21 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

WHAT TO BUY SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS

2015 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

OK, you know the type. They root, root, root for the home team. They wear their hearts on their sleeves. Sports team enthusiasts, fans unite. We have some gift ideas for the sports junkie in your life. — *NICHOLAS PIOTROWICZ, BLADE SPORTS*

Classic Mud Hens hat

If you are a Toledoan who wears baseball caps, this is a must-have. The Hens' classic "T" home hat is the single most recognizable item from Toledo. (Just wear one through an airport.) If the classic isn't the style you want, the Hens have plenty of variety. Price: **$27.95**. Available at the **Swamp Shop**.

Roku streaming players

With wireless internet, Roku players turn any TV into a streaming device. For the sports fan, that means ESPN3 games (hello, MAC football and basketball), MLB.tv, and WatchESPN. With other services like Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime, this is a good add to just about any household. Prices: **$39.99, $49.99**. Available at **Meijer**.

Char-Broil vertical gas smoker

The serious gameday host will earn good mileage from a smoker. Ribs, pork butt, brisket, chicken — it's all fantastic in smoker, and the smoker's yield can feed an entire party. Be warned: it will smell amazing, and it will make everyone hungry. Price: **$169**. Available at **The Andersons**.

Cornhole boards

Tailgating doesn't require cornhole, but it's just so much better with it, isn't it? The perfect outdoor game: it's portable, for four people at a time, semi-competitive, and easy to play while holding a drink. The season-ticket holder in your life would love a set. Price: about **$100**. Available at **Walmart**, custom vendors.

Transfer VHS games to DVD

Have a Little League game from 1996 on VHS? A football highlight reel from 1971 on super-8 mm film? Maybe it's time to modernize your classic and transfer it to DVD or a digital avenue of your choosing. Trips down memory lane usually make great gifts. Prices: vary. Available at **Diggit**, **transfermetodvd.com.**

Downtown gift cards

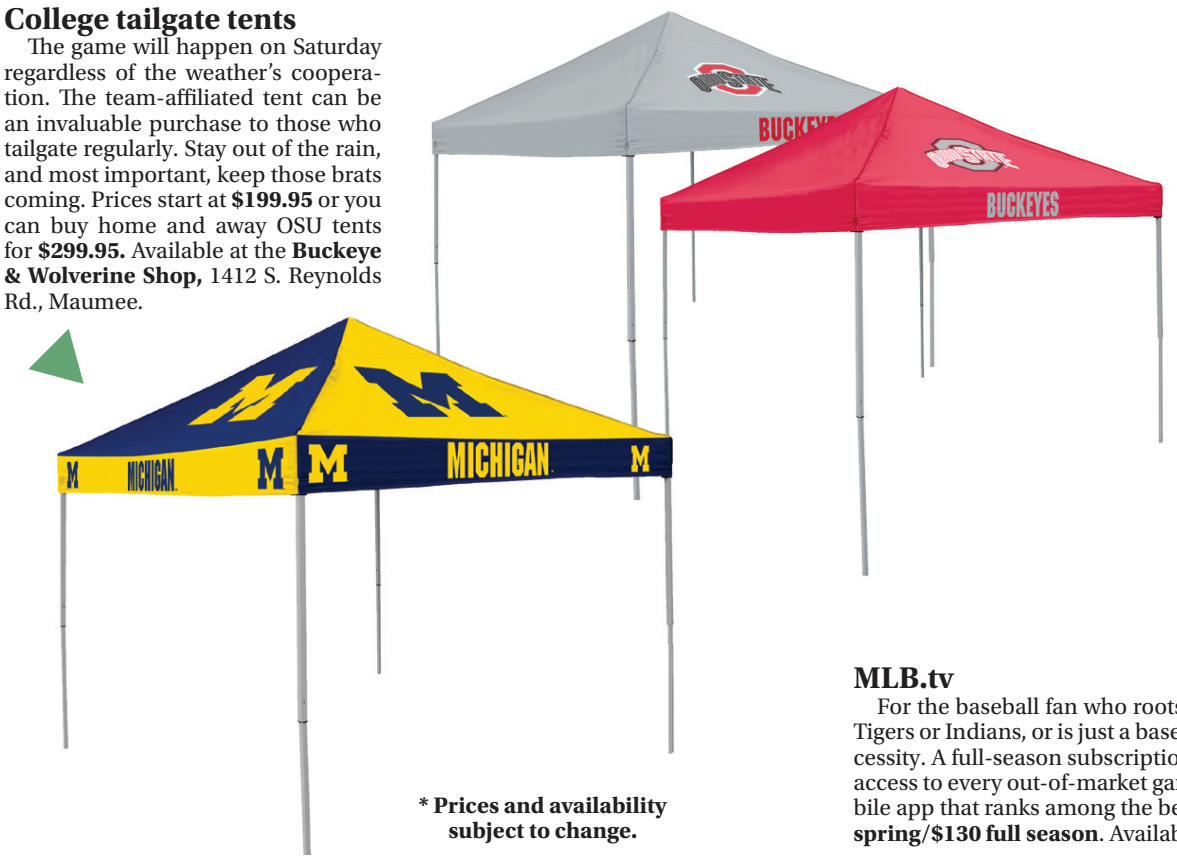
For going downtown to see the Mud Hens, the Walleye, or to watch a big game, the gift card is a practical aid. It's an easy stocking stuffer, and most research seems to indicate people enjoy free food. Price: varies. Available at **Frickers, Packos at the Park**.

Walleye mini sticks

Aside from actual hockey, mini sticks is the next-best thing. The youngsters in your family will love a mini stick, and you're never too old to get a game of house hockey going. Just watch the lamps, will you? Price: **$6.53**. Available at the **Swamp Shop.**

College tailgate tents

The game will happen on Saturday regardless of the weather's cooperation. The team-affiliated tent can be an invaluable purchase to those who tailgate regularly. Stay out of the rain, and most important, keep those brats coming. Prices start at **$199.95** or you can buy home and away OSU tents for **$299.95.** Available at the **Buckeye & Wolverine Shop,** 1412 S. Reynolds Rd., Maumee.



*** Prices and availability subject to change.**

40-inch Samsung LED HDTV

Watching the game needs a good TV, right? This is an affordable option for an apartment or a basement, and Samsung's Smart TVs offer built-in sports apps from places like Major League Baseball and ESPN. Price: **$276**. Available at **Appliance Center**.

MLB.tv

For the baseball fan who roots for a team other than the Tigers or Indians, or is just a baseball junkie, MLB.tv is a necessity. A full-season subscription gives the account holder access to every out-of-market game plus MLB At-Bat, a mobile app that ranks among the best in sports. Prices: **$24.99 spring/$130 full season**. Available at **MLB.com.**