## No royal flush, but 'Rounders' deals a solid hand

Back before they banned broadcast advortising of cigarettes, there was a jingle that went, You've got a lot to like with a Marlboro filter ... flavor ... flip-top bax, You've got a lot to like with a Marlboro filter ... flavor ... flip-top bax, You've got a lot to like with "Rounders," starring Matt (Good Will Hunting") Damon. But a few points to deduct, as well.

The underground high-stakes poker circuit of New York is the canvas for director John Dahl ("The Last Soduction") and screenwriters Brian Koppleman and David Levien (a U of M grad). These are mean streets,

grad). These are mean streets, indeed, populated by seedy

denizens with Runyonesque names like Worm, Teddy KGB and Josy Knish.

Our boy Matt – the other fairhaired hearthreb of the moment – is Mike McDermett, a reluctant law student by day and a reformed "rounder" by alght. Ho's a brilliant card-counting shark who can read people like a poker hand ("If you can't spot the sucker in the first haf-hout at the table, you are the sucker" likely kGB (John Malkovich an hilarious Russian who twaits open his rece tookies according to the court-condity of the court-come, urged on by his perky classmate/room.

mate Jo (Gretchen Mol) and poker mentor Knish (John Turturro).

Into his life returns Worm (Edward Norton), a high school chum who's been boardain' with the warden. Imagine Eddie Haskell gone real bad. Worm is a mechanic, a cheat c'i see a mark, I take him down'). Ho's also in the hole for \$25,000 to Teddy and his greasy associate Grams (Michael Rispoll), who you wouldn't want to meet in a bright alley Mike agrees to help Worm, but together they dig an even deepor hole, the only way out being a showdown with Teddy in a winner take all match of Texas Hold'em.

Any similarity between

"Roundors" and "The Hustler," not to mention "High Noon," is purely, we're safe to say, intontional.

Yet, "Rounders" is true to its turf. Director Dahl, like Scorses before him, takes us on a tour of New York that you wen't find in a Cirele Line brochure. Eyes peer out with evil suspicion from behind sliding peepholes of brownstones left over from speakcasy days, Damon's narration is sprinkled with the wisdom of his world ("Its a sin to let a sucker keep his money" and "You've gotta think of it as a war"). And there's one great line that only a Mets fan will love to its fullest. Describing his redesent to the dusky bricks and musty smells of the poker dons, Damon says, "I feel like (Bill) Buckner walking back into Shea."

Which brings us to the film's two bum cards in an otherwise winning hand. Damon is easy to look at and easy to like, no arguments there. But he comes off more like the Red Sox first buseman referred to above than as topflight, hardened pokermeister — a "rounder" known in every underground club in the five beroughs. The Massachusetts-born

Drama: Matt Damon (left) and Edward Norton in

Damon, so perfect as Beston
Southio Will Hunting, shares the
screen with native New Yorkers
Norton, Rispoli, Turture and
Martin Landau (as his law professor). Agoinst them, images of
John Voight getting off the bus
in "Midnight Cowboy," with
"Everybody's Talkin' At Me" on
the soundtrack, rav unavoidable.
In contrast, Edward Norton's
"Worm" is just that – the worm

## GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

AIR BUD: GOLDEN RECEIVER

(G)
SMAKE EYES (B)
SAVING PREVATE RYAN (R)
EYER AFTER (PG13)
PARENT TRAP (PG)
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT

MARY (N) LET'S YALK ABOUT SEX (N)

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HALLOWEEN RZO (E)
SMALL SOLDERS (PG13)
ARMACIDDOM (PG13)
MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)
WRONGFULLY ACCUSED
(PG13)

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ROUNDERS (R) SIMON BIRCH (PG) KHOCK OFF (R) WHY DO FOOLS FALL BRLOYE

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GROOVE BACK (R)

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FALLENT TRAVE (R)

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LETHAL WEAPON (R)

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Showcase Dearborn 1-8
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Brasin Michiese Daly,
Al Show until 6 pm.
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KHOCK OFF (R) WHY DO FOOLS FALL IN

LOVEZ(R)
PARENT TRAP (PC)
SA (R)
BLACE (R)
DANCE WITH ME (PC)
H20 HALLOWEIN (R)
THE NECOTIATOR (R)
SAVING PRIVATE RYAM (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIME

Showcase Pontlac 1-5 Telegraph Sq. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph 810-312-0241

SIMON BIRCH (PG) -KHOCK OFF (R) WHY DO FOOLS FALL IN LOVE (R) BLADÉ (R) HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (R)

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DANCE WITH ME (PG)
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(C)
SHAKE EYES (B) United Artists Fairlane Fairlane Town Center Valet Parlang Arabble 313-593-4790 ZRUHT-KIP IKOT ZEMIT LUA GAN YACHIR ZAKOHZ THOSMODU YANO YACHIRIAZ

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THE MASK OF ZORRO (PC13)
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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Sopt. 18

\*\*PERMANENT MIDMONT\*\*
Exclusively at the Main Art Theater,
Based on Jerry Stahl's best-ceiling autoblogrophy, a successful sittom writer,
whose hopes of becoming a screenwritor are destroyed by his descent into
heroin addiction, Stars Ben Stiller, Elizabeth Hurley.

ONE TRUE THING'
Contemporary drams revolving around an up-and-coming journalist who returns home to case for her cancer stricken mother, only to discover who sho, and har parents really are. Stars Mary!
Streep and William Hurt.
\*\*RUSH HOUR!
An action comedy centering around the kidnapping of the Chineso ambassodor's daughter.

