

The North Wind

Northern Michigan University's Independent Student Newspaper Since 1972

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— Campus strikers
celebrate the changing
season. — pgs. 8-9

Students protest Proposition 8

By John Becker
staff writer

On Saturday, Nov. 15, about 60 protestors braved 30-degree temperatures and driving snow while standing in front of the post office on Washington Street holding rainbow flags, banners and signs with sayings such as, "Can we vote on your marriage, too?"

The protestors took to the streets in solidarity with other such groups across the country to voice their disapproval of California's Proposition 8 — a measure which

Unity is always essential in the struggle for equal rights, and knowing this, we chose to voice our disagreement.

Many may wonder why Michiganders would brave the November weather to protest a California law. The answer is simple for event organizer and NMU student Randi Mae Clayton, who said that the protection of equal rights was worth standing in the cold.

"I don't think that people consider Northern Michigan to have a really large gay community. I just wanted to open the eyes of the people who probably don't get the information—that there are people being discriminated against," Clayton said. "I, as a straight person, wanted to get involved because I was really sure that it was not the gay community that voted against their own right to marry."

Eden Cepela, a senior at NMU and mem-

ber of OUTlook felt that even allowing Proposition 8 on the ballot was discrimination in the first place, since heterosexual marriage has never been, and probably will never be, in jeopardy.

OUTlook is a student organization that supports the LGBTQA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Allied) community on campus.

"Proposition 8 is, to me, a concrete form of regression, opposing the progressive ideas our country was founded on, which are bound in the notion of equality. Unity

is always essential in the struggle for equal rights, and knowing this, we chose to voice our disagreement."

Freshman Katelyn Hough, member of OUTlook, said the protests were part of a bigger movement.

"It wasn't just us protesting that day. Saturday was a day that there were protests across the nation, all at the same time, all for the same reason," Hough said.

While the group did not organize the protest, she said it was especially important to members of OUTlook.

"This event was not an OUTlook-sponsored event, just something that pertained to what we are; we did have a lot of participants from the group," she said.

The protest lasted for two hours, Hough said, mostly because of a city mandate that the protestors disperse at dusk.

Hough said it is likely the protest would have gone longer were it not for the darkening skies.

Eden Cepela
NMU senior



Photo courtesy of Danielle Lehto

Protestors take to the Washington Street sidewalks last Saturday to voice disapproval with California's Prop. 8, a constitutional amendment that banned gay marriage in the state.

New fund allows student groups to target big names

By Meg Ellis
contributing writer

Student groups looking to bring top-level entertainers to campus are now able to receive funding from somewhere other than the Student Finance Committee. Northern Michigan University has added a new fund, the Major Events Fund, to help student groups bring big-name performers to campus.

The Major Events Fund was started this fall by David Bonsall, director for the Center for Student Enrichment. He created the fund to allow student groups to bring bigger name entertainers to campus, he said.

"I want students to be able to go home over winter and summer break and talk about the performers they saw on campus over the school year," Bonsall said.

According to him, there have

been numerous complaints about the lack of campus events with well-known performers this year. In years past, student groups have brought entertainers such as Bill Cosby, Dierks Bentley, Dashboard Confessional and Jason Mraz to campus.

Bonsall brought the idea of the fund to Rachel Harris, associate director of the Center for Student Enrichment (CSE), Martha Haynes, executive director of the NMU Foundation and several students who had expressed interest in the idea.

Currently, the Major Events Fund is a \$30,000 cash reserve. The organizers hope to increase the fund to \$100,000 within the next few years. The fund will be used for major events that have potential to produce a positive revenue through ticket sales, such as concerts, comedians and speakers.

The \$30,000 was donated by the NMU Foundation, the Parents Foundation, the Volunteer Center and alumni. Bonsall said he knows the cash reserve will diminish over time and use but hopes on-going donations will help the fund replenish itself.

According to him, the fund is not a loan or gift, but rather, a backing fund, meaning that the fund is used to cover the deficit between the cost of the performer and the revenue made in ticket sales. Any profits made by a group would go toward program expenses.

Harris praised the fund, as well. "I think the Major Events Fund is an excellent way for organizations to bring large name concerts, comedians and speakers to campus," she said. "This money allows groups to react quickly to

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Volleyball team heads to NCAAs

By Curt Kemp
sports editor

The Northern Michigan University volleyball team and its head coach Dominic Yoder made good on one of their preseason goals Sunday, making the regional portion of the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

The news came one day after the Wildcats (20-11, 11-5 GLIAC) fell to Saginaw Valley State University in the GLIAC conference semifinal game.

Three 'Cats earned all-GLIAC Tournament honors: Caryn VanBeekum earned first-team honors, Mandie Meyer earned second team and Daneilla Bezerra earned honorable mention.

Now, there's new life for the team, and a whole new slate of games.

When NMU plays in the first round, it will mark the first time in four years that the volleyball program has been to the national tournament, and the first time that Yoder, now in his second year as head coach, has led the program there.

In the first round, the fifth-seeded Wildcats meet up with the Great Lakes Valley Conference's (GLVC) University of Indianapolis, seeded fourth. The game is at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21. The Indianapolis team carries a 28-9 overall record, and 14-4 GLVC mark into the contest.

If the Wildcats walk away with a win, they will face the winner of Grand Valley vs. Northwood on Saturday.

For an in-depth look at the NCAA tournament and a breakdown of their first round match up, see pg. 11.

BRIEFS

Dining Services holds menu contest

The "Taste of Home" event, hosted by Dining Services, is asking friends and parents of NMU students to submit favorite student recipes to add to the Dining Services menus. This is the first year for the event, which began during family weekend. The deadline has been extended until Jan. 1 so families can send in their favorite holiday recipes. After submissions have been collected, Dining Services will taste test the recipes that work best with the regular menu, and then winners will be decided. Anyone who enters will receive two free meal passes. The winners' recipes will be added to the regular menu that Dining Services uses to plan meals. Those who are chosen will also be invited to a dinner which will serve the winning recipes. The winners will also receive a free Dining Services apron. The purpose of the event is to bring a more homey atmosphere to the dining areas at Northern during the winter semester when people do not visit home as often as the fall semester, said Gregory Minner, director of Dining Services. "Parents and friends can be involved in their life in school and their life away. It pulls that closer, to be able to remember and think of home," he added. "It allows us ... to know what the students like, some of their favorite foods." Submissions can be sent to Dining Services at www.nmu.edu/dining/submit.

— Lucy Hough

Relay for Life Kickoff meeting to be held

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life Kickoff will take place on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Woodland Apartments. The event, now in its fifth year at NMU, is themed "One World, One Cure" and will involve teams representing different countries around the world. Even though the actual Relay for Life, which takes place at the Vandament Arena, does not begin until March 27, the fundraising begins in advance. Last year the event, put on by a 15-student committee, brought in a total of \$22,000. The goal is to exceed that this year and reach \$25,000. Prizes will be given out, along with food, beverages and additional information on the Relay and the American Cancer Society. "The Kickoff is where we start to get our teams and participants the information about Relay and tools to start the fundraising," said Relay Chairperson, Bridget Schaffer. For more information on the Kickoff and Relay for Life, contact Schaffer at 227-5738. If you are interested in starting a team, contact Amy Bishop at Abishop@nmu.edu.

— Sarah O'Neill

Hospitality program hosts gourmet meals

The hospitality management program at Northern hosts five course meals every Tuesday and Thursday night in the Jacobetti Center for \$14.99 per person. The last two meals will be held Dec. 3 and 4. This is a new "dining experience" for the hospitality program, and each meal is different, hosting different cultural cuisines. Students in the program create the menu, make the food and serve those who attend. This formal meal with white linen table clothes includes an appetizer, soup, pasta, entrée, salad, dessert and a beverage. Anyone who is interested should make a reservation beforehand as they may be turned away, said Karen Palmquist, a senior in the hospitality management program who works for the professors in the program. According to Palmquist, who has been involved with the program for five years and has seen the progression of the event, this year has had high turnout. "This has been one of the best turnouts," he said. People really do enjoy the evening dining atmosphere, it's a really affordable place," she said. Students are welcome to attend, but the event cannot be paid for with a meal card. To make a reservation call 227-1981 or 227-1545.

— Lucy Hough

Corrections

In last week's front page story, "Cohodas to undergo renovations in 2009," Sam Cohodas should have been identified as an NMU benefactor and former president of the NMU Presidents Club.

In last week's brief titled "'Gay Bar' event to answer legal questions," the quote should have been attributed to Shirley Brozzo.

Meyland's unique smoking policy a breath of fresh air

By Jackie Stark
managing editor

Last year, as discussions of a proposed campus-wide smoking ban took place, students in Meyland Hall were quietly going about their day. They didn't need to concern themselves with the issue of smoking on campus.

They'd already figured out their own solution to that particular problem three years ago.

Instead of sticking with the designated 30-foot rule, which is the current campus smoking policy, Meyland Hall residents decided to assign some of their doors as smoking, and other as non-smoking. Residents are still encouraged to stay 30 feet away from the building at smoking entrances.

"I think they've come up with a pretty creative solution to a problem that plagues most buildings on campus," said Carl Holm, director of Housing and Residence Life. "They're sharing consideration for people who smoke, and the smokers are being asked to be at least as considerate."

The 30-foot rule was first established in May of 2002, after several people complained about smok-

ing taking place directly outside of campus buildings. Some of the smoke was being sucked into the buildings through air intake units, and a committee, which was established to form a solution to the problem, decided on a 30-foot rule to keep cigarette smoke away from the building.

However, it is difficult to enforce this rule across campus, and often, people can be found smoking close to campus buildings.

Lt. Don Peterman of Public Safety said he and his fellow officers try to enforce the rule whenever they see it being broken.

"I just politely let them know, 'please move outside the zone,' or put it out," Peterman said. "It's never been a problem. Sometimes, a person doesn't really even consciously think about how far 30 feet is."

Even with the 30-foot rule, Meyland Hall still had smoke filtering in through air intake units that caused the residents to make their own smoking rule, which was re-voted on during a hall meeting last week. The non-smoking doors are those

near air-intake vents.

Meyland Resident Advisor Corey Cameron said that though not all of Meyland's residents showed up to the meeting, most of the attendants voted to keep the hall's unique smoking policy. He added that this policy could be useful not just in his dorm, but across campus.

"I think it would be a good idea for campus," he said. "The 30-foot rule, we can't really enforce that."

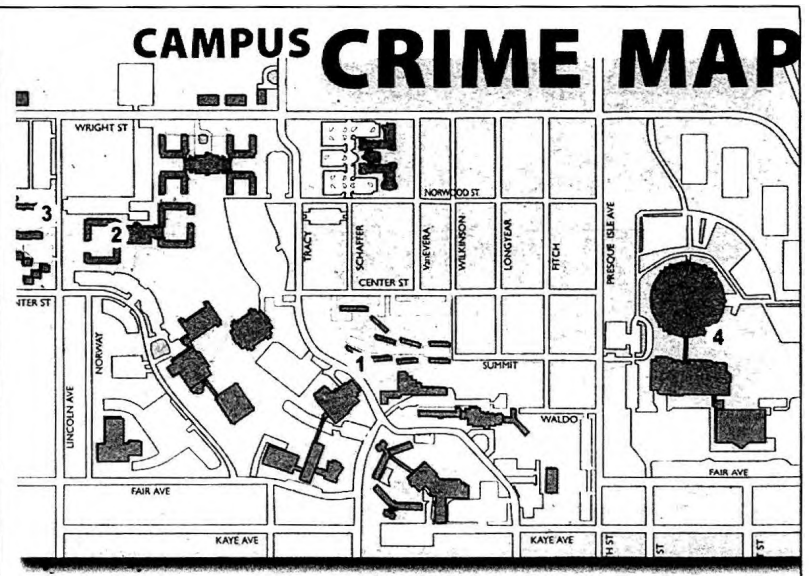
In fact, Holm said he doesn't require resident advisors to actively enforce the rule.

"If RAs see this as an issue, they're going to step outside and say, 'Move away,'" Holm said. "But they've got so many other things to do. I really think it gets down to people being considerate of one another."

Cameron said if he sees a resident smoking by a non-smoking door, he would be able to write that student up. However, he has yet to exercise that power.

So far, the Meyland smoking policy has been effective because it was the students who put it together, Holm said.

"They came up with the solution, and I think that's why it worked," he said. "I think the success is that it's theirs."



Map Key:

1. A bike was reported stolen from the Summit Street Apartments on Nov. 15. The bike disappeared between Nov. 13-15. The case is closed.
2. An underage student was found in possession of alcohol in the Gant Courtyard at 1:24 a.m. on Nov. 16. The case has been referred to the Dean of Student's Office.
3. A bike was reported stolen from Lot 5 on Nov. 17. The bike went missing between Nov. 13-17. The case is closed.
4. University property was reported damaged at the Superior Dome on Nov. 17. The damage occurred between Nov. 15-17. The case is closed.

Smokeout encourages students to kick habit

By Alex Aranda
contributing writer

The Health Promotion Office (HPO) has taken the opportunity to help support the American Cancer Society (ACS) in its effort to help people to quit smoking.

Thursday, Nov. 20 is the 32nd annual Great American Smokeout, a day created to encourage smokers to unite and give up the habit for a single day.

Lenny Shible, head of the HPO, talks highly of the Great American Smokeout, for it can give people the opportunity to think about quitting.

"Any day is a good day to quit," Shible said.

The Smokeout will be raising awareness at NMU. The point of the event is to challenge people to not smoke for one day. The Great American Smokeout will offer ways to help individuals strive for success and attempt to defeat the challenging addiction.

Though, the task may seem unbearable to most smokers, people who begin to think about quitting are cheered for by those around them who wish to see

them stop smoking, always being encouraged to never give up, Shible said.

The Great American Smokeout began on Nov. 18, 1976 in Minnesota, where the first "D-Day (Do not Smoke Day)" took place. The idea was driven by a magazine editor named Lynn R. Smith. The D-Day dealt with challenging people to resist the addiction of smoking for one day. Over a million people gave up smoking for that one day, according to the ACS.

Following her attempts, the ACS had the event become a nation-wide event the following year.

According to the Smokeout Web site, the event has even helped with allowing restaurants to become smoke-free by providing smoke-free literature.

The day is also there for non-smokers who are aware of addicted friends or family. It will offer a variety of ways on how to give advice on quitting.

"Often times, the hardest step is the first step, in terms of how to change the behavior of an individual. The Smokeout gives



Eric Hampton/NW

Justin Hanes sits at a table featuring information intended to help students quit smoking. The Health Promotion Office sponsored the table as part of the 32nd annual Great American Smokeout.

an individual the opportunity to make that initial first step," Shible said.

All the messages coming from the event are directed toward smokers in a positive way. It is essential to notice the harm a cigarette presents to the individual

and how every cigarette inhaled puts the individual, on a line closer to cancer, Shible said.

"Learning how to quit smoking is a process. Depending on the individual it can be a difficult one. This event will be helping students, faculty, and staff view

the road to a new positive outlook on the idea to quit smoking for the better of their lives," said Shible.

For more information visit the HPO in the bottom floor of the University Center or contact the HPO at (906)-227-1455.

FUND

Continued from page 1

opportunities when they might not be able to otherwise. Our hope is to continue to grow this fund so groups can bring even

bigger events to campus."

To get an event approved by the Major Events Fund, a student group must present its idea to a panel of five judges: Bonsall, Harris, and three students with experience bringing programs to

campus. Currently the committee consists of a member of Radio X, First Aid Productions and a student with no particular group affiliation.

Bonsall said that he is working to solidify the members of the committee.

"Ideally, we want students (on the committee) who have a good knowledge of the major entertainment scene and can objectively evaluate the potential for a particular program to be successful financially — which in essence means that students, and in most cases the community, will support it," Bonsall said.

The request will be considered within 48 hours after determining three factors: the ability of the sponsoring organization to put on the event, the access the sponsoring organization has to alternative funds and the ability of the proposed entertainer to sell tickets.

