



Pats improve to 13-0, clinch playoff bye with 34-13 win over Steelers, D1



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Should teenage murderers serve life?

Judges often find no middle ground when sentencing juveniles as adults

A SPECIAL REPORT

BY ADAM GELLER
 AP NATIONAL WRITER

DETROIT — It began as a feud only a child could invent — teenage chest-thumping over who had the right to sneak across a golf course after dark and scoop lost balls out of a pond.

But by the time it ended in the pre-dawn blackness of a long-ago June morning, that juvenile bravado had exploded into a crime whose horror defied adult comprehension.

Buried inside the charred skeleton of a Saginaw home, three children lay dead. They perished at the hands of two lo-

cal teens who hurled pop-bottle firebombs through the windows so one could settle a petty score.

YOUTH ON TRIAL
 For taking three innocent lives, a judge decided, Michael Lee Perry had to pay. Perry was 16 at the time of the fire, but for an adult crime he'd have to do adult time — and spend the rest of his life in prison, without any chance for parole.

That was 17 years ago. And today, when Perry rises and offers his hand to a visitor allowed inside the razor wire-topped brick of Detroit's Mound Correctional Facility, it is clear that prisoner No. 217645's claim on childhood has long since lapsed.

He stands 6-foot-2, graying at the temples, his hairline receding. No question, Perry is a man now.

He appeals, though, for the

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Paroled Savory: People have '30-year jump on me'

BY SHARON COHEN
 OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Johnnie Lee Savory was just 15 when he was convicted of double murder and faced a judge for sentencing. He had cried when he was found guilty, but when he heard

the judge say 50 to 100, he was confused. "Does he mean months?" the teen asked his lawyer.

He did not. Nearly 30 years later, Savory was granted parole. He walked

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TRIUMPH THROUGH LOSS



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ADAM GERIK/JOURNAL STAR

After falling in a rain-soaked 4-0 loss against the Ohio State Buckeyes, Bradley senior midfielder Drew DeGurian leads the Braves soccer team in thanking the fans who followed and supported them in their NCAA quarterfinal game Sunday afternoon in Columbus, Ohio.

Peorian hopes to bounce back in '08

23-year-old with learning disability looks to make a better life for himself, son

BY STEVE TARTER
 OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — It hasn't been a good year for Henry Dillon. The 23-year-old Peorian who suffers from a learning disability and a severe stuttering problem was arrested on charges that were later dropped, lost his mother to cancer and recently left his South Side home after the furnace failed.

All the while, Dillon is raising his one-year-old son, Henry Jr.

"I try every day to set up a goal," said Dillon, who admits that past battles with depression led to episodes "where I tried to hurt myself."

Speaking quietly and carefully, Dillon said he seeks some peace this Christmas. "I appreciate the new furnace that the Community Action Agency is putting in," he said.

He is just one of the central Illinoisans whom the Journal Star Christmas Fund aims to help each year.

Dillon, who with his son temporarily moved into the home of his girlfriend's mother while the furnace work was being done, looks for better things in 2008.

"I'd like to get my life together. I want to get a driver's license and car so that I'll be able to take my son to school," he said.

Despite a history of anxiety attacks, Dillon plans to persevere in the future. "This year, everything hit me at once. My mom passed away in May. Then there were these false accusations about me, and I wound up

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About 600 Bradley fans return their appreciation as the team walks off the field Sunday afternoon in Columbus, Ohio.

Bradley's magical run comes to an end

The outcome was obvious well before the game ended, but Bradley University's fans would not give in. Wouldn't give in to the rain, or the cold, or a superior Ohio State soccer team — and certainly not to the inevitable end of a season like no other.

"We are the Braves!" Tony Marchegiano sang, bellowing from the stands at Jesse Owens Stadium, and 600 Bradley supporters around him echoed: "We are the Braves!"

"Mighty, mighty Braves!" Marchegiano sang, and the crowd echoed.

And so it went, over and over, louder and louder, in an endless

loop; the final line of each chorus jumping immediately into a repeat until Marchegiano's voice broke, and then his buddies picked up the slack and the song went on.

If you hadn't seen Ohio State break a scoreless tie on a penalty kick 12 minutes into the second half and then blow open the game with a dominating flurry, you never would have known by looking at the crowd that Bradley had lost this NCAA tournament quarterfinal, 4-0.

The reason is pretty simple, at least for anyone remotely connected to Bradley soccer.

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KIRK WESSLER
 COLUMBUS, OHIO

INSIDE

► Full coverage of Bradley's quarterfinal game. **Pages D1, D3**

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