team that played by far its best all-around game of the series from goalie Marc-Andre Fleury etc. The Penguins were dislodged and very aided for a team discovered facing elimination at home we and since again at home discovered we surely to keep the Red Wings from going too fast to their net.

Indeed, it's great to control the puck and all that Pavel Datsyuk was insane in that department, but with one exception at the 6:50 period when the Red Wings poured it on, it was an awful lot of loney scoring with few results.

"They played a real strong game defensively," said Red Wings defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom. "They were a desperate team and I thought it showed and I thought they played really well without the puck."

Now the Red Wings will count on their experience and the fact that they played here all year to get home-ice advantage at the playoffs. The Penguins, on the other hand, have to wonder whether their lackluster play through much of the season might not be their ultimate downfall.

It could be if they lose Game 7 on the road. You'll remember the Penguins stumbled through much of the first four months of the season before replacing Michel Therrien with Ron Suter out of sheer desperation. Now, probably is suggesting the Penguins would have racked up the 174 points Suter's 10-1-4 record at least would have put them in place to earn, but had they made the change sooner, perhaps they would have given themselves a better chance to move up the 15 points they trailed behind the Red Wings this season.

"It will be fun. We're looking forward to it," Lidstrom said of the prospect of playing in such a crucial game. "It's something we fought for all year to get that home-ice advantage. You want to have it at the end of the season and now we have that advantage."

Penguins coach Dave Sullivan played in one of those Game 7s while with the Oilers, which the New Jersey Devils won at home in 1997. Ruslan Fedotenko and Petr Syta had never Game 7 Stanley Cup final experience for the Penguins, while Evgeni Malkin and Ty Conklin have the same experience for the Red Wings.

Playoff Links

- [Detroit Red Wings](#)
- [Pittsburgh Penguins](#)
- [Stanley Cup](#)
- [NHL.com](#)
- [ESPN.com](#)

"The best thing you can tell them is about going out and winning the game," Sullivan said. "It's not about trying not to lose. You try to go out and play your game. Play the way you've played all year long. Don't wait back, sit back and wait for a miracle."

GAME SIX THREE STARS

1. New Jersey Devils
2. Steve Yzerman
3. Tyler Kennedy

DEFINING MOMENT

After a brilliant defensive play by Ruslan Fedotenko, Tyler Kennedy scored the game-winner with a gritty offensive effort at the other end.

MOVABLE NUMBER - 0

The number of power play goals scored in the game, a first in this series.

THN Showcase: Pens force Game 7

From the road in Pittsburgh, host Ken Campbell talks with NHL analyst Barry Trotz about... The Pens looking down on offense... Preparing a team for a Game 7... Predicting a very different match in the third.

COMMENTS BY

Ken Campbell

Ken Campbell

Completely incorrect information re: [unclear]





PRODUCER: TED COOPER

THN is on the road following the Stanley Cup final and will file daily reports until a champion is crowned. To read other stories, click [HERE](#). Also, check out THN.com's regular video roundtable, the ["Let's Talk Hockey"](#) for updates from both Detroit and Pittsburgh.

Ben Campbell, author of the book [Hockey: The Inside Story](#), is a regular writer for *The Hockey News* and a regular contributor to [THN.com](#). He's also covered Wednesday and Friday and his column, ["Let's Talk Hockey"](#), appears [here](#).

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100% correct in 100% of cases



100% of Respondents to vote.

Your challenge is based on the fact that...



reveling of having, make sure to tell your actual Detroit fans. While some may like it or not, I believe the line crew likes it better. Should be a great game.

100% correct in 100% of cases



0% of Respondents to vote.

100% correct in 100% of cases



Your defining moment should also include that specific look to determine everything from to get the puck so that the whole day good to set up.