The committee approved an NAE request for \$55,000 to bring popular rock band "Boys Like Girls" to Northern — \$35,000 for the band and \$20,000 for sound lights, stagehands, security, hospitality and other show expenses. But the band declined the offer because the date did not line up with its touring schedule.

The Major Events Fund would have covered any cost not recouped by ticket sales for the event. The rest of the cost would have been provided by other sources.

Campus groups that would like to take advantage of the Major Events Fund can contact Bonsall at 227-2439 or dbonsall@nmu.edu, or Harris at 227-6543 or raharris@nmu.edu.

Student Finance Committee Meeting

Each semester, NMU's Student Finance Committee (SFC) receives over half of the student activity fee, which any Northern student taking more than six credits pays into. The SFC meets on a weekly basis and determines how to distribute this money, based on budget proposals submitted by student organizations.

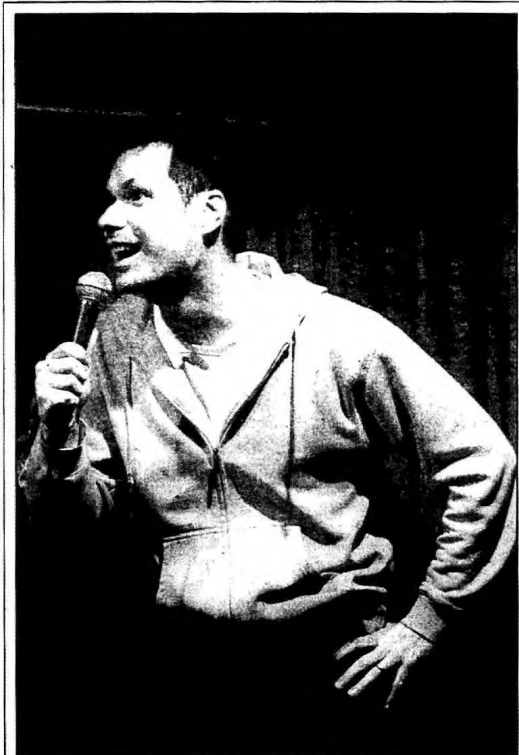
There was no meeting last week due to a lack of budgets.

This week's meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20 in the University Center's Huron Room. The following budgets will be considered:

Organization	Event	Sum Requested
Special Events Committee	Winter Fest	\$6,291.28
NMU Students for Life	Operation Outcry	\$500

Total SFC funds remaining for allocation this semester: **\$46,034.06**

To contact the Student Finance Committee, or to submit your organization's budget, call 227-2452 or send an e-mail to sfc@nmu.edu.



Jeff Kitson/NW

(EXPLETIVE DELETED) Michael Ian Black brought his unique brand of crude humor to NMU Wednesday night as he performed to a packed Great Lakes Rooms. Many of the audience members waited over an hour for seats to the event. They were not disappointed, as Black offered many laughs on subjects ranging from the 2008 election to his genitals.



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editor@thenorthwind.org



Staff Editorial

HP 200 needs change

Every student on campus probably knows about HP 200. It's the one-credit Health Promotions class — Physical Well Being — that NMU students are required to take in order to graduate. The concept is that the class will give students a working knowledge of physical wellness, while allowing them to assess their own and improve on it.

HP 200, however, fails to meet this goal.

The homework in the class is based on a set of textbook-provided labs that students must complete. By doing these labs, students are supposed to have the opportunity to assess their own physical well-being. The class usually requires that the labs be done at home and turned in to the professor — sometimes on the final day of class. If this process wasn't hands-off enough already, the amount of lab feedback varies widely by instructor and is, at times, nonexistent.

Sadly, these labs replace real one-on-one time between students and their instructors, time which should be spent helping students evaluate their health. And this time can't really be too hard to find, for professors or students. In nearly every writing class offered on campus, professors are able to have meetings with students to talk about their work — can it really be this difficult for HP 200?

On top of the time issue, Northern fails to devote the resources and staff required to make the class beneficial. Of the 21 sections of HP 200 being offered this semester, the same associate HPER professor teaches three. Adjunct faculty and graduate teaching assistants teach the remaining 18 sections.

Rather than being aided by a professor solely dedicated to the task at hand, students are left with graduate teaching assistants and adjunct faculty members, both of whom have other schooling and classes of their own to worry about, as well. This combination leads to a classroom filled with people who simply don't want to be there.

Six of the sections are being offered solely over the Internet. This clearly limits the amount of physical activity in the class. And even if the course is held in a classroom, professors who want the class to do some sort of physical work often have trouble securing exercise time in the Dome.

If the university truly values the idea of HP 200 enough to make it a required class, they should treat it as such. Not only should NMU provide several health professors who are committed to actually assisting students in matters of their own health, they should also make sure that the classes have access to the on-campus facilities, such as the Dome.

The North Wind

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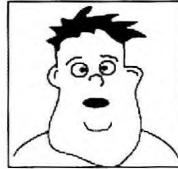
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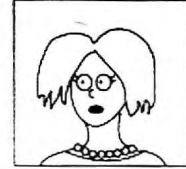
What is HP200?



Is that a type of printer?



It's the sled dog races, right?



Uh-oh...I think it's the class I keep forgetting to go to.

Andrew McCanna
opinion@thenorthwind.org

Letters to the Editor

Election response article unwarranted

I picked up a copy of The North Wind today expecting the usual random stories that I see in every newspaper, but I came across Lucy Hough's article and found several parts of it slightly offensive, making whites sound like some kind of monsters.

The opening line itself is not only in bad context, but also implies that we, as white men, have been holding African Americans back even after they achieved equal rights. "In a nation that was ruled by white men for its first 231 years of existence, the election of a black man..."

It makes it seem as if the government has been holding the race back from achieving great attributes that get stapled into history. The African American people have had plenty of opportunities to run for president as Obama did, the problem was that the Democrats have a problem with choosing candidates.

There were several other quotes that caught my eye. "I believe that such individuals as Shirley Chisholm, Jesse Jackson, and Barbara Jordan have tirelessly fought for change for

many years. With the election of Obama as president, they are seeing the fruit of their labor and the harvest is good. There are parents in African American households around the country telling their children, for the first time, maybe, that they can indeed be anything they want to be," quoted from Markisha Smith, an NMU faculty member. I find these quotes somewhat offensive to the white community. Our country has endlessly allowed the creation of several African American groups that offer scholarships to their race's youth such as the NAACP and the United Negro College Fund, which presents the same opportunity as everyone else to become "anything they want to be." All it takes is a little work.

Another NMU faculty member, Ajani Burrell, said he believes that people everywhere are now saying they can achieve any office they want, not simply because of Obama's win, but because he showed that anyone can make it if they have the means to do it and if they have beliefs consistent with those of the American people. "This election restores my faith in the American people, not just for the fact that the majority have voted for the non-traditional choice, but because they made the

best choice."

I am not saying that the black population does not have a right to celebrate this victory, but only that they do it on their own time. A person can be happy that a minority is in office without expressing their beliefs in a public newspaper, forcing the readers to "come to their side," so to speak.

This article and stories like these do not belong in the media, no matter what medium.

Brett Lampsom
freshman,
graphic communication

Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor must include a full name, year, major and a phone number for verification. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. All letters may be edited for grammar and length.

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NMU technology leaves Macs behind



For What It's Worth
Claire Abent

Art and design majors, like myself, are considered to be the computer privileged on this campus. We are provided by NMU with a MacBook that has a valuable host of software installed on it. And although it catches me some jabs from my non-art and design co-workers, I love my computer.

But this semester, it seems that Northern is having a few problems accommodating those of us who have MacBooks.

When NMU tested the much-hyped emergency alert system, I was quite prepared to have my computer screen be overtaken with a warning while I sat in class. The time for the alert came and passed, and not one thing popped up. Oddly enough, warnings appeared on both my cell phone and in my e-mail. Confused, I just figured that it wasn't working how it was intended, and I promptly for-

got about it.

That was until I arrived at the North Wind office and found out from some colleagues that in fact, the emergency alert system was not designed to work on Macintosh computers. Needless to say, I was pretty shocked to discover that a program designed to safeguard students in the event of an emergency on campus didn't work on the computers provided to art and design students. And those art and design student compose the largest major on campus this semester with 617 students.

The MacBooks issued to students next fall will be equipped with a program that will allow the emergency alert system to work. And while I understand that the university had to create a different program specially for the Macintosh operating system, I see it as a huge oversight that it was not created in conjunction with the original program created for the IBM ThinkPad.

I was also excited when I heard that NMU was planning to increase the size of the wireless network to include the entire city of Marquette next fall. This is, with-

out a doubt, a valuable resource for every student. With the university provided laptop computer and access to wireless Internet anywhere in the area, coursework can be done in any venue. This is especially relevant for some art and design majors, as a lot of the computer programs cannot be used without an Internet connection.

I salivated over the fact that I would no longer have to shell out too much money every month for Internet service that only occasionally functioned like it was

supposed to.

My excitement quickly faded, and once again, my hopes were dashed because I have a MacBook.

WiMax, which will be the new type of Internet connection, is not yet compatible with the Macintosh operating system. Not only that, but there are no foreseeable plans from Macintosh that suggest the MacBooks might one day be compatible with WiMax.

This means that most students, who have ThinkPads, could take

advantage of the new system, while I, on the other hand, could not. Although Northern is willing to extend its wireless network to the entire community, it is not willing to supply MacBook users with an alternative.

Northern prides itself on its laptop program and the access to technology it provides to all students. And I know that the majority of students at Northern do not have MacBooks, but NMU can afford to make a few more allowances for those who do.

Let's face it; you're going to have some serious problems in the future if you keep neglecting your fruits...particularly apples.



Andrew McCann, NMU

Paying kids for school doesn't add up



Staff Column
Kyle Whitney

My middle school days were largely spent sitting at desks learning algebra, writing essays and complaining about being in class. The teacher would often comfort me with the fact that he, too, was forced to be there each day, and someone would invariably yell, "But you get paid!" Without fail, the response would come: "So do you. Your report card is your paycheck."

I was only a 13 year old trying to survive the excitement of an Upper Peninsula childhood, but the pay seemed sufficient.

Now, however, the students at some middle schools in the na-

tion's capital are receiving more literal, and more ridiculous, paychecks. With help from the Capital Gains pilot program, 14 of 28 middle schools in Washington, D.C. are rewarding the kids' efforts with cold, hard cash.

The program is the brainchild of Harvard economist Roland Fryer, and provides money to middle school students based on attendance, behavior and other academic benchmarks, such as homework completion and grades. The kids receive varying amounts of points for completing these already required tasks, and the points are then converted to dollars. Over the course of the school year, a student can earn a maximum of \$1,500.

The total cost of this year's pilot program is \$2.7 million. Half of that bill will be paid by a grant to Harvard from The Broad Foun-

ation, an organization with the goal of "transforming K-12 urban public education through better governance, management, labor relations and competition." The D.C. taxpayers will be left to pick up the rest of the tab.

And the schools in the district clearly need help. According to a 2007 study, only 12 percent of D.C. eighth-graders were able to read proficiently at grade level, while just 8 percent achieved that designation in math. These numbers are lower than any state in the country.

I'm certainly in favor of bettering our education system, but the Capital Gains program is completely ridiculous on many levels, and it doesn't even aim to fix the underlying problems in the D.C. public schools.

The program suggests that students in D.C. would be better off,

academically, if only we bribed them. Even if this ludicrous notion is true, society can carry that load for just so long. Kids can expect to receive regular paychecks from sixth to eighth grade. After that, the well dries up and the students are back to square one, poor and without academic motivation. Children that do well in school solely for a paycheck will have no incentive when the money stops and will be shocked if they ever head to college, where they will shell out thousands of dollars to continue their education.

The biggest roadblock for improvement in the D.C. public schools, however, has little to do with public education. According to the district's Master Education Plan from 2006, most kindergartners have "no exposure to books at home."

Maybe — just maybe — 92

percent of eighth-graders have trouble reading because the only exposure they have to books comes in the classroom. And maybe the kids are showing little interest in academics not because they aren't being paid enough, but because no one at home is telling them that education is important. Kids need to have exposure to books and early educational opportunities in order to gain a curiosity about the world they live in. And that's not something that lawmakers and taxpayers can simply purchase.

Washington, D.C. should approach their education disaster from a community standpoint. By improving the community from within, with the creation of libraries and local neighborhood education programs, the district may actually see a real difference in student performance.

Sound Off

What are you thankful for?

Compiled by David Miller



Chris Wasilewski
junior, communication studies

"I am extremely thankful for music, condoms and video games with awesomeness."



Star Murray
senior, public relations

"The miracle of life."



Corinna Korpela
freshman, undeclared

"I am very thankful for friends, family and toilet paper."



David Bretall
senior, media productions

"Having the opportunity to get my education."



Rochelle Smith
sophomore, social work

"I am thankful for my family and friends, that I am in college and have a job."

Hunger banquet to raise awareness of worldwide food distribution problems

By Carson LeMahieu
news editor

On Monday, Nov. 24, NMU students and local residents will get a chance to see how poor global food distribution contributes to famine.

The Superior Geography Club and Earthkeepers are holding the Ox-Fam Hunger Banquet to raise awareness of famine.

"It's a roleplaying event that will demonstrate how food is distributed between the low, middle and upper classes," said NMU sophomore Mike Robinson.

Robinson helped organize the event as a part of the Superior Geography Club.

Participants in the banquet will be given a color-coded card. The color of the card determines which class-level meal a diner will get. The color ratio of cards handed out corresponds to the percentage of the world's population that lives in that condition.

According to Robinson, people who are lucky enough to draw an upper-class card will get a meal consisting of pasta, bread and salad. Middle-class diners will receive rice, salad and tea. The majority of diners will be in

the low-class and will receive a meal consisting of rice and tea.

The food for the event is being donated by the Marquette Food Co-Op.

Robinson said it was only natural that the Geography Club be involved in the event.

"Geography is really a broad study," he said. "Anything relating to our world and how we interact with it is key."

Earthkeeper member Ben Scheelk said he hopes the timing of the event causes people to reflect on their usage of food.

Hopefully when people sit down at their Thanksgiving feasts they will be able to realize just what they are thankful for.

Ben Scheelk
NMU senior

"The most important thing with the event is the timing," Scheelk said. "It's two days before Thanksgiving and hopefully when people sit down at their Thanksgiving feasts they will be able to realize just what they are thankful for."

Earthkeepers is an interfaith organization that has taken a pledge to protect the environment.

The Earthkeepers' goals include gaining a deeper reverence for the miracle of creation, identifying as citizens of the world, accepting responsibility for the natural world and promoting an interfaith dialogue.

Scheelk said Earthkeepers' theme for this year is the relationship between the environment and food.

"One of Ox-Fam's main concerns is the famine being created in sub-Saharan Africa by climate change," he said. "This event is a great link for us to show how climate change is affecting food distribution."

Ox-Fam is an international organization which aims to raise awareness of and end famine. They have projects in over 100 different countries.

Projects have included development projects such as bringing clean water to villages and teaching sustainable agriculture. In addition to development projects Ox-Fam also provides relief after natural disasters.

The hunger banquet taking place at Northern is part of a nationwide campaign by Ox-Fam. Other events include day long fasts, or skipping meals as a group throughout the week.

Scheelk said that even though the event will highlight the causes of global famine it will not assign blame.

"This event isn't there to point fingers at anyone," he said. "The only purpose is to educate."

In addition to the dinner, the event will also feature several short movies provided by Ox-Fam and two guest speakers.

Natasha Gill, outreach director of the Marquette Food Co-Op and owner of Dancing Crane Farms, a self-sustained, organic farm in Skandia, will speak on sustainable local agriculture.

In addition, NMU professor Stephen DeGoosh will also speak.

Last year the Sustainable Agriculture Club hosted a similar event, although that event lacked a dinner due to campus food preparation rules. This year the event is being hosted at Grace United Methodist Church to avoid restrictions on food preparation.

