Wayne, Mich. 57, Michigan Tech 54

By The Associated Press

Kendall LeSure scored 13 points to lead Wayne State to a 57-54 come-from-behind win over Michigan Tech in a regional semifinal game of the NCAA Great Lakes Regional men's basketball tournament in Romeoville, Ill.

Wayne State fought back from an 11-point deficit in the final 10 minutes of play Sunday. With the win, the Warriors (19-11) advanced to Tuesday's regional title game against Southern Indiana (25-6).

The Huskies ended their season with a 22-8 record despite a 27-point performance by Josh Buettner.
ROUNDPUP: Wisconsin captures Big Ten title, 70-53
Maryland upsets Duke for ACC championship

FREE PRESS NEWS SERVICES
INDIANAPOLIS

Wisconsin's Devin Harris made sure Illinois never had a chance in the Big Ten tournament championship game.

The junior scored 29 points as the Badgers held Illinois to a season-low 32.7 percent shooting in winning their first tournament title, 70-53, on Sunday.

Harris was 10-for-16 from the field and scored Wisconsin's first 11 points of the second half, helping snap 12th-ranked Illinois' 12-game winning streak.

Illinois' last loss came at Wisconsin on Jan. 24.

Harris, who was named tournament MVP, punctuated Sunday's win with an explosive alley-oop dunk as the Badger faithful chanted, "One more year! One more year!"

Wisconsin appears primed for another deep tournament run. The Badgers, who reached the Final Four in 2000, have won seven straight games with a balanced offense and smothering defense.

The tenth-ranked Badgers (24-6) will be making their sixth straight NCAA tournament appearance and seventh in eight years. Wisconsin lost to top-seeded Kentucky in last year's Midwest Regional semifinal, 63-57.

Mike Wilkinson added 11 points and eight rebounds for Wisconsin, which led by as many as 21 points in the second half.

Dee Brown was Illinois' only effective offensive player, scoring 15 points on 6-for-12 shooting. His teammates were 10-for-37 from the field (27 percent). Deron Williams added 14 points for Illinois.

The Illini (24-6) are headed to their fifth straight NCAA tournament. Last year, fourth-seeded Illinois lost to fifth-seeded Notre Dame, 68-60, in the second round of the West Regional.

The Illini appeared lethargic on Sunday against Wisconsin, too often settling for jump shots that fell short. Illinois was outrebounded, 34-27, and was outscored on fast break points, 12-2.

ATLANTIC COAST

Maryland 95, Duke 87(OT): At Greensboro, N.C., Maryland capped an improbable run through the tournament Sunday by beating No. 5 Duke, ending the top-seeded Blue Devils' run of five straight ACC championships. Maryland (19-11) won its first ACC tournament title since 1984, when Len Bias and coach Lefty Driesell beat Duke. Maryland's sophomore guard John Gillchrist was named tournament MVP, scoring 26 against Duke on 10-for-20 shooting. Maryland trailed by 12 with 4:58 to play in the second, but closed out regulation with a 15-3 run, forcing overtime. BIG 12

Oklahoma State 65, Texas 49: Oklahoma State continued its combination of tenacious defense and athleticism, beating No. 11 Texas and winning its first Big 12 tournament title. Tony Allen scored 21 points as the No. 7 Cowboys (27-3) kept the Longhorns without a field goal for nearly 14 minutes in the second half, turning a three-point game into a rout. Texas (23-7) has lost three of its last five, including twice to Oklahoma State. Allen, the tournament MVP and the coaches' pick for conference player of the year, held Brandon Mouton, Texas' leading scorer, to more turnovers (four) than field goals (three). Mouton finished with six points. Jason Klotz led Texas with 15 points.

PATRIOT

Lehigh 59, American 57: Jose Olivero hit a leaning jumper with 3.9 seconds remaining, giving Lehigh an NCAA tournament bid in the title game at Bethlehem, Pa. Tournament
MVP Austen Rowland had 14 points, and Jason Mgebroff added 13 for the Mountain Hawks (20-10), who won the tournament for the first time. Andres Rodriguez had 16 points for the Eagles (18-13), who lost in the championship game for the third consecutive year.

SOUTHEASTERN
Kentucky 89, Florida 73: At Atlanta, Chuck Hayes scored 23 points, and the eighth-ranked Wildcats romped to another title. Kentucky (26-4) dismantled the Gators (20-10) for the second time in a week, following up a 20-point win at Rupp Arena to close the regular season. Kentucky’s 25 tournament titles are more than the other schools in the conference combined. Hayes shot 10-for-14 from the field and grabbed eight rebounds. Gerald Fitch added 18 points and was named tournament MVP. Matt Walsh led the Gators with 17 points.

DIVISION II
Drew Stafford's goal in overtime Saturday lifted North Dakota to a 4-3 comeback win over Michigan Tech and a sweep in the best-of-three WCHA opening-round series.

Stafford raced down the left boards past a Tech defenseman, cut to the middle and swept around goalie Cam Ellsworth, beating him on the far side for the winning goal.

"I had so many chances earlier in the game to score and didn't," Stafford said. "You only get so many good chances like that, so when I had the opportunity to go to the net, I had to take it."

Stafford's goal completed North Dakota's comeback from a 3-1 deficit entering the third period. The Fighting Sioux (28-6-3) dominated late in the game, outshooting the Huskies 14-6 in the third period and 13-2 in overtime, which lasted about 9 1/2 minutes.

North Dakota will get a first-round bye in the WCHA Final Five, which starts Thursday in St. Paul, Minn.

"It was important to get this series over with," North Dakota coach Dean Blais said. "We need the rest. And, you don't want a third game where anything can happen."

The Fighting Sioux forced overtime with two goals slightly more than three minutes apart in the third period. Zach Parise backhanded a rebound over Ellsworth, and a Chris Porter shot deflected into the net off a Tech defenseman's skates.

Tech's John Scott hit the goalpost with a shot with about six minutes left in the game.

The Huskies (8-25-5) took an early first-period lead when Colin Murphy scored on a deflection. North Dakota's Brandon Bochenski tied it on a Sioux power play with his 24th goal of the season.

Tech took a 3-1 lead after Brandon Schwartz scored on a tap-in from the side of the crease in the first period and Brett Engelhardt scored in the second on a deflection of a Schwartz shot.

