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## GAME PLANNER



Friday	Washington	8 p.m.
Saturday	at Atlanta	7 p.m.
Monday	at Boston	8 p.m.
Tuesday	Cleveland	7:30 p.m.
March 19	at Indiana	7:30 p.m.



Today	Minnesota	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Buffalo	7 p.m.
Monday	at Calgary	9:30 p.m.
March 19	at Edmonton	9:30 p.m.
March 20	at Vancouver	10 p.m.



### SPRING TRAINING

Today	at Philadelphia	1:05 p.m.
Friday	Philadelphia	1:05 p.m.
Saturday	N.Y. Yankees	1:05 p.m.
	at N.Y. Mets	1:10 p.m.
Sunday	Tampa Bay	1:05 p.m.



### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Today	vs. Iowa	2:20 p.m.
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### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday	TBA	9:30 p.m.
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### MEN'S BASKETBALL

	NCAA Tournament	
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## ON THE AIR

### TELEVISION

Today		
NHL		
Wild at Red Wings	8:15 p.m.	TNT
NBA		
Bulls at Magic	8:15 p.m.	TNT
Blazers at Warriors	10:30 p.m.	TNT
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
Big East Conference Quarterfinal		
TBD	Noon	ESPN
TBD	7 p.m.	ESPN
TBD	9 p.m.	ESPN
Big Ten Conference Tournament		
Iowa vs. Michigan	12:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Indiana vs. Northwestern	4:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Pacific-10 Conference Quarterfinal		
Arizona vs. UCLA	3 p.m.	FSN
California vs. TBD	5:30 p.m.	FSN
Washington vs. Oregon	9 p.m.	FSN
Arizona St. vs. Stanford	11:30 p.m.	FSN
Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament		
N. Carolina vs. G. Tech	7 p.m.	ESPN2
Big 12 Championship		
TBD	9:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Golf		
CA Championship	2 p.m.	Golf
Puerto Rico Open	6:30 p.m.	Golf

### RADIO

Today		
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
Michigan vs. Iowa	2:30 p.m.	WWJ AM-950
NBA		
Wild at Red Wings	7:30 p.m.	WXYT FM-97.1 and AM-1270



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## HOCKEY/BASEBALL

# Weekend U-M vs. MSU matchup comes too soon

Michigan State and Michigan will play an historic, and without question, an entertaining series this weekend in East Lansing. Unfortunately, those are the only positives that will come out of it.

Normally used to playing in the semifinals or finals of the CCHA tournament, the Spartans and Wolverines will hook up in a best-of-three second-round series at Munn Ice Arena this weekend.

The first game is on Friday, the second on Saturday, and if necessary, the third and deciding game would be held on Sunday evening.

It's the first time since 1987 the teams will play in a round of the CCHA tournament other than the semifinals and finals, and the timing of the historic series couldn't be any worse, with the Frozen Four scheduled for Ford Field in Detroit next month.

This is without question a blow for local organizers desperately hoping for some local representation when the Frozen Four returns to Detroit for the first time since 1990 just four weeks from today.

The odds of U-M and MSU making the event weren't good when the regular season ended, since the Wolverines have to win the CCHA tournament just to make the NCAA tournament and the Spartans are at best a candidate for a No. 3 seed in the tournament, should they make

it at all. But there was still some hope.

What if U-M got hot, won the league tournament and then entered the NCAA tournament with renewed life, knowing all it would take would be two wins to reach the Frozen Four?

What if MSU, currently No. 12 in the PairWise rankings, not only was able to solidify an NCAA tournament bid, but actually enhance its seeding and earn an easier path in the NCAA tournament?

If the Spartans and Wolverines weren't playing each other this weekend, at least both pipe dreams would still be in play.

Now, only one is. The loser of the series has no chance of making the NCAA tournament, reducing the odds of there being some local buzz generated by at least one of the state's two best-known programs at the Frozen Four.

U-M is the most to blame for this scenario taking place. A poor regular season only earned the Wolverines a No. 7 seed in the CCHA tournament, which meant they had to play in last week's first round instead of earning a bye like MSU did.