The event begins at 6 p.m. at the Grace United Methodist Church across the street from Whitman Hall.

The dinner is free to everyone, but the group will be collecting donations for Ox-Fam. Ox-Fam's suggested donation for the event is \$3.

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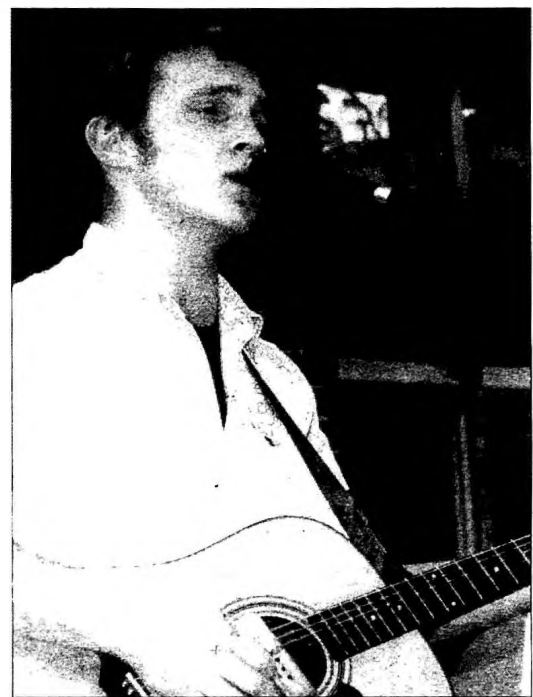
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40022





Northern student shares love of music

By Brice Burge
contributing writer

As students file out of their dorm rooms on Saturday evenings, they gather in the Payne/Halverson lobby where a musician is preparing a modest set — a microphone stand, two speakers and an acoustic guitar. He begins playing a variety of songs, starting with a cover of Tom Petty's "Mary Jane's Last Dance," his soothing voice calming the crowd. But what many of his listeners don't know is that, despite his bare-bones set-up, he may have the chance to be a successful professional musician.

Curtiss Stedman is a junior English major at NMU, and is a singer-songwriter. He got his start in music when he dusted off his mother's guitar after returning from the Hiawatha Music Festival in 1998.

"I started plucking some chords to the best of my ability, and I failed horribly," Stedman said. "When I asked my uncle for help, he told me 'listen to Bob Dylan,' so I would match up those chords I knew with the music in the song."

Stedman started writing shortly after that, with his first song being about Batman and Superman fighting crime together.

"I think there are like three people that have ever heard that song," said Stedman. "Maybe someday DC Comics will use it as a jingle."

After a small stint fooling around with "sappy" love songs, he went to the following year's Hiawatha Music Festival, where he found his true musical niche: folk song.

"I'm not sure why, but the sheer magic surrounding the (Hiawatha Music) Festival tapped into my creative initiative and put the song writing bug in my ear. I began

playing around with similes and metaphors to describe different scenes and the way they all made me feel," he said.

Stedman manages to integrate his love for music into his busy schedule as a Northern student. He works at Hudson's Bar and Grill and plays on the men's rugby club team on top of his five classes, all the while maintaining a 3.56 GPA. However, he doesn't see his schedule as being different than anyone else's.

"My schedule is pretty darn ordinary. I go to school, wait tables, do my homework," said Stedman.

Even with his schedule, Stedman still makes sure that his music is his top priority for those times when he can play. During the summer, when Stedman was able to escape the time constraints of his education, he went down to Nashville to record his second self-produced CD.

Stedman spent up to 13 hours a day in the studio for the week he was there. Sometimes he would be accompanied by a drummer or a bass player, but for the most part he played by himself, according to Rob Lenz, the audio engineer for the CD.

"We brought in some studio musicians, but a lot of it was his vocals," Lenz said. "He knew what he wanted so it went faster than others I've worked with."

Stedman recorded 12 songs for the CD, titled "What's in the Water." The album has 11 original tracks and a cover of the Bob Dylan song "The Times They Are a-Changin'." On the disc, he shows a wide range of vocals and his instrumental skill with his trademark guitar and harmonica. Stedman even breaks out a kazoo for his song "Frumpy."

"He has a natural goofiness and energy to him; those qualities are

hard to find in the industry today," said Lenz.

Stedman said he enjoyed recording in a professional atmosphere.

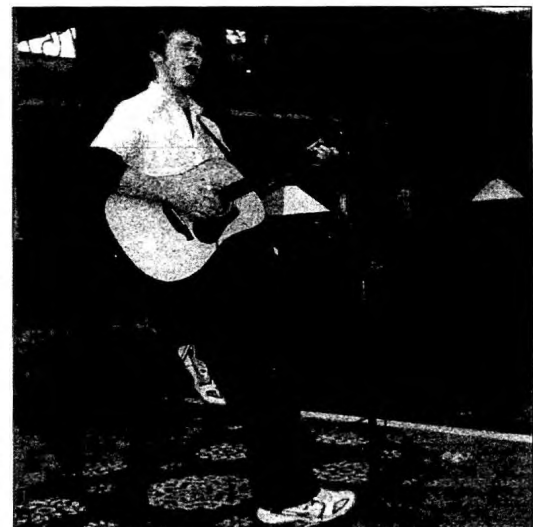
"(This) was a legitimate studio with foam walls, thick soundproof glass, top of the line microphones, mixing boards and crawling with excellent musicians and audio engineers," Stedman said. "Hootie and the Blowfish had finished up recording an album right behind the building we were in. The professionalism given by everyone that part of the project was tremendous."

According to Stedman, the new CD will be released sometime next year. Because he is producing the album by himself, Stedman needs to find a company that will package the final product. Once the packaging procedure is complete, he can publicly release the CD. Stedman also wants to release his songs through the Internet by iTunes and other similar online music options.

The studio surroundings were much improved from the last time Stedman recorded an album, titled "Another Place, Another Song" in the summer of 2007. The album also had 12 tracks, but was recorded in a closet insulated with foam egg cartons in Manistee, Mich., about an hour south of Traverse City.

The real passion for Stedman comes during his live performances. Whether it's a large crowd at a festival or small lobby show, the emotions and feelings come from deep inside him.

"Of course the bigger the crowd the greater the adrenaline, but when it's a smaller crowd your songs are put to the test," Stedman said. "You learn to read faces and body language as to whether or not they dig your sound."



Photographer/Jeff Kitson

Curtiss Stedman plays an acoustic set at his open mic show in the Payne/Halverson lobby on Thursday, Nov. 13.

Upcoming events

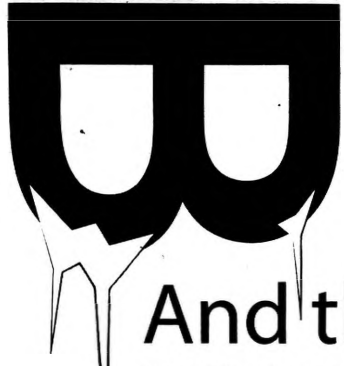
Many people have seen Curtiss Stedman play on campus through his Open Mic Nights in the dorm lobbies. Bringing his own speakers and equipment, he starts playing around 10 p.m. and plays until 3 a.m., when the lobbies close down for the night. He does share the microphone with anyone that is willing to play.

"An open mic is fever about the host. It can't be. It's got to be for everyone else," he explained. "It's their chance to shine for their friends and maybe family."

Stedman has no set schedule for his spontaneous Open Mic Nights in the dorm lobbies, but here are some opportunities to see him.

When:	Event:	Where:
Nov. 20	Euchre Tournament	Marketplace 9 p.m.
Nov. 22	Toys for Tots Drive	Walstrom's 4 p.m.
Feb. 5	Opening act for Jason LeVasseur	Starbucks 8 p.m.

SnowBALLS Deep in winter: the men of the Brule House celebrate a time-honored tradition



And they're off!

By Shane Nyman
staff writer

Most folks celebrate the beginning of winter by hanging their Christmas decorations or building a snowman. The residents of the Brule House in Gant Hall celebrate the beginning of winter by running naked in public.

"We got out of the hall, and there were just flashes everywhere," said Derrick Schippert, the resident advisor for the Brule House. "It was a rush and just a blur."

Schippert, and dozens of others from the Brule House, had just taken part in the time-honored tradition known as the Brule Run on Monday, Nov. 17.

Here are the bare basics of the Brule Run: After the season's first snowfall sticks for 24 hours, the residents of the Brule House streak through the courtyard between Gant and Spalding Halls. And, to support these brave men, hundreds of spectators show up each year to witness the fleshy celebration.

At the crack of midnight, the doors of Gant Hall fly open, and the Brule runners emerge looking not too different from the day they were born. The crowd, having spent nearly an hour exposed to the elements and now whipped into a frenzy, showers the runners with laughter, camera flashes and oh-my-gods, as the runners channel their inner Frank "The Tank" and dash around the square path lined with onlookers.

"It lived up to expectations. It's a bunch of guys running around with shrunken dicks," said Angel Antrim, a freshman psychology major who watched the run. "I think it's a good tradition. It loosens things up on campus."

Undeclared freshman Kyle Bollin was on hand Monday night to cheer on his Brule buddies. That, and to make their battling of the elements more memorable.

"I think it's (expletive) hilarious, and I'm going to hit my boys in the balls with snowballs as hard as I can," he said, before the run began.

Aside from boots and shoes, this year's runners were all unclothed from the waist down. Among these slipping, sliding, bouncing and swinging runners was a student dressed in a cowboy vest and hat, another in an L.A. Lakers Shaquille O'Neal jersey, one in a Michigan Tech football helmet and another in a long, red bathrobe.

Schippert more fondly recalled his Monday night nude exploits: "It was fun, and I think it went well. It's a brotherhood thing; everyone in that house is like a best friend to me and so it all came very natural."

Schippert and the rest of the jumping, screaming and dancing Brule runners took a lap or two, and then the majority found their way back into Gant Hall. A few stragglers, however, weren't ready to pack it in. A handful of the naked runners continued hanging out and parading through the courtyard, throwing snowballs, wrestling and waiting for the next act of the outdoor circus.

Soon, the attention of the mob turned from streaking males to the prospect of topless females. Up in the top floors of Spalding Hall, a few groups of women stood in the windows with the intention of putting on their own spectacle. Much to the delight of the screaming, chanting and predominantly male crowd, the females lifted their shirts, flashing and shaking for the crowd. This, of course, is part two of the time-honored tradition: The Malibu Flash.

"This year was a big success. We had a really good turnout, and a lot of the Brule guys ended up running," said the Resident Director of Gant Hall, Dylan Shiver, who attended the event to help maintain order. "And the Malibu House (in Spalding Hall) held up their end of the tradition with the Malibu Flash."

Minutes later, the show was over, and Public Safety arrived to make sure everybody found their way back home - and put their clothes back on - safely.

"(Public Safety) comes before and after the run just to have their presence there. In years past, they've held the doors open for the runners," said Shiver, who added there were no incidents or injuries.

"As long as people are respectful and aren't throwing snowballs at the runners, then it's just a good, safe place to have fun."

History of the Brule Run

By Sarah O'Neill
staff writer

The history and tradition of the Brule run is just as peculiar as the event itself.

After the first big snowfall that sticks for 24 hours, Brule, the all-male house located on the first floor of Gant Hall, has the wacky tradition of running through the courtyard at midnight. And yes, they wear nothing but their birthday suits as they do so.

Carl Holm, director of Housing and Residence Life, estimates that the tradition started in the early 80s. In the 70s, when freedom of expression was more widely exercised, those who wanted to frolic naked did so in the Payne/Halverson courtyard.

"Payne/Halverson used to be the streaking Mecca, but that died away after a while," Holm said. "Brule picked up the gauntlet and made it a thing where only they streaked."

Derrick Schippert, junior graphic design major and resident advisor of Brule, has lived in the house and participated in the run for the past two years.

"It has to be a pretty big snowfall, whatever we assume that to be," he said.

Schippert said the long-standing tradition is usually welcomed by the majority of residents in the hall, although a few opt to sit out on the chilly fun.

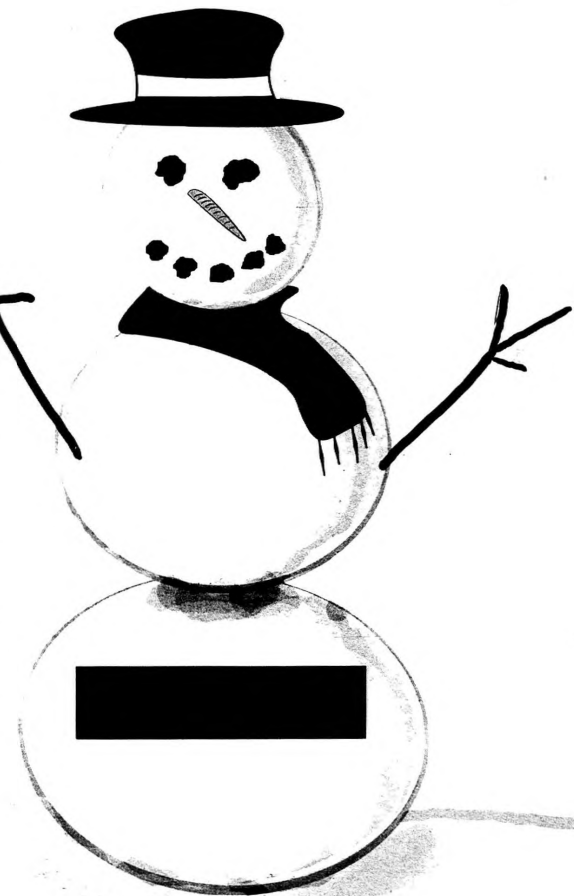
"Only two or three people usually don't run, but I'm thinking more ran this year than last year."

In addition to the naked men running amuck, the all-female Malibu House in Spalding takes part in the tradition as well by lifting their shirts and facing the group of delighted males in the courtyard.

Other halls at NMU welcome the frigid weather in different, PG-rated ways. Hunt Hall's Arctic Plunge involves the students from Arctic House jumping into Lake Superior at the beginning of the season, while Spalding and West Hall both host formals at the start of winter semester.

The Brule Run is also just one of many organized streaking events held on college campuses around the United States.

At Dartmouth College, students celebrate an annual swim across the Connecticut River by running back to the starting point in the nude. Students at Tufts University in Massachusetts celebrate the end of the fall semester by streaking around the residential quad, and at Hamilton College in New York they actually have a varsity streaking team.



'Little' game offers gigantic fun



Game: Little Big Planet
 Developer: Media Molecule
 Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment
 Genre: Platformer
 Players: 1 - 4
 MSRP: \$59.99
 ESRB Rating: Everyone



By Scott Viau
 staff writer

There's a strange, beautiful world available to those who have the means for entrance. While this world may look like our own at first, the further one dives into it the less familiar it will appear. In this world there are puzzles that must be solved, people who need to be rescued and quite a lot of fun to be had. And developer Media Molecule must be highly praised for creating a world so vivid and imaginative that one wishes it was real.

"Little Big Planet" (LBP) is a

side-scrolling platformer, featuring Sackboy (or Sackgirl), a truly adorable character if there ever was one. Throughout the game the player will use Sackboy to run, climb, jump and grapple through over 50 levels of varying difficulty, all of which can be played with friends. Along the way the player will have to solve physics based puzzles as well as collect hidden items before reaching each level's end. Sackboy is also customizable, and the player is able to add stickers to his body and change the color of his skin. The more story levels played the more stickers and objects will be available for customization. The player can even customize Sackboy's face to give him an ear-to-ear grin or a

heart wrenching frown.

The gameplay is quite intuitive and easy to follow. There's hardly any button mashing, which can sometimes plague the genre. The somewhat 2D graphics, while having the potential to make games look less than great, bring out the vibrant and cheerful colors. Levels are each unique in their own right, though, and don't seem to follow any specific pattern.