Ellsworth finished with 42 saves. Jake Brandt stopped 23 shots for North Dakota.
Josh Buettner scored 25 points to lead Michigan Tech to an 81-75 victory over Gannon in an NCAA Division II Great Lakes Quarterfinal on Saturday.

Jason Marcotte scored 15 points and Kelsey Fors scored 14 as Michigan Tech (22-7) scored 52 points in the second half on the march to the victory.

Iren Rainey led Gannon (22-8) with 22 points. Geoff Husted scored 17 points and Brandon Andrews added 14.
WCHA PLAYOFFS: Putting it away
UND overcomes a two-goal deficit to sweep Michigan Tech

By Virg Foss
Herald Staff Writer

For 40 minutes Saturday night, Michigan Tech had the country’s top-ranked hockey team reeling.

Then some key players showed up to help UND advance in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs.

"Once the crowd got into the game, there was no looking back," said UND sophomore center Zach Parise. "We pretty much took over."

Even so, the Sioux had a lot of hard work to do before beating Michigan Tech 4-3 on Drew Stafford’s overtime goal to win the best-of-3 series in two games and advance to the WCHA Final Five in St. Paul next weekend.

Down 3-1 in the third period and lethargic in their play, the Sioux needed a spark.

They got it from the 10,215 fans on hand for the 23rd and final home game this season. They also got it from Parise’s goal at 5:39 of the third period and from Chris Porter’s bad-angle goal just over three minutes later.

Then in overtime, the Sioux outshot the Huskies 13-2 and got the deciding goal from Stafford, a freshman wing who bagged his 10th goal of the season.

Stafford, who had missed on several great chances all weekend, blew down the left wing, cut sharply to the net and brought the puck to his forehand to tuck it past the outstretched left leg of Tech goalie Cam Ellsworth (42 saves).

"They didn’t make it easy for us tonight," Parise said of Michigan Tech. "They played really well."

The victory was the eighth straight for the Sioux, the longest winning streak for the school in nearly five years.

Stafford started the game on the line with Parise and Brady Murray, but UND coach Dean Blais shuffled his lines as he is apt to do. Stafford was working on a line with David Lundbohm and Porter when the winning goal came.

"I saw an opportunity, and I took it," Stafford said of his winning goal. "With a little bit of luck, it went in. I'm glad it's over."

Stafford had tried a similar move on Ellsworth in the third period, but the puck rolled off his stick and harmlessly into the corner before he even squeezed off a shot.

"You only get a couple of those chances a game," Stafford said. "When you get a chance to go to the net like that, you definitely want to take advantage of it. I've tried so many moves on that goalie - and finally one of them went in."

Tech, losers to the Sioux five times this season by four goals each game, came determined to extend its season, if only for a day.

The Huskies picked up goals from Colin Murphy and Brandon Schwartz in the first period and from Brett Engelhardt in the second period for a 3-1 lead after two periods.

UND’s only offense to that point was Brandon Bochen- ski’s 24th goal of the season. It was just his second in the last 11 games, but it was also a rocket of a shot that handcuffed Ellsworth in the first period.

Blais said he knew this one would be a struggle against the Huskies. "They were due," Blais said. "In our five wins over them, they hadn’t had a lot of puck luck. When a team is facing elimination, they're going to come out strong. We knew that - we just didn't respond very well."

The Huskies, who finished last in the WCHA during the regular season, saw their sea-
season end with an 8-29-1 record, the last four losses coming courtesy of UND the last two weekends in Grand Forks.

It took two periods for the Sioux to snap out of a snooze and show the form that had propelled them to their fifth WCHA title in the past eight season and to the top of the national rankings.

"In the third period and overtime, I thought we controlled the game," Blais said. "We got back to our game, with short passes and using each other."

Blais said the Sioux showed enough in the third period that he thought they'd win it before overtime.

"But I thought, 'hey, we've got the momentum, we've got the fans on our side,' " he said. "Let's not blow it."

In overtime, Stafford made sure that did not happen.
CALIFORNIA WOMAN ADVANCE

California (Pa.) University coupled a solid shooting first half with an outstanding second 20 minutes and cruised to a 92-58 victory against Barton in a NCAA Division II Eastern Region game last night at California's Hamer Hall.

The victory extend California's home winning streak to 54 games.

The Vulcans (31-1) will meet Glenville State, a 72-71 winner against Anderson in the first game of the doubleheader, at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the regional championship game.

In the first half, California connected on 15 of 31 shots and two of seven 3-pointers en route to a 41-26 advantage. The Vulcans made that effort look weak in the second half by making 19 of 34 field goal attempts (55.9 percent) and four of six 3-pointers.

Becky Siembak scored 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead California. Sara McKinney had 16 points and Sameera Philyaw and Erin Dillon each scored 15. The Vulcans held a 47-32 edge in rebounds and blocked seven shots.

Men's games

* Cheyney 76, California (Pa.) 59: Cheyney outscored California 41-24 in the second half and claim the victory in an NCAA Division II East Regional game at Pfeiffer University in Charlotte, N.C. The Vulcans finished the season 23-7. Freshman Sharif Bray was California's leading scorer with 19 points.

* Pfeiffer 104, IUP 91: Rico Greir scored 27 points to lead Pfeiffer (29-2) past IUP in the second game of the double header. Brian Kizzie led IUP (21-10) with 20 points and five assists.

* Michigan Tech 81, Gannon 75: Michigan State (22-7) out scored Gannon, 52-43, in the second half to win the Division II Great Lakes Regional game at Romeoville, Ill. Iren Rainey led Gannon (22-8) with 22 points and Geoff Husted added 17.District roundup
FRIDAY'S COLLEGE HOCKEY: Seawolves slip past Badgers

From news services

Chris Fournier broke a 2-2 tie with Alaska Anchorage's third power play-goal of the game as the Seawolves beat Wisconsin 3-2 in Game 1 of a best-of-three Western Collegiate Hockey Association first-round playoff series Friday night at Madison, Wis.

Goaltender Chris King made 45 saves for Anchorage, which won for the first time in 12 seasons in the WCHA playoffs. Game 2 is today.

Fournier's shot from the middle of the ice, just inside the blue line, got past Wisconsin goaltender Bernd Bruckler, who was screened by the Seawolves' Justin Johnson.

It came with 14:04 remaining in the third period. It was the first time all season Anchorage, the eighth seed in the playoffs, has scored three power-play goals in a game.

