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SPORTS

The Detroit News Wednesday, November 11, 2009 | Section B



An interactive preview of U-M, MSU basketball
DETNEWS.COM/SPORTS



Brandon Pettigrew

Road to rebuilding is rocky

Nobody expected things to be fixed immediately. Not the Lions front office, not the coaches, not the players and not the fans.

But the growing pains have been tough in the first season for coach Jim Schwartz. Halfway through the season, newcomers like quarterback

Matthew Stafford and tight end Brandon Pettigrew have had some ups, but more downs.

With the final eight games to come, John Niyo takes a look at the Lions, position-by-position, to see what progress they've made from last season's 0-16 debacle. **Story, 4B.**

Robin Buckson/
The Detroit News

Mac takes act to television

Darren McCarty's days of being around the Red Wings aren't over.

He has been hired as an analyst by the Versus TV network, and will work the Wings' Nov. 23 game in Nashville.

Friend Kris Draper gave his assessment of how he expected McCarty to perform on TV: "I think his looks are definitely more for radio than television, but I think he's going to do a good job."

While McCarty, 37, hasn't officially announced his retirement, Draper said the way he's been talking recently, it sounded like his playing career was finished.

Dana Wakiji



McCarty

Down market could aid Tigers

That, threat of lost draft pick might keep Polanco here

How quaint that Tigers second baseman Placido Polanco on Tuesday won his second Gold Glove.

Gold happens to be the color of the contract Polanco hopes to sign at some point this autumn as free agents begin to sign with new (or old) teams that make an offer glitzy athletes now on baseball's offseason auction block can't refuse.



LYNN HENNING

But can the Tigers be that team? And will Polanco's status as a Type A free agent

make it more likely he will end up in Detroit in 2010 on a one-year deal rather than with another club eager to sign him to a rich multi-year deal that he ideally wants?

Likewise, can the Tigers cajole two other free agents they would love to have back — relief pitchers Fernando Rodney and Brandon Lyon — to stay put for one- or two-year deals the Tigers find affordable?

It depends. And it depends not only upon the cash available in what is increasingly appearing to be a tight market heading into the 2009-10 offseason, but whether clubs believe they can afford losing a valuable draft pick for signing a Type A free agent.

The Type A, Type B designations became official this

Please see Henning, Page 2B

WORLD SERIES OF POKER

Not your average Joe



Isaac Brekken/Associated Press

Joe Cada, a 21-year-old poker ace from Chesterfield Township, shows off his trophy — \$8.5 million — after winning the 2009 World Series Main Event at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino off the Las Vegas Strip early Tuesday morning.

World crown, \$8.5M to alter poker stud's life

BY TIM TWENTYMAN
The Detroit News

Joe Cada celebrated his World Series of Poker victory Tuesday night by throwing a party for his supporters in Las Vegas.

But, in truth, for Cada, the party has just begun.

Cada, a 21-year-old from Chesterfield Township, became the youngest player to win poker's biggest event and the \$8.5 million that goes with it, beating 46-year-old logger Darvin Moon of Maryland after 88 hands and 3½ hours of heads-up play.

The victory will change Cada's life forever. Not only did he win the most coveted prize in all of poker, but the college dropout-turned-poker professional, has gone from relative anonymity to being the new face of the game.

"This opens up tons of doors and tons of opportunities and I'll be there to jump on those," Cada told The Detroit News on Tuesday afternoon. "I don't know how the next year will go, but I'm going to continue to play poker and continue to try and make money. That's the goal."

Make that lots of money. "Winning the World Series isn't just about winning \$8.5 million," WSOP media director Nolan Dalla said. "Sponsorships and endorsements could total \$10 or \$15 million more for him. Over the last six years, Chris Moneymaker has made far more money than the \$2.5 million he won at the (2003) Main Event."

Please see Poker, Page 5B



John T. Greilick/The Detroit News

Placido Polanco's '09 fielding percentage (.997) was better than his career mark (.993).

Polanco honored with second Gold Glove

Tigers second baseman Placido Polanco won his second Gold Glove in the last three years after making his just two errors in 2009.

Polanco, 33, is the third Tigers infielder to win multiple Gold Gloves, joining Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker.

The other American League winners: C Joe Mauer, 1B Mark Teixeira, 3B Evan Longoria, SS Derek Jeter, OF Torii Hunter, OF Adam Jones, OF Ichiro Suzuki and P Mark Buehrle.

Shaq, wife splitting; cash sought unknown

Cavaliers star Shaquille O'Neal's wife, Va'Shaundya, has filed for legal separation.

The O'Neals were married six years, 11 months. She's seeking spousal and child support and full custody of their four kids. No monetary amounts were listed in the filing.

Contact us

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World Series of Poker: Main Event final table standings

1. JOE CADA, CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP, \$8,546,435								
2. Darvin Moon, Oakland Md., \$5,182,601	3. Antoine Saout, Saint Martin des Champs, France, \$3,479,485	4. Eric Buchman, Valley Stream, N.Y., \$2,502,787	5. Jeff Shulman, Las Vegas, \$1,953,395	6. Steven Begleiter, Chappaqua, N.Y., \$1,587,133	7. Phil Ivey, Las Vegas, \$1,404,002	8. Kevin Schaffel, Coral Springs, Fla., \$1,300,228	9. James Akenhead, London, \$1,263,602	

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