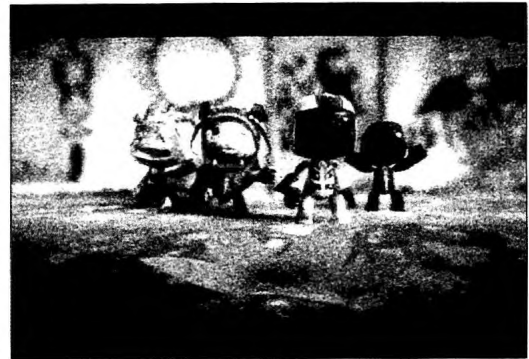
But the biggest draw to "LBP" is the level editor and creator. Those more interested in creating their own levels will find the tutorials to be quite helpful and even humorous, as Stephen Fry, narrator of the "Harry Potter" audio books, guides the player through the set up of their own level. The player must first choose a background or start from scratch with what looks like a seemingly endless stretch of sidewalk against a blank canvas. The creating devices, while easy enough to use, take some time to master since there's so many of them. From then on it's up to the player to create any look he or she wants. The further the player gets into the creation of a level the more fun it is as their creations start to unfold before them.

After playing some of these levels it's easy to see just how much time some people have on their hands. While some of these match up to the levels in story

mode, others appear to be hastily put together, much like mine was. One of the most enjoyable aspects of this was seeing the many different themes players used to create their levels. These themes ranged from Ninja Warrior, which was nearly spot on, to "Saw," which was quite fun and true to its source material. Not all the user created levels in "LBP" follow a theme, though. Many are simply the creative offspring of the player. While the story mode has a finite amount of game play, the user created levels will provide unlimited hours of entertainment. Anyone who has a connection to the Internet can upload their levels and play others'

free of charge. With nearly 84,000 levels now online there should be something for everyone.

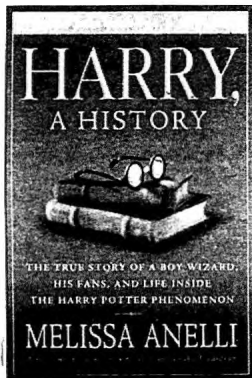
While those used to the blood and guts of other games may find it too childish to play, there is something to be said about a game that can use incredibly mild violence and beautiful level designs to make everyone feel like a six year old again. To play a game for the sheer joy of seeing what the next level will look like is an experience that cannot be understated. While poor college students may balk at the \$60 price tag, the near endless amount of fun "Little Big Planet" offers makes it worth every penny.



Photos courtesy of Amazon.com

A varied group of Sackboys and Sackgirls get ready to tackle a world full of creativity and excitement in Media Molecule's "Little Big Planet."

Retrospective look at Potter enjoyable



By Scott Viau
 staff writer

Although it's been nearly a year and a half since J.K. Rowling's final "Potter" book, fans are still clamoring for more. Melissa Anelli, webmaster of the fan site The Leaky Cauldron, has sated their urges with a book detailing not only the history of Harry, but of her experiences with the boy wizard. The result is nearly as moving and touching as the "Potter" novels themselves.

"Harry, A History" tackles more than just the oft-told story of how "Potter" was born. Anelli details her experiences with Harry, beginning from the moment she fell in love with the boy wizard. As Anelli's love for the books grew, so did her desire to become involved with the growing online community. Anelli's small, non-paying job at the Leaky Cauldron would lead her to some of the most exciting and opportune chances of her burgeoning journalistic career.

Anelli writes with a clear and entertaining voice that makes her quite enjoyable to read. Her encounters with Rowling are humorous, and Anelli provides a great deal of interesting information about her life with Harry, which includes touring with a Potter-themed rock band. These stories show the reader there's a large fan base out there. There are people who celebrate the series not just by reading it, but by singing and writing about it.

What makes "Harry" such a pleasure is that most readers can identify with Anelli. We all remember our first midnight release and each one after that, as well as the spoilers that plagued each release. Although I couldn't

help but search for these spoilers, I learned, just like Anelli, that it's not the outcome that affects the reader as much as the journey.

The ending of "Harry" is almost as sad as the ending of the series itself. In short paragraphs, Anelli explains where fellow Potter fans were on the day of the release and shortly thereafter. It's unlikely that there will ever be anything else in our lifetime that can unite both young and old in the simple pleasure of reading a great story.

Though for all the pleasure and charm this book brings, it's not without faults. For chronicling 10 years of Anelli's life, the book seems somewhat short. An additional 50 to 100 pages — or a transcript from her most recent interview with Rowling — doesn't seem unreasonable.

Those suffering from post-Potter depression will find "Harry, A History" to be an excellent trip down memory lane. It's filled with funny and clever anecdotes, while being properly sentimental about the loss of something that has meant so much to people everywhere. Harry Potter has not truly left us, though. Not as long as we continue to read and remember him.



Radio X's
 top weekly
 album plays:

1. **GRAILS**
"Doomsday's Holiday"
2. **TAKEOVER UK**
"It's All Happening"
3. **BLOC PARTY**
"Intimacy"
4. **MEDESKI MARTIN AND WOOD**
"Radiolarians 1"
5. **KEANE**
"Perfect Symmetry"
6. **VARIOUS ARTISTS**
"Perfect As Cats A Tribute To The Cure"
7. **ORIGAMI GHOSTS**
"Short Momentum"
8. **DECEMBERISTS**
"Always The Bridemaid: A Single Series"
9. **KINGS OF LEON**
"Only By The Night"
10. **HEY MONDAY**
"Hold On Tight"



Week's top
 box office
 films:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Quantum of Solace | \$67.5M |
| 2. Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa | \$35.0M |
| 3. Role Models | \$11.2M |
| 4. High School Musical 3 | \$5.66M |
| 5. Changeling | \$4.25M |

source: imdb.com

Volleyball digging in for tournament

By Gordon Beedle
assistant sports editor

The NMU volleyball team went into this season with a goal to make the regional level of the national tournament.

And now, as the season funnels to that time of the year, the 'Cats have achieved this goal with a No. 5 ranking.

Head coach Dominic Yoder said his team should be proud of its accomplishment.

"I think they are very excited and they've reached one of their goals," he said. "Not only did they want to make it to this level, but they wanted to be a high seed and they are and they should be very proud of that fact."

On Friday, Nov. 21 in the first round of competition, NMU squares off against No. 4 Indianapolis.

The 'Cats have split with the Greyhounds in two prior matches this season, with a 2-3 loss in September and 3-0 win in the GLIAC—Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Crossover Tournament in October.

The Wildcats come off a week where they were swept by SVSU 3-0 in the conference semi-finals, but despite not making the championships, NMU players still earned league accolades.

Junior outside hitter Mandie Meyer was selected to second team and senior outside hitter Daniela Bezerra was named honorable mention.

Senior middle hitter Caryn VanBeckum was also selected with first team honors.

"It feels good to be honored like that. But I could not have done it without the team, of course, and

the coaching staff," VanBeckum said. "So it definitely is an award for them too, and they should be honored as well, because it's not just a one-person show out there on the court."

VanBeckum is second on the team for kills, with 311, and her presence on the court will be a larger factor against the Greyhounds, Yoder said.

VanBeckum said the talent and the skill of IU are not to be overlooked on Friday.

"We just need to stay focused on what we are doing," she said. "Also we need four and five players on the court playing their best and not just one or two."

To add to the play on the court, Bezerra will return after missing the majority of the past three games with an ankle injury.

"Having one of your starting players in the lineup is always a boost in your confidence, not just for her but the entire team," Yoder said.

With Bezerra back in the lineup, the 'Cats regain their third highest attacker statically and she could bring a much-needed boost in morale after Friday's conference playoff loss to SVSU.

"When you lose to somebody you want to play them again. You want to get another shot," Yoder said. "No matter how many times you get knocked down you still have to get back up. And you have to be willing to get back up."

VanBeckum said though the team will use the loss against SVSU as motivation, she doesn't think they will dwell on it.

"We have moved on. It would have been nice to get that win and move into the conference finals, but we're into the regional tourna-

ment and that is what matters," she said.

If the 'Cats want to be successful this weekend, they must overcome either Grand Valley or Saginaw Valley — the only two teams that beat them in league play.

Bezerra said if the Wildcats stay focused, they can overcome these teams and move up the ladder at the national level.

"If we try and play like champions, we should be champions," she said.

But this is a lofty order for the Wildcats and in a single elimination tournament no one can really predict the outcome.

"We still live another day and we still play another match," Yoder said. "And now it's single elimination. You play one match at a time and try to live and play another day."

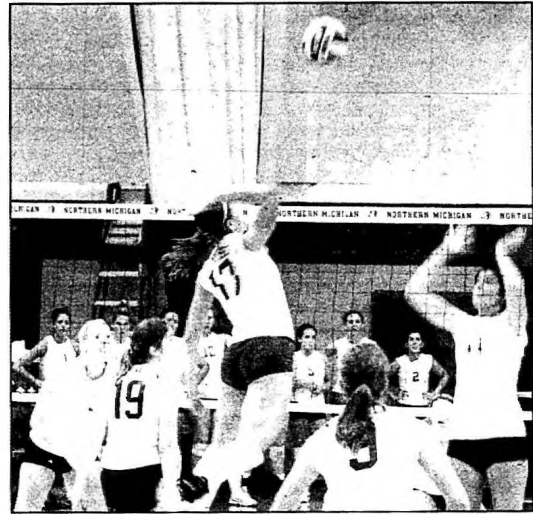
The national tournament is made of 64 teams in eight regions and the top eight teams from each region qualify.

NMU earned its No. 5 ranking by finishing 20-11 overall and 11-5 in league play. In the GLIAC-GLVC region the winner will represent the Midwest in the quarter-finals of play on Dec. 4.

The match against Indianapolis will start at 5 p.m. and the next match is Saturday against the winner of Grand Valley vs. Northwood.

But the Wildcats are not thinking too far into the future, because the tournament is single elimination and if they lose, their season is over.

"It is a crazy feeling that if we lose we are done," Bezerra said. "But I think we are going to do the best we can and this is what we worked for all year."



left: Kitson/NW
Mandie Meyer attempts a kill in a game at Vandament Arena.

Midwest Region Volleyball Rankings

1. Grand Valley State 29-3
2. Saginaw Valley 23-6
3. Lewis 28-7
4. Indianapolis 27-9
5. Northern Michigan 20-11
6. Northern Kentucky 25-7
7. Michigan Tech 19-10
8. Northwood (Mich.) 16-13

2008 VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP									
Rank	Team	Record	Day	Time	Opponent	Record	Day	Time	Opponent
1	Grand Valley St.	29-3							
8	Northwood (Mich.)	16-13	Sat	11/22	7:30pm ET				
5	Northern Mich.	20-11			Sun 11/23	7pm ET			
4	Indianapolis	27-9					Sat 11/22		
3	Lewis	28-7	Sat	11/22	5pm ET				
6	Northern Ky.	25-7							
7	Michigan Tech	19-10			Thurs 12/4	12pm ET			Thurs 12/4
2	Saginaw Valley	23-6							5pm ET
1	Wingate	30-1	Sat	11/22	7:30pm ET				
8	Anderson (S.C.)	24-13							
5	Francis Marion	23-8			Sun 11/23	7pm ET			
4	Catawba	20-10							Sat 11/22
3	Armstrong Atlantic	25-6	Sat	11/22	5pm ET				
6	Lander	20-9							
7	Lincoln Memorial	20-15			Fri 12/5	5pm ET			Sat 12/6
2	Carson-Newman	24-14							7pm ET
1	New Haven	28-3							
6	Queens (N.Y.)	25-9	Fri	11/21	7:30pm ET				
5	Merrimack	20-9			Sat 11/22	7pm ET			
4	Georgian Court	31-4							Sun 11/23
3	Bentley	21-11	Fri	11/21	5pm ET				
6	Bridgeport	27-13							
1	Adelphi	27-11			Thurs 12/4	2:30pm ET			Thurs 12/4
2	Dowling	32-6							7:30pm ET
1	Concordia-St Paul	21-1	Fri	11/21	9pm ET				
1	Regis (Colo.)	19-11							
1	Augustana (S.D.)	23-10			Sat 11/22	8:30pm ET			Sat 11/22
1	Neb.-Kearney	21-3							7pm ET
1	Minn-Duluth	24-8	Fri	11/21	7:30pm ET				
1	Wayne St (Neb.)	23-9							
1	Metro St.	21-3							
1	Southwest Minn St.	27-4							
25-3	Cal St. San Bernardino								
18-8	BYU-Hawaii								
20-10	Cal St. Chico								
23-6	Sonoma St.								
18-7	Cal Poly Pomona								
22-2	Western Ore.								
20-7	Cal St. L.A.								
21-6	UC San Diego								
37-1	California (Pa.)								
31-9	Elizabeth City St.								
21-14	Mercyhurst								
28-5	Lock Haven								
26-8	Edinboro								
25-11	Slippery Rock								
25-4	West Virginia St.								
28-9	Wheeling Jesuit								
32-3	Emporia St.								
21-13	Permian Basin								
33-4	West Tex. A&M								
28-7	Pittsburg St.								
30-5	Washburn								
28-9	Central Mo.								
16-15	Neb.-Omaha								
29-7	Truman								
25-4	Tampa								
31-3	Albany St (Ga.)								
20-13	Eckard								
29-7	West Fla.								
24-12	Lynn								
21-11	Nova Southeastern								
28-10	St. Leo								
25-8	Fla. Southern								

November, with OSU's Bucks in sight

By Curt Kemp
sports editor

Looking to pick up its first win in over a month, the Northern Michigan hockey team welcomes CCHA-foe Ohio State to the Berry Events Center for a two-game weekend series.

It will be the first time the Wildcats and the Buckeyes have met since NMU knocked OSU out of the first round of the CCHA tournament last season.

Currently, NMU's record sits at 2-7-1 (1-6-1-0 CCHA). A year ago, the Wildcats were 1-8, and went on to finish strong with a win in the third-place game at the CCHA Championships.

Head coach Walt Kyle said, though this season has been a tough one, the play during the first stretch of games isn't as bad as it was last season.

"This year, we're 2-7-1 and we haven't played that bad. We haven't played that bad, we just haven't found a way to get it done," Kyle said.

"I'm not insinuating that I'm OK with it," he added. "I am not happy with it. I'm not happy with our record."

Last weekend, the Wildcats were swept by Bowling Green State University for the first time since January 2003. Both nights, the 'Cats fell by just one goal, and on Friday night, NMU led for most of three periods until a late-third-period goal and an early overtime goal gave NMU the 2-1 loss.

Through the weekend, NMU junior goaltender Brian Stewart faced 93 shots, and turned aside 89 of them. In Friday night's overtime game, Stewart had a career-high in saves, with 48.

Of CCHA goalies, only Jeff Lerg (284) has stopped more

shots than Stewart, who has 280 saves on the season. And despite not picking up a win last weekend, Stewart was honored by the CCHA for his standout performance; NMU's netminder was named CCHA goaltender of the week after picking up the second star of both Friday and Saturday night's games.

"It was just like guys were just coming down and shooting it," Stewart said. "I felt good all weekend. I don't mind those kind of games."

Stewart's head coach said, though there were problems on the team, none of them had anything to do with the goaltender.

"There hasn't been any problems with Stewie," Kyle said. "He's been rock solid."

The Wildcats scored two goals over the weekend, both courtesy of sophomore forward Greger Hanson.

Hanson now leads all NMU scorers with six points, on two goals and four assists.

"I think we played pretty bad Friday night, to be honest," Hanson said about the BGSU series. "But, we took a step Saturday, and hopefully we can build off that and get Ohio State."

Of Hanson's goals, Saturday's was officially a power play marker, while Friday night's goal came seconds after a Northern power play had concluded. The goal with the extra attacker broke NMU's 0 for 34 streak of unsuccessful power play opportunities.

"What I liked, was the same guy got both goals from the same spot," Kyle said. "And, potentially we've found a spot there for Greger, where he can be effective and have some offense."