Anchorage (12-20-3) was 0-22 all-time in the WCHA playoffs entering Friday's game.

Wisconsin (20-11-8) outshot the Seawolves 47-24.

North Dakota 6, Michigan Tech 2: Zach Parise had a goal and three assists as North Dakota beat Michigan Tech in Grand Forks, N.D.

The Fighting Sioux (27-6-3), the regular-season conference champions and top seed, got goals from six different players and outshot the 10th-seeded Huskies 33-15.

It was fifth victory over Tech (8-28-1) this season for the Sioux.

Minnesota State (Mankato) 4, Minn.-Duluth 3: Lucas Fransen scored 8:18 in overtime to lead visiting Minnesota State (Mankato) to an upset victory over Minnesota-Duluth.

Jon Volp had 46 saves for the ninth-seeded Mavericks (10-22-5), and Isaac Reichmuth stopped 34 for the second-seeded Bulldogs (23-11-4).

Colorado College 4, Denver 3: Aaron Slat tengren scored the go-ahead goal in the third period as seventh-seeded Colorado College (19-15-3) won at fourth-seeded Denver (23-11-5).
COLLEGE HOCKEY: Tigers sweep Denver

From news services

Brett Sterling and Brady Greco each scored twice as Colorado College beat Denver 6-1 on Saturday in Denver, sweeping their WCHA first-round playoff series.

The sweep sends Colorado College (20-15-3) to next week's WCHA Final Five tournament. Denver (23-12-5) must wait on a possible at-large selection to the NCAA tournament the following week.

Colorado College took a 1-0 lead nine minutes into the game on a goal by Colin Stuart. Sterling added the Tigers' second goal, and Reid Goolsby made it 3-0.

Wisconsin 4, Alaska Anchorage 0: A.J. De- genhardt scored twice, breaking a nine-game goal drought, and third-seeded Wisconsin stayed alive in the WCHA playoffs with a victory at Madison, Wis.

Bernd Bruckler made 16 saves for his third shutout of the season for the Badgers, who outshot the Seawolves 45-16 and forced a decisive third game tonight.

On Friday, the Seawolves stunned the Badgers 3-2, breaking an 0-for-22 string all-time in the WCHA playoffs.

But Wisconsin came back strong on Saturday, outshooting Alaska 37-9 through the first two periods. Rene Bourque and Ryan MacMurchy also scored for the Badgers (21-11-8), who are 25-5 at home in the league playoffs since 1988.

Minn.-Duluth 6, Minnesota State (Mankato) 2: Junior Lessard had his third career hat trick as Minnesota-Duluth defeated visiting Minnesota State (Mankato) to tie their playoff series 1-1.

North Dakota 4, Michigan 3: Drew Stafford's goal in overtime lifted North Dakota to a comeback victory over Michigan Tech and a sweep in their opening-round series at Grand Forks, N.D.

Stafford raced down the left boards past a Tech defenseman, cut to the middle and swept around goalie Cam Ellsworth, beating him on the far side for the winning goal.

NCAA DIVISION III MEN

St. Norbert 3, Wis.-River Falls 0: Chancy Colquhoun made 28 saves to shut out Wisconsin-River Falls in an NCAA Division III quarterfinal game at De Pere, Wis. Spency Carbery, Connor Hughes and Faron Duthie scored goals for St. Norbert (26-2-2). Andy Scanlon stopped 28 of 31 shots for River Falls (21-6-4).

NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN

Wis.-Stevens Point 3, Gustavus Adolphus 2: Jackie Schmitt scored at 10:58 in the second overtime to give Wisconsin-Stevens Point a victory over Gustavus Adolphus in an NCAA Division III quarterfinal game at St. Peter, Minn.
North Dakota 6, Michigan Tech 2

GRAND FORKS, N.D.

Zach Parise had a goal and three assists Friday as the University of North Dakota beat Michigan Tech 6-2 in the first round of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs.

"It was one of those nights - everything was in slow motion," Parise said.

The Fighting Sioux (27-6-3), the regular-season league champions, got goals from six different players and outshot the Huskies 33-15.

Parise put North Dakota up 1-0 early in the first period. Tech's Clay Wilson tied it at the 8:39 mark of the period, but the Sioux then got goals from Brady Murray, Nick Fisher, Drew Stafford and Quinn Fylling to put the game out of reach.

The goals by Stafford and Fylling came about a minute apart early in the third period and chased Tech goalie Cam Ellsworth.

Ellsworth and Bryce Luker combined for 27 saves for the Huskies (8-28-1). Jake Brandt stopped 13 shots for North Dakota.

Tech's Justin Brown and UND's Colby Genoway had third-period goals to wrap up the scoring.

It was fifth win over Tech this season for the Sioux, who can wrap up the best-of-three series with another win Saturday. If a third and deciding game is necessary, it will be played Sunday.
North Dakota 4, Michigan Tech 3 OT

Drew Stafford's goal in overtime Saturday lifted North Dakota to a 4-3 comeback win over Michigan Tech and a sweep in the best-of-three Western Collegiate Hockey Association opening-round series.

Stafford raced down the left boards past a Tech defenseman, cut to the middle and swept around goalie Cam Ellsworth, beating him on the far side for the winning goal.

"I had so many chances earlier in the game to score and didn't," Stafford said. "You only get so many good chances like that, so when I had the opportunity to go to the net, I had to take it."

Stafford's goal completed North Dakota's comeback from a 3-1 deficit entering the third period. The Fighting Sioux (28-6-3) dominated late in the game, outshooting the Huskies 14-6 in the third period and 13-2 in overtime, which lasted about 9 1/2 minutes.

North Dakota will get a first-round bye in the WCHA Final Five, which starts Thursday in St. Paul, Minn.

"It was important to get this series over with," North Dakota coach Dean Blais said. "We need the rest. And, you don't want a third game where anything can happen."

North Dakota forced overtime with two goals slightly more than three minutes apart in the third period. Zach Parise backhanded a rebound over Ellsworth, and a Chris Porter shot deflected into the net off a Tech defenseman's skates.

Tech's John Scott hit the goalpost with a shot with about six minutes left in the game.

The Huskies (8-25-5) took an early first-period lead when Colin Murphy scored on a deflection. North Dakota's Brandon Bochenski tied it on a Sioux power play with his 24th goal of the season.

