Shaw *from page C1*

his high school coach, Greg Hudkins, along with his parents Sharon and John.

"I think there was a point in time when he was going to go to Michigan State," Hudkins said. "We had a few heart-to-heart talks and I think he wanted more input than what we wanted to give him.

"But I thought he handled himself well through all of this. It was a good experience and everybody we dealt with was pretty professional."

The recruiting process, however, began to wear on Shaw during the month of December and shortly after Clarenceville lost 49-0 to Jackson Lumen Christi in the state finals at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Besides the coaches, Hudkins said as many as eight recruiting services continued to make calls to Shaw's hoping to learn about his intentions.

"Before Christmas break I was getting irritable and I found myself being rude on the phone, it was kind of crazy and you can only take the attention for awhile," said Shaw, who was also starting basketball season at the time. "It helped when I went to Florida for Christmas break. I was able to get away, relax and just chill out."

Shaw visited his three finalists this month — Penn State, Michigan and MSU. All three schools indicated they would give the Division III 100-meter sprint champion a look first at tailback.

Penn State also may have had advantage of having first-year linebackers coach Ron Vanderlinden on staff. The former Colorado and Northwestern assistant, who later became the head coach for four seasons at Maryland, is a Livonia native.

Both Vanderlinden and Paterno visited Clarenceville on Jan. 21 where they made an official home visit.

"Coach Vanderlinden is a great guy, I really like him a lot," said Shaw, who rushed for 2,520 yards, scored 290 points and scored 48 touchdowns this season.

Talk of Paterno's age (75) and two straight losing seasons at Penn State didn't faze Shaw at all. Or did going away from home, where he'll be apart for the first time from his twin brothers Andrew and Pete, both juniors this season on the Clarenceville football team.

"The guy (Paterno) walks six miles a day," Shaw said. "I'm taking a tour of the campus in a car and he's walking. He's in great shape.

"Sure, I'll miss my mom's cooking, my brothers and my family. Maybe it will be good for me. Six hours away is not too bad."

Where Penn State's recruiting class ranks will only be left up to the recruiting gurus.

Penn State has also received a commitment from 6-3, 255-pound Edward Johnson, a defensive tackle/linebacker from Detroit Crockett, whom Clarenceville met in the regional semifinal.

Penn State also has commitments from a pair of top 100 offensive linemen — Mark Farris, 6-6, 285 from North Mills (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and Brian Borgoyn, 6-5, 275 (Woodland Hills, Pa.).

Detroit Free Press Best of the Midwest top 20 selection J.R. Zwierzynski of Joliet (Ill.) Catholic, a linebacker/running back, is also headed to Penn State. Piqua (Ohio) defensive tackle Quinn Pitcock, a 6-4, 285-pound, another Best of the Midwest top 20 pick, was also considering Penn State, Notre Dame and Ohio State.

Penn State has one Michigan player on its current roster, Anthony Adams, a defensive tackle from Detroit King.

Among Michigan natives who have played for the Nittany Lions are linebacker Keith Karpinski (Warren DeLaSalle) and wide receiver Freddie Scott, Jr. (Detroit Country Day).

Raiders *from page C1*

and half court," Negoshian said. "We've been doing it all year. Because of our lack of height, we have to use that to our advantage. Some nights it works, sometimes it doesn't."

North's scheme worked for the most part.

The Raiders took a 15-9 first-quarter lead thanks to Higgins' half-court, banker buzzer-beater.

North then led by as many as 16 late in the first half, 36-20, following Higgins' three-pointer with 36 seconds left.

"He got cut three straight years; so, basically, he's like a freshman, but he's playing pretty well for us right now," Negoshian said.

North was able to withstand a 19-8 run as the Spartans got hot by hitting nine of 14 shots from the floor.

Stevenson pulled to within three, 44-41, with 30 seconds left in the third quarter on Chris Severson's basket.

But the Raiders answered by outscoring Stevenson 14-2 during the first 4:24 of the decisive fourth quarter to take a 58-43 advantage and seal the win.

"To their credit, (the Raiders) shot the ball exceptionally well," Dyer said. "They spread the floor and they kept playing. They never stopped making tough shots. Some were off balance and some off the glass.

"They kept us down. Give them credit. We knew what to expect, but they just played better."

