

Lions acquire running back Gary from Bills

By Tom Kowalski
Grand Rapids Press News Service

ALLEN PARK — Actions speak louder than words, which is why the Detroit Lions' acquisition of Buffalo Bills running back Olandis Gary speaks more about the injury to James Stewart than any optimistic talk.

A few days ago, Lions head coach Steve Mariucci said he believed Stewart would make a rapid recovery from his dislocated right shoulder and only miss a few regular-season games.

Just minutes before the 4 p.m. Sunday cut deadline, though, the Lions felt they needed more insurance at running back and traded an undisclosed draft pick to get Gary.

"You just don't know for sure," Mari-



Olandis Gary

ucci said of Stewart's recovery time. "It could be short or it could be any length of time. Given our situation at tailback, we felt we needed another guy. Until James' situation clears up, one way or the other, we need some backs who can help us win."

"We don't know how long James will be out so adding a back like Gary gives us a bit of a security blanket."

Gary exploded on the NFL scene in

see LIONS, C2

LIONS' FINAL CUTS

The Detroit Lions made 16 roster moves on Sunday, getting down to the mandatory 53-man roster limit. The Lions traded an undisclosed draft pick to Buffalo for running back Olandis Gary, placed Luther Elliss on the Non-Football Injury/Inactive list and put Brian Williams on the injured reserve list. Elliss cannot be activated to the roster until the Lions' sixth regular-season game while Williams is lost for the season.

The Lions also released 13 players:
G Tony Semple
G Kerlin Blaise
G Tyrone Hopson
TE Matt Murphy
CB Jemeel Powell
WR David Kircus
RB Autrey Denson
S Lamar Campbell
CB Gerald Dixon
LB Jody Littleton
DL Antwan Lake
DL Jonathan Taylor
OL Ben Johnson



■ Season opener: Arizona Cardinals at Detroit Lions, Sunday at 1 p.m. on (FOX17)

Kircus among 13 cut from Lions on Sunday

By Tom Kowalski
Grand Rapids Press News Service

ALLEN PARK — David Kircus is gone, but not forgotten.

Kircus, the Detroit Lions' rookie sixth-round draft pick, was among 13 players who were released by the club Sunday.

The former Grand Valley State University star, though, could be selected to Detroit's five-man practice squad if he clears waivers today.

"I am surprised," Kircus said on Sunday. "I didn't think I'd have to worry about something like this. But that's the nature of the beast."

Said Lions head coach Steve Mariucci: "We'll have to wait and see what happens with David. He's got some qualities that you like, so we'll see where it goes. With-



David Kircus

out getting into particulars, we're going to look at the waiver wire at every position and then determine who the best players are for us. I don't want to show our hand.

"We'll just say that a lot of guys are candidates for the practice squad and he might be one of those."

Kircus has good speed and hands, but struggled at times in the Lions West Coast offense. He had five catches for 51

see KIRCUS, C2

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

SECTION C
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

Sports monday

Boat people

Local crew takes first in class at races

By Steve Kaminski
The Grand Rapids Press

Jason Dykhouse serves as navigator on the locally based Great Lakes Caster powerboat team, and his job description is a pretty broad one.

Take what happened Sunday on Lake Michigan after their 28-foot Tiger Viper crossed the finish line in front of the Bil-Mar Restaurant in Grand Haven. When the team needs to hang someone upside down from his ankles off the side of the boat to see if there is a hole in it, Dykhouse is their man.

"We were wondering for 50 miles if there was a hole in it," said Dykhouse, 29, of Grand Rapids.

The whole team had a good laugh afterward since the boat was just fine. In addition, Great Lakes Caster took top honors in the Skater & Alliance/Blue Sky Marine Warranty Offshore Challenge of Grand Haven. The team,



PRESS PHOTO/JOHNNY QUIRIN

Winning feeling: Navigator Bob Morrison, right, owner Brian Bunch, center, and driver Jim Lijana took first place in the Performance Series Level 4 class on Sunday in their boat named "Fountain of Youth." The team, from Gibraltar, Mich., won its third race in its first season of competition.

see BOAT, C8



BEAT BECKER 2003

Want a shot at \$350 each week? Try your luck vs. Becker



PRESS FILE PHOTO

Little Jared: Jared Veldheer, 4, was the model for a Beat Becker T-shirt prior to the start of the contest in 1991 while sitting on Grand Rapids Press sports editor Bob Becker's knee.

By Bob Becker
Grand Rapids Press Sports Editor

The older I get, the faster time flies. And lately it's really been zipping by.

I have a copy of The Press from Aug. 25, 1991. To show you how long ago that was, the Tigers had just beaten Seattle 7-2 to move into first-place a tie with Toronto in the American League East.

We were introducing that year's Beat Becker contest, and ran a picture of yours truly with 4-year-old Jared Veldheer sitting on my knee.

He was wearing a huge smile, plus a bright yellow "I Beat Becker" T-shirt.

Well, that was then and this is now.

Jared doesn't have that T-shirt anymore. And it really doesn't matter, because it wouldn't fit him. He's now 16, stands 6-foot-7, weighs about 265 and plays football for Forest Hills Northern. He's an offensive lineman who one day hopes to be playing college ball.

Somebody thought it would be a good thing to re-create that picture. I had visions of all the ligaments in my knee snapping.

I haven't grown any taller, but I've added just about as many pounds as Jared. He, however, is putting his to better use.

"I've always been a Michigan

see BECKER, C6



PRESS PHOTO/LORI NIEDENFUER COOL

Big Jared: Today, Bob Becker looks pretty small compared to Jared Veldheer, 16, who stands 6-foot-7, weighs 265 pounds and plays football for Forest Hills Northern.

TODAY'S UPDATE



AP PHOTO

Tennis trial: American Lindsay Davenport returns a shot to Russian Nadia Petrova on Sunday during their match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York City. Davenport was tested by Petrova, but won the match. Story, C7.

USC looks tough

In 66 years of Heisman Trophy history before Southern Cal's Carson Palmer won the 67th, only 11 teams had better records the year after losing a Heisman winner. USC, which finished 11-2 last season, appears well-positioned to join that group. Dave Mayo's column, C3.

Tigers lose

Magglio Ordonez hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and Esteban Loaiza became the AL's first 18-game winner as the Chicago White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-1 on Sunday. Story, C4.

Focus on GLIAC

As much as it might surprise its fans, the first goal for this year's Grand Valley State football team is not to repeat as NCAA Division II champions. Rather, it's to win another Great Lakes Conference championship. Story, C3.



Shock rocked

The Cleveland Rockers did just that, getting 16 points and eight rebounds from rookie LaToya Thomas on Sunday to stave off elimination with a 66-59 victory over the Detroit Shock and force Game 3 in the first-round playoff. Story, C7.

Back to the ice

A five-day tournament for top prospects from six National Hockey League franchises is scheduled to start Friday in Traverse City. The spotlight is expected to shine brightest on the Detroit Red Wings' Jiri Hudler and Niklas Kronwall. Story, C8.

