



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE
KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hello sports fans, it's another great day here at High School Sports Scene Magazine.

The winter season is behind us now and we are swinging into spring!!!

This month's issue of High School Sports Scene Magazine puts a bow on what was a terrific winter sports season.

The basketball season ended in a big way with the Fowler girls and the Williamston boys bringing home state championships.

What a job turned in by the Williamston boys. The Hornets turned in a perfect season and hooked up with Grand Rapids Catholic Central for a thrilling overtime classic in the Division 2 state title game. What a job by the Hornets!!!

What a great season by the Freeland Falcons as well. Freeland reached the state semifinals for the first time ever and gave their fans plenty of memories that will last a lifetime. Freeland's outstanding senior class will be remembered for a long time not just for what they did on the basketball court but for what they accomplished in other sports as well.

A big shout out to the Fowler girls basketball team. The Eagles went on another memorable post-season tournament run as they won a second straight Division 4 state title. Senior Mia Riley led the way for a Fowler team that faced plenty of challenges this season one of them being league foe and rival Portland St. Patrick that turned in an amazing season of its own.

This month's issue also looks at the achievements of our local wrestlers who showed their skills at the individual wrestling state finals. The area was well-represented once again by some outstanding wrestlers who did the mid-Michigan area proud led by our Sports Scene Wrestler of the Year Jacob Brya of St. Johns who capped his high school career by winning his third individual state championship.

Congratulations to all the young men and women who put in so much hard work and gave us so much action to enjoy this winter. You make covering high school sports a joy!!!!

With the weather warming up the spring sports season is launching. The area will be home to some outstanding baseball and softball teams this season. The tracks will be featuring some outstanding athletes in boys and girls track while area tennis, golf, girls soccer teams and lacrosse teams are hitting their strides for what should be a great spring of action.

See you at the games!!!!



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Lowell Wins Ninth Straight Team State Title

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

When a team in any sport wins nine straight games it is usually an impressive feat. Just think how impressive winning nine straight state championships is.

The Lowell wrestling team knows just how special that feels as the Red Arrows defeated Goodrich 46-16 to win the Division 2 team wrestling state championship. Lowell defeated Goodrich in last year's state finals and this year it turned back the Martians to record a new record of nine straight team state titles.

Extending the streak to nine was anything but easy for Lowell as the team graduated a large and talented class of seniors last season. Strong leadership and some talented newcomers enabled the Red Arrows to climb the championship mountain successfully this season.

"This was a very special season,"

said Lowell coach RJ Boudro. "We felt like we put in a ton of work this season. We had a real young team this season and I'm real proud of how these young people wrestled. We also had a lot of leadership to get these young guys to perform like they did."

One of Lowell's leaders was senior Carter Blough at 215 pounds. With three team state titles under his belt, Blough knows what it takes to win a team title and his technical fall in the second match of the finals was the first of ten matches the Red Arrows would win.

"This is my last year and I felt a bigger part of the team than in other years," Blough said. "It's my senior year and I felt like I needed to help set the tone for the team. I wanted to make sure to go out on top."

Lowell heavyweight Bryson Vandermeulen followed with a pin giving the Red Arrows a lead they would not relinquish.

Goodrich picked up a decision at 103 pounds but that would be as close as the Martians would get as Lowell wrestlers reeled off five consecutive wins to take a 31-9 lead. Freshman Jackson Blum recorded