



# HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

WHAT TO BUY

# THE SPORTS FANATIC

**T**here's something for everyone in the wide world of sports. From the couch potato who just likes watching the games to the weekend warriors who act as though they are participating in those games, it's a time for good cheer. Take a peek while strolling through the sports version of Candyland.

— Rachel Lenzi  
Blade Staff Writer



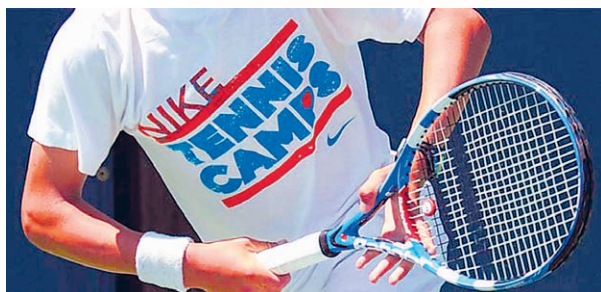
**NASCAR LAP** — You may not be able to drive fast on the interstate, but you can be the passenger in a NASCAR race car. The **Richard Petty Driving Experience** gives you the chance to ride shotgun in a two-seat NASCAR stock car for three laps around the track. Gift cards for the ride-alongs can be used after the new year and can be redeemed at **Michigan International Speedway** or at any NASCAR speedway that hosts the Richard Petty Driving Experience, including **Daytona International Speedway**, **Bristol Motor Speedway**, or **Talladega Superspeedway**. [www.drivepetty.com](http://www.drivepetty.com), \$59



**THE GAME** — Now that the 2012 iteration of "The Game" is over, less than 12 months remain until the next showdown between Michigan and Ohio State. Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor will host the annual meeting between the Buckeyes and the Wolverines on Nov. 30. Or, you could promise someone tickets to any other **Michigan sporting event**, including men's basketball and hockey, whose schedules continue into the new year. **Michigan ticket office: 866-296-MTIX**, <http://www.mgoblue.com/tickets>



**THE 14TH HOLE IS A DRAW** — The **Jamie Farr LPGA Classic** in Sylvania draws some of the world's top female professional golfers on an annual basis — and draws local crowds, as well. **Tickets** for the 2013 tournament, scheduled for July 15-21, go on sale Monday. Weekly grounds passes are **\$50** — the same price as the 2012 tournament — and available for purchase, with a buy-one-get-one-free offer limited to four free passes per purchase. **Jamie Farr Toledo Classic 419-531-3277**, [www.jamiefarrtoledoclassic.com](http://www.jamiefarrtoledoclassic.com)

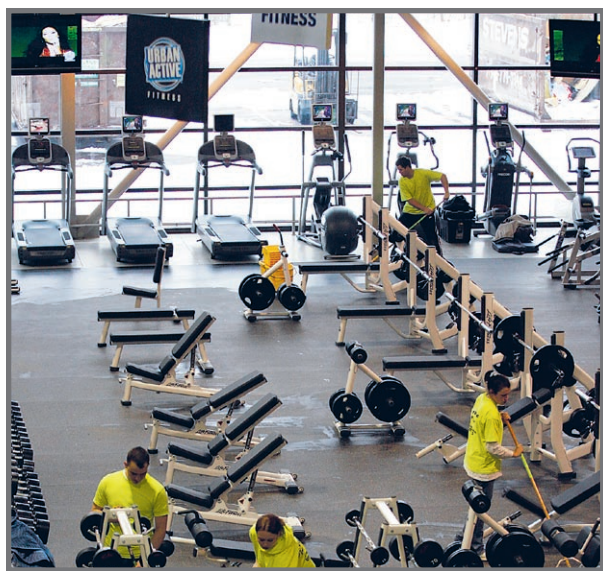


**SPORTS CAMPS** — Get the experience of training and living like a Division I athlete or being trained by Division I athletes on a daily basis. **The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University** offer **day and overnight camps for sports**, including baseball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball. Ohio State University offers gift certificates for its summer sports camps. [OhioStateBuckeyes.com/camps](http://OhioStateBuckeyes.com/camps) or call 614-247-CAMP. Prices vary depending on camp.