Tech took a 3-1 lead after Brandon Schwartz scored on a tap-in from the side of the crease in the first period and Brett Engelhardt scored in the second on a deflection of a Schwartz shot.

Ellsworth finished with 42 saves. Jake Brandt stopped 23 shots for North Dakota.
COLLEGE HOCKEY: Michigan tops Nebraska-Omaha, 2-0

BY ERIC HABERMAS
FREE PRESS
SPECIAL WRITER

On a night when former Michigan standout goaltender Marty Turco returned to Ann Arbor, current Wolverines goalie Al Montoya made a statement of his own.

Montoya made 16 saves and earned his sixth shutout of the season as Michigan beat Nebraska-Omaha, 2-0, in the opening game of a best-of-three Central Collegiate Hockey Association first-round playoff series Friday night in Ann Arbor.

Game 2 is tonight at Yost Arena.

"This series is going to be a hard-fought series," U-M coach Red Berenson said. "It's not tic-tac-toe hockey."

The Wolverines controlled play for most of the game, but last-place UNO (7-25-5) kept things close, thanks to the play of freshman goaltender Chris Holt, who made 40 saves.

"I thought (UNO) weathered our best effort," Berenson said. "I still can't believe they finished in last place in our league. They're not a last-place team."

David Rohlfs scored in the first period and Dwight Helminen in the second period for top-seeded Michigan (24-11-2). With U-M on the power play, Rohlfs stationed himself in front of the net and the puck somehow ended up in the net.

"I don't even know what happened," Rohlfs said. "The puck deflected and hit me in the face. From there, I don't know where it went. I ended up pushing the goalie, and me, him and the puck all went in the net somehow. I didn't know it was in until I saw the red light go on and the ref point. I was confused."

Helminen gave U-M a 2-0 lead when he tapped a rebound past Holt at 15:38 of the second period.

"Whenever we play these guys, the ones that go in are never the pretty ones," Helminen said. "They're a team that goes out there and hits and bumps. They're kind of hanging on you."

MORE CCHA

Michigan State 6, Ferris State 4:Jim Slater scored two goals, including the third-period winner for the host Spartans (22-15-2). MSU held 2-0 and 4-2 leads, and each time Ferris (15-19-3) tied it. But Slater's second of the game, at 8:24 of the third, put MSU ahead for good. Joe Van Culin, Jeff Legue, Simon Mangos and Greg Rallo scored for Ferris.

Miami (Ohio) 4, Lake Superior State 0:Matt Christie had a goal and an assist and host Miami (21-12-4) outshot Lake Superior (9-19-7), 46-9.

Notre Dame 4, Western Michigan 2:Brett Lebda had a goal and an assist and Morgan Cey turned away 40 shots for host Notre Dame (19-12-4). Brent Walton brought Western (16-17-4) to within a goal at 3-2 with three minutes left in the game.

WCHA: TECH FALLS


CHA: WARRIORS WIN

Wayne State 5, Alabama-Huntsville 3:Junior Billy Collins had his first career hat trick for the sixth-seeded Warriors (9-23-4) in a quarterfinal of the College Hockey America tournament at Kearney, Neb. Wayne State will play No. 2 seed Niagara in today's semifinals.

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UND 6, Mich. Tech 2

Key play: Drew Stafford’s goal 26 seconds into third period for 4-1 lead.

Key player: Zach Parise, 1 goal, 3 assists.

Key stat: Sioux limit Huskies to 15 shots on goal.
UND beats Michigan Tech by four goals again

By Virg Foss
Herald Staff Writer

The Zach attack is back. Great news for the UND. Bad new (again) for Michigan Tech.

Sophomore center Zach Parise's first four-point game since Jan. 16 was all the offense UND needed Friday night to hammer Michigan Tech 6-2 in the opening game of the best-of-3 Western Collegiate Hockey Association series.

It was the fifth straight time the Sioux have beaten the Huskies by four goals this season. It also means UND - a unanimous No. 1 in the national polls - is one win away from advancing to the WCHA Final Five next weekend in St. Paul.

Parise had a goal and three assists in centering a revised line that accounted for three goals and six assists. Left wing Brady Murray had a goal and an assist and right wing Drew Stafford a goal and two assists as Parise's linemates.

The Huskies, limited to 15 shots by the Sioux, have lost by margins of 8-4, 4-0, 5-1, 5-1 and now 6-2 to the Sioux.

"I guess that's our lucky number," UND coach Dean Blais said of the fifth win over Tech by a four-goal margin. "I thought the key was coming out in the third period and scoring right away."

The Sioux took a 3-1 lead into the third period, then quickly raced away when Stafford scored on Parise's feed 26 seconds into the period and Quinn Fylling banked in a shot from a sharp angle at 1:44.

The ninth goal of the season by Stafford came on a play where Parise floated a pass from the left side to Stafford cutting down the middle and Stafford knocked it out of mid-air just outside the grasping glove hand of Tech goalie Cam Ellsworth.

"It goes right back to (Tech) losing a little belief that you can win," Blais said of Stafford's backbreaking goal.

With their dominance of Tech this season, it proved difficult for the Sioux to bring their top game to Ralph Engelstad Arena Friday.

"It is hard," Blais said. "The guys aren't machines. We got a little out of everyone tonight, and I thought Parise was certainly the difference in the game."

After Parise and Tech's Clay Wilson traded goals for a 1-1 standoff after one period, the Sioux took charge with goals by Murray and defenseman Nick Fuher for a 3-1 lead after two periods.

Then the quick goals to open the third period drove Ellsworth from the net and flattened any upset hopes for the Huskies.

It wasn't UND's sharpest game of the year. "But give Tech some credit," Blais said. "They muck and grind. They made it tough in the neutral zone and played it close to the vest in their defensive zone. They played the body well and their positions well. It was hard to get to the net, but we still scored six goals, on the positive side."

It was just the seventh time this season and the first time since Feb. 6 that Parise has started a game on a line combination with Murray and Stafford - all graduates of Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault, Minn.

"Drew, Brady and I always play well together," Parise said. "You can throw us together anytime, and we find each other and click. I think we found a good line combination tonight."

Parise admitted it was difficult getting up for the last-place team in the league that had yet to put a competitive game on the scoreboard against the Sioux. "It's hard, and I think we showed that in the first period," Parise said. "And they're a tough team to play against - they're gritty."
The play of the game was the pass that Parise had to loft to clear a defenseman's stick - but one that Stafford knocked out of the air and into the net.

