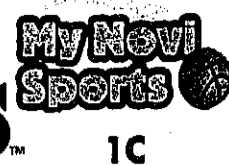




# Novi News

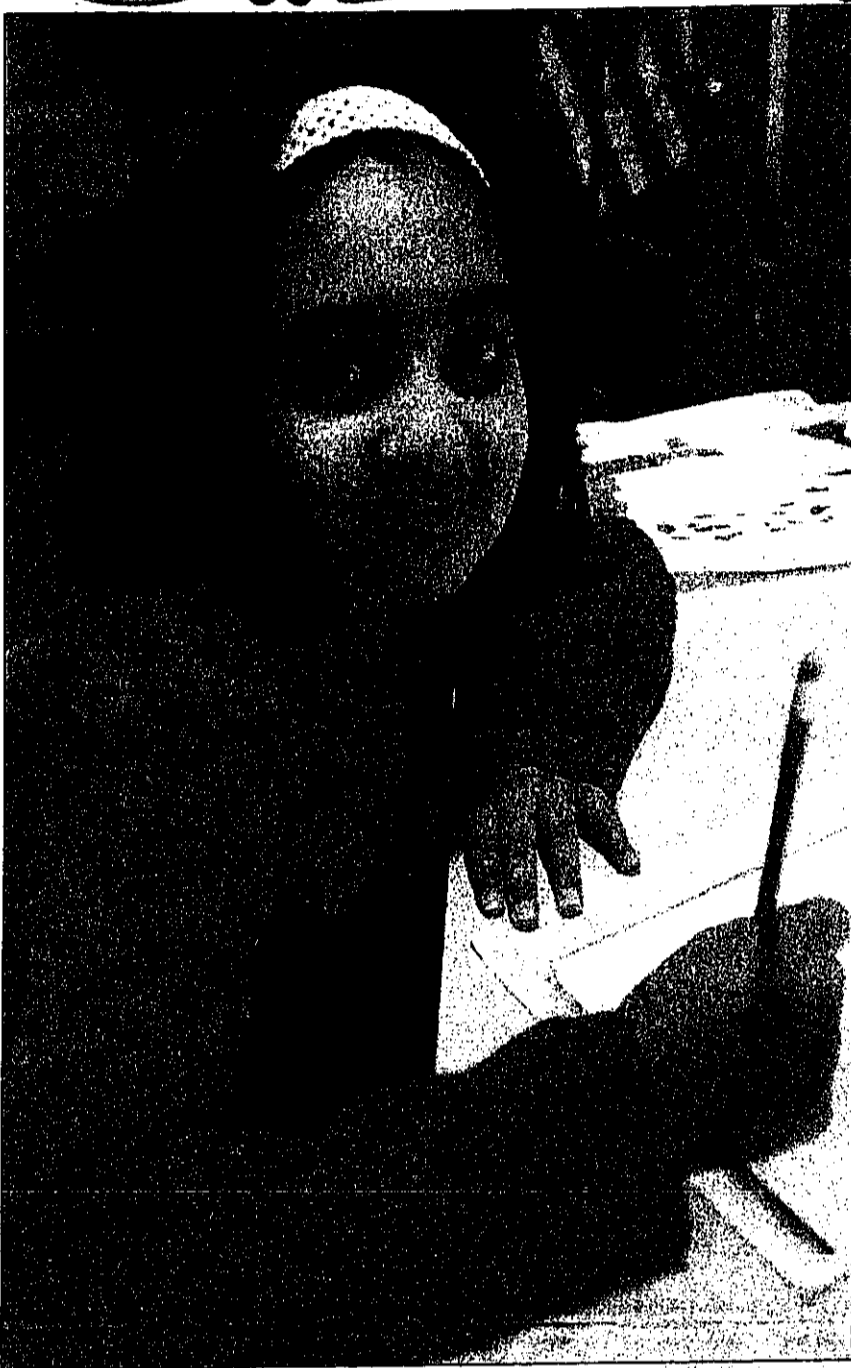


THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2007

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VOLUME 52 #26 50 CENTS

## The things we're thankful for



Parkview Elementary School student Milan Bidare, 9, wrote a Thanksgiving essay on how she was grateful for being smart in mathematics and talented in music.

By Kelly Murad  
STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving is upon us, and in the blink of an eye, it will all be over.

For weeks people have been preparing for the traditional feast; selecting the freshest turkey, perfecting those homemade pie crusts and transforming the everyday dining room into an original Thanksgiving harvest.

But for what?

In the end, more time is spent preparing for the day, than actually enjoying it.

Thanksgiving is supposed to be a day dedicated to giving thanks.

But in the fast-paced world of which we live, the literal meaning of the day is sometimes overlooked.

As you spend tomorrow with family and friends, make it a point to take a moment, or take the whole day, to appreciate the things life has to offer.

To help remind us of what Thanksgiving is all about, fourth-grade students from Parkview Elementary School are sharing what they are thankful for this holiday season.

### What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

I am thankful for my little sister Chloe! Because without her I would be lonely!!

Name: Skylar Courtney  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Ms. Balko

I am thankful for learning a lot from school.

Name: Michael Ho  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Balko

What I am thankful for this Thanksgiving: I am thankful for

continued on 2A

## Race against the clock

### Sales tax repeal pending

By Chris Jackett  
STAFF WRITER

The sales tax extended to many services in the early hours of Oct. 1 during state budget negotiations may not see the light of day, as state legislators are working to repeal the taxes before they take effect Dec. 1.

The sales tax will apply to services ranging from janitorial duties to landscaping, travel, tanning, massage, personal fitness trainers, discount buying, pay phones, document preparation, storage and other services if a repeal is not passed this month.

"It will affect us. It's going to affect both my businesses," said Boo Sadikot, owner of Fitness

Together and Elements Therapeutic Massage, both of Novi.

"Obviously, we don't want it to happen, but it will be something we'll have to pass on. It's another expense people will have to incur. We're helping people live better lives. Why you'd want to tax that, I don't know."

Sadikot said many customers are likely to just grumble and accept the additional tax costs for services at his businesses, but some may think twice about using them.

"They should just get rid of it and make the income tax 6.5 percent across the board," he said.

continued on 3A

**TALK ABOUT IT:** Join in discussing our stories online via Story Chat at [novinews.com](http://novinews.com)

## City of Novi audit revealed

### Fiscal health lauded

By Kelly Murad  
STAFF WRITER

Plante and Moran presented Novi's City Council with its "clean opinion" of the city's financial audit at last Tuesday's meeting.

"It's basically an unqualified opinion," said Marina Neumaier, assistant finance director for the city of Novi. "They are saying everything was presented fairly."

The audit conducted by Plante and Moran was for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006 and ending

June 30, 2007.

Joe Heffernan of Plante and Moran said every city, as well as the state, has seen difficult times over the last five years, but Novi's finance department seems to be doing very well.

Plante and Moran's financial report credits Novi's residential and commercial development over the past 10 years as part of the city's success despite economic challenges throughout Michigan.

One area in particular Plante and Moran auditors found impressive, was the city's ability to continually increase and maintain its general fund.

continued on 3A

## Celebrate the holiday season along Main Street

By Kelly Murad  
STAFF WRITER

Join the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department in Ringing in the Holidays, Friday Nov. 30.

Since 2001, the parks department has been hosting the free annual event for the community. The family-friendly holiday celebration will take place from 6-9 p.m. on Main Street.

Kicking off the festivities is the Jingle Bell Jog, a new event this year for children 5-10. Ages 5-6, will participate in the 100-yard dash, 7-8, quarter-mile and 9-10,

half-mile.

"This event is meant to be a fun race to get hearts and spirits soaring into the holidays," said Derek Smith, recreation supervisor for the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

The races will begin at 6:15 p.m. and each participant will receive a finisher ribbon and refreshments.

Participants of the fun run can pre-register on the city's Web site for \$10 or at the event for \$15. Children who are pre-registered by Nov. 26 are guaranteed a commemorative T-shirt.

The commencement of the

Electric Light Parade will be the lighting of the city's official tree at the corner of Main and Market streets at 7 p.m.

Favored among community members, the Electric Light Parade will feature 15-20 floats, created by local organizations and businesses, including Novi's City Council.

A prize for best entry will be awarded prior to the parade.

What would a holiday celebration be without jolly old St. Nick?

Santa Claus is scheduled to make an appearance on Main Street and free digital photographs will be available between

6-6:45 p.m. and 7:45-9 p.m.

In true holiday spirit carriage rides will be offered and above ground fire pits will be situated downtown for marshmallow roasting.

Be sure to save room for food favorites from local businesses such as Caribou Coffee, Gus O'Connors, Lazy Lizard and Starbucks.

Performances by local dance studios will take place along with special musical guest, Sarah Lenore.