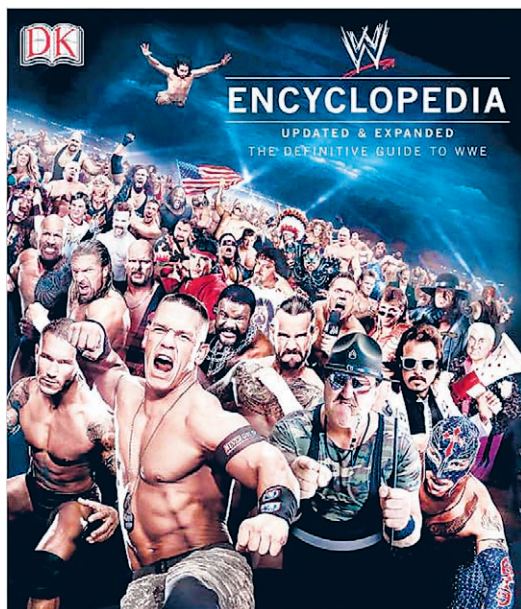
**SPORTING GOODS AND EQUIPMENT** — Need a new set of golf clubs? Or does your son need a new baseball glove — or a gently used one? Or does your daughter need a new pair of soccer cleats? There are plenty of places to buy equipment, whether you're going for broke or on a budget, including **MC Sports** [www.mcspports.com](http://www.mcspports.com), **Dicks Sporting Goods** [www.dickssportinggoods.com](http://www.dickssportinggoods.com), and **Play It Again Sports** [www.playitagainsports.com](http://www.playitagainsports.com). Prices can be found to fit most budgets.



**SEASON TICKETS** — Going to the game? Or all the games? Consider season tickets or a partial plan for **Toledo Walleye** minor-league hockey games or **Toledo Mud Hens** minor-league baseball games. In addition to season-ticket packages and individual game tickets, the Walleye offer nine and 18-game ticket plans, as well as custom plans for specific games; the Mud Hens offer 18, 36, and 54-game plans, starting at **\$144** a seat for a package. **Toledo Walleye 419-725-WALL**, **Toledo Mud Hens 419-725-HENS**



**GYM MEMBERSHIP** — After a holiday season of eating, drinking, and being merry, someone always makes the New Year's resolution to get in shape. But do they follow through? In case they need a subtle reminder of what they set out to do, there's always the option of purchasing a membership to a nearby gym or fitness center — which can start as low as **\$39** a month. **LA Fitness/Urban Active** in Holland and Maumee [www.lafitness.com](http://www.lafitness.com), **YMCA** and **JCC of Greater Toledo** [www.ymcatoledo.org](http://www.ymcatoledo.org)



**SPORTS BOOKS** — Among the book releases in time for the holidays: **Grace, Gold, and Glory: My Leap of Faith**, by Gabrielle Douglas, an Olympic gold medalist in women's gymnastics, with Michelle Burford (**\$24.99**); **J.R.: My Life as the Most Outspoken, Fearless, and Hard-Hitting Man in Hockey**, by former NHL player Jeremy Roenick, co-authored by Kevin Allen (**\$25.95**); and **Coaching Confidential: Inside the Fraternity of NFL Coaches**, by Gary Myers (**\$26.00**). [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)



**PERSONAL TRAINING SESSIONS** — To get particular in training — especially for athletes and for those training for marathons or triathlons — it's key to go the extra mile, in a figurative sense. Gyms and fitness clubs offer one-on-one personal training sessions, including several in the Toledo area: **Powerline Personal Fitness Trainers, Inc.** 419-578-5000 <http://www.powerlinepersonalfitness.com/> and **Extreme Results By Vince** 419-309-9777 <http://www.extremeresults419.com/>

Prices subject to change