GOODBYE LOVER\*
A darkly satirical thriller that follows a cast of intertocking players as each schemes to inherit a \$4 million insurance policy, Stors Patricia Arquette, Dermot Mulroney, Ellen DeGeneres.

Scheduled to open Friday, Sept. 25

Sensation to open Priviles Associated to open Priviles Associated to the Company of the Company

"TOUCH OF EVIL"

\*\*TOUCH OF EYIL\*\*
Exclusively at the DIA, Friday-Sunday,
Sept. 25-27. This classic 1958 film by
Orson Wells, restored occarding to
Wells newly discovered notes, tolls of a
Corrupt cap who runs up agoinst a
Maxican official investigating drug
trafficking. Stars Orson Wells, Charlton
Heston, Janet Leigh.

PECKER\*
Exclusively at the Main Art Theater, A
John Water's "rags to riches" comedy
about a young man whose idiosyncratic
photograph of working-class life takes
the art world by storm. Stars Edward
Furlong, Christina Ricci.

"A SOLDER'S DAUGHTER NEVER CRIES"
Exclusively at the Maple Art Theater.
This drama is based on the daughter of
American novellst James James's
fictionalized account of family life, both
abroad end in America in the 1960s.
Stars Kris Kristofferson, Berbara

Action-comedy: Chris Tucker (left) and Jackie Clian star in "Rush Hour." opening Sept. 18 at metro Detroit movie theaters.

Hershey, Leelee Sobieski. \*RONIN\*
An action adventure of an international team of former intelligence agents hired to carry out a dangerous mission that goes awry. Stars Robert De Niro, Jean Reno.

Scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 2

THE IMPOSTORS\*
Cornedy about two down-on-their-luck actors who stow away on a cruiso ship only to find themselves fleeing the frying pan to enter the fire. Stors Stanley Tucci who also wrote and directs.

Scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 9 Scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 9

"PRACTICAL MAGIC"
Based on the bast selling novel by Alice
Hoffman, a dark and comic fabia about
two sisters who struggle to use their
hereditary gift for guiding fate through
practical magic to overcome the obstacies in discovering true fove. Stars Sandra Butlock, Nicole Kidman, Dienne
Wiest, Stockard Channing.

Sutherland. Scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 16 "THE MIGHTY"

Based on the occlaimed novel by Rodman Philbrick, a funny, Inspiring and
adventurous talle of two young outsiders
who set off on a mighty "quest." Stars
Sharon Stono, Gena Rowlands.

Scheduled to open Friday, Oct. 23

\*\*APT PUPIL\*\*
A dramatic thriller about a high school kid who discovers that his aneighbor is an ex-Nazi SS officer and blackmalis him. Sters lan McKellen, Brad Renfro.

him. Stars lan McKellen, Brad Homer.

\*HOME FRIES\*
An officeat comedy about two brothers obsessed with the some woman, one wants to mary her, the other to kill feet.

The trid allows income started by the brothers highly eccentric mother. Stars Dribly-starting by the brothers highly eccentric mother. Stars Dribly-starting of the starting of the sta

trained exclusively for combat, but now, made obsolete by a new generation of specially bred fighters, defends a band of settlers on a remote planet and discovers his own humanity in the process. Stars Kurt Russell.

ON VIDEO

## Odd 'Eye of God' disappointing

BY LEANNE ROGERS

On night in a small Oklahoma town, police a find a teanaged boy walking in the dark. Covered with blood, the youngetor isn't able to tell the officers what hap-pened or whose blood has been shed.

shed.

That's the opening of "Eye of God" a low-key drama that moves back and forth in time to reveal the events that led up to that night. The story goes back six months. Martha Pilimpton plays Ainsley, a young fast food worker who is waiting norvously in the local diner for a first meeting with her pon pal—a state prison inmate who is boing released that day.

Pilimpton and Kavin Anderson

released that day.

Plimpton and Kevin Anderson, who plays the convict Jack, hit all the right notes at that opening scene. They're both shy, awkward and sweet with each other.

After they meet up later that evening, they decide to get married. The convict has found religion and once he gets a job as a mechanic wants to have the permechanic w fect family.

feet family.

Ainaloy seems a perfectly nice but terribly lonely young woman. It's her quiet desporation and naiveté that led her into an ill-advised marriage. The local fast food rostaurant is closing and Jack assures his new wife that she needn't worry about finding another job. Before long, the situation deteriorates, as Jack demands that she not leave the house without his knowledge.

house without his knowledge.
There's a feeling on inevitability in the violence that results as Ainsley realizes the mistake of her marriage to dack, who she rather belatedly learns was in prison for severely beating his pregnant lives in girlfriend. The woman survived, not the baby —

a point which becomes ironic in the end.

the end.

The parallel and eventually intersecting story is of a troubled 14-year old boy. Living with an aunt after his mother's suicide, the boy played by Nick Stahl, is, in an emotional free fall without anyone or anything to break his, fall. There is a nice gentle quality to the brief secones between. Stahl and Plimpton.

Written and directed by Ting

Stahl and Plimpton.

Written and directed by Thin.
Blake Nelson, Eye of God' is muodd little film everall disappointing. The narration by Hal lief,
brook, the local police chief,
seems to want the film traaddress its issues on a deeperphilosophical level but fails to do
so. Nelson uses an elliptical style;
and gradual unfolding of the
story, yet very early in the film;
there is no mystery about what
has happened – Just some of the
details.