Lenore, 17, is a local rising

continued on 3A



Ron Boyke hands out candy during last year's holiday parade.

File photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

## NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

### FRIDAY

If you're not out shopping for holiday decorations already, place your order at the "36th Annual 2007 Winter Holiday Season Sale!" from 8-9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Oakland Schools Technical

Center-Southwest Campus, 1000 Beck Road, in Wixom. Poinsettias, wreaths, cedar roping, grave blankets and holiday cacti are some of the items available at prices ranging from \$5-75. The pre-order deadline is Nov. 30 and "when they're gone, they are gone." The center is open at the times listed above, Monday through Friday. Call (248) 668-5673 for information.

### SATURDAY

Get ready for a mind-boggling night at Wise Guys Comedy Club, 40380 Grand River Ave., as Rich Guzzi performs a hypnosis show. Admission costs \$10 Friday and Saturday, \$8 on Thursday. Call Wise Guys Comedy Club at (248) 919-3216 for show times and reservations. Visit [www.wiseguyscomedy.net](http://www.wiseguyscomedy.net) for more information.

### SUNDAY

Greece is said to be one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Take it in at Rock Financial Showplace's Diamond Center, 46100 Grand River Ave., during the 5 p.m. premiere screening event for "Our Greek Story,"

a documentary produced by Keith Famie. The documentary features the story of Novi resident Bill Dantas, who was born into a life of poverty in Crete and now owns a successful construction company. The event will include food from various metro Detroit Greek restaurants and the Epoch Restaurant Group, Greek wines from Wine Dimensions and performances from Kyklos Dancers, Levendes and St. Nicholas Opa Dancers, along with the documentary, which will also air on WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) at 7 p.m. Dec. 8. Tickets to the event cost \$75 per person and can be reserved by calling (248) 869-0096.



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**GOT A STORY IDEA?** Contact the Novi News to spread the word about what's going on in Novi.

Victoria Mitchell, editor  
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# MY NOVI COMMUNITY

Thursday, November 22, 2007  
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## Arts institute opens its doors in Novi

By Chris Jackett  
STAFF WRITER

Novi has a new higher educational haven as The Art Institute of Michigan opened its doors last Friday off 12 Mile Road, west of Haggerty Road.

With a concept comparable to Detroit's College of Creative Studies, the new 38,000-square-foot institute will offer certificates, bachelors or associates degrees in 11 subjects, including advertising, visual communications and a variety of culinary, fashion- and design-related majors.

"It's a special brand of culinary and commercial arts. We have dual accreditation," said Ted Blashak, president of The Art Institute of Michigan. "People want to touch things. It's a combination of academic preparation (and hands on experience). It helps to cultivate the commercial and creative arts, as well as culinary."

The school is prepared to take in 1,200 students, although Blashak expects it to take a few years to reach that level. The Art Institute of Michigan already has more than 20 students enrolled for the 11-week Jan. 8 term and a handful who started a five-week mid-quarter term Nov. 9.

"It's been real interesting. The phones turned on Oct. 14 and we've had over 4,000 people contact us," Blashak said. "The type of student we're looking for is recent high school graduates and career transitioners."

The Novi location helps out students who, Blashak said, had to travel to Chicago or Pittsburgh to find the nearest Art Institute.

"We have a very large footprint. We see some national blend with local flavor. We've gotten bigger in the United States by staying local," Blashak said. "(Novi) is a beautiful place. It provides access from the west in Lansing and from the east in Detroit. We're just really happy to be in Michigan. People have been really welcoming."

The university features a \$1 million culinary kitchen, offering another option to those awaiting admission into the nationally renowned culinary program at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

"The biggest piece is dual accreditation. That's unique," Blashak said of The Art Institute of Michigan. "The comparison piece is more apt for students. It's important that the students go and feel engaged. Those other schools have phenomenal programs and

we have phenomenal programs."

Courses at The Art Institute of Michigan cost \$433 per credit hour, according to Blashak. The programs at Schoolcraft cost \$70 per credit hour for Livonia residents and \$103 for non-residents, while the programs at CCS cost \$841 per credit hour.

Blashak said the institute's career services program is a highlight of the school.

"Ninety percent of our graduates find a job within six months in the field they were studying," he said. "The average rate of pay (among graduates) is just under \$30,000."

The Novi location is a branch of The Illinois Institute of Art - Chicago, which has more than 35 branches nationwide.

"We are thrilled to bring an Art Institute school to the Detroit area," said John Mazzoni, president of The Art Institutes, in a release. "The Art Institute of Michigan's design, fashion and culinary programs, led by skilled faculty, will help students achieve their professional aspiration while making an important impact on the communities in which they will live and work."

Blashak said the Novi university already has expansion plans in

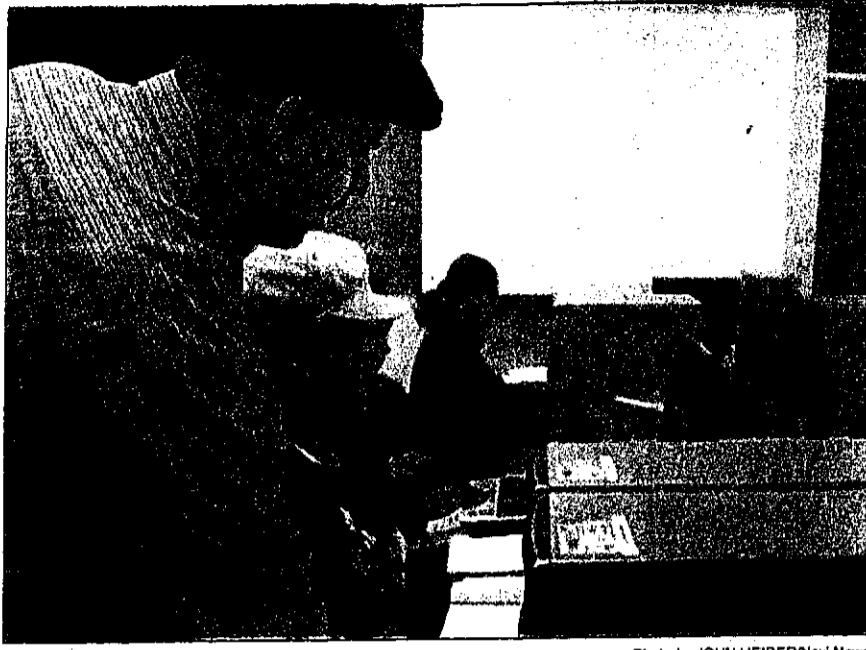


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

**Chef Steve Simpson teaches a class Friday morning at Novi's new Art Institute of Michigan. The culinary program will feature a \$1 million kitchen for the class.**

the making. "Next year, we'll be looking at some long-term lease facilities for dorms," he said, adding that programs such as digital photog-

raphy may also be added to the curriculum. "We have a multitude of programs to choose from. People ask and, in due time, we'll have it."

The school is located at 28125 Cabot Drive in Novi. For enrollment information, visit [www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/detroit) or call (800) 479-0087.

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**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m. Dec. 6 inside the Educational Services Building on Taft Road**

Victoria Mitchell  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102  
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# MY EDUCATION

Thursday, November 22, 2007  
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## Awards presented; social studies teachers present plans

Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) presented Novi High School science teacher Brian Langley with a State of Michigan Special Tribute award plaque signed by Cassis, State Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) and Sen. Mike Bishop (R-Rochester).

Board President Jeff Nielson presented John O'Brien with a certificate of recognition for the 50th anniversary of the Novi Youth Assistance Program.

### Student board member report

Student board members Katherine Ferriss and Derek Mully, both eighth graders at Novi Middle School, spoke on the successful eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., various fundraisers and the upcoming Thanksgiving Parade. Mully also reported the choir concert and Friday activity afternoons have been well attended. He also said Mrs. Moore is running the 2k Turkey Trot, which was scheduled to take place Tuesday.

### Correspondence

Secretary Katie Raun reported three e-mail correspondences to the board. The e-mails included concern over the lack of report cards, approval of the district reorganizing support for board elections to be moved to November and support for four-year board terms, as opposed to the option of a six-year term.

### Comments from the audience

Paul O'Connor, a fourth grader from Deerfield Elementary, spoke to the board and presented a multi-page signed petition to bring back the Spanish language course. O'Connor spoke about the various things he learned in his previous Spanish class and why he thought the course should be reinstated.

### BOARD MEETING NOTEBOOK

#### Reports to the board

Novi High School social studies department representatives Alaina Bryen and Rod Franchi presented a report on the department's bridge plan for meeting new state-set curriculum requirements. Franchi and Bryen said they worked with University of Michigan professor Bob Bain and Novi district writing specialists to incorporate writing skills, disciplinary thinking and the overall process of understanding more heavily into their curriculum of historic material.