Stevenson made 22 of 44 shots (50 percent) from the floor compared with North's 25 of 61 (40.9 percent).

North, however, enjoyed a wide margin in three-point shots made beyond the arc, 9-3.

And the Raiders, with the steady Neal at the point, turned the ball over just 11 times, while Stevenson had 12 of its 19 errors in the first half.

"It was a combination of unforced, some forced turnovers and bad decisions," Dyer said. "With their style of play, that will eventually happen.

"We caught up to them, but then it was your typical run-out-of-gas type of thing."

Senior guard Matt Bartnick was Stevenson's leading scorer with 17 points. Junior center Brandon Chitwood and Severson, a senior forward, added 10 each. Lindon Ivezaj contributed eight.

BOYS BEST SWIM TIMES

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY
(state cuts – A: 1:43.09; B: 1:49.59)
Redford Catholic Central 1:40.96
Plymouth Salem 1:41.69
Plymouth Canton 1:44.30
North Farmington 1:47.46
Livonia Churchill 1:48.62

200-YARD FREESTYLE
(state cuts – A: 1:49.39; B: 1:55.99)
Eric Lynn (Salem) 1:47.37
Nick Markou (Redford CC) 1:47.46
Matt Wisniewski (Canton) 1:47.51
Ben Dziala (Salem) 1:49.10
Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 1:50.75
Ryan Ahern (Canton) 1:51.69
Joe Le (Canton) 1:52.26
Andy Grant (Churchill) 1:53.06
Nick Dixon (Salem) 1:53.42
Yuhei Uno (Canton) 1:53.95

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
(state cuts – A: 2:03.99; B: 2:11.59)
Eric Lynn (Salem) 1:59.34
Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 2:03.17
Rob Cyrek (Redford CC) 2:04.23
Mike Kruszewski (Redford CC) 2:07.04
Ben Dziala (Salem) 2:07.06
Joe Le (Canton) 2:09.99
Jason Bank (N. Farmington) 2:10.40
Brian Clayson (N. Farmington) 2:10.55
M. Bachrouche (N. Farmington) 2:11.51
Brad Baron (Churchill) 2:12.17

50-YARD FREESTYLE
(state cuts – A: 22.69; B: 23.69)
Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 22.15
Matt Wisniewski (Canton) 22.64
Mike Johnson (Salem) 22.71
Bryant Steele (Redford CC) 22.85
Joe Le (Canton) 22.93
Kevin Ryan (Redford CC) 23.03
Nick Markou (Redford CC) 23.25
Brad Nilson (Canton) 23.40
Mark Benivegna (Farm. Unified) 23.60
Rob Cyrek (Redford CC) 23.75

DIVING
Joe Rohde (Redford CC) 230.60
Ken Stafford (Stevenson) 202.15
Tyler Flood (Redford CC) 202.60
Ron Hoppe (Redford Union) 181.85
Brad Sokolowski (Salem) 176.20
Kyle Mullen (Redford Union) 159.55
Nick Riley (Redford CC) 159.45
Kevin Cafarelli (Canton) 158.75
Steve Kiljanczyk (Canton) 155.70
Ryan Campbell (Redford CC) 153.70

100-YARD BUTTERFLY
(state cuts – A: 55.49; B: 58.99)
Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 52.24
Bryant Steele (Redford CC) 52.63
Ben Dziala (Salem) 53.52
Matt Wisniewski (Canton) 54.31
Yuhei Uno (Canton) 56.43
Rob Cyrek (Redford CC) 57.31
Brad Baron (Churchill) 57.02
Justin Gold (John Glenn) 57.83
M. Bachrouche (N. Farmington) 58.76
Andy Grant (Churchill) 59.00

100-YARD FREESTYLE
(state cuts – A: 49.49; B: 51.99)
Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 48.75
Matt Wisniewski (Canton) 48.86
Bryant Steele (Redford CC) 49.43
Nick Markou (Redford CC) 49.70
Joe Le (Canton) 50.12
Mike Johnson (Salem) 50.14
Rob Cyrek (Redford CC) 50.83
Brad Nilson (Canton) 51.06
Kevin Ryan (Redford CC) 51.38
Zach Fellrath (Redford CC) 51.75