When compared to last season's offensive stats, this year's



File photo/NW

Stewart has more saves than anyone in the CCHA, save for one — Michigan State's Jeff Lerg.

team is five goals off from the previous, reiterating the fact that the offense is still an area of this year's team that Kyle is hoping will turn around.

"It's still a big problem, which I didn't perceive was going to be a problem going into the year," he said. "We thought we had the people in place that had the ability to score and that would score, and to this point, they haven't done that."

Ohio State will be bringing a 5-5-1 overall record (3-4-1-1 CCHA) to Marquette this weekend, along with a three-game winning streak, with wins coming against Michigan State and Robert Morris.

The Buckeyes leading scorer

is freshman forward Zac Dalpe, a Carolina Hurricanes draft pick, who is 13th in the CCHA in scoring, with 10 points (6-4-10) in 11 games. Tied with him is senior forward Corey Elkins (4-6-10).

One aspect of the Wildcat team that was worked on in preparation for BGSU was the team's aggressiveness. Although it wasn't until Saturday night, the Wildcats came out more aggressive than they did on Friday. According to junior defenseman TJ Miller, they'll have to be even more aggressive this weekend against Ohio State.

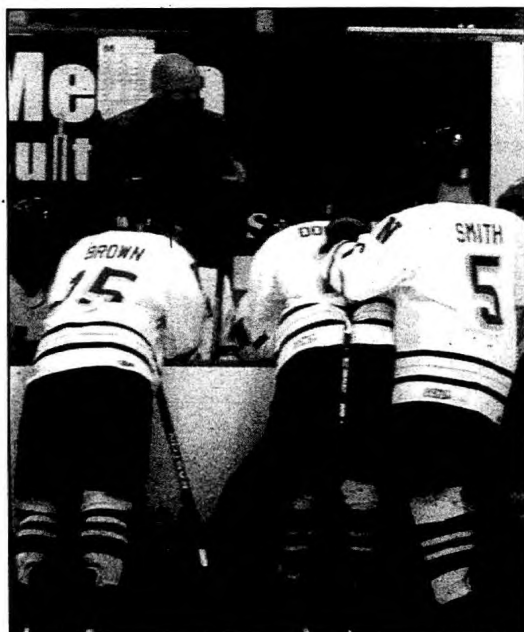
"This weekend, we're going to have to be even more physical, because we always play Ohio State physical," Miller said.

"We've had a pretty good rivalry, beating them in the last two playoffs."

Miller added that, even though the Wildcats looked forward to a winning season this time around, now the team will have to simply concern themselves with what's ahead.

"It's just a little bit of a grind right now. Just like last year, we went through it," he said.

"We didn't want to go through it this year, but we are. There's nothing much we can do about it now, except to just practice harder, show up everyday and try to compete against ourselves, and make ourselves better. We'll worry about the weekend when it comes."



Jeff Kitson/NW

NMU head coach Walt Kyle will have to rally the troops this weekend.

CCHA Standings

	GP	W	L	T	SW
1. Miami	10	6	2	2	1
2. Ferris State	8	4	2	2	0
3. Michigan	8	5	3	0	0
4. Bowling Green	8	4	3	1	0
5. Lake Superior State	8	3	3	2	1
6. Nebraska-Omaha	6	3	2	1	1
7. Notre Dame	6	3	2	1	1
8. Michigan State	8	2	4	2	2
9. Ohio State	8	3	4	1	1
10. Alaska	6	3	3	0	0
11. Western Michigan	8	1	4	3	1
12. Northern Michigan	8	1	6	1	0

Weightlifting receives pump of funds

By Gordon Beedle
assistant sports editor

It has been a rollercoaster of a week for USOEC weightlifting. On Friday, it was announced the program would be shut down at the end of the semester due to financial situations within their governing body, USA weightlifting.

But then on Monday, the team was informed their financial burden was covered until June 1 through fundraising efforts made by Werk San Barbells, a top weightlifting equipment supplier to USA Weightlifting.

According to USOEC director Jeff Kleinschmidt, the reason for the initial cut was due to USA Weightlifting not earning any medals at the 2008 Olympics.

"Any time an Olympic team doesn't do very well, that governing body, or that team, loses some financial support," he said. "We knew it would be tough financial times for USA weightlifting, and we didn't know how they were going to adjust their budget and what effect that would have on the program here until recently."

The announcement was a shock.

"It was a surprise to me that this situation happened. I think it was surprise to everyone," said head weightlifting coach Andy Tysz.

After learning that USOEC Weightlifting would be cut, Kleinschmidt and Tysz were also informed that USA weightlifting would be searching for funding.

"I was optimistically realistic," Tysz said. "I thought we could certainly raise the money for the short-term solution. And hopefully that will give us enough time to have things in place to have a long-term solution."

Kleinschmidt added Werk and USA Weightlifting have made a firm commitment to support the USOEC until the end of the winter semester, and it is their goal to continue funding until the 2012 Summer Olympics.

"It was very encouraging to everyone that there are so many people in USA weightlifting that care about what our program has that they were willing to donate money, and to make sure the program will continue," he said.

Tysz said, despite the hectic week, his team stayed on track in the gym with its training.

"Fortunately -- and it is a testament to their desire and their will to be better and to show the work in the program -- they kept the fire and still preformed well," he said. "There wasn't one bad practice session after it."

USOEC weightlifting, which has six full-time athletes and seven facility users, was grateful to see the financial support come

through.

"It's really nice to know you have more time here, and there are people who think this program is worth it," said junior weightlifter Collin Ito. "It just goes to show that this program is working and it can produce some good stuff."

Ito said the reason for this support is because Northern's USOEC is the only training facility located on a college campus, and it gives athletes the opportunity to train and get an education.

"This is a completely different atmosphere," he said. "It is the ideal place to train and go to college at the same time."

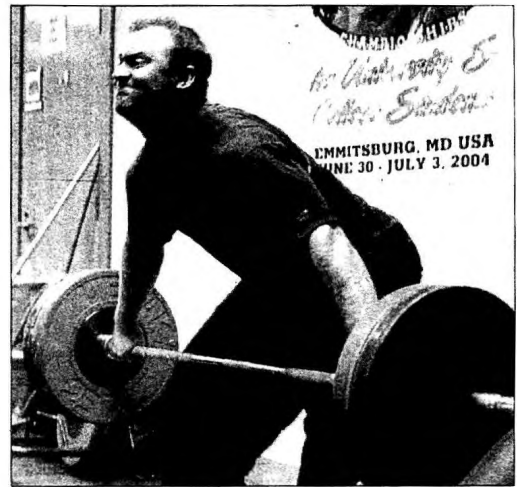
The weightlifting team brought in four new recruits this season, and fortunately for them, their Olympic strides were not halted due to financial struggles.

Jessica Gallagher, a first year member of the team, said she was shocked to hear the news that the program could be cut.

"It was kind of overwhelming because I didn't know what I was going to do next semester," she said. "I really didn't know anything as far as what was next for me."

Now that USOEC weightlifting has been reinstated at Northern, a tall order has been put in front of the athletes to produce and to make the funding worth investing in.

"We have to prove to everybody



Jeff Kitson/NW

Vance Newgard (above) is a facility user for USOEC weightlifting.

that it is worth having it up here, and that we are getting better and progressing," Gallagher said. "We are going to be nervous, because if we don't do well, it looks poorly on the program. If we just stay motivated and confident, then we should be fine."

NMU will still host the National Collegiate Championships April 7 at the Berry Events Center. The competition will bring in 130 to 150 athletes, and Gallagher said the meet will give the USOEC the opportunity to showcase its

talent.

"So now we know for sure that we will be here, and that the competition will be here, so it is definitely motivating for us," Gallagher said.

But the looming factor that the program could be gone after the first of June is still in the heads of the coaches and athletes.

Tysz said it is still too early to see if the money will be found to continue after next semester but he added his team will continue to train hard.

Additional Information: NBA comparisons at NMU



Ad-In

Adam Dompierre

For those who haven't followed the NMU basketball team up to this point, there's still plenty of time to jump on the bandwagon. In the spirit of making the strange familiar, here is a guide comparing some of Northern's key players to their professional basketball counterparts

Raymont McElroy



Chauncey Billups

Billups is the George S. Patton of floor generals, albeit with a lot less shouting. A savvy court leader who can take it to the rim or hit the clutch jumper, NMU's McElroy should put up big numbers this year, assuming the team doesn't trade him to the Nuggets. McElroy took a redshirt his first year with the Wildcats, much like Billups should have when he was drafted by the then horrid Boston Celtics.

Kyle Greene



Howard turned heads by winning the 2008 Dunk Contest, but he is a complete player. The same could be said of Greene, who will provide a scoring presence on the inside. With Howard coming straight from high school, there were some questions as to how much of an impact he would make immediately: Greene was a junior college transfer, and in his first season, he showed he belonged. There's also an outside chance Greene could throw down a triple-somersault dunk from the three-point line, NBA Jam style.

Jared Benson



Dwight Howard

Austin Rowe



Arvydas Sabonis

Sabonis didn't join the NBA till his best

years were past him, but even in his old age the big Lithuanian could pass, shoot and rebound with the best of them. Benson has a similar skill set and fortunately won't have to wait till he's in his thirties to show what he can do. And believe it or not, there was a time when Sabonis, like Benson, could dunk a basketball. Add in the fact that Benson comes to NMU after a great prep career at Carney-Nadeau, like that of Sabonis' glory days in Lithuania, and it's a match.



Leandro Barbosa

Although Barbosa's overshadowed by teammates like Steve Nash and Shaquille O'Neal, he won the Sixth Man Award as one of the Suns' most important players. Rowe fills a similar role for Northern, playing big minutes off the bench. Yet another case of not knowing what to expect, Barbosa came to the Phoenix Suns by way of Brazil; Rowe's previous experience was with Alpena Community College. In Rowe's limited time with the Wildcats, he's shown the quickness that has earned his NBA counterpart the nickname "The Brazilian Blur."

Tyler Kazmierkoski



Chris Warner



Peja Stojakovic

When he's on his game, Stojakovic is as deadly a shooter as you'll find. The Wildcats will count on Kazmierkoski to hit some big shots this year and at 6'5" he could provide some help on the glass as well. Plus if Kazmierkoski provides any resistance at all on defensive he'll be 10 times the defender Stojakovic is.



Dwyane Wade

Wade has had to overcome some injuries lately, but looks to be returning to the player he was in 2006. Warner, a point guard that can drive and play solid defense, is Northern's version of Flash. No word on whether or not he's in Charles Barkley's Five.

Today, Nov. 20

Event: Superiorland Kiwanis will meet from 6:45-8:30 a.m. in the Pioneer A Room of the University Center.

Event: Lutheran Student Movement will meet from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Charcoal Room of the University Center.

Event: The Intel Internship Experience will be held at 4 p.m. in NSF 1205.

Skill Builder: "PowerShift" will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Back Room of the University Center.

Event: Students Against Sulfide Mining will meet from 6-9 p.m. in the Cadillac Room of the University Center.

Event: German Club will be hosting the German Conversation Round Table at the UpFront from 6-7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Event: 2008 Wisconsin Super Lawyer Paul Sturgul talk about the "Other Gay Bar" at 7 p.m. in 2303 Hedgcock.

Event: First Aid Productions will be held from 7-8 p.m. in the Nicolet Room of the University Center.

Event: Campus Crusade for Christ will meet from 7-10:30 p.m. in the Brule Room of the University Center.

Event: Student Finance Committee will meet from 7-10 p.m. in the Huron Room of the University Center.

Event: NMU Swing Dance Club will meet from 7-11 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: Jazz Band Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Reynolds Recital Hall. Free to all.

Event: Promoters for Non-Violent Peace Resolution will be held from 7:45-9 p.m. in Pioneer A Room of the University Center.

Event: Latter Day Saint Student Association will meet from 8-9:30 p.m. in the Erie Room of the University Center.

Event: Relay for Life Kick-off meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Woodland Apartment Multi-Purpose Room.

Film: "Metal: A Headbanger's Journey" (NR) will show at 9 p.m. in JXJ 102. Free to NMU students. \$1 for non-students.

Fri., Nov. 21

Event: Derek Yapple-Schobert Piano Masterclass will be held from 3-6:30 p.m. in Reynolds Recital Hall. Free to all.

Event: International/Folk Dancers will meet from 6-7 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: NMU Student Dance Concert & Chance to Dance will be held at 7 p.m. in the PEIF, Dance Studio Room 130. Free to all.

Sat., Nov. 22

Event: AA meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. in The Back Room of the University Center.

Event: Chemistry Club will meet from 12-1 p.m. in the Charcoal Room of the University Center.

Event: NMU Fencing Club will meet from 1-3 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: NMU Student Dance Concert & Chance to Dance will be held at 2 p.m. in the PEIF, Dance Studio Room 130. Free to all.

Film: "The Dark Knight" will show at 9:30 p.m. in JXJ 102. Free to students and staff with NMU ID. \$1 for general public.

Sun., Nov. 23

Event: Hearts of Yoga will meet from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Superior Room and from 6-8 p.m. in the Charcoal Room of the University Center.

Event: Victory over Death will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Nicolet Room of the University Center.

Event: Latin Dance Club will meet from 6-9 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Film: "The Dark Knight" will show at 6 and 9 p.m. in JXJ 102. Free to students and staff with NMU ID. \$1 for general public.

Event: Piana Recital Derek Yapple-Schobert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Reynolds Recital Hall. Free to all.

the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: Steppin Out Dance Club will meet from 6:30-10:30 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

Event: NMU Cuong-Nhu Oriental Martial Arts Club will meet from 6:45-9:30 p.m. in the Cadillac Room of the University Center.

Event: ASNMU will meet from 8-11 p.m. in the Charcoal Room of the University Center.

Tues., Nov. 25

Event: NMU International Dancers will meet from 6:30-11 p.m. in the Superior Room of the University Center.

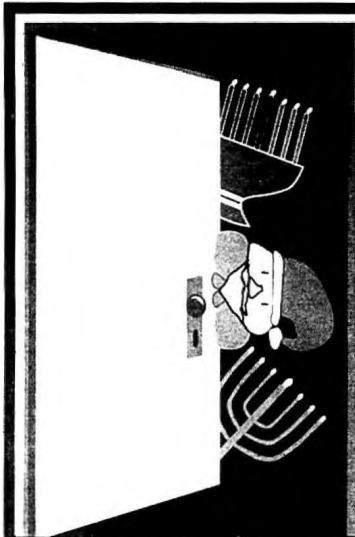
Event: Campus Free Thought Alliance will be held from 7-8 p.m. in Pioneer A Room of the University Center.

Event: Campus Crusade for Christ will meet from 9-10:30 p.m. in the Pioneer A Room of the University Center.