Novi Meadows fifth grade social studies teachers Gary Hurst, Amy Mardigian and Carol Mulhall spoke to the board about their experiences at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia the past two summers. They invited the board and the community to attend the free, all ages "An Evening with Thomas Jefferson" event 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at Novi Meadows. The event will feature Bob Barker, who portrays Jefferson at Colonial Williamsburg, in full Jefferson attire and speaking about his life in the late 1700s.

#### Action items

The board accepted five gifts by a 7-0 vote. The first three gifts were from Magna Inter Automotive in Livonia, The McIntyre Charitable Foundation Trust in Northville and The Society of American Military Engineers in Detroit to the Novi High School robotics team and totaled \$51,000 in cash. Superintendent Peter Dion noted McIntyre has donated more than \$300,000 to the robotics. The final two donations were a \$600 donation from Sue Bai to Deerfield Elementary for children with autism and sensory issues and to add to Deerfield's musical instrument selection. American

Honda Motor Company and the Honda Gift Matching Program matched the \$600 donation.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Bob Schram presented, and the board approved 7-0, the hiring of high school paraprofessional Sharon Prescott and the recall from layoff of Jelena Jakic, Nancy Lilly and Cathryn Loeffler-Park to the district with Jakic the only full-time recall of the three.

Dion presented the updated Oakland County Facility Use Memorandum of Understanding Report, which more clearly defined the term "disaster" and who would be in charge of such an incident. The board passed the memorandum 7-0.

The board decided to change a decision made earlier this year of not having a Board Facility Committee. With the current construction projects in the district, the board felt it would be useful to have such a committee and voted 7-0 to have the board president (Nielson) appoint members to the committee.

Schram presented the board with a first look at a new Equal Employment Opportunity and Nondiscriminatory Policy required at the federal level based on a plan accepted last April. The accepted policy is due to the state by Dec. 1, rather than the Dec. 31 date Schram had previously understood, so it can be implemented by Dec. 4. Policy 4160 had been modified to bring it up to compliance. Vice President Bruce Bagdady expressed concern the board was asked to vote on the item the same day it was first presented in order to meet the deadline. In addition to the need for the policy, the district attorney, trustee George Kortland noted board bylaws require two readings before action can be taken on an item. The board decided to table the item for discussion at the Dec. 6 meeting.

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The board discussed goals for the board and district to achieve during the 2007-08 academic year. Some of the suggestions included increasing communication and outreach into the community while improving information mediums and encouraging most popular option would be to have four-year terms with November elections either every year or during odd-numbered years.

The board continued to discuss moving its May board member elections to November. The current election process costs the district \$19,000, which could be eliminated with a November election. With state legislation potentially forcing the district to move their ballot to August or November, the board is sticking with the plan to put the item to a vote of action at the Dec. 6 school board meeting. The board encourages public comment, but the most popular option would be to have four-year terms with November elections either every year or during odd-numbered years.

#### Superintendent's report

Dion spoke about the new elementary report cards, which, because of a glitch, will not be first issued until March.

He also addressed concerns about the bomb threat at Novi High School on Nov. 2 and continued discussion on potentially video streaming the school board meetings.

The board retired to executive session about 10:30 p.m.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

**Gobble, Gobble!**  
With turkey-themed headdresses, Novi Woods Elementary School students presented "Turkey Tunes" to their friends and family Monday. Some of their musical tunes were: "Albuquerque Turkey," "Turkey Tom and Turkey Mom," and "A Thanksgiving Song."

#### Discussion Items

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# BE SCENE IN NOVI

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Mitchell Cantin, Ashley Jamison, John Prisky, Marie Huber and Jared Schoening count their pumpkin seeds by grouping the seeds into sets of 10.



Submitted photos  
Shaily Nandyala, Deeksha Krishnapuram, Nicole Leland, Blake DeFillippo and Max Wasson help clean up their pumpkin in order to count the seeds.

## Pumpkin Math



Averie Che and Zoe Ling pose by their pumpkin before beginning their fall math exercise.



Alex Choma looks on as his group measures the circumference of their pumpkin during a Parkview Elementary School math exercise.



Parkview Elementary School parent Mr. Gregg, Elyse Angus, Christa Gregg, Kaylee Peterson, Noah Berke and Yeahoon Lee proud show off their final product.



Roshan Vader, Mana Ninomiya, Melanie McDowell, Jillian Werbylo and Alexander Deneweth count their pumpkin seeds.

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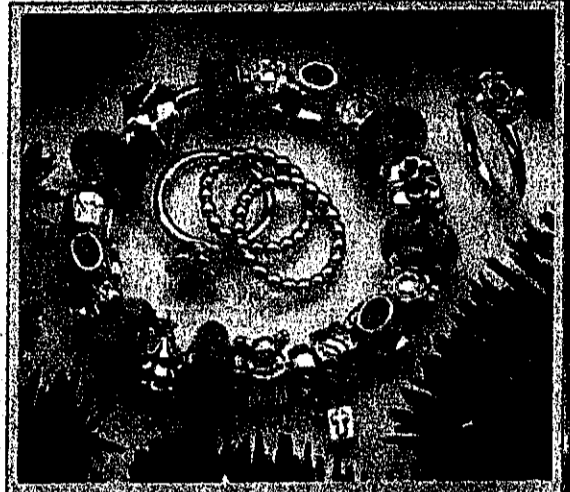


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# MY NOVI SPORTS

See more semifinal volleyball photos SPORTS, 3B

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## SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: VOLLEYBALL

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# Magical run ends in Final Four

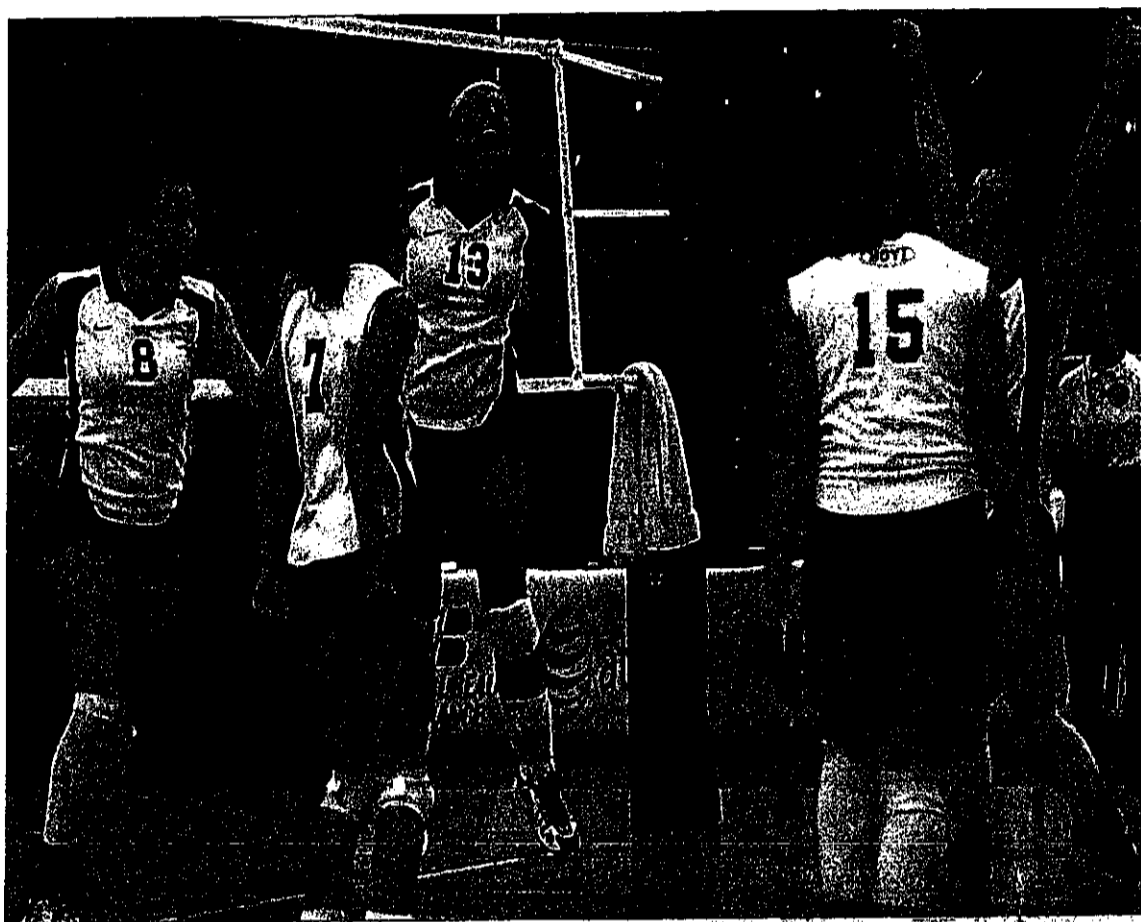


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Novi Wildcats celebrate a point during their match against Bloomfield Hills Marian Thursday night at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

### Wildcats set new volleyball benchmark

By Jeff Thelsen  
SPORTS WRITER

Novi volleyball's unprecedented run through the playoffs came to an end Thursday against Bloomfield Hills Marian at the state semifinals.