"That was an impressive goal," Parise said. "When I threw that pass, I thought. 'Oh, what a bad pass.' But he picks it out of the air. That's a highlight-reel play, right there."

The pass didn't surprise Stafford. "I knew that any way possible, he'd get that pass through," Stafford said. "He (Parise) has that much skill. I put my stick up there to see if I could hit it. With a little bit of luck, it went in."

The game marked the first time in the last six the Sioux have given up more than a single goal.

But it didn't matter on a night that the ex-Shattuck boys ruled the ice.

Sioux notes: Junior wing Mike Prpich, who sat out the game with a leg injury suffered last Saturday, said he may be cleared to join the lineup tonight ... Fuher's 10th goal of the year is three shy of the school record for defensemen, held by Nick Naumenko, Ian Kidd and John Noah ... The attendance of 9,837 was the third smallest of the season.
Seawolves slip past Badgers

From news services

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It was fifth win over Tech this season for the Sioux, who can wrap up the best-of-three series with another win Saturday. If a third and deciding game is necessary, it will be played Sunday.
Cam Ellsworth, Mich. Tech

The junior goalie from Leamington, Ont., has the tough task of trying to shut down the highest-scoring team in the nation if his Huskies don’t want their season to end in Grand Forks. It’ll be a daunting challenge for Ellsworth. For the season, Ellsworth carries a 3.76 goals-against average and a .890 save percentage. With the Huskies finishing 14 games behind the Sioux in the 28-game WCHA race, Tech sports information director Dave Fischer had to resort to humor. On one of his statistical sheets last weekend, Fischer said if you put a camera in Ellsworth’s net, you’d have the Cam Cam.

Nick Fuher, UND

The junior defenseman from Grand Forks is part of a Sioux defense that has a chance to give up the fewest goals per game in school history. He’s also turned into an offensive weapon with nine goals, topping his previous career best of eight, set last year. For the season, the only WCHA defensemen who have scored more goals than Fuher are Denver’s Ryan Caldwell (13) and Minnesota’s Keith Ballard (11). With 21 total points, Fuher ranks eighth among league defensemen in scoring. Fuher has taken more shots on goal (80) than any other UND defenseman, 27 more than Matt Jones. He’s a 1999 Grand Forks Central High School graduate.
In keeping with tradition, it's time to put into print my official ballot for the Western Collegiate Hockey Association awards, one of seven ballots that go to each school.

Starting at the top, Minnesota Duluth's Scott Sandelin won my vote for coach of the year, and UND's Brady Murray for rookie of the year.

For WCHA player of the year, I voted for Zach Parise, who was UND's nominee. Each school is limited to one nominee for this biggest of all individual awards. UND is hyping both Parise and Brandon Bochenski for Hobey Baker honors, but the school advanced Parise's name for player of the year. My vote was cast under the opinion that Parise is the best all-around player in college hockey today.

An interesting note to the player of the year award ballot is that the pick of the coaches in the Herald's preseason poll for player of the year - Minnesota's Thomas Vanek - wasn't nominated by the Gophers. They went instead with Keith Ballard, the slick junior defenceman from Baudette, Minn.

The other votes:
First team - Forwards Parise and Bochenski (UND) and Junior Lessard (Duluth); defencemen Ballard and Ryan Caldwell (Denver); goalie Bernd Bruckler (Wisconsin.

Second team - Forwards Gabe Gauthier (Denver), Chris Corner (Michigan Tech) and Brady Murray (UND); defencemen Matt Jones (UND) and Mark Stuart (Colorado College); goalie Isaac Reichmuth (Duluth).

Third team - Forwards Rene Bourque (Wisconsin), Shane Joseph (MSU-Mankato) and Thomas Vanek (Minnesota); defencemen Beau Geisler (Duluth) and Matt Greene (UND); goalie Jake Brandt (UND).

All-rookie team - Forwards Brady Murray (UND), Robbie Earl (Wisconsin) and David Backes (MSU-Mankato); defencemen Ryan Suter (Wisconsin) and Matt Carle (Denver); goalie Jordan Parise (UND). Mum's the word

That gave the Badgers a 5-on-3 power play. Nearly a minute into the power play, Dan Boeser cranked a blast that went in off the glove of Duluth goalie Isaac Reichmuth to tie it at 2. Neither team scored in overtime. That Duluth tie, coupled with UND's victory over Michigan Tech, gave the Sioux the MacNaughton Cup outright.

Bulldog coach Scott Sandelin, aware that the call cost his team the last chance at a title, was careful that his comments after the game didn't cost him the $1,000 fine the WCHA can levy on coaches who make negative comments about officiating.

"I wish I could tell you what I wanted to tell you," Sandelin told the Madison media.

He didn't need to. His non-comment spoke volumes.

Media types aren't subject to a fine, though. My opinion? There's no way a referee should make that type of call in a game of that magnitude. Referees need to be aware of the entire situation, not only in the game, but in this case, in the league race as well. Not exactly friends.

The first round of the WCHA playoffs feature three matchups involving teams who met in the last regular-season series as well.
In addition to Michigan Tech, which stayed in Grand Forks all week, playing at UND, Colorado College is at Denver and St. Cloud State at Minnesota.

The Denver-CC series, which has high stakes, threatens to turn ugly. Colorado College, the host school of the West Regional, sits in 16th place in the PairWise rankings, close to being eliminated from consideration. The Tigers need to beat Denver and perhaps do some damage in the WCHA Final Five to make it to the NCAA tournament.

Though Denver won the season series 3-1, the great equalizer came when Denver senior Connor James was lost for the season with a fractured fibula in last Friday's game. That bloodbath at Magness Arena in Denver featured 42 penalties, including 30 for either roughing or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Denver Post sportswriter Mike Chambers said in his article on the game that “in what might have been the dirtiest hockey game in the 55-year history of the rivalry, someone was bound to go to the hospital.”

No penalty was called on the play on which James, who had never missed a game in his four years at DU, was injured. Neither coach said his injury was a result of a dirty play, either. Even so, he's a huge loss for Denver.

As it stands now, UND would go to the West Regional in Colorado Springs once the 16-team tournament field is announced. Based on past lack of success of WCHA teams (including UND) trying to beat Michigan in its home rink in an NCAA regional, the Sioux would be delighted if Denver eliminates Colorado College.