U-M did take care of business last week by sweeping No. 10 Lake Superior State in a two-game series at Ann Arbor.

The league re-shuffles the pairings after the first round, with the lowest remaining seed



KEITH DUNLAP



Associated Press file photo

Carl Hagelin and the University of Michigan hockey team will play Michigan State in the CCHA Tournament's opening round.

playing the highest, and so forth down the line.

Since all four home teams won their respective series last week, No. 1-seeded Miami (Ohio) will play No. 8 Ohio State, No. 2 MSU will play No. 7 U-M, No. 3 Ferris State will play No. 6 Nebraska-Omaha, while No. 5 Alaska will travel to No. 4 Northern Michigan.

The series itself should be riveting, as U-M and MSU games typically are. Even though MSU won three out

of the four regular-season meetings, including both at Munn, anyone who thinks the Wolverines don't have a chance is delusional.

U-M still has the talent to get hot, but it's just too bad for Frozen Four organizers that if the Wolverines do get it going this weekend, it'll be at the expense of the other traditional state power people want to see at Ford Field.

As for what's going on elsewhere around the state and

nation, let's make another stop on the Road to the Frozen Four:

### In-state

Ferris State also earned a bye in the first round, so now the Bulldogs will take on No. 6 Nebraska-Omaha.

The Mavericks were swept in a two-game series at FSU earlier in the year, but it'll be a much different team that comes into Big Rapids this week. UNO has won seven of its last nine games.

FSU is a bubble team for the NCAA tournament right now (No. 13 in the PairWise rankings), so it needs a run to the CCHA semifinals and possibly even the final at the very least to solidify a spot. Also in the hunt for an NCAA tournament bid is Northern Michigan, which will host Alaska in a matchup of two NCAA bubble teams. The Wildcats are No. 14 in the PairWise rankings, while Alaska is tied for seventh.

### Nationally

The hottest team right now is North Dakota, which has won seven straight games and moved up to No. 5 in the nation. Denver, Miami (Ohio), Wisconsin and Boston College hold the top four spots above the Fighting Sioux, while the rest of the top-10 in the regular national poll, not the PairWise rankings, is rounded out by Yale, St. Cloud State, Bemidji State, Cornell and Michigan State.

Keith Dunlap is a sports writer for the Oakland Press who covered the 2007 and 2008 Frozen Fours. E-mail him at keith.dunlap@oakpress.com.

## BASEBALL

# Granderson gets hits, hugs

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP) — Johnny Damon didn't get to play Wednesday, but Curtis Granderson made the play of the day in the first meeting between the New York Yankees and Detroit Tigers since their winter exchange of outfielders and pitchers.

Granderson's catch against the center-field wall robbed Miguel Cabrera of at least an RBI double in the fourth inning, keeping the Yankees in the game before Greg Golson hit a two-run home run in the ninth off Phil Dumatrait to give them a 9-8 victory.

"That catch was a dandy, or should I say that was a Grandy?" said Tigers manager Jim Leyland.

Detroit's center fielder for six seasons before he was traded to the Yankees on Dec. 9, Granderson singled in his first two at-bats and also walked.

"On the bus ride over here, I was just wondering how it was going to go, and everything was pretty good," Granderson said. "I wasn't really sure what to expect. In spring training they kind of cheer everybody. I'm thankful for it."

Damon, who signed a one-year contract with the Tigers after playing a key role in the Yankees' World Series victory, was scratched from the lineup after stubbing his right big toe on Tuesday. The 36-year-old outfielder spent much of Wednesday reminiscing with his former teammates.

"I got to see a whole bunch of them and, secretly, they all miss me," said Damon, whose only regret is that only one of his four seasons in New York ended with a championship.

"I wish I could have walked away after winning four championships," he said. "We definitely are on good terms; they're just doing things the way they want to and I have to do it my way. It's a little different for some people, but when it's all said and done, at least I can say I did it the right way also."