The Wildcats went out fighting, falling just short in a five-game thriller, 20-25, 25-17, 25-21, 20-25, 15-11 in Battle Creek.

"It was a lot of fun," Novi head coach Julie Fissette said. "It was well worth the work that the girls have put into it."

Stephanie Cripps and Paige Janer provided the bulk of the hitting for Novi (37-4-3). Cripps had 21 kills and Janer knocked home 16.

"They're phenomenal athletes," Fissette said. "It was a team effort, but by far those two girls hit the top of their stats for every game we played in."

"It was a remarkable year just to see them thrive and to see the team rally behind them."

Novi came out the aggressor in the first game, racing out to a 10-

6 lead. Marian fought back to tie things up at 17. The Wildcats pulled back in front 22-17 and finished off the win 25-20.

Marian took control of game two, taking the serve at 7-6 and not giving it back until the lead grew to 17-6.

Both teams battled throughout the third game. The lead went back and forth with several ties before Marian took serve with a 21-all tie and never gave it back.

The Wildcats had to win the fourth game to stay alive, and they answered the call. The teams again battled throughout the game, but Novi pulled away when Haley Miller took the serve up 19-16. Cripps fired down a pair of kills for a 21-16 lead, and the Wildcats forced the final game with a 25-20 win.

Novi scored the first points of the final game, but Marian answered with seven of the next eight for a 7-2 lead. The Wildcats battled within 13-11, but couldn't get over the hump and fell 15-11.

"I've always wanted to take a team there," said Fissette of states. "I've always told different teams how cool it is to be there and how

See WILDCATS, 3B

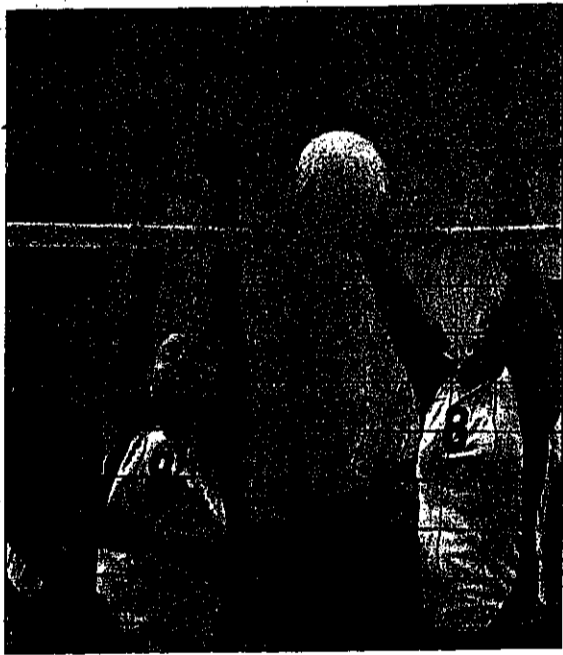


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcats Kim Hildreth, left, and Sarah Robb go up for a block against Bloomfield Marian Thursday night at the Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Novi bowed out of post-season play that night by losing a close match to Marian, where the final score of the tiebreaker game was decided by four points. Novi's volleyball team had never advanced to the state semifinals before.

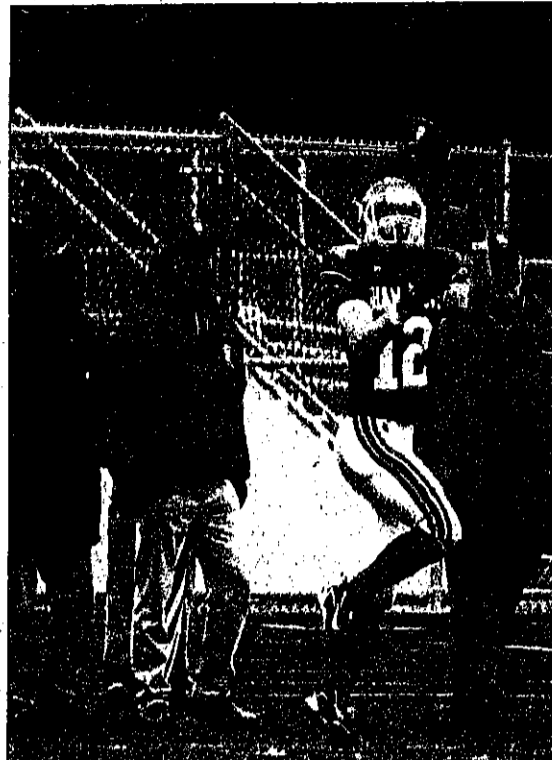


Photo submitted by Dennis Barnes

Jack Daykin hauls in a pass that went for a 47-yard touchdown Saturday against Macomb Dakota.

## CC turnovers prove costly

Shamrocks cough ball up five times in 17-7 defeat

By Jeff Thelsen  
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central struggled to hold onto the ball and fell 17-7 in Saturday's state semifinals at Troy Athens.

Several quality scoring chances fell by the wayside as the Shamrocks turned the ball over five times against Macomb Dakota (13-0).

"I thought it was two real good football teams going after it," Catholic Central head coach Tom Mach said. "We have to finish drives, and we had a lot of mistakes that hurt us. You don't win football games that way."

The Shamrocks (10-3) trailed 7-0 at half and 10-0 just more than three minutes into the third quarter.

Catholic Central used the pass to get on the board. Jack Daykin broke wide open up the left sideline. Ryan Houska found him, and Kinville waited for a block before going the distance on a 47-yard touchdown reception with 4:38 left in the third.

The score sparked the Shamrock faithful, but Dakota answered with a clock-sapping drive that won the game.

The Cougars took over the ball at their own 22-line and marched 18 plays for a score.

Mitch Lovett hit Rodney Hush with an 8-yard scoring pass, putting the Shamrocks down by two scores with 7:43 left to play.

The Shamrocks are not a team

built for the quick comeback, and the Cougars forced a turnover on downs on fourth-and-12 with 6:02 left to play and intercepted a couple of passes as CC was forced to go to the air.

"Our hats go off to them," Mach said. "They deserve the credit. They did a nice job."

Hush started the scoring with a 79-yard reception in the second quarter. The Cougars went with a deep pass on the first play after a turnover and it paid off.

### Stats

The Shamrocks were unable

See SHAMROCKS, 2B

## Cheslik brings all-around game

### Two Wildcats make All-Area First Team

By Jeff Thelsen  
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

Northville soccer went on its furthest run into the playoffs in school history, and Jeff Cheslik was one of many reasons why.

The senior midfielder knows exactly when to play what roll, offense or defense.

Cheslik's position does not allow him to put up gaudy offensive numbers, but it was his ability

to nullify opposition's offense while sparking the Mustangs' attack that helped most.

"Most coaches realize you have some goal scorers and great defenders, but you're still going to win and lose games in the midfield," Northville head coach Henry Klimes said. "He got some big goals when we needed him. He knew how to push up when he had to."

Cheslik's play also got noticed by many others. He was voted to the First Team All-Dream Team and All-Conference.

"That means he was being seen by the other coaches as a very, very dominant player," Klimes said.

Part of what made Cheslik a

dominant player was always playing at the highest level.

"He comes to play every day. Every day he was there playing, it didn't matter if it was a weaker opponent or one of the top teams in the state," Klimes said. "He gave a complete effort and dedication for that day."

While being one of the stars on the field, Cheslik also displayed leadership both on and off the pitch.

"I think Jeff had a lot to do with getting the boys on believing that one dream that we had," Klimes said. "His soccer sense and smarts are just remarkable for such a young man."

Cheslik will take his play to Oakland University next year.

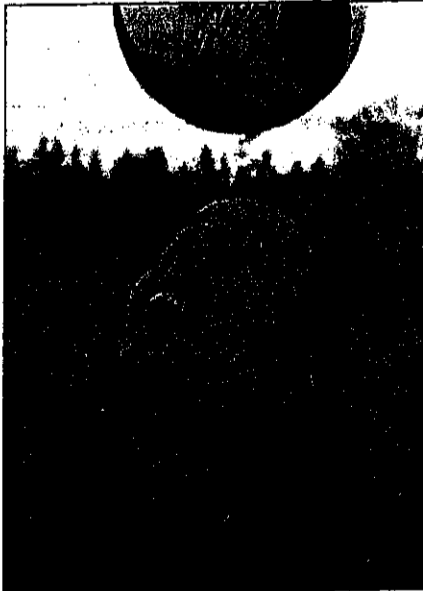
"I think he's going to be a great college player," Klimes said.