Editor's Note: Send your organization's meetings or events to news@thenorthwind.org or call The North Wind office at 227-2545

Mon., Nov. 24

Event: NMU International Dancers will meet from 4-5:30 p.m. in



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Shout Outs

NMU Students — These things are free and you can put your own in. Call us at 227-2545 or e-mail editor@thenorthwind.org — **NW Staff**

M — If you want to be a good girl, get yourself a bad boy. — **J**

Nick — Maybe I'm a drifter. Maybe not. — **AJ**

Stark — I have two words for you: Dishwasher. Snowblower. I think you know the rest. — **Abent**

Alisha Jean — Something something snow squall. Santa Winds. All I hear is snow day. — **Claire Suzanne**

Abent — I've always been a firm believer in a good dirty joke to break the ice. Also, the answer to your riddle is a shovel. — **Stark**

Rob — Your shout-out just didn't cut it. Sorry. — **Offspring**

Dear Jesus — Please stop messing with us. — **Love, the good people**

Brain — I'm really tired of losing things. Let's get it together. — **Stark**

Jess and Kasie — Whatever you guys were cooking, please save me some. It smelled good. — **Jackie**

Hello Snow — WELCOME BACK. — **Alisha**

Josh — Your clothes are too big for you. Keep up the good work. — **Shane**

Josh — You're too skinny for your clothes. Bring back the jovial (fat) Josh. — **Kyle**

Carson — Thanks for taking me along to see 100 drunk yous. — **Shane**

Chad Mike — Sorry that your Bs didn't work out. Good try though. — **Me**

LIONS — You took the Panthers down to the wire. You don't normally do that. Progress. — **Shane**

Richie — 11-0 losing to 0-11? Sounds good to me. — **Shane**

Dan — It'll be good to have you home, old friend. — **Clint**

Poker Night — You were a decent idea. Now I'll just drink and play solitaire. — **EIC**

Superfan — We wrote about that guy that was flirting with you. Check it out. — **Unsuperfan**

Ma & Pa — Turkey! And the Bills! Basically what's going to happen is I'm going to stuff my face and then pass out watching football. Watch out. — **Daughter**

LRK — I shouldn't have to bring the paper home for you to see these. You should pick it up on your own. — **JDS**

Whitney Morgan — Thanks for always brightening up my evenings. I'll see you tomorrow for Rice Paddy and etc. — **Ex-Roomie**

S. Cookbook — You are at once the most disgusting and the greatest thing I have ever seen. — **Ew**

Christine — Here's your shout-out. Savor it. — **Lucy**

Lynn — I can't wait to see you. I miss you so much! — **Pumpkin Head**

Boston Locale — Claire loves you. And so do I. — **Stark**

Nudity — There's so much of you in here. Get out of here. — **Me**

Breasts — There's not enough of you in here. I want more — **A different Me**

Man Breasts — No, not you. Get out of my paper. — **Same Me as above**

Steve — I'm glad your trip went well and you back safe. — **Jeff**

Peach Flavored Rice Paper — You are delicious. — **Satisfied Patron**

Nov. 27 North Wind — Thank you so much for not existing. I can't handle this anymore. — **Kyle**

Mom and Rob — I'm so excited to come home and not do anything. Except watch that really big TV you have. — **Daughter**

Shout Outs — You are kind of pain. If it weren't for you, I'd be out of here already. — **Opinions**

Inspirations

- Snow Day?
- Thursday at the bar
- Little Big Planet
- Fail Blog
- Communist Cereal
- Naked Marriage

ASSASSIN SESSIONS — Andrew McCanna



MOTHBALLS — Jeff Kitson



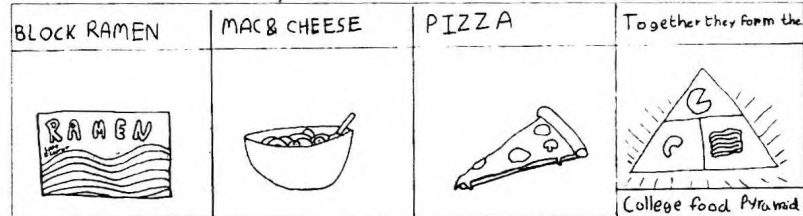
FREEDOM FIGHTER — Cody Miller



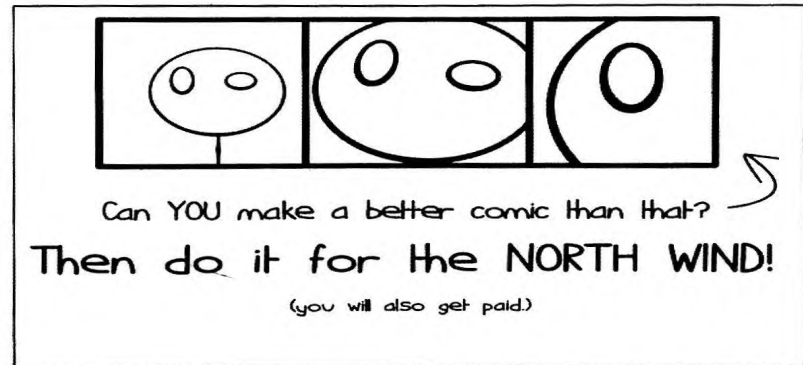
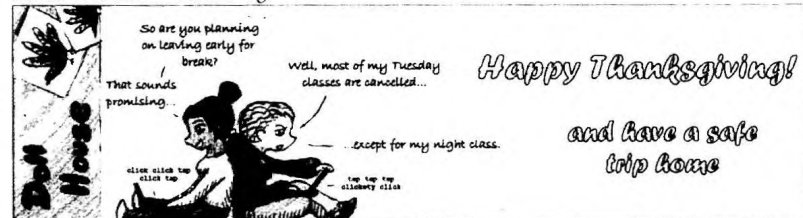
DEMOCRAZY — Tom Cory



ODDS AND ENDS — Geoffrey Riutta



DOLL HOUSE — Rachel Vogt



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Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2008
 Time: 6:00pm
 Reception: 6:00
 Lecture: 6:30
 Location: Jamrich Hall 102 (Room Capacity 500 people)
 Northern Michigan University
 Marquette, MI

DIAMONDS: Exploration and Mining Activities Throughout the World
 A Lecture presented by: SHAWN MATTHEW CARLSON

Shawn is a graduate of MTU Geology Class of 1991, and diamond explorationist with 14 years of experience searching for diamonds. Come enjoy the evening with Shawn and the NMU Rock and Mineral Club and get a glimpse into the secretive and clandestine realm of this fascinating and often dangerous AND controversial trade.


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October Volunteer of the Month



The NMU Volunteer Center and Casa Calabria would like to congratulate October's Volunteer of the Month, Danielle Foulks. Throughout college, Danielle has been extraordinarily active, volunteering consistently for U.P. Home Health and Hospice, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Marquette County Humane Society, and has worked with Norlite Nursing Center for the past year. She coached the Watercats swim team, announced for the MSHS swim team for three years, and she was a TA for NMU's beginning scuba classes. Danielle has been a member of Mortar Board Senior Honor Society and Golden Z, president of Students for Organ Donation for two years, and is a Superior Edge graduate. Additionally, she has participated in numerous events such as Adopt a Highway, Adopt a Family, caroling at Norlite Nursing Center, Bingo with veterans, U.P. 200, March for Babies, Hope for Cycling, and Relay for Life. Most recently, Danielle was a co-race coordinator of Joggin for Her Noggin, a 5k run/walk in which \$2,500 was raised and donated to a fellow NMU student with a brain tumor and cancer research. Danielle will graduate this December with a major in Human Physiology and a Chemistry minor, and begin the Physician Assistant Program at Central Michigan University in May 2009. We would like to congratulate Danielle for her wonderful commitments to service in the campus and the community, and proudly recognize her as the Volunteer of the Month for October.

If you know a volunteer who should be recognized, please e-mail volctr@nmu.edu
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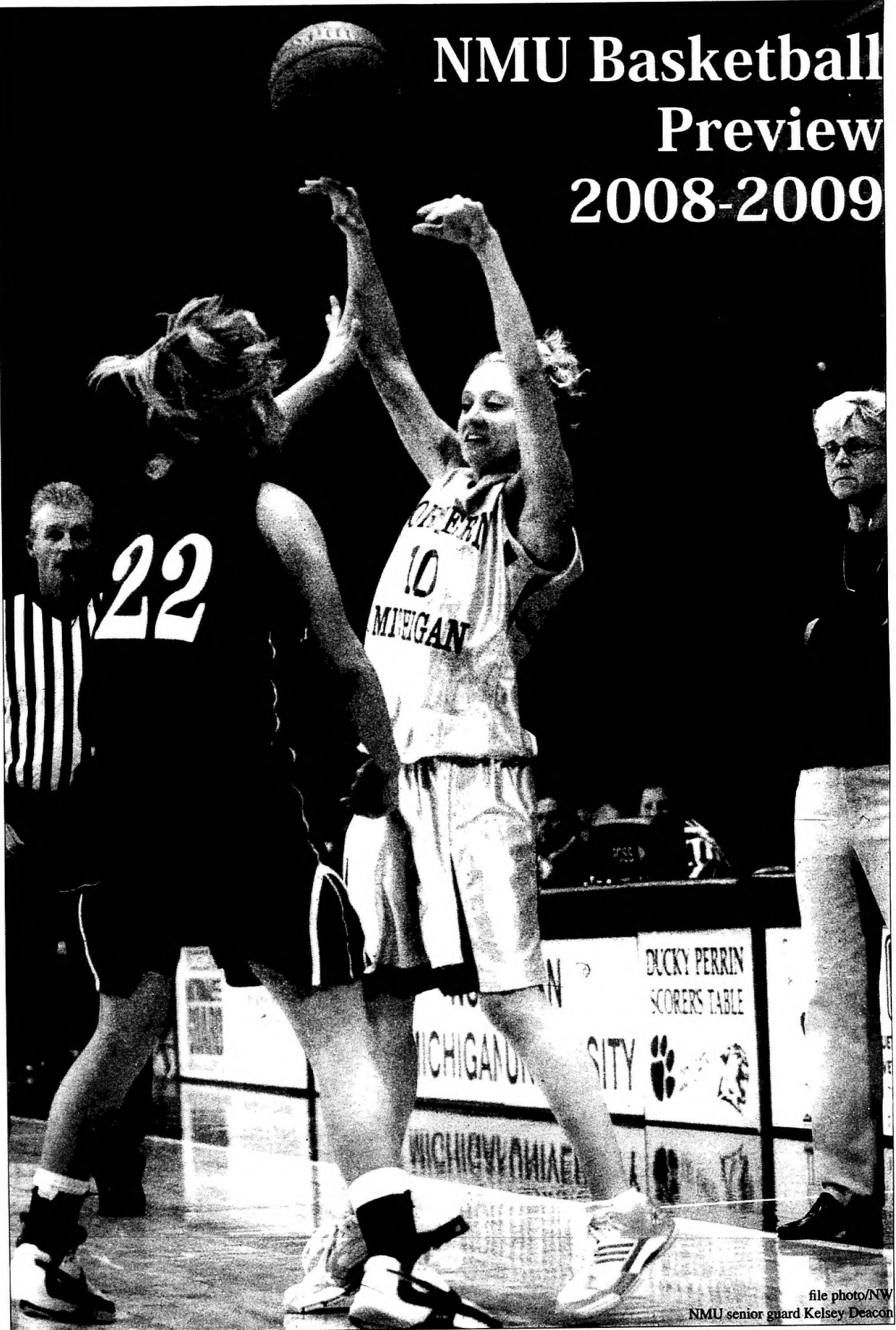


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NMU Basketball Preview 2008-2009



file photo/NW
NMU senior guard Kelsey Deacon

Rebuilding a program from ground up

Curt T Kemp
sports editor

When head coach Troy Mattson took the reins of the women's basketball team in the 2005-06 season, it's no secret that he was given the task of rebuilding a program.

"Ground zero," Mattson said. "It was ground zero."

Since then, Mattson has accumulated a 24-54 overall record with the team. Despite finishing last in the GLIAC North last season, the Wildcats were in games until the very end, losing seven contests by four points or less.

"This year, we're as good as anybody in the league," Mattson said. "We were as good as anybody in the league last year. We were just unfortunate that we couldn't win a close game."

This season, the program, and the 2008-09 Wildcats will be taking another step in the right direction.

"Right now, we're as good as anybody, but we're not better than anybody," Mattson said. "That's where our program is."

"We're going to be in 20 close games," he added. "And the question is, 'Are we going to make the plays at the end to win it?'"

Lost to graduation from last season is All-GLIAC second

team center Allison Carroll, and gone with her is 15 points per game from the NMU interior offense. Not only did Carroll lead in the scoring category, but she also led the team in offensive and defensive rebounding and blocked shots. Carroll blocked as many shots as the next three NMU players combined in that statistical category.

Mattson said the defense and rebounding is something the team can make up, but it's the inside scoring that will be a concern this

Experience is going to be something that gets us to win those close games.

— Kelsey Deacon
senior guard

season.

"That's an issue," he said. "Where are we going to get points on the interior of our offense?"

He said the Wildcats will look to junior centers Angie Leckson and Jaclyn Davey to fill that void, as well as senior forwards Cassie Hegbloom and Cassi Rushford.

With four proven upperclassmen on the inside, as well as senior Kelsey Deacon at the point guard spot, one asset the team does have this season is experience, something Deacon said will result in victories.

"Me, (junior guard) Natalie

(Larocque), Rushford, Hegbloom, Angie (Leckson) have all been here three, four years now," she said. "We've been in every experience possible. Experience is going to be something that gets us to win those close games."

And, as for those close games that they lost last season, Hegbloom said they're forgotten.

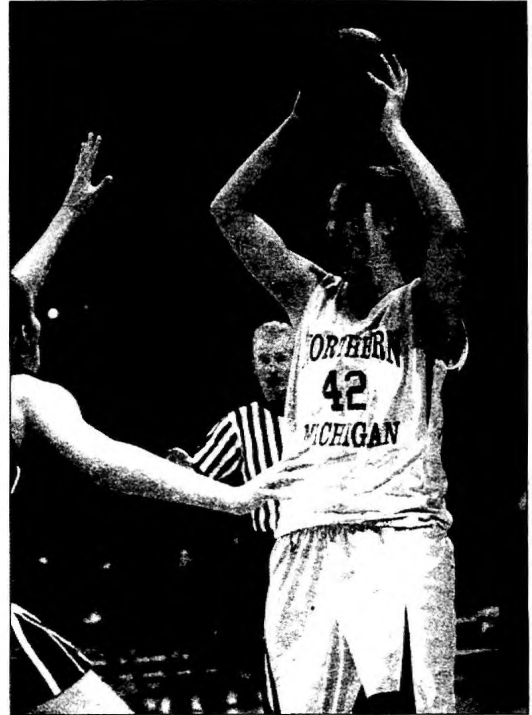
"Last year is in the past, that's just how we look at it," Hegbloom said. "We look toward the future, and we have great expectations for this season."

According to Mattson, the leadership this season will be up to Hegbloom and Deacon, the latter of which having been deemed a leader for much of her Northern career.

"I think we've got a couple of real nice leaders right now," Mattson said. "Kelsey Deacon's doing a great job, Cassie Hegbloom's doing a nice job of being a leader."

Deacon said this season, moreso than before, she needed to become the true leader of the Wildcat team.

"I've been in this position for a while, but I feel like this year I need to step up even more, just because we lost Allison (Carroll), who was huge last year, and she was just a leader on the court because of what she could do," she said. "Being my senior year, and how far all of us have come, we all wanted to step up, and I felt



File Photo/NW

Senior forward Cassi Rushford (above) will be looking to her experience this season as the Wildcats hope to avenge their last place finish a year ago.

like it needed to start with a leader. It just needed to get done."

While this season will be the last for the seniors, Deacon, Hegbloom and Rushford, the

future of the program lies with the underclassmen, like sophomore guards Steffani Stoeger and Kellie

See **PREVIEW** • page B3



File Photo/NW

With head coach Troy Mattson playing 12 players night in and night out, there will be more than a few contributors to this year's team, whether it be scoring, defense or making plays.

PREVIEW

Continued from page B2

Rietveld, players Mattson describes as "warriors."

"Steffani Stoeger and Kellie Rietveld just don't want to lose, and they're not freshmen anymore, they're sophomores and they'll do anything and everything to win a basketball game, and that's going to be a big part of our leadership," he said.

And they're not simply leaders this season, but for the future, as well.

"A big part of our recruiting process when we started at ground zero, when we started going in the right direction, was to get people who were complete warriors," Mattson said. "Fortunately, we ran into Kellie and Steff along the way.

"That's how you turn your program around," he added. "To learn how to win games, you've got to have people who will not accept losing."

Along with Stoeger, Rietveld, Deacon and Larocque, on the perimeter will be a pair of deft shooters, in senior Holly Cole and junior Christa Erickson.

"Those two girls can flat out shoot as good as anybody in our league," Mattson said. "Having those two out there are serious, serious weapons."

There will be a variety of Wildcats seeing playing time this season at the guard position, and Mattson said the depth of the

team is unlike a lot of teams in the GLIAC.