That would erase the chance that the Sioux would need to beat the Tigers in a single game in CC's home rink. Picture perfect.

UND coach Dean Blais took the MacNaughton Cup with him to Fargo on Tuesday when he and other Sioux coaches were there for a meeting of the Sioux Booster Club.

He didn't expect the buzz the MacNaughton Cup created. Blais said the meeting itself lasted about an hour, but he spent another 20 minutes posing for pictures with the Cup for all fans who brought their cameras.
MEN'S HOCKEY: Time (and Sioux) on their hands
Michigan Tech ends 11-day stay here with another series against top-ranked UND

By Virg Foss
Herald Staff Writer

In 1974, Burt Reynolds played the lead role in the movie "The Longest Yard," a story of a football player-turned-convict who organizes a team in inmates to play against prison guards.

Now 30 years later, Nick Anderson and Phil Pietila have the starring roles in Michigan Tech's version of the film - this one called "The Longest 11 Days."

By the time this weekend ends, the Michigan Tech Huskies' hockey team will have spent the last 11 days in Grand Forks.

The Huskies ended the Western Collegiate Hockey Association regular season playing the No. 1-ranked UND Fighting Sioux in Grand Forks. By losing twice to the Sioux, Michigan Tech's last-place finish gave them the draw against WCHA champion UND in the first round of the league playoffs, beginning tonight.

The Huskies chose to remain in Grand Forks over that span rather than take the 10-hour bus ride home to Houghton, Mich., and then back again.

Dave Fischer, Michigan Tech's assistant athletic director for communications and marketing, says it was the right decision.

"I've asked random players if they'd have rather gone back, and they all say they're glad we stayed here," Fischer said. "It's the unanimous opinion of our coaches and athletic trainer as well."

With time on their hands, keeping young athletes busy and out of trouble was a concern.

It has not been a worry.

The Huskies have played basketball and volleyball at the East Grand Forks Senior High gymnasium, and taken advantage of the swimming pool at their local hotel for volleyball games.

And earlier this week, Anderson and Pietila were the big winners of a bowling tournament the players staged at Red Ray Lanes.

Fischer said they've found Greater Grand Forks to be very helpful to the Huskies.

"Jim Scanlan (EGF athletic director) has been very helpful to us," Fischer said.

The Huskies did practice at Engelstad Arena on Thursday.

In addition, Fischer said the Center Court Fitness Club in Grand Forks allowed Tech players to use their facilities free of charge for working out.

"They've been very nice to us," Fischer said.

The players have also occupied free time with card tournaments, video games and even schoolwork. While Michigan Tech was on spring break last week when the Huskies played here, Fischer said classes have resumed this week, so players have been studying and in some cases, writing exams.

Michigan Tech even took the players to a variety of restaurants in the city to break up that routine as well.

Fischer said the week has gone by fast and fun has been had by all. "It just shows that you can have fun wherever you're at," he said.

Last night, Fischer said the entire team went to see the movie "Starsky & Hutch."

Tonight, though, it'll be the Huskies who are on the big screen and stage at Engel-
stad Arena with their season riding on the line.

Unlike UND, a lock to make the NCAA tournament regardless of how the Sioux do in the league playoffs, Michigan Tech's season will end here this weekend unless the Huskies upset the Sioux in the best-of-3 series.

Under that scenario, perhaps the Huskies should have gone to the movie "Miracle" instead.

Sioux Notes: Forward Mike Prpich, injured in last Saturday's game against Michigan Tech, is expected to be healthy enough to play this weekend ... Assistant coach Brad Berry took in the first two days of the Minnesota State High School hockey tournament, scouting for talent ... UND is 9-1 in its last 10 games against Michigan Tech ... This is the fifth time in UND history that it has opened the playoffs against the same team the Sioux played in the regular-season final series ... David Lundbohm is UND's hottest scorer of late with 6 goals in his last 4 games.
Alaska Anchorage: After splitting their four-game season series against Alaska Fairbanks, the Seawolves lost a 3-2 shootout to determine which school won the Alaska Airlines Governor's Cup ... . With 11 wins this season, that's 10 more than Anchorage had last season. Anchorage has lost both of its games against first-round playoff opponent Wisconsin, falling 3-0 and 3-1.

Colorado College: The Tigers hit the road for the first round of the WCHA playoffs for the first time since 1993, but they don't travel far - just Denver. Colorado College lost possession of the Gold Pan, which goes to the winner of the CC-Denver season series, losing three of four games against the Pioneers ... . The Tigers are 8-2 all-time at DU's Magness Arena, where the teams meet in the WCHA playoffs.

Denver: The Pioneers were handed a major blow, losing their second-leading scorer in Conner James to a broken fibula in the series with Colorado College. He's not expected to play again this season ... . The Pioneers are riding a nine-game unbeaten streak and have outscored opponents 39-18 in that span.

Michigan Tech: The Huskies, 0-4 against WCHA playoff opponent UND this season, have lost all four games to the Sioux by a four-goal margin ... . Tech assistant coach Ian Kallay, a former UND player, had a little fun at the expense of his old coach, Dean Blais, last week. With the Huskies in town for the series with the Sioux, he got into the dressing room for UND coaches and tied knots in the laces of the skates of Blais prior to a Sioux practice.

Minnesota: Grand Forks Red River product Ryan Potulny, in his first game back with the Gophers after missing 29 games with a knee injury, scored a goal in Friday's 7-4 win over St. Cloud State ... . The Gophers have won nine straight games at home and are 13-1-2 in their last 16, the only loss coming against North Dakota ... . The Gophers 18-0 in first-round WCHA playoff games at Mariucci Arena, are 2-0 this season against first-round opponent St. Cloud State.

Minnesota Duluth: By finishing second in the WCHA, it marked the fourth-highest finish in the league in the 39 years of Bulldog hockey, behind WCHA championship teams in 1984, 1985 and 1993 ... . Junior Lessard tied UND's Brandon Bochenski for the WCHA scoring title and led the league in goals with 17. The last Bulldog to accomplish either one of those feats was Hobey Baker winner Chris Marinucci (1993-94).

MSU-Mankato: The Mavericks have met WCHA playoff opponent Minnesota Duluth just once in the postseason, losing in the third-place game at last year's WCHA Final Five ... . Senior defenseman Nate Metcalf, from EGF Senior High, has one assist in each of his last four games.