### First Team

Novi blended a lot of new players into a successful team. All-Area First-Teamers Nathan Robinson and Garrett Gauruder were two of the main reasons why.

Robinson led the team with 27 points, including 17 goals and 10 assists. He received Third-Team All-State honors and will continue his career at the University of Cincinnati next year.

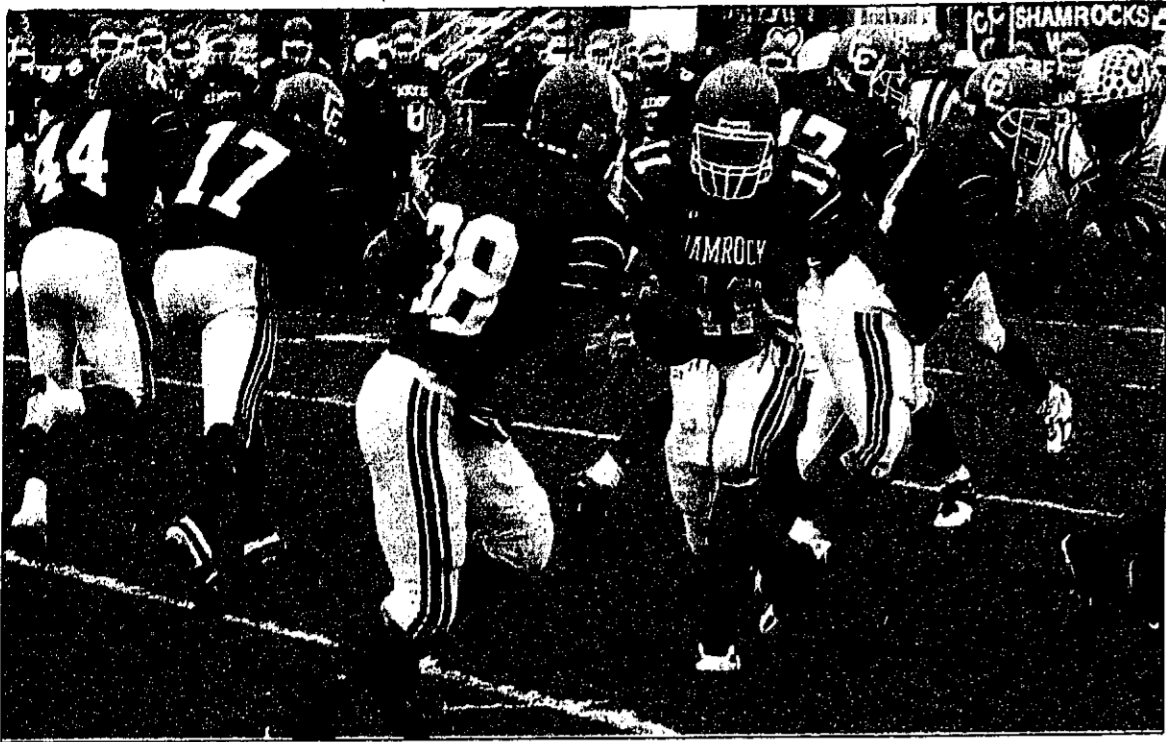
See ALL-AREA, 2B



Mustang Jeff Cheslik is the All-Area soccer Player of the Year.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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Anthony Capatina takes a pitch from quarterback Ryan Houska against Macomb Dakota.

### SHAMROCKS: Turnovers prove too costly for Catholic Central

continued from front  
 passing for 104 yards and a score with two interceptions.  
 Lovett finished 12-for-17 passing for 182 yards with two scores and four interceptions. Houska had three of the interceptions. Hush was the main target, hauling in five passes for 107 yards and two scores.  
 Ryan Houska finished 5-for-12

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 Ryan Houska finished 5-for-12

#### CC pride

The Shamrocks come up one game short of the state finals, but Mach knows his team accomplished a lot since facing a 3-2 record.  
 "I was real happy with our kids," Mach said. "They played their hearts out all season long."

"They were coming off a losing season last year. They worked themselves into great shape, and they won eight straight games."  
 Jeff Theisen can be reached at [jtheisen@gannett.com](mailto:jtheisen@gannett.com) or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Photo submitted by Dennis Barnes

## Novi swims to 11th at state

Submitted to the Novi News

The Novi girls' swim and dive team finished 11th with 86 points at the Division I state meet this past weekend.  
 The Wildcats wishes to crack the top ten fell just short, as Novi finished just four points away for a tie for seventh.  
 The finish was also a substantial improvement from last year's 22 points and 26th place finish.  
 Novi sent seven swimmers to the state meet in 10 individual events, plus three relays. After Friday's prelims, three swimmers returned to the finals in five individual events along with all three relays.  
 Novi had three top-eight finishes that earned All-State designations. The medley relay of Ashley Bush (back), Meredith Cote (breast), Meredith Cote (fly) and Dana Hapanowicz (free) placed fifth in the state.  
 In individual events, Abel earned two of the top eight finishes with a fifth in the 200 free and fourth in the 100 butterfly. Abel's butterfly time of 57.63 improved on her existing Novi record and was less than 0.6 seconds from the event's champion from Ann Arbor Pioneer, Ashley Cohagen.  
 Novi finalists in consolation meet were Cote's 13th place in both the 200 IM and the 500 free, and Rebecca Berman's 16th in the 200 individual medley. The 200 free relay team of Hapanowicz-Berman-Bush-Madalya Baha placed 14th. The 400 free relay team of Meredith Cote-Hapanowicz-Berman-Abel placed 10th.  
 Preliminary finishers, not making the top 16 for finals were: Hapanowicz (22nd in the 30 free), Mary Anolick (26th in the 100 fly), Berman (24th in the 500 free) and Annalisa Morgan (20th in the 100 backstroke) and Bush (31st in the 100 backstroke).  
 Saturday ended a very successful 2007 season and, despite losing 13 seniors, the team's depth and strong freshman class bodes well for a better 2008 in the new conference that will add swimming powerhouses Livonia Stevenson (second in the state) and Northville (fifth at state).

### ALL-AREA SOCCER: Novi, Catholic Central place four on 1st Team

continued from front

"He has tremendous one-on-one skill and scored some big goals for us this season," Novi head coach Brian O'Leary said. "He is also very good at scoring goals on free kicks."  
 "He has been our go to player for two seasons."  
 Gauruder's biggest asset was the ability to play any position that O'Leary needed him to play. He finished with 12 goals and seven assists.  
 "Gauruder's versatility make him so valuable to any team," O'Leary said. "Not only is he a great player, but you can use him at any position. If we were ahead, we can use him at mid or defense. If we are behind, we would put him at forward."

Lyon's Andy Ohanesian, Danny Coppola and Kyle Kaminsky; and Jim Thomas from Milford.

#### Second Team

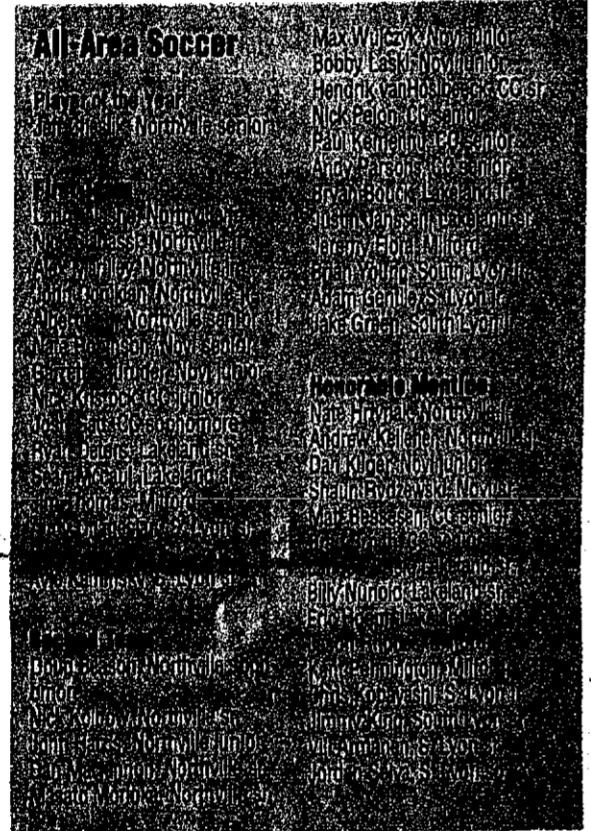
Novi placed two more players on the Second Team, and Catholic Central landed four more. Representing the Wildcats are Max Wujczyk and Bobby Laski. Shamrock players include Hendrik van't Hofbeek, Nick Pelton, Paul Kemenna and Andy Parsons.