"Our guards are probably the strength of our team. That (perimeter scoring) can come from a lot of people. One thing we have is great depth," he said. "We played 12 girls (against UM-D). There aren't many teams playing 12 girls more than 10 minutes a game."

In the first game of the season, the Wildcats defeated the University of Minnesota-Duluth 63-60, behind strong perimeter scoring, the majority of which

To learn how to win games, you've got to have people who will not accept losing.

— Troy Mattson
head coach

came from Deacon, who had 28 points.

When asked about her impressive performance in the game, Deacon stresses the word "we."

"We just came together. We ran motion, and we got each other open and it led to open looks," she said. "We just went out there and played basketball."

According to Hegbloom, who had the go-ahead basket and the last two rebounds against UM-D, the Wildcats picking up a close win in the first game was looked at as a jumping-off point for the season.

"I think our first game proves that we can take the next step,"

she said. "We were in the close game for our first one, and instead of being underneath this time, we came out with the win on top. And I think that's how every single game is going to be this year."

Mattson added that it was nice to be in that situation and come out victorious.

"It was a scenario we've been acquainted with," he said. "This year, Kelsey made a huge play, and Cassie Hegbloom made an unbelievable shot, and it got us the win."

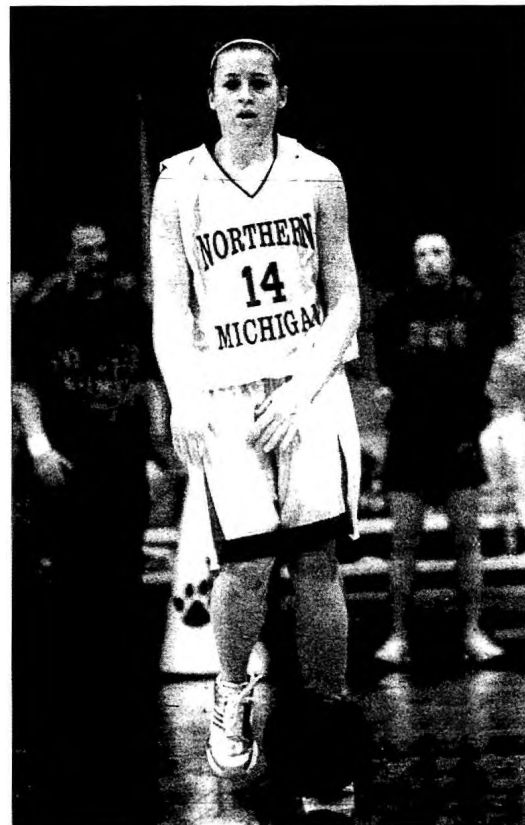
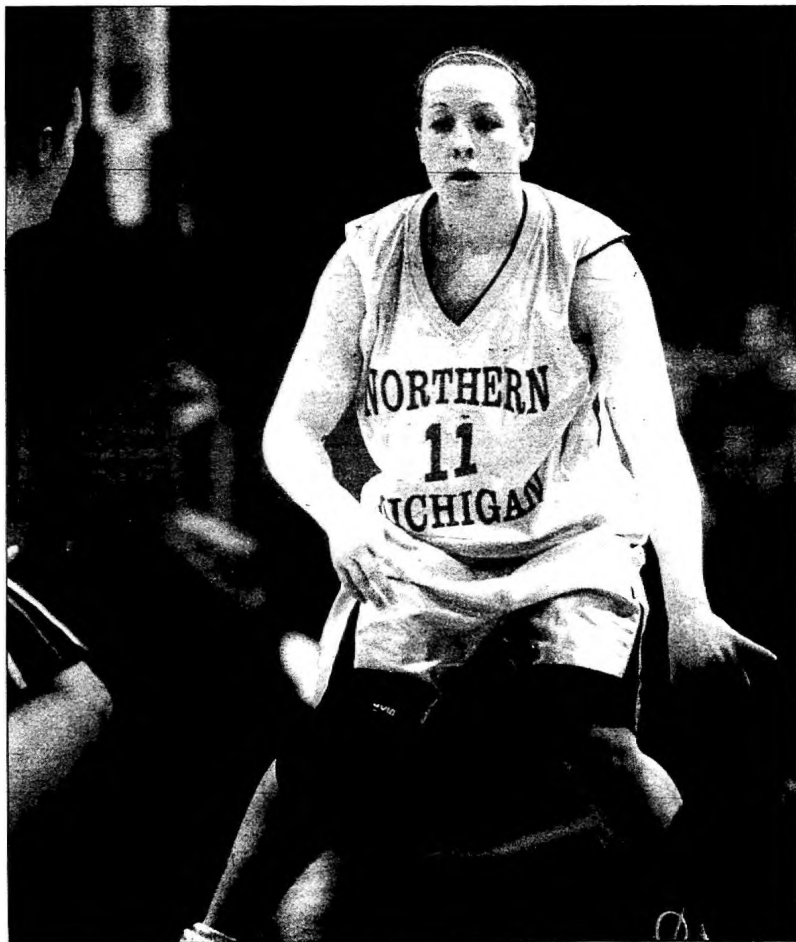
Freshman guard Brynn Larsen, who scored nine points, was another standout of the UM-D game, in Mattson's eyes.

"For a freshman point guard, she had an outstanding game," he said. "Especially in the second half."

Deacon added that after the game, the team took a moment to take it all in.

"After the game, we sat there, and it was one of those feelings of such relief, because we hadn't done that before," she said. "We'd been in close games and overtime where we had been the team that came out losing, so to come out in our first game of the season, have a close game, and win, it was just like the pace of how the season will go."

The Wildcats next game is against Marygrove at 11 a.m. on Saturday, followed by a game against Finlandia, Monday at 5:30 p.m. Both games are at the Berry Events Center.



File Photo/NW

Senior guard Kelsey Deacon (top) is the unquestioned leader of the basketball team, while sophomore guards Kellie Rietveld (above) and Steffani Stoeger (right) are what head coach Troy Mattson calls, "warriors," because of their refusal to lose. It's the combination of the two that Mattson and the coaching staff are counting on to bring wins this season.



5 feet 7 inches
Green Bay, Wis.

Deacon lettered in all of her previous three years with NMU. She picked up the Playmaker of the Year award during last year's postseason award ceremonies, with 70 assists in 2007-08.

Kelsey Deacon - Senior Guard



5 feet 11 inches
Ishpeming, Mich.

Hegbloom lettered twice for the Wildcats after transferring from MTU. Last season, she was second on the team in rebounds (4.4 per game). She also shot better than 45 percent from the field, good for second best.

Cassie Hegbloom - Senior Forward



6 feet
Rapid River, Mich.

Rushford has lettered three times for the Wildcats. Last season she ranked second on the team in three-point field goal percentage, hitting on 14 of 33 attempts. Rushford saw action in all 26 games last season.


Cassi Rushford - Senior Forward



5 feet 9 inches
St. Ignace, Mich.

Cole returns to the team after leaving two years ago. In 2004, Cole scored a then career-high 28 points against Nebraska-Kearney. The 28 points came largely from her 9 for 13 shooting from beyond the arc.


Holly Cole - Senior Guard



6 feet 1 inch
Sterling, Ill.

A transfer from Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Ill., Davey averaged 8.6 points and 7.4 rebounds per game last season at Sauk Valley. In her first game with NMU, she had three steals in 14 minutes of work.

Jaclyn Davey - Junior Center



5 feet 9 inches
Escanaba, Mich.

Erickson played in eight games for the Wildcats last season, averaging 4.8 points in 10.9 minutes per outing. She leads the team in three-point percentage, shooting better than 44 percent from deep.

Christa Erickson - Junior Guard



5 feet 7 inches
Quebec City, Quebec

Larocque returns to the team after lettering at NMU the previous two seasons. Last year, Larocque played in every Northern game, and started three. She was second on the team in three-pointers made, with 21.

Natalie Larocque - Junior Guard



6 feet 1 inch
Garden, Mich.

Leckson lettered in the previous two seasons with the 'Cats. Last season, she played in every game and finished the season ranked third on the team in rebounding, with 109 total for a 4.2 per game average.

Angie Leckson - Junior Center



5 feet 10 inches
Greenwood, Ind.

Bowling played in 19 games in her first season with the Wildcats. She ranked third in three-point field goal percentage, connecting on 40 percent of her tries. In high school, Bowling was an all-conference selection.

Hillary Bowling - Sophomore Forward



5 feet 10 inches
Marquette, Mich.

Grengs took a redshirt during her first season as a Wildcat, and last season played in one game for Northern. As a high school senior, she was fourth-team all-state, first-team all-conference and first-team All-U.P.

Nicole Grengs - Sophomore Forward



6 feet 1 inch
Marquette, Mich.

Powers played in 22 games last season, averaging 9.5 minutes per contest. She was third on the team in blocked shots, with eight on the season. Powers also ranked fourth in offensive rebounding, with 23 total.

Erin Powers - Sophomore Center



5 feet 7 inches
New Lenox, Ill.

Rietveld played in all 26 games and ranked fifth on the team in minutes played, averaging 18.1 minutes per game. She ranked third in free-throw percentage, making 71.9 percent of her tries from the charity stripe.


Kellie Rietveld - Sophomore Guard



5 feet 7 inches
Hortonville, Wis.

Stoeger picked up the Newcomer of the Year award during last year's postseason awards ceremony after leading the team in steals (60) and ranking second on the team in assists, with 53 in 2007-2008.

Steffani Stoeger - Sophomore Guard



5 feet 11 inches
L'Anse, Mich.

As a high school senior, Beeler averaged 18.9 points, 9.8 rebounds and three blocks per game. She was an All-U.P. Class D selection and an all-state honorable mention. At L'Anse, Beeler scored over 1,000 points.

Lauren Beeler - Freshman Forward



5 feet 9 inches
Brighton, Mich.

L'Esperance played in one game for the Wildcats last season before taking a redshirt. In high school, she lettered twice at Brighton High School and was a second-team all-conference selection.


Carla L'Esperance - Freshman Forward



5 feet 8 inches
Oconto Falls, Wis.

Larsen averaged 15.5 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.4 assists per outing during her junior year of high school. She was a three-time first team all-conference selection. In her first game at NMU, she scored nine points.

Brynn Larsen - Freshman Guard



Ishpeming, Mich.

Mattson goes into the 2008-09 season with a 24-54 overall record at NMU. Before taking over the women's program, Mattson was an assistant to the men's team for 17 years. He also coached the NMU tennis team from 1994-2003.


Troy Mattson - 4th season Head coach



Baraga, Mich.

LaPointe comes to NMU from Finlandia University in Hancock, Mich., where she was a four-time letterwinner and a captain by her senior year. LaPointe's duties as assistant include recruiting, film exchange and daily practice duties.

Brigitte LaPointe - 2nd season Assistant coach



Iron Mountain, Mich.


NMU's head coach, said Olson is "an incredible help in practice" and that, with his understanding of the system, he's able to bring that knowledge to the team. He's also vocal in practices. "He speaks his mind," Mattson said.

Ben Olson - 1st season Strength coach



NMU Basketball 2008:


Both teams are looking for a turnaround from seasons of 9-17 for the women and 7-20 for the men. Both head coaches envision a brighter future this time around, with the addition of solid new talent and more experienced veterans. Thus far in the season, both teams are undefeated.



6 feet 5 inches, 215
Peshtigo, Wis.

Kazmierkoski was second on the team in scoring last season at a 13.0 points per game clip and led the team in three-point field goal percentage. three-pointers made and attempted. He also led in rebounding.


Tyler Kazmierkoski - Senior Guard



6 feet 6 inches, 220
Rogers City, Mich.

Greene transferred to NMU last season after playing at Glen Oaks Community College from 2005-07. He was first on the team in field goal percentage last season, shooting over 46 percent from the floor.


Kyle Greene - Senior Forward



6 feet 9 inches, 235
Kingsford, Mich.

Sirrinc led the team in blocked shots last season, averaging nearly one per outing, and despite being a center, was fifth on the team in steals, with 17. He played in all 27 games, averaging more than 20 minutes per game.

Eric Sirrinc - Senior Center



6 feet 7 inches, 225
Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, Quebec

D'Agostino comes to NMU by way of Division I Delaware State. He played in 19 games for the Hornets his freshman year and nine his sophomore year. At Vanier in Quebec, he scored more than 1,100 points.


Mark D'Agostino - Junior Forward



6 feet 2 inches, 198
Montreal, Quebec

Renelique will be playing his first year with the Wildcats after playing 18 games with Chicago State last season. This season, Renelique already has a 25-point game against the University of Minnesota-Duluth.


Marc Renelique - Junior Guard



6 feet 4 inches, 195
Linden, Mich.

A transfer from Alpena Community College, Rowe picked up 2006 pre-season all-state second team honors from the Michigan Junior College Athletic Association and was the MVP of the East-West Classic in 2007.


Austin Rowe - Junior Guard



6 feet 5 inches, 195
Trois-Rivieres, Quebec

Salois played in 24 games for the Wildcats last season, starting in 13 of them. His best outing last season was against South Dakota, when he led all scorers with 17 points, and led in rebounding with six boards.

Sebastien Salois - Junior Forward



6 feet 1 inch, 170
Montreal, Quebec

Warner returns to the Wildcats this season after taking a medical redshirt last season. In his sophomore year, he led the team in assists (107), was second in rebounding, and made more than 76 percent of his free throws.


Chris Warner - Junior Guard



6 feet 10 inches, 255
Carney, Mich.

In Benson's high school career at Carney-Nadeau, he set the school record for blocked shots and averaged a double-double in points and rebounds during his senior campaign.


Jared Benson - Freshman Center



6 feet 7 inches, 215
Ontonagon, Mich.

This year will be Hawley's first playing time with the Wildcats after taking his redshirt season in 2007-08. In high school, he was a first team all-conference, first team All-U.P. and first team all-state selection.


Eric Hawley - Freshman Center



6 feet 1 inch, 184
Milwaukee, Wis.

In McElroy's first two games with the Wildcats, he averages 11 points, 3.5 assists and 1.5 boards. He has started both games and played 36.5 minutes per outing, leading the team in minutes played.

Raymont McElroy - Freshman Guard



5 feet 11 inches, 155
Marquette, Mich.

In Mitchell's senior year of high school, he not only averaged 4.9 points for the Marquette Senior High School basketball team, but also ran track, and placed first in the U.P. in the 100-meter dash.


Jordan Mitchell - Freshman Guard

No Photo

6 feet 2 inches, 170
Cheboygan, Wis.

"One of the first guys, if not the first, that we've ever had make the team on a tryout well after school started," head coach Dean Ellis said about Reuter. Ellis said Reuter does everything the Wildcats ask of him.


Kyle Reuter - Freshman Guard



6 feet 5 inches, 207
Ottawa, Ontario

Sabino-Ifill comes to NMU from the CEGEP. "When he's full healthy, his engine is revved up," head coach Dean Ellis said about Sabino-Ifill. "He competes, he plays hard and he works hard."

Alex Sabino-Ifill - Freshman Guard



Negaunee, Mich.

Ellis is the winningest coach in NMU history, with a 360-64 record overall. After this season, Ellis will have surpassed C.B. Hedgecock as the longest-tenured coach at NMU. His teams have qualified for the NCAA tourney three times.

Dean Ellis - 23rd season Head coach



Ishpeming, Mich.

Waterman was previously a three-time letterwinner at Michigan Tech before coming to the Wildcat coaching staff. After his MTU career, Waterman spent time at Westwood High School, coaching the varsity basketball team.

Dan Waterman - 3rd season Assistant coach



Gwinn, Mich.

Suardini returns to the team as a coach after leading the team in points and assists a year ago. Ellis has said that Suardini's basketball IQ is one of the highest he's coached, and that knowledge will be his greatest asset to the team this season.

Jake Suardini Student Assistant

New additions big plus for Wildcats



By Gordon Beedle
assistant sports editor

For only winning seven games last season, the NMU men's basketball team comes into the 2008-2009 season with surprisingly high hopes.