St. Cloud State: The Huskies enter the playoffs with a six-game winless streak, their longest of the season ... . The sixth-seeded Huskies must upset fifth-seeded Minnesota to avoid missing the WCHA Final Five tournament for the second straight year.

Wisconsin: The Badgers have played in 12 overtime games, a school record, and their seven ties in WCHA games equal the league record ... . Bernd Bruckler is the school's first WCHA goaltending champion since Jim Carey in 1993-94 ... . The Badgers swept first-round playoff opponent Alaska Anchorage in the only series the teams played this season, that one at Anchorage's Sullivan Arena ... . UW leads the nation in attendance, averaging 11,792 per 21 home dates.
Major college hockey INSIDER
Denver-CC series could get rough

Rachel Blount
Staff Writer

Neither Scott Owens nor George Gwozdecky expects the violence to get out of hand this weekend when the teams they coach, Colorado College and Denver, meet in the first round of the WCHA playoffs. After all, the best revenge would be to advance to the Final Five.

Still, the Pioneers will be plenty angry. Senior forward Connor James broke his right leg in Friday's penalty-laden affair and probably has played his last college game. James hit the end boards awkwardly after he was tripped near the net, the ugliest moment of a game that included 42 penalties for 87 minutes. The series could be the most hostile of the first round, which begins Friday.

Fourth-seeded Denver is on a 7-0-2 run, the longest unbeaten streak in the country, while seventh-seeded CC will hit the first-round road for the first time since 1993. Goalie Adam Berkhoel is on a hot streak that could help Denver overcome the loss of James, its second-leading scorer. Berkhoel has a .933 save percentage and 1.96 goals-against average through the nine-game undefeated run.

In other first-round series:
- St. Cloud State (6) at Gophers (5): Coaches usually cringe at having to play a team they just swept, but Gophers assistant Bob Motzko isn't concerned about facing the Huskies after last weekend's 7-4, 4-2 victories.
  "There are no secrets," he said, "and we've just had success against them. I'm sure both teams will do a lot of film work this week to figure out how to counter each other."
- Minnesota State, Mankato (9) at Minnesota Duluth (2): Bulldogs coach Scott Sandelin was happy to finish the regular season with a tie and victory, but a contentious series at Wisconsin left some key Bulldogs injured. It's uncertain whether Tyler Brosz and Tim Stapleton, the team's third- and fourth-leading scorers, and defenseman Tim Hambly will play.
  The Mavericks are on a three-game winning streak, their longest of the season. The weekend probably will end a fine career for senior Shane Joseph and a fab freshman year for David Backes. Joseph has 66 goals and 74 points for his career and has tied coach Troy Jutting for 12th place on the school's career goals list. Backes has 34 points, the most by a Mavs freshman since Tyler Deis had 50 in 1995-96.
- Alaska Anchorage (8) at Wisconsin (3): Badgers coach Mike Eaves wasn't thrilled with Saturday's loss to UMD, but neither was he concerned. The Badgers finished with 17 points more than last year, moved up from eighth to third and have lost only once in their past eight games.
  "This team keeps getting better," Eaves said. "I don't want to set the bar at any level because they may go past any expectations we set. The fun thing is, I don't think we've played our best yet."
- Michigan Tech (10) at North Dakota (1): The Sioux won their fifth WCHA regular-season title in the past eight
seasons by sweeping Michigan Tech, and they have won nine of their past 10 games against the Huskies going into their first-round rematch.

The Huskies elected to stay in Grand Forks this week rather than subject themselves to two 10-hour bus rides. Tech is 8-27 in first-round playoff games since 1987-88.

BU's new digs

Back when Harry Agganis Arena was just an architect's drawing, Jack Parker already was using it to impress recruits. The Boston University coach expects to get some serious dividends now that the new building is near completion.

The $220 million complex houses a 6,300-seat arena, a state-of-the-art weight room and locker room, a video room and a club room that seats 600. The main arena also will be used for basketball and concerts and is connected to a new student recreation center. Parker and other BU officials checked out 50 arenas around the country to get ideas for the building, which replaces 33-year-old Walter Brown Arena.

The Gophers will help christen Agganis Arena next January. Parker hopes to play the series opener at Walter Brown and the finale at Agganis.

“The impact of the arena on our recruiting has been fabulous,” Parker told the Boston Globe. "It makes it a much easier sell for BU hockey.”

CHA can't wait

College Hockey America, which last year became the sixth conference to receive an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, will be the first conference to determine that representative. The CHA's league tournament is this weekend in Kearney, Neb., with the winner earning the conference's only NCAA berth.

Bemidji State, which won the CHA regular-season title for the first time, and second-place Niagara receive byes into Saturday's semifinals. Bemidji State will play the winner of Friday's Air Force-Findlay game, while Niagara will play the victor of a Friday quarterfinal between Alabama-Huntsville and Wayne State. The championship game is Sunday.

Rachel Blount is at rblount@startribune.com.

AT A GLANCE

Series of the week

Boston University at Boston College: BC is ranked No. 3, but is on an 0-3 streak _ not a good way to enter a Hockey East playoff series against its bitter rival. BU squeaked into the playoffs and would love to avenge its Beanpot loss.

Hobey watch

Mike Kompon, Miami: Voters perusing the RedHawks' roster had a tough choice among senior forwards Kompon, Derek Edwardson and Greg Hogeboom. Kompon offers a total package. His 42 points are eighth-best in Division I, he plays solid defense, he's an assistant captain and he made the CCHA's all-academic team last season.

Going up

- The CCHA: What a finish! Only two points separated the top three teams _ Michigan (38), Miami (37) and Michigan State (36) _ and eighth-place Western Michigan was only 11 points behind the Wolverines.

- Findlay: The Oilers, in their final varsity season, are on a 5-2-1 run and could be a spoiler in the College Hockey America tournament.

Going down


- Michigan: The Wolverines finished the regular season 0-3-1.
In brief

staff

College hockey

SNC hockey tickets on sale today

ASHWAUBENON -- Tickets for the St. Norbert College hockey team's NCAA Division III Tournament quarterfinal game will go on sale today.

The tickets can be purchased, starting at 9 a.m., at the St. Norbert athletics ticket office in the Schuldes Sports Center or by calling (920) 403-3031.