Gerald Laird's grand slam off Yankee starter Joba Chamberlain gave the Tigers a 6-3 lead in the third inning and knocked Chamberlain out of the game. Trying to win the open spot in the Yankees' rotation, Chamberlain gave up five hits and three walks in 2½ innings.



The Associated Press

Curtis Granderson hugs his old manager, Jim Leyland, before playing against Detroit. He had two hits in the game.

"There's no panic button, but there's a sense of urgency. Trust me," said Chamberlain, who threw 48 pitches. "There's a lot of things that I did good, there's a lot of things I did wrong ... I can't worry about what everybody else did. I worry about myself and I know what I need to get prepared."

Manager Joe Girardi said he thought Chamberlain "ran out of gas."

"He made some mistakes inside."

Phil Hughes relieved Chamberlain and worked 2½ innings, giving up a home run to Ryan Raburn.

Mark Teixeira's first spring home run came off former Yankee Phil Coke, putting the Yankees up 3-0 in the top of the third.

Detroit starter Armando Galarraga gave up two runs in two innings.

### Union hires former Tigers first baseman

NEW YORK — Former first baseman Tony Clark has been hired as director of player relations of the baseball union.

Clark's 15-season career ended last July when he was released by Arizona. He became a union leader shortly after going to his first executive board meeting in 1999.

The 37-year-old Clark will oversee player communications and education and participate in collective bargaining. A 2001 All-Star, he hit .262 with 251 homers. He also played for Detroit, the New York Mets and Yankees, Boston and San Diego.

## SPRING TRAINING

### American League

	W	L	Pct
Cleveland	7	0	1.000
Tampa Bay	5	1	.875
Toronto	5	2	.714
Kansas City	4	2	.667
Boston	5	3	.625
Minnesota	4	3	.571
Chicago	3	3	.500
DETROIT	4	4	.500
Philadelphia	3	4	.429
New York	4	5	.444
Los Angeles	2	3	.400
Oakland	2	5	.286
Texas	1	4	.200
Baltimore	1	6	.143

### National League

	W	L	Pct
San Francisco	7	1	.875
Atlanta	6	3	.667
Colorado	6	3	.667
Florida	5	3	.625
New York	6	4	.600
Chicago	3	3	.500
Philadelphia	3	3	.500
Houston	3	4	.429
Milwaukee	3	4	.429
Pittsburgh	3	4	.429
Cincinnati	2	3	.400
Arizona	2	5	.286
San Diego	2	5	.286
St. Louis	2	5	.286
Los Angeles	1	3	.250
Washington	0	8	.000

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

### Tuesday's Games

DETROIT 9, Washington 4  
 Minnesota 7, St. Louis 6  
 Pittsburgh 12, N.Y. Yankees 7  
 Tampa Bay 8, Baltimore 3  
 Boston 9, Florida 0  
 Houston 8, N.Y. Mets 4  
 L.A. Angels 6, San Diego 5  
 Colorado 12, L.A. Dodgers 0  
 Milwaukee 5, Chicago Cubs 3  
 San Francisco 6, Chicago White Sox 2  
 Kansas City 11, Oakland 5  
 Arizona 10, Cincinnati 4  
 Cleveland 6, Seattle 4  
 Oakland (ss) 8, Texas 8, tie  
 Philadelphia 6, L.A. Angels 0

### Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 9, DETROIT 8  
 Tampa Bay 8, Boston 6  
 Philadelphia 4, Toronto 2  
 Atlanta 7, N.Y. Mets 6, 10 innings  
 Florida 16, Houston 4  
 St. Louis 6, Washington 4  
 Cleveland 10, San Diego (ss) 5  
 L.A. Dodgers 4, Arizona 4, tie  
 Cincinnati 6, L.A. Angels 0  
 Seattle 6, Texas 3  
 Chicago White Sox 9, Oakland 5  
 San Francisco 5, Chicago Cubs 1  
 San Diego (ss) 5, Milwaukee 4  
 Kansas City 5, Colorado 0  
 Oakland vs Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., (n)  
 Baltimore vs Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 7:05 p.m.