500-YARD FREESTYLE
(state cuts – A: 4:58.99; B: 5:17.59)
Nick Markou (Redford CC) 4:58.39
Nick Dixon (Salem) 5:05.23
Paul Haapaniemi (Farm. Unified) 5:10.55
Tim Ryan (Redford CC) 5:14.48
Jason Bank (N. Farmington) 5:14.60
Andy Grant (Churchill) 5:15.01
Jeff Mataya (N. Farmington) 5:15.80
Ryan Ahern (Canton) 5:15.99
Samuel Alvez (N. Farmington) 5:18.30
Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 5:18.43

200-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY
(state cuts – A: 1:31.99; B: 1:37.49)
Redford Catholic Central 1:22.97
Plymouth Canton 1:30.93
Plymouth Salem 1:32.02
Livonia Churchill 1:38.03
Farmington-Harrison 1:38.29

100-YARD BACKSTROKE
(state cuts – A: 56.59; B: 1:00.59)
Eric Lynn (Salem) 53.85
Zach Fellrath (Redford CC) 55.33
Brad Nilson (Canton) 56.29
Nick Markou (Redford CC) 57.79
Brian Clayson (N. Farmington) 58.91
Kyle Chamberlin (Farm. Unified) 1:00.00
Chris Webber (Wayne) 1:00.15
Mike Kruszewski (Redford CC) 1:00.53
John Ferraoni (Canton) 1:01.59
Ryan Ahern (Canton) 1:02.22

200-YARD BREASTSTROKE
(state cuts – A: 1:02.99; B: 1:07.59)
Mike Kruszewski (Redford CC) 1:04.47
Matt Newman (N. Farmington) 1:05.72
Matt Showalter (Salem) 1:06.18
Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 1:06.36
Rob Cyrek (Redford CC) 1:06.67
Dennis Speck (Canton) 1:06.80
Josh Raub (Wayne) 1:07.05
Brian Clayson (N. Farmington) 1:07.44
Jeff Andonian (Redford CC) 1:07.92
Andrew Drennen (Wayne) 1:08.41

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY
(state cuts – A: 3:23.39; B: 3:36.99)
Redford Catholic Central 3:16.57
Plymouth Salem 3:20.22
Plymouth Canton 3:21.85
North Farmington 3:29.87
Wayne Memorial 3:34.17

Shabaj *from page C1*

was set on MSU; however, he accepted their invitation in late January to make a visit to Athens, Ga.

The Bulldogs learned of Shabaj and his ability when he attended their football camp last summer with Harrison teammate Terrill Mayberry.

"Georgia has been talking to me the whole summer," Shabaj said. "The camp there was a lot of fun. It was a great time; now it's time for a decision, and this decision could be my whole life, not just college. If I go to Georgia, I could end up living in Georgia.

"They knew I was committed (to MSU), but they never pushed. They asked if I would like to come to Georgia. When I visited I loved it; the weather was nice, and the kids were great."

Shabaj said he wasn't having second thoughts about MSU, but he realized how much he liked Georgia, too.

"When they asked me to take a visit, I thought it would be nothing," he said. "I thought 'Michigan State is better.' It's a whole different style. Everything is laid back and easy going.

"After I got to see Georgia, I really enjoyed it. It made me think I need to open my mind and look at the big picture and realize there's more out there than just one school."

MSU also has commitments from Flint Northern receiver Matt Trannon (6-7, 210) and West Bloomfield's Kyle Brown (6-1, 195), who could be a running back or defensive back.