100% correct in 100% of cases



0% of Respondents to vote.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Motown seeks duty cuts, sops & easier credit

11 Jun 2009, 0024 hrs IST, Chanchal Pal Chauhan, ET Bureau

NEW DELHI: Six months after an excise duty cut on vehicles worked as a turbocharger for their sales, the auto industry wants more benefits in Budget 2009 to maintain the graph. Removal of specific duty on big cars, tax sops on vehicles for rural markets and revival of the duty-free credit scheme for quantum growth in exports are some of the incentives the auto sector believes will act as another stimulus package.

Last year, the slowdown dragged sales of cars, two-wheelers, trucks, buses and three-wheelers into negative territory, forcing the government to take steps to revive demand. In December, the government slashed the excise duty on all classes of vehicles by 4%, leading to price cuts of up to Rs 2 lakh.

As a result, the auto industry regained traction, with sales of cars and two-wheelers posting double-digit growth. Truck sales, however, have been an exception and continue to decelerate as a direct fallout of the economic meltdown.

Six months later, automakers are saying they need more government support to maintain the sales momentum. "A lot of demand was generated after the government's decision to cut excise duty. We expect a similar tax concession in the upcoming budget to incentivise customers to buy new vehicles and create additional demand," said Maruti Suzuki CEO and MD S Nakanishi.

The industry is also hoping for easy availability of credit, along with a drop in interest rates on auto loans. "The government should simplify the complex tax structure for the auto industry. A uniform tax should be levied on all cars, irrespective of their size or dimension," said Honda Siel Cars India president & CEO Masahiro Takedagawa.

Today, cars less than four metres in length with 1,200-cc petrol and 1,500-cc diesel engines are taxed at 8%. All other passenger vehicles attract an excise duty of 20%.

Bigger cars also attract an additional specific duty of Rs 15,000 on models with 1,500-1,999 cc engines, and Rs 20,000 on models with 2,000 cc and bigger engines. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam) has asked the government to remove the additional tax on bigger cars, which has reduced their demand and skewed the market in favour of smaller cars.

"While incentives for small cars are welcome, the government is discouraging big cars. Also, utility vehicles that are primarily used in rural areas are being hit badly," said Siam director Sugato Sen. The automotive lobby has asked the government to introduce concessional tax structure for vehicles used in rural areas to revive demand. It has also demanded that post-stimulus excise duty, after the 4% cut, be made permanent and all investments in R&D by automakers be exempt from tax.

Hyundai Motor India and Bajaj Auto, which export half of their Indian output, have demanded incentives for local manufacturing. "We are the largest exporters of cars from India and there is no benefit for selling made-in-India products in the highly-developed European markets. We have asked the government to reintroduce

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the Target Plus scheme to make exports viable as we are losing money due to rapid currency fluctuations," Hyundai Motor India MD & CEO HS Lheem said.

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Story posted Thursday, June 11, 2009

Music Fills The Air Sundays & Wednesdays At North School Park

A full line-up of free Sunday and Wednesday evening concerts was recently unveiled by the Arlington Hts. Park District. Here's what's on tap:

Sunday evenings, June 21-Aug. 17

Where: North School Park, Eastman St. & Arlington Hts. Rd., unless otherwise noted.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Alcohol and dogs are not allowed in any Arlington Hts. park. In case of inclement weather, concerts are cancelled. Call the hotline: 847-577-3003 x1.

The Associates

June 21, 7 p.m. - A premiere Motown and variety band in the Midwest. Motown, Classic Rock, Blues, R&B, Swing, Jazz, Country and more.

Douce

June 28, 7 p.m. - Original songs and creative covers—mix of Chicago soul with blues, funk, jazz and rock.

215 West

July 12, 7 p.m. - Concert at Centennial Park (Burr Oak between Windsor and Buffalo Grove roads) - This four-piece group includes bass, guitar, drums, and keyboards. Jump from Motown, to current Top 40, 50's rock, Latin dance, 40's Swing, 70's Disco, Classic Rock and the Blues.

White Saddle Band

July 19, 7 p.m. - Songs by the likes of Elvis, Hank Williams, Eagles, Alan Jackson, Garth Brooks, The Beatles, Jimmy Buffet, Van Morrison, The Drifters, Toby Keith, and more.