The rest of the Second Team includes Northville's Masato Morioka, Doug Beason, Nick Kolbow, John Hatzis and Dan MacKinnon; Lakeland's Bryan Bouck and Justin Janssen; South Lyon's Brian Young, Adam Gentile and Jake Green; and Milford's Jeremy Flora.

#### Honorable Mention

Receiving All-Area Honorable Mention honors are Novi's Dan Kilger and Shaun Ryzdzewski; Catholic Central's Matt Bessessen and Brad Smith; Northville's Nate Hrivnak and Andrew Kelleher; Lakeland's Landon Prisk, Billy Nunold and Eric Hoepf; Milford's Jason Rhodes and Kent Pennington; and South Lyon's Chris Kobayashi, Jimmy King, Villi Armanen and Jordan Selva.

The All-Area team is nominated by coaches with final decisions coming from sports writers Jeff Theisen and Patrick Pinter.



Go to [www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com) for local sports

### Sport Shorts

#### AAU Basketball Tryouts

Tryouts are set for the girls AAU Motion Basketball team, formerly known as the Michigan Motion.  
 All tryouts are Dec. 9 at Novi Middle School and are subject to a \$20 fee.  
 Players need to arrive 20 minutes before the start of tryouts for registration.  
 Ages 9-10 and younger will be 8-9-30 a.m.  
 Ages 11-12 is 9:45-11:15 a.m.  
 Age groups 13-16 will be held in March.  
 The cutoff dates for birthdays is July 1.  
 For more information, contact Ron Valente at (248) 349-5464.

#### Spring Training

Berkley High School will host a six-week Spring Training 2008 baseball program for players in grades one through 12 from Jan. 19 to Feb. 23. Berkley head coach Jim Ellis will direct the program in conjunction with Midwest Baseball Academy.  
 Sessions are offered in advanced hitting and pitching at a cost of \$99 for six weeks. Space is limited. Registration is now under way.  
 For more information, visit [www.mbaacademy.net](http://www.mbaacademy.net) or call toll-free 866-MBA-FITS.

## WILDCATS: Changes pay off

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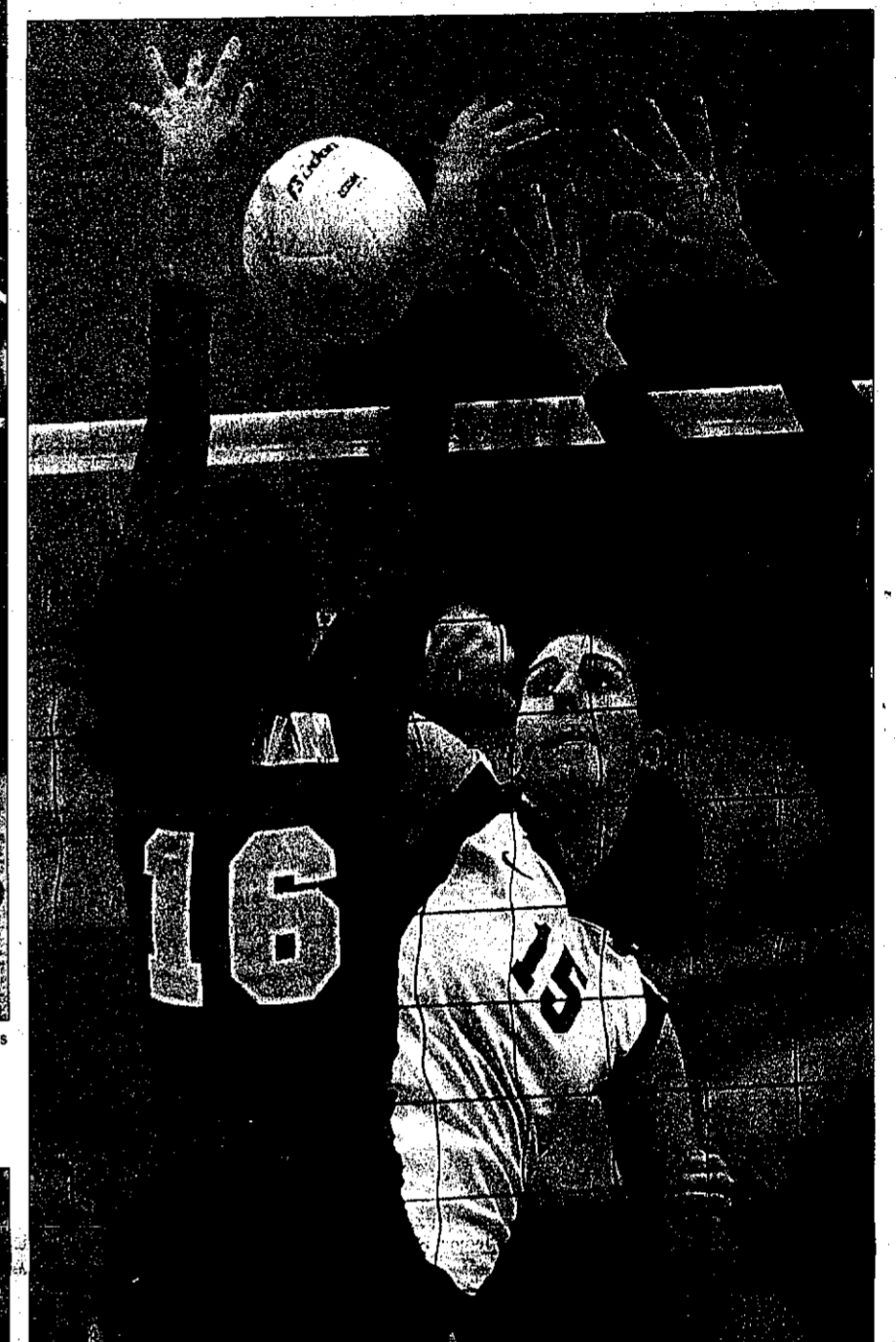
#### Changes work

Novi switched styles of play in the offseason after attending a camp at Ball State University.  
 "Fisette laughed when asked if she could believe how quickly the changes paid such big dividends. "To say that I would've thought it would make this big of an impact, never in my wildest dreams," Fisette said. "But I'm so glad it did."  
 Fisette said she received a message from members of the Ball State volleyball program congratulating her on making the final four. But her message to Ball State will be to expect the Wildcats back for another camp.  
 "It worked so well in our program, at all levels," Fisette said. "The stuff that these girls who went to Ball State brought back was just invaluable when you talk about the impact it made on our program."