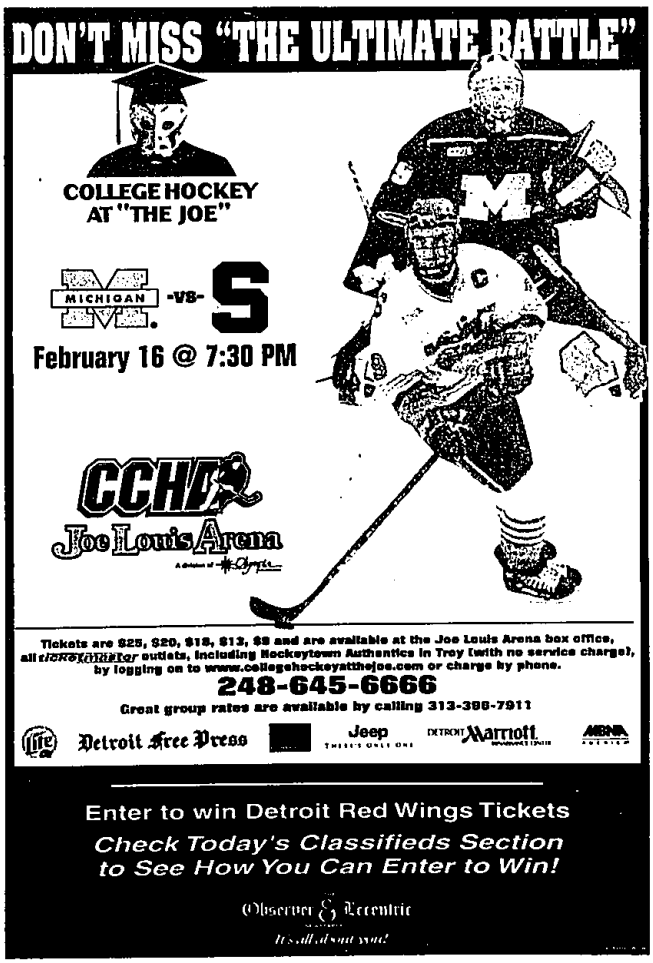
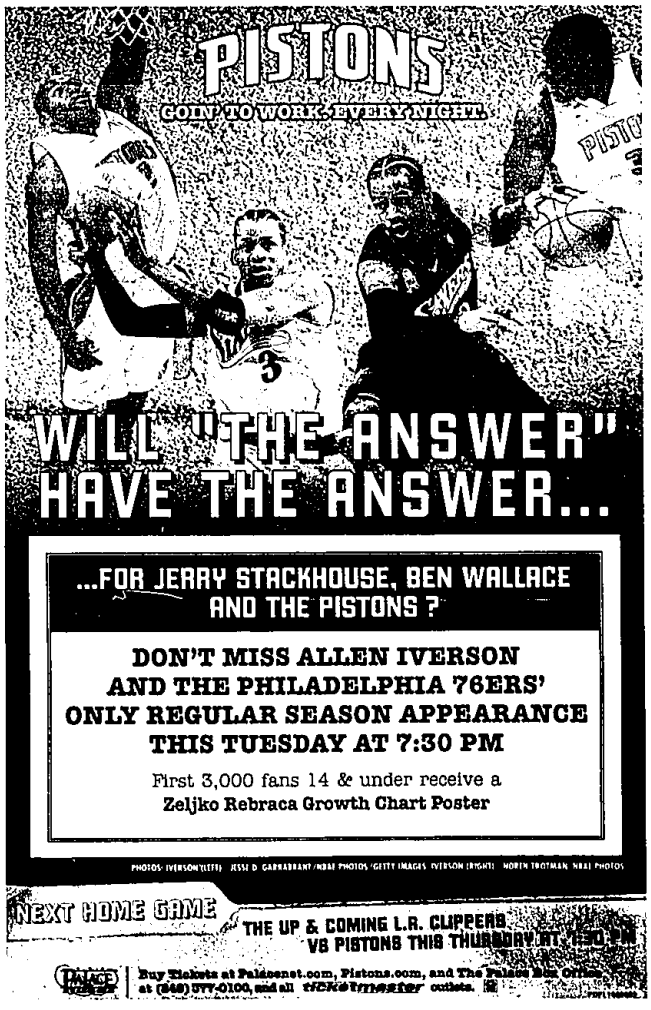
Harrison quarterback Drew Stanton also is committed to MSU, and Shabaj is a longtime friend of MSU freshman lineman Gordon Niebylski, who played at Brother Rice.

The plus for Georgia is its warm weather and the potential to throw the ball more, Shabaj said. At MSU he would be closer to home, enabling his family and friends to better follow his career.

"It could come down to Wednesday," Shabaj said. "This weekend I'm going to State to look things over again.

"I'm waiting for something to kick me, like 'Oh, my god, this school is the one.' I love both schools; both have great coaches.

"I'm just waiting for the right moment. I'm not sure what it is; I'm just waiting. It was a good idea to look around and see what else is out there. Now I have to make an important decision.

"Whatever decision I make, I know it will be the right one, because it will come from the heart."

Mayberry, a wide receiver/defensive back, is expected to sign with Bowling Green (Ohio) and Harrison tight end/defensive back Dave Condeni with Central Michigan.