

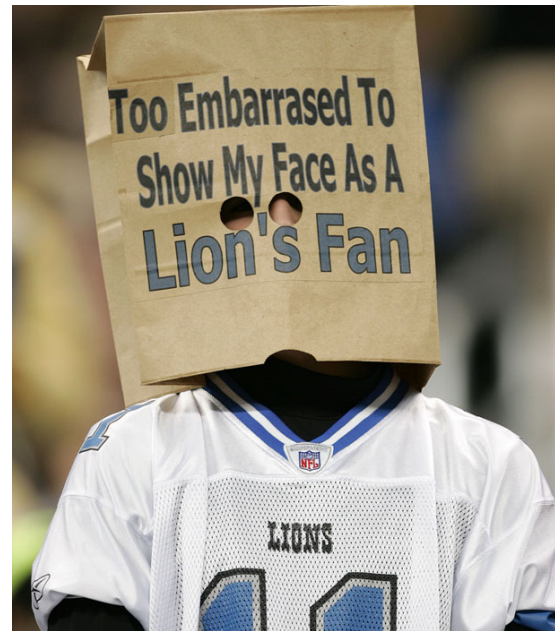
## Editorial

# Being A Sports Fan In Detroit

By Musafir

It's the same story every year. It can be very distressing being a sports fan in Motor City. The last time any Detroit team won a championship was in 2008 when the Red Wings won the Stanley Cup and the Shocks bagged WNBA championship. The last time the Tigers won the World Series was in 1984.

We start every year with the optimism that this may be the year that would be different from others, but we always end up with a futile hope that one of the Detroit teams might get a wild card entry in the playoffs. Being a Detroit sports fan is like being an ancient Carthaginian. No matter what, they could never beat the Romans.



We can't even hope for a tie. They run the games until a clear winner appears. That too is only possible, if a team makes to the championship. The Lions have never appeared in a Super Bowl sharing the dishonor with Cleveland Brown, Jacksonville Jaguars and Houston Texans.

Detroit teams have ruined the careers of many talented players or at least deprived them of a championship ring. Barry Sanders comes to mind. He was still wildly successful in his own role, but could you imagine what his career would have looked like if he'd had a team around him? The other notable victims of Detroit Lions were Herman Moore, Brett Perriman, Scott Mitchell and Chris Spielman to mention a few. Other significant careers ruined by Detroit teams were Grant Hill of Pistons and Miguel Cabrera of Tigers. I can go on and on. Good for Justin Verlander, he just flew over to Houston, but bad for Detroit, he took Kate Upton with him.

However, I would point out to all those gloating fans of teams elsewhere that there wouldn't even be any American sports to celebrate were it not for the enormous contributions of automobile industry started and based in Detroit. Henry Ford I was the first to raise the average worker's wage to five dollars per diem back in 1913, thus giving rise to Middle class America who buy the tickets for these sports events. In fact, the Detroit based automobile



companies are the biggest advertisers for all major sports events, Chevrolet brand alone being the largest contributor.

It's not that Detroit is totally deprived of sports honors. It hosts the largest events in water sports in the country. Sailboat racing is a major sport in Detroit area. Lake Saint Clair is home to many yacht clubs which host regattas. Since

1904, the city has been home to the American Power Boat Association Gold Cup unlimited hydroplane boat race held annually on the Detroit River near Belle Isle

The Professional Bowlers Association Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour holds the Motor City Classic at Taylor Lanes in the suburb of Taylor.

The suburb of Southfield hosts the annual Gold Cup Polo tournament at Word of Faith International Christian Center, formerly known as Duns Scotus College

And did you know that Detroit has bid to host Summer Olympic Games more often than any other city which has not yet hosted the Olympics (placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1948, fifth in 1952, fourth in 1956, third in 1960, second in 1964, second in 1968 and fourth in 1972)? So, I refuse to put a bag over my head while going to Detroit sporting events. After all, Vince Lombardi was partially correct when he said, "Winning isn't everything, .....(blah, blah, blah)."