Saturday June Band

July 26, 7 p.m. - Steve Kessler and his band are one of the premier pop acts on Chicago's North Shore having shared the bill with The Beach Boys, Little Richard, and Mike Smith of the Dave Clark 5 among others.

Wednesday Evenings

Arlington Hts. Community Concert Band

June 17, 7:30 p.m. - Directed by Adam La Spata, the 60 member Community Concert Band entertains with light-classical music, marches, showtunes and theme concerts.

Navy Ceremonial Band

June 24, 7 p.m. - The Navy Band plays traditional marches, patriotic tunes and contemporary classics. The Military Band is tentatively scheduled. For unforeseen reasons, the band could be cancelled at the last minute. Call and confirm before attending this concert.

Arlington Hts. Community Concert Band

July 15 & Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.

United States Air Force Band of Mid America - "Shade of Blue" Jazz Ensemble

Aug. 17, 7 p.m.*

* This is a Monday night concert. The Military Band is tentatively scheduled. For unforeseen

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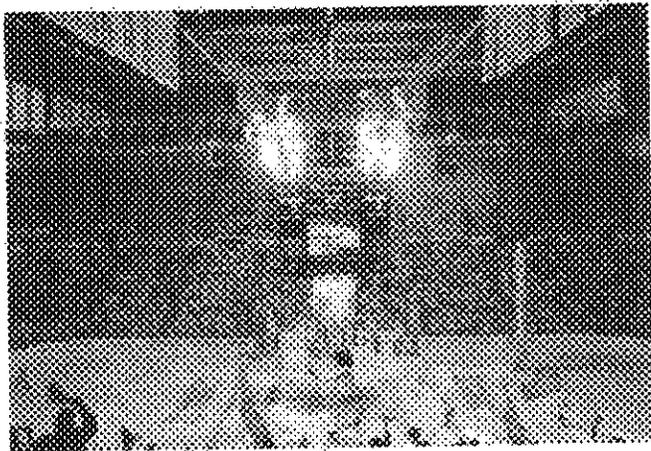
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Let's say for the sake of argument -- for the sake of this column, really -- that I'm a Detroit Red Wings' fan. Die-hard Wings' fan. Every November, I write-in Steve Yzerman on the ballot to be Motown's next mayor...

On A Wing And Possibly A Prayer

by Christopher C. Wesselt (Scribe)



(Photo by Jim Nicholson/Getty Images)

Let's say for the sake of argument -- for the sake of this column, really -- that I'm a Detroit Red Wings' fan.

Die-hard Wings' fan.

Every November, I write-in Steve Yzerman on the ballot to be Motown's next mayor. The local dry cleaner can't figure out how to get the octopus stains out of the inside of my ragged, but lucky, Chris Chelios jersey. My blood...well it's red, but I'd gladly spill it in the name of Hockeytown.

The Wings have used a 5-0 thrashing of the Pittsburgh Penguins to take a three games-to-two lead in this year's Stanley Cup finals and I'm on top of the world -- soon to be atop an overturned police cruiser.

And I want my beloved Wings to lose.

That the dynamic of a seven-game series when you're a Game 7 ticketholder.

The diehard fan will tell you that winning is the ultimate goal, even if that means hoisting Lord Stanley's hardware in a building named after a money management firm that sounds more like a tropical fruit.

But many of the fans that claim this aren't the ones who shelled out between \$374 and \$6,700 for tickets...provided they used StubHub.com, of course.

After all, we don't dig deep into our pockets for just anything during this current economic epoch. We're not disposing cash like a teenage Steinbrenner anywhere these days, not even in New York, Las Vegas or Los Angeles.

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And especially not in Michigan, which somehow manages to rank 51st (thank you District of Columbia) among states for the lowest unemployment rates at nearly 13 percent of its workforce.

This is what sports do best. They serve as a distraction. And nothing dissuades, if only for a few days, the gloom of the sagging auto industry like a championship tilt in Joe Louis Arena.

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FEEDBACK

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My TV20 Detroit Detroit, MI

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Summer In the Park

Originally printed at <http://www.tv20detroit.com/news/local/47805837.html>

Campus Martius Park, "Detroit's Official Gathering Place" and award winning downtown destination, is excited to present its fifth annual "Summer in The Park" series, presented by Compuware starting June 26.

With its lush gardens and lawn, spectacular fountains and the surroundings of Detroit's iconic architecture, Campus Martius Park is a truly unique entertainment venue. The Detroit Free Press has cited that "Campus Martius is the scene of spectacular events" and there will be several of them occurring this summer including national headliners at the 4th Friday's With Ford series and the Detroit International Jazz Festival in September. This year's series offers fun-filled and FREE activities, including music, movies, and more for metro Detroiters of all ages to enjoy, according to Bob Gregory, President of the Detroit 300 Conservancy.

The main attraction of this year's "Summer in The Park" is the Ford Motor Company sponsored 4th Fridays with Ford concert series, an all day celebration with a full line-up of activities, taking place the fourth Friday of every month between June and August.

It is designed to be a "walkable downtown Detroit experience" including restaurant promotions and discounts, along with insider entertainment tours. The first 4th Fridays with Ford will take place June 26th.

4th Fridays with Ford has received summer's highest "best of events" rating from the

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Detroit Free Press and boasts national and Detroit music stages that showcase a wide variety of music and entertainers. Each month, the Ford-sponsored event will highlight a music genre and theme including Motown and classic Detroit rock, world beat and hip hop dance, as well as rhythm and swing. Musical acts that will take the Campus Martius Park stage this summer include legendary sax man Alto Reed and Detroit Classic Rock all-star musicians; founding Allman Brothers band member Dickey Betts & Great Southern; and the Latin sounds of Lola Morales & her sultry band.

Other activities to look forward to during the 2009 4th Fridays with Ford are films following each concert, a Hip Hop Dance Competition, and a very special "Happy Birthday Motown" celebration that marks the legendary label's 50-year anniversary. The Motown Celebration will feature 90 minutes of classic Motown hits. [Schedule Of Events](#)

Following each 4th Fridays with Ford event, a different downtown district will be highlighted. Those who visit the special spotlight districts will be able to take advantage of food and drink specials, as well as cool giveaways.

"Woodward Avenue in and around Campus Martius Park will again be transformed into a festive party for all this summer. We're thrilled to be able to offer fun-filled and free events for the entire family to enjoy," said Gregory. "Everyone is invited to Detroit's Gathering Place, whether it's to enjoy a concert on a warm summer night, see a movie, or to simply take in the downtown Detroit skyline in the heart of the city."

During the 4th Fridays with Ford events, two 40-seat buses will make the round trip between the Park and the IKEA store in Canton every hour from 9 AM to 10 PM. The buses will pick up and drop passengers off at the Hard Rock Café adjacent to the Park, 45 Monroe St., and also at IKEA, located at 41640 Ford Road, Canton. The shuttle is free-of-charge for riders. For more information, visit www.ikea-cmpshuttle.com.

The popular "Lunchtime Art" music series will again feature Detroit-area musicians and a variety of performances on the Park's main stage, 11:30AM-1:30PM, mid-June through August. The downtown lunch crowd can come to the Park to relax and take a break from the workday, beginning June 17, to enjoy Detroit's finest musicians, visual artists, dancers and a variety of performers.

Campus Martius Park would like to thank its 2009 "Summer in The Park" sponsors: Compuware, IKEA, Health Plan of Michigan, Ernst & Young, Marketing Associates, Greko Printing, Blumz, The Detroit Media Partnership, & CBS Radio Group.

About Campus Martius Park

Campus Martius Park, Detroit's Gathering Place and the centerpiece of revitalization in downtown, is a legacy gift to the city of Detroit from the Detroit 300 Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that has raised over \$20 million to design, construct and operate The Park through businesses, foundations, and individual donations. For more information, contact the Detroit 300 Conservancy at 313-962-0106 or visit www.campusmartiuspark.org.

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