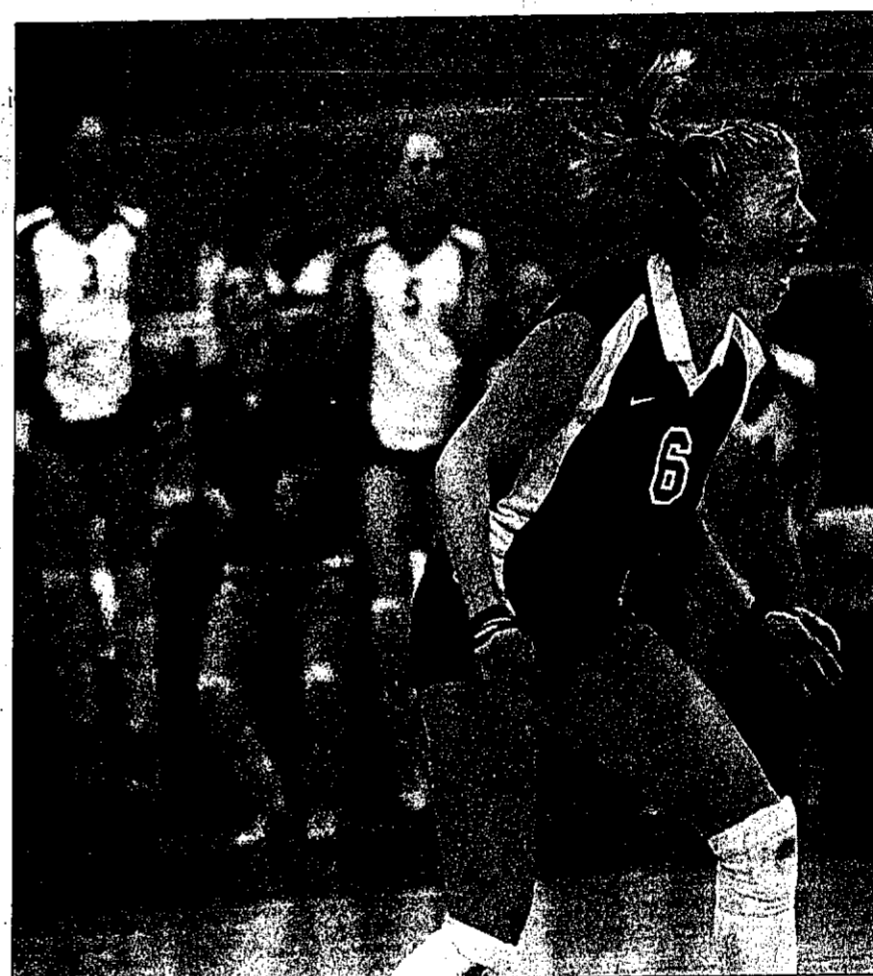
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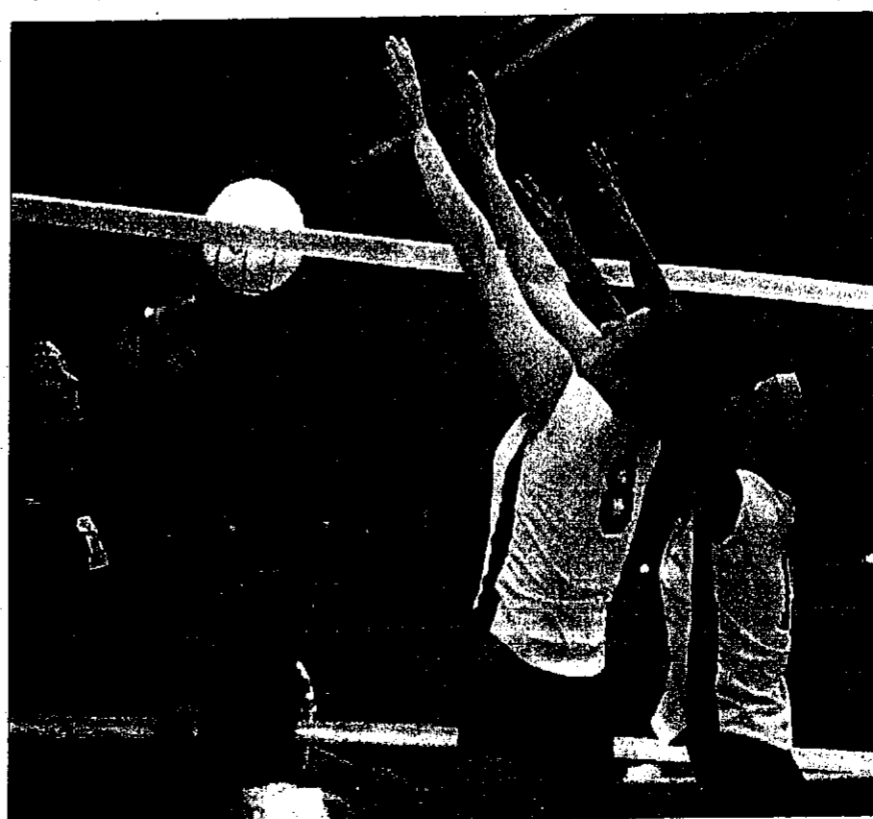
Novi's Paige Janer returns a serve during the Wildcats' semifinal game against Bloomfield Marian.



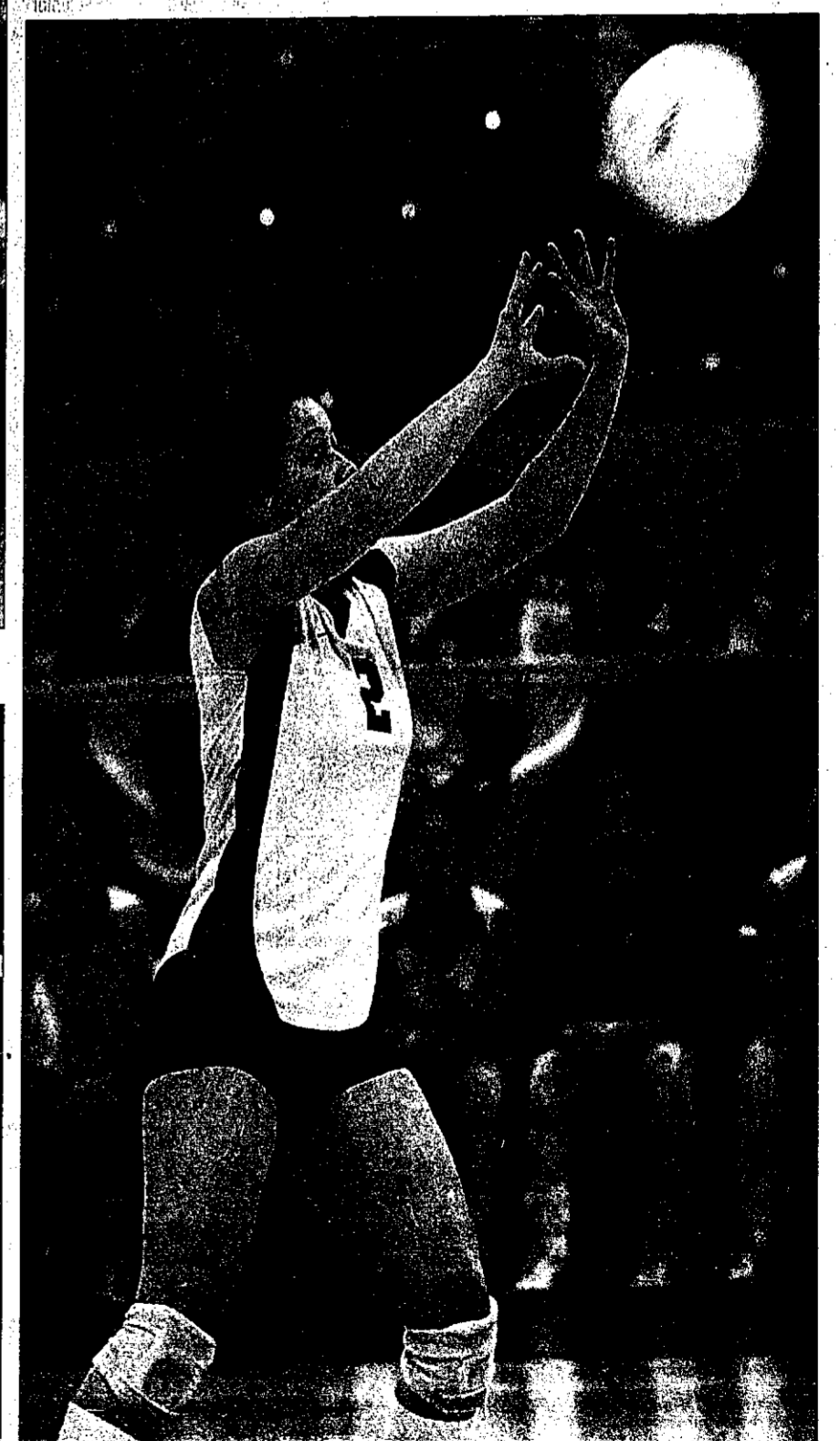
Stephanie Cripps lofts the ball over the net during Novi's Thursday night game in Battle Creek.



As her teammates rise behind her, Novi's Hayley Miller screams as the Wildcats notch a point early in the match against Bloomfield Hills Marian.



Novi's Sarah Robb and Jacquelyn Longe rise together for a block against Bloomfield Hills Marian High School during Thursday night's state semifinals in Battle Creek.