The game will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Cornerstone Community Ice Center in Ashwaubenon. The Green Knights will play the winner of Wednesday’s University of Wisconsin-River Falls vs. St. Thomas (Minn.) game.

College skiing

Walsh qualifies for nationals

Rosy Walsh of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay will compete in the NCAA national skiing championships after qualifying with solid performances throughout the Central Collegiate Ski Association season in 2004.

Walsh, a freshman from Rhinelander, is the lone Phoenix qualifier for the nationals, to be held this week in Truckee, Calif. The Nordic events are scheduled for Thursday and Saturday.

College basketball

Tech’s Buettner is GLIAC’s top player

Michigan Tech’s Josh Buettner, a 6-foot-9 junior forward from Shawano, was named men’s basketball player of the year in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Buettner heads the all-league’s North Division first team after leading the conference in scoring (22 points per game) and blocks (1.2 per game). He was a second-team all-GLIAC North pick a year ago, and has earned GLIAC all-academic team honors twice.

Michigan Tech will play in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional tournament that begins Saturday in Romeoville, Ill. The fourth-seeded Huskies (21-7) will play fifth-seeded Gannon (22-7) in a quarterfinal game at 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Semifinals will be Sunday and the championship game Monday.

College baseball

Berken falls to 1-1 after weekend loss

COLUMBIA, S.C. – West De Pere High School graduate Jason Berken was the losing pitcher in No. 18 Clemson's 5-2 loss to No. 5 South Carolina in a college baseball game Saturday afternoon.

Berken, who fell to 1-1, started and went four innings, giving up five runs on four hits, with three strikeouts and four walks.

After an 8-7, 10-inning loss to South Carolina in Clemson, S.C., on Sunday, Clemson is 4-5. South Carolina is 12-0.

College track and field

Woodworth takes scholar-athlete honor

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh’s Elizabeth Woodworth, a senior from Marinette, was named the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Judy Kruckman women’s indoor track and field scholar-athlete.

Woodworth is a four-time indoor conference champion in the 800 meters, a two-time winner in the 1,500 and a three-time member of the top distance medley relay team. She is majoring in medical technology with a minor in chemistry and microbiology and carries a 3.627 grade point average.

College tennis

Phoenix’s Davis is player of the week

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay senior Ben Davis earned Horizon League men’s tennis player of the week honors after downing Cameron Mar-
shall of Michigan State at No. 1 singles 6-3, 6-2 on Feb. 28.

Davis, of Milwaukee, is 9-9 overall heading into the Phoenix's spring break trip to Pensacola, Fla., from Saturday to Wednesday, March 17.

Girls basketball

Ashwaubenon state tickets available

Tickets for the Ashwaubenon girls basketball team's quarterfinal game at the WIAA Division 1 state tournament in Madison are on sale today and Wednesday.

Tickets are available from the main office from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or until sold out.

Game tickets are $8 each. The Jaguars also will have a fan bus to Madison. Bus/game tickets are $20 each.

There also will be a sendoff assembly for the team in the Ashwaubenon fieldhouse from 10:30 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. Wednesday.

The Jaguars play Janesville Parker at 8:15 p.m. Thursday.

Boys basketball

Sectional tickets available at East

Tickets for the Green Bay East boys basketball team's WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinal game will be on sale at East's main office through Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

The Red Devils will play Kimberly at 8 p.m. Friday at Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena.

Tickets for the student sections are $3, and tickets in the reserved adult section are $4.50.

Tickets will go on sale at the arena at noon Wednesday.

Junior hockey

Dey considered for weekly honor

Green Bay Gamblers forward Nate Dey earned honorable mention honors in the United States Hockey League's offensive player of the week competition. Dey scored both goals in the Gamblers' 2-0 victory over league-leading Tri-City on Saturday.

Matthew Ford of Sioux Falls won the award after getting seven goals and two assists in three games. He had three goals in the Stampede's 5-3 victory over the Gamblers on Sunday.

Stampede goalie Kasey Morland, who went 2-0 over the weekend, was named defensive player of the week. Morland made 21 saves in the victory over the Gamblers.

The Gamblers play twice at the Resch Center in Ashwaubenon this weekend, taking on River City on Friday and Sioux Falls on Saturday. Both games start at 7:05 p.m.

Boxing

Professional bouts return to Riverside

The Riverside Ballroom will host a five-fight boxing card on April 1.

Scheduled competitors include former Wisconsin Golden Gloves champion Matt "The Preacher" Puttnam, who is undefeated as a pro, and Oneida's "King" Carlos Molina, who won his pro debut in October.

For more information, call Tim Blaney at (920) 432-9418 or Tom Juza at (920) 406-9292.

-- Staff reports
The Detroit Free Press is the largest daily newspaper in Detroit, Michigan, US. The Sunday edition is titled the Sunday Free Press. It is sometimes referred to as the Freep (reflected in the paper's web address, www.freep.com). It primarily serves Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Washtenaw, and Monroe counties. The Free Press is also the largest city newspaper owned by Gannett, which also publishes USA Today. The Free Press has received ten Pulitzer Prizes and four Emmy Awards. Its motto is "On See more of Detroit Free Press on Facebook. Log In. or. Create New Account. See more of Detroit Free Press on Facebook. Log In. Forgot account?" PagesBusinessesMedia/News CompanyDetroit Free Press. English (US) · Suomi · Svenska · Español · Português (Brasil). Information about Page Insights Data. Detroit Free Press. Photos by the award winning photojournalists of the Detroit Free Press. Part of the USA TODAY Network. On Twitter -> @freep. bit.ly/3pBG9HF. The official Detroit Free Press YouTube channel, featuring some of our most notable video work from the newsroom. On Guard. The Detroit Free Press doesn't just produce a newspaper. It produces award-winning documentaries that inspire change. WATCH OUR DOCUMENTARIES: https://www.freep.com/news/documentar The Detroit Free Press is the largest daily newspaper in Detroit, Michigan, United States. It is sometimes informally referred to as the "Freep." Some still refer to it locally as "The Friendly" -- a slogan from an ad campaign in the '70s. The Free Press is owned by Gannett and is the larger of Metro Detroit's two major dailies (the other being the Detroit News) and has received eight Pulitzer Prizes. Editorially, the Free Press is considered to be more liberal than The Detroit News.