Though he said he might be talking optimistically, junior guard Chris Warner said this team has all the factors to be a contender for the national tournament.

"Game to game and the overall season, I expect nothing but the best from our team," he said. "I mean, with the talent that we have, I don't feel we should lose any games at home and we should take care of business on the road. I have nothing but high hopes for this team."

Head coach Dean Ellis said, in order for this team to fulfill those hopes, the Wildcats must forget the failures of last season, and focus on the future.

"I don't even know what happened last season," Ellis said. "When somebody asked me about last season I said, 'Why don't you just compare it to the 1932 team because it really doesn't make any difference.'"

The comeback 'Cats

One of the major factors for the Wildcats is the depth added to their lineup. With this depth the returning seniors are playing more role orientated positions.

"We have more all-around talent," Warner said. "Last year we were lacking with players. This year, we have a whole bench, and guys that can step in and play. I have as much faith as I do in our starters, as in our bench — our bench mob."

This year's bench mob is led by senior Eric Sirrino who will share time with fellow classmate and starter, Kyle Greene, in the center position.

And Sirrino is already making an impact. He logged 27 minutes in the 79-74 win against the University of Minnesota-Duluth on Sunday. In the closing minutes of the second half, Sirrino hit a three-pointer from the top of the arch to put the 'Cats up 73-70, and he followed it with two blocks, to prevent a Duluth comeback.

"I think I just kind of bring a bit more fire into the game," Sirrino said afterwards. "You bust your butt on both ends and if you don't, you're on the bench. So you've got to go out there and play hard for 40 minutes or however long you're in there for."

Sirrino, Green and forward Tyler Kazmierkoski are the three seniors for the 'Cats.

And while Green and Sirrino help in the center, the leading returning scorer, Kazmierkoski, is an important asset at the forward position.

"He (Kazmierkoski) is a very intelligent person and a very intelligent player," Ellis said. "He can score from anywhere on the court, and he is a real good defender and understands our system. He has the ability to be a vocal leader this year as well."

New and improved

The rest of the players for the 2008-2009 campaign enter the new year with a new look, having four players coming off of redshirt seasons and six players wearing the green and gold for the first time.

Another player Ellis will look

to lead the team is Warner, who is returning from a knee injury that resulted in a medical redshirt last season.

"A lot of people are looking for something and I feel I should step up — because naturally I feel that I should be the one to step up," Warner said. "And I should lead by example and lead vocally, and just do everything that I can to help this team."

Ellis said Warner is one of the best guards in the conference, but because of his injury, everyone

Game to game and the overall season, I expect nothing but the best from our team

— Chris Warner
junior guard

has forgotten about him

At the starting point guard position is Raymond McElroy, who is coming off a redshirt season as well, as he sat his first year with the 'Cats.

Ellis said McElroy's play against Michigan State in the preseason, was a highlight of the 118-57 loss, and that he made good decisions against MSU's defenders, which will be the best defense the Wildcats sees all year.

"His (McElroy's) point guard skill, and savvy and knack to play the game, is something special," Ellis said. "And we're really lucky to have him."

Another weapon the 'Cats will look to utilize from the guard position is the shooting skill of newly-transferred Marc Renelique, who comes to NMU from Division I Chicago State.

Ellis said Renelique has one of

the best three-point shots he has had in the program, and the Wildcats will look to him for scoring.

Renelique said he would not be surprised if he is taking the shot during high-pressure situations.

"That is what I was born to do," Renelique said. "I have been doing that stuff for a long time and I've always been a go-to guy."

Renelique, Warner, McElroy, and Eric Hawley from Ontonagon Mich. will fill the backcourt for the 'Cats.

Ellis said his backcourt group is one of the best he has coached in years.

"Those four guys are just exceptional players and we've got a lot of size, too," Ellis said. "So I think we are in pretty good shape."

Two new faces to help with the frontcourt are Jared Benson, a redshirt from Carney Mich., and Marc D'Agostino, who transferred from Division I Delaware State.

Ellis said D'Agostino brings size to the inside game with his 6-foot 7-inch frame, but he can also be a threat at the three-point line.

"He (D'Agostino) is a very diverse player on both ends — so he fits in our system great. And we will give him an opportunity to shot from the perimeter, and he can finish down by the basket," Ellis said.

Benson is another larger part to the new-look Wildcat team, at 6 feet 10 inches tall and 250 pounds.

"He (Benson) is just getting better by the minute," Ellis said. "His savvy and knowledge to play in the post is exceptional. He is big and he's smart inside. And

that is not an easy combination to get that."

The road ahead

Ellis said if all the pieces of the puzzle fall into place, the NMU basketball team has a good chance to be successful this season.

"We are deep, talented and we have every position covered. So when we step on the court, every night we are going to look to win, and we will get them prepared to do that," he said.

The GLIAC media poll released earlier this month predicted a low seeding, as the 'Cats were selected to finish last in the North Division. But no one could be happier with the ranking than coach Ellis.

"We are the luckiest team of all. We can put that on the bulletin board and let that be a factor," Ellis said. "There is not a person in this program that thinks we're not near the top — if not the top — so that's irrelevant how they voted."

Now that the season is underway, the next stop for the 'Cats is Saturday at 1 p.m. against Alma University at the Berry Events Center.

According to Kazmierkoski, the 'Cats will go into this game with the same high expectations and hopes they've been approaching the season with.

"I have high hopes, but I think, being a senior, you always come in with high hopes," he said. "But I've never played on a more talented team all around than what we've got with these talented guys. For us, we really set our sights on the national tournament and I don't think we're going to stop until we get there."

Warner and McElroy 'point' to victory

By Curt T Kemp
sports editor

Two starting point guards on the same basketball team could be quite the power struggle, especially if one is more experienced and has played in the big games, and the other is a freshman with no collegiate experience.

And then there's the case of the Northern Michigan men's basketball team, which has two true point guards, junior Chris Warner and freshman Raymont McElroy.

At 22, Warner is four years older than the 18-year-old McElroy. Both took redshirts last season, McElroy as a freshman redshirt, and Warner with a medical redshirt to rehab his knee. Warner's the unquestioned leader of the team, but McElroy has been known to speak up when the team needs to pull it together, whether it be in practice or the big game.

They're two very different players, with different styles of play and different ideas on leadership, but the thing they both have in common is that they love to win, and they'll do whatever it takes to make that happen.

"I know any coach would take either one of them as their point guard," head coach Dean Ellis said.

"And we've got the luxury of having both of them on the court at the same time."

Assistant coach Dan Waterman said that the point

guard is arguably the most important position on the floor, and having both Warner and McElroy playing at the same time has been, simply put, a gift.

"To have two point guards of that caliber, you feel blessed," he said.

With two games into the regular season, it's been McElroy in the point guard spot, with Warner playing on the perimeter. And thus far, it's worked, to the tune of two Wildcat wins.

"Luckily for us, Chris is so versatile that he can slide over and play on the wing," Waterman said. "He's a strong guard, so he can go and even play in the post a little bit for us."

McElroy and Warner are currently the second and third-leading scorers on the team, respectively, with Warner averaging 14 points per contest and McElroy adding 11.

And, McElroy might not be performing as well in his first season as a collegiate basketball player, if not for the tutelage of Warner.

Big brother

Last season, with both guards inactive for the season, McElroy took Warner's advice and changed his major to social work.

Warner, already actively involved with volunteering, got McElroy to participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters, and in the process, McElroy picked up a big brother himself.

And Warner's advice wasn't simply about Xs and Os.

The junior guard said his freshman counterpart was still young, but that he'd already grown a lot mentally during his time at NMU, both on and off the court.

"He would actually call me and ask me about situations (off the court). That shows ultimate trust, that he could come to me. And most definitely, I look out for him," Warner said. "Everyone once and a while, he needs someone to look out for him. And ultimately, we're in

To have the luxury to sit here and try to compare and contrast two point guards that play together is pretty nice.

— Raymont McElroy
freshman guard

this together, and I don't want to see anything happen to him."

McElroy said he appreciates what Warner has done for him.

"I'm basically just taking advantage of him wanting to help me," McElroy said.

Ellis added that, since McElroy redshirted last season, he didn't have to go on the road trips with the team, and that helped him better adapt to college life.

"Every freshman away from home has some issues, and all that went past him, and he learned and he grew from there," Ellis said.

"He's still 18 years old, but he's really matured and grown

in a year, and that's really helped his basketball game."

On the court, Warner's knowledge took a bit longer to pass along. Over the course of the entire 2007-2008 season, as well as the months following, Warner and McElroy worked together to better one another.

"In the second part of the summer, working out with Chris everyday, I learned more within those couple weeks than I did for basketball in my life, period," McElroy said.

Warner taught his young protégé every little trick that he thought would help.

"Chris Warner, he has a way to do everything," McElroy said. "Even boxing out. He just knows so many tricks with the game, and basically I've just been using those. And I plan to keep on using those."

But, Warner insists that he was getting better during these workouts, too.

"We would come in here and work out when we could. We would always try and push each other to get better," Warner said. "It wasn't just, show me, show me, show me."

Competitive nature

During the summer workouts, both guards agreed that the competition quickly became heated.

Whether it was McElroy's vocal style of leadership, or Warner's want to win, a simple game of two-on-two would

quickly turn into a competition level equal to that of the NBA Finals.

"It had to get like that. It just made it so much easier for us to improve during that time," Warner said. "Those games in the summer, it'd be contagious. If you lost, it was 'No water, let's go right now. Check ball. Game to 11.' That's how it was during the summer for us."

Ellis said he saw the competitive spirit from McElroy the moment he saw him play two years ago.

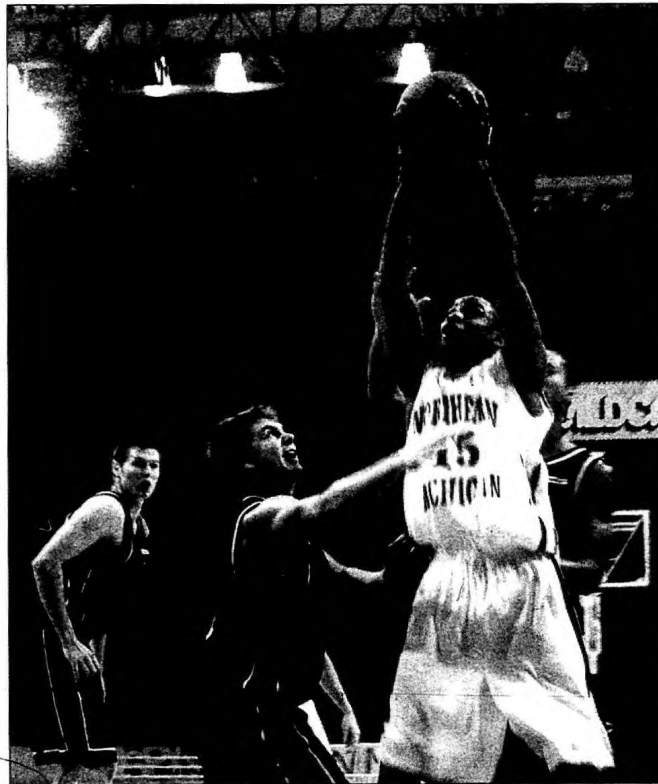
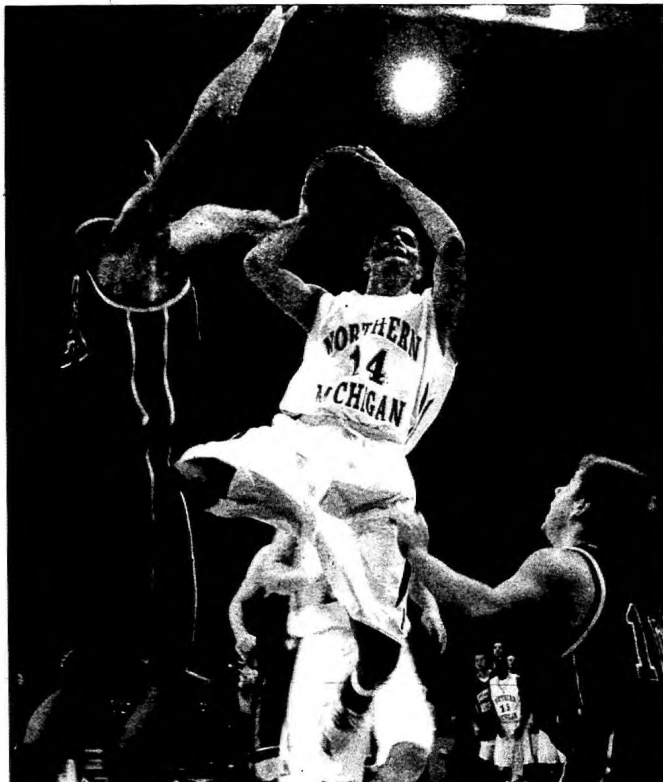
"That's how Ray is. That's how he was when I saw him play the first time, when he was 16 years old," Ellis said. "He was playing in a pickup game-like, and he couldn't stand that his team was giving up baskets."

And Waterman said, though it's not as apparent on the surface, Warner has that competitive edge, as well.

"Ray's more verbal about it, but Chris has a burning desire to win too, and that's apparent from the way that he works," Waterman said. "And that goes back to him being a leader and people seeing that. When Chris is working hard, everyone knows they need to step their game up and work hard, too."

Whoever leads the team up the floor on the break this season, it's clear the Wildcat offense will be in good hands.

"To have the luxury to sit here and try to compare and contrast two point guards that play together is pretty nice," Ellis said.



Jeff Kitson/NW

Freshman guard Raymont McElroy (left) and junior guard Chris Warner are two true point guards on the NMU basketball team. Head coach Dean Ellis couldn't be happier with the two.

MEN'S

Home games
in bold

Nov. 22	ALMA	1 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Nov. 24	FINLANDIA	7:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Dec. 4	Northwood	8 p.m.	Midland, Mich.
Dec. 6	Wayne State	3 p.m.	Detroit, Mich.
Dec. 13	Michigan Tech.	7:30 p.m.	Houghton, Mich.
Dec. 15	NORTHLAND	7:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Dec. 18	WAYNE STATE	7:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Dec. 20	NORTHWOOD	1 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 3	MICHIGAN TECH.	3 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 8	TIFFIN	7:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 10	ASHLAND	3 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 15	Findlay	7:30 p.m.	Findlay, Ohio
Jan. 17	Hillsdale	3 p.m.	Hillsdale, Mich.
Jan. 22	LAKE STATE	7:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 24	SAGINAW VALLEY	1 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 29	FERRIS STATE	7:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 31	GRAND VALLEY	3 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Feb. 5	Ashland	7:30 p.m.	Ashland, Ohio
Feb. 7	Tiffin	3 p.m.	Tiffin, Ohio
Feb. 12	Grand Valley	8 p.m.	Allendale, Mich.
Feb. 14	Ferris State	3 p.m.	Big Rapids, Mich.
Feb. 19	HILLSDALE	7:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Feb. 21	FINDLAY	3 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Feb. 26	Saginaw Valley	8 p.m.	Saginaw, Mich.
Feb. 28	Lake State	3 p.m.	Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

WOMEN'S

Nov. 22	MARYGROVE	11 a.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Nov. 24	FINLANDIA	5:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Dec. 1	ST. NORBERT	5:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Dec. 4	Northwood	6 p.m.	Midland, Mich.
Dec. 6	Wayne State	1 p.m.	Detroit, Mich.
Dec. 13	Michigan Tech.	5:30 p.m.	Houghton, Mich.
Dec. 18	WAYNE STATE	5:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Dec. 20	NORTHWOOD	11 a.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Dec. 30	UM-DULUTH	5:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 3	MICHIGAN TECH.	1 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
Jan. 8	TIFFIN	5:30 p.m.	BERRY EVENTS CENTER
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Feb. 26	Saginaw Valley	6 p.m.	Saginaw, Mich.
Feb. 28	Lake Superior State	1 p.m.	Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.