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Tim Robinson: Cleaning up after Santa....

Well, I certainly hope your Christmas was a good one, that you got your share of presents, whether you were naughty, nice, or, in the case of Mommy kissing Santa Claus, perhaps a little of both.

Sometimes, though, things fall through the cracks, and here at the Daily Press & Argus a certain sports editor has been deputized to help grant some wishes a certain Mommy-kisser might have been a tad to occupied to get to.

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So let's get to it.

To John Thompson: A chimney for his office, so when he announces the successor to Bill Murray, people can tell a decision has been made by checking the smoke, just like when a pope is elected. Thompson's in no hurry to make a choice, which is good, and he knows much more than the rest of us that this is no ordinary coaching hire.

To Cullen Finnerty and Drew Henson: Another shot at the NFL. Finnerty will likely finish the season with the Ravens, while Henson is considering a shot at the All-American Football League, which begins in the spring.

To Dave Pearson: Good luck in his post-football career. He handled himself with dignity and grace, no matter what happened during his time in the NFL.

To pitcher Lee Gardner: Another strong season in the major leagues. He spent all but a month of the 2007 season with the Florida Marlins, with a 1.94 earned-run average and a 3-2 record.

To hitter Lee Gardner: A little bit of luck with the lumber. There was progress; After three consecutive strikeouts, Gardner grounded to short in a game in late August. But a solid single would be a swell mark of progress.

To Lee Piepho: Wins. Santa, and the University of Detroit, have already been pretty good to him this year.

To the Detroit Lions: A clue. Hopefully they won't think they've climbed the mountain just because they won seven games for the first time in eight years this season.

To Jim Murray: Clear sidewalks, nice dogs and some consistent pitching.

To Rich Robinson: A little bit of lightning, so it can strike twice at next summer's Howell alumni baseball game.

To Jeff Minock: Another chance at avoiding a Decker-to-Decker-to-Decker pickoff.

To Dan Hutcheson: An occasional breather in what should be another busy year.

To George Reck: A season like the last two, but with a Saturday ending this time.

To Tom Carney: Another shot at a state championship. Yes, the guys who were mainstays of the three Pinckney titles are graduating. But I wouldn't bet against a strong bid for a fourth title in 2008.

To my nephew: A chance to catch that elusive first baseball at a major league game. We went to three games last year, two of them in the upper deck at RFK Stadium, where a cannon couldn't shoot a baseball, but he had his glove ready just in case. He's only 7, but he wants that ball. Bad.

To the Pistons and Red Wings: Long playoff runs. That and a hot start by the Tigers would make for a great spring.

To Rich Rodriguez and Michigan fans: Patience. I think this might be a bumpy first season.

To John Beilein and Michigan fans: The same. This has been a bumpy first season.

To college athletes everywhere: Shots that fall, grades that rise and an experience you'll savor.

To Rick and Dan: A strong stomach for another year of bad puns and text messages that result in phone calls because You Know Who is too unhip to text in less than five minutes.

To you: Another year as a reader. We very much appreciate it.

Call sports editor *Tim Robinson* at (517) 552-2863.

STORYCHAT 

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