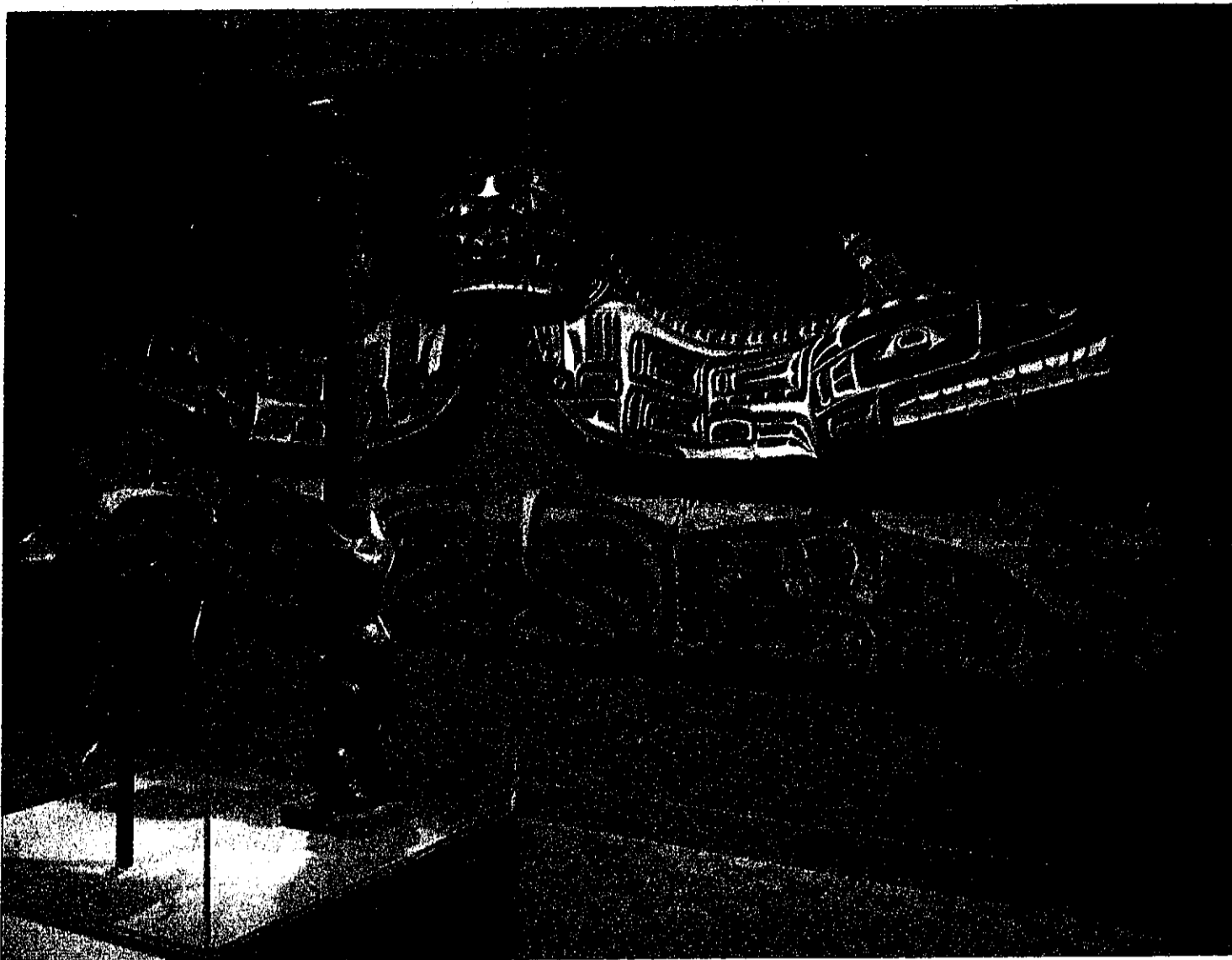


Wildcat Lauren Farley returns a serve Thursday night in Battle Creek.

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# \$158 MILLION RENOVATION New DIA opens tomorrow

By James Mitchell  
SOUTH LYON HERALD EDITOR

If you think you've been to the Detroit Institute of Arts, think again. Even long-time, frequent visitors may feel as if they're experiencing the museum for the first time.

In many ways, they are. Beginning tomorrow, the "New DIA" — as the venerable museum is billing itself — unveils a massive "re-installation" launched in 2001. Earlier this year, the DIA closed its doors while the hands-on efforts began in earnest to reorganize its galleries and showcases, home to what has long been considered one of the finest collections of art in North America.

"We sometimes felt as if this day would never arrive," said DIA Director President and CEO Graham W.J. Beal. The ambitious undertaking Beal launched — not long after his 1999 arrival in Detroit — began, in some ways, in 1966. The Woodward Avenue museum was — literally — falling apart, with pieces of granite flaking from its column-lined walls. The addition of north and south wings to the central museum during that period resulted, many felt, in "a labyrinth" that was difficult to negotiate, let alone tour.

Over the years, it became a common concern. Beal said the fundamental goal of the renovation project was "to make art have more meaning to the general public." In other words, if the plan is to spend upwards of \$150 million on a six-plus year project involving more than 60,000 works of art, why stop at just reorganizing the collection? "No other museum of this scale has attempted a complete, top-to-bottom re-installation," said David W. Penney, vice president of exhibitions and collections strategies.

Penney — who joined the DIA in 1980 — and Beale took advantage of both the DIA's reputation and permanent collection. In the past six years (while much of the permanent collection went into storage awaiting the re-installation) the DIA hosted some of North America's landmark special exhibits, including "Degas and the Dance," "Magnificenza! The Medici, Michelangelo and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence" and

"Van Gogh: Face to Face." The collection of Vincent van Gogh portraits set the record for attendance at the museum of more than 300,000 visitors; the DIA was one of just six North American museums to host a show of van Gogh portraits. (An appropriate distinction, as the DIA's iconic self-portrait was the first painting by van Gogh to become part of an American collection when it was purchased in 1927.)

Penney said the re-installation began with a series of informal panels to determine what museum guests wanted. Those involved possessed an in-depth knowledge of the DIA collection, which was coupled with an understanding of what visitors hoped to gain from a tour of the museum. "User-friendly" might have been the guiding principle involved, aiming for a more casual experience with the artists and their creations.

Interactive displays at "The New DIA" don't make assumptions that the casual visitor has an extensive knowledge of art, and — especially for younger visitors — panels invite viewers to find particular objects or subjects in a painting to allow the artwork to fulfill its original purpose. (There are now 5,000 text panels among the museum's 140 galleries.) Information provided to visitors avoids academic analysis in favor of more accessible explanations that help the viewer connect to the people, places and cultures represented, resulting in exhibits that are both "kid-friendly" and easy on adults.

"We needed to get to the purpose of art, the shared human and emotional experience," Beal said. The story of art, Beal said, is a framework for a walk through time, civilization and cultures.

Along with classic, priceless paintings from practically every known period and school of art, objects and artifacts are held in 320 cases throughout the museum. (The final piece was put in place on Nov. 8, just one day before a gala was held to welcome the DIA back.) "This has been a delightful adventure," said head designer Michael Graves. "You won't find anything close to what has happened here."

The Detroit Institute of Arts was established in 1887, and its first



Male and female figures from ancient Mexico.

permanent collection, The Detroit Museum of Art moved from relatively modest quarters on Jefferson Avenue to its current Woodward Avenue location in 1927. Over the years, the museum's reputation

grew along with its permanent collection and programs, to include the Detroit Film Theater, the masterpiece "Detroit Industry" in the Rivera Court (named for muralist Diego Rivera), and a host of class-

es, concerts and workshops.

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## The Detroit Institute of Arts

The museum will open with an official ceremony at the Woodward entrance at 10 a.m. tomorrow, and it will stay open for 32 consecutive hours, closing at 6 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

■ 5200 Woodward Ave. in Detroit, just north of Warren  
■ (313) 833-7900  
■ [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

## Fun Facts

- years for the completion of the DIA's current building renovation and expansion project.
- \$158 million was the cost of the DIA's current renovation and expansion project.
- When the renovation project is finished more than 5,000 works of art will have been reinstalled in the newly refurbished and reconfigured galleries of the DIA.
- 657,650 is the total square footage of the DIA, including the new 31,383 square-foot addition.
- 67,000 pieces of new marble called "Vermont Danby" were used in the DIA's renovation and building expansion; it came from the original quarry used for the original building.
- The floor plan of the 1927 building was reproduced in the 1929 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica to illustrate the ideal museum layout.
- The DIA has 140 galleries.
- 60,000 works of art are in the DIA's collection.
- Van Gogh's 1887 self-portrait and Matisse's "The Window" (1916) were the first paintings by those artists to enter a U.S. public collection.
- "Van Gogh: Face to Face" drew the largest attendance ever for a special exhibition at the DIA — 315,000 visitors.
- Diego Rivera considered his Detroit Industry murals to be his best and most successful work.
- The Detroit Industry murals underwent an extensive cleaning in the mid-1980s using regular soap and water.
- Tintoretto's "The Dream of St. Mark" spans 13 feet, framed, weighs 160 pounds, and is the largest painting to be x-rayed by the DIA's Conservation Department. It is suspended from the ceiling — as the artist intended.
- 760 DIA volunteers donated 56,176 hours while the DIA was one-third its size. When the museum reopens, 1,000 volunteers will be needed.
- To promote a Whistler exhibition in 2004 at the DIA, "Whistler's Mother" threw the first pitch at a Detroit Tigers home game.
- Amelia Earhart, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Dizzy Gillespie, Princess Grace of Monaco, James Earl Jones, Spike Lee, Robert Duvall and Rosa Parks are among those who have appeared in programs in the DIA Auditorium.



Contemporary art in one of the new African American art galleries.



A section of a gallery called "Made in Paris," featuring objects purchased by 18th-century aristocrats.



German Expressionist works are set in one of the DIA's Modern Art galleries.