### Today's Games

DETROIT vs Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Toronto vs Tampa Bay (ss) at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Tampa Bay (ss) vs Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 St. Louis vs Florida at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Houston vs Washington at Viera, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Boston vs N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 1:10 p.m.  
 Cleveland vs Chicago White Sox at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 Chicago Cubs vs San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 Oakland vs Milwaukee (ss) at Phoenix, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 L.A. Angels vs Arizona at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers vs Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 Milwaukee (ss) vs Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 Texas vs Colorado at Tucson, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.  
 Atlanta vs N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 7:05 p.m.  
 Baltimore vs Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 7:05 p.m.

### Friday's Games

Philadelphia (ss) vs DETROIT at Lakeland, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 N.Y. Yankees vs Washington at Viera, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Florida vs Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Houston vs Toronto at Dunedin, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Philadelphia (ss) vs Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh vs Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Boston vs St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 N.Y. Mets vs Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.  
 Chicago Cubs (ss) vs Milwaukee at Phoenix, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 Oakland vs Arizona at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 Kansas City vs Seattle at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 L.A. Angels (ss) vs Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 Chicago White Sox (ss) vs L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 San Francisco vs Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.  
 San Diego vs Colorado at Tucson, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.  
 Chicago White Sox (ss) vs Chicago Cubs (ss) at Las Vegas, Nev., 10:05 p.m.



Special to The Oakland Press/JACOB TENNEY

The Macomb Oakland Regional Center Stars is a male and female hockey team for developmentally-challenged individuals of all ages. To purchase tickets for the team's fundraiser, e-mail Anne Marie Hunter at e-mail aehunter@comcast.net.

# Hockey team brings joy

By JACOB TENNEY  
 Special to The Oakland Press

The joy of parents as they watch their child participate in a sport is rivaled only by the joy that their child receives from playing the game.

The Macomb Oakland Regional Center Stars, a male and female hockey team for developmentally-challenged individuals of all ages, aims to make that statement true for everyone involved.

"This team is more about learning and having fun than winning," team manager Andy Hannah said. "It gives them the opportunity to do things that they haven't been able to do."

As one of only two special hockey teams in the state, the MORC Stars are trying to get more people involved so the organization can grow.

"This is the third year we have done this," Hannah said. "We started out with seven players, and now we have 32 players. We had to look for more ice time because there wasn't enough room for all of us. In the end our goal is to have four or five teams."

The Second Annual MORC Stars Fundraiser will take place Friday March 19 from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Venetian Club in Madison Heights.

"This year's fundraiser is a combined dinner dance, silent auction fundraiser, and tin can fundraiser," Hannah said. "A father of one of the players works at Joe Louis Arena, so he gets lots of memorabilia signed by the Red Wings, which we auction, there will be rounds of golf auctioned off, and lots of other really great items, too."

Led by head coach Peter Ciavaglia, who played for the Buffalo Sabres, the Detroit Vipers and the 1994 U.S. Olympic Hockey team, the Stars are fitted with a well-rounded staff.

"A lot of us are helping out," Hannah said. "None of the coaches or volunteers has any children or relatives on the team. (Peter) started the Stars so that he could give back to the community."

Many organizations have become aware of the Stars and have donated money and other necessities in order to help the team.

"Suburban Ice Arena and the Livonia Hockey Association donate ice time to us, which saves us around \$5,000 a year," he said. "All of our equipment is donated, head to toe. The International Order of Alhambra buys our jerseys for us."

And while these donations continue to help the team, there is still more that they need.

"The players start out with the donated used equipment, and if they stay we will get them new stuff," Hannah said. "And this is what the fundraisers are for."

Tickets for the fundraiser will be \$25, and you can order them by calling Anne Marie Hunter at (313) 215-1569, or by sending her an e-mail at aehunter@comcast.net.

The Stars do not take these contributions lightly, as they enjoy every second of the experience.

"This team makes them feel great," Hannah said. "They get so hyper when they are on the ice. It makes them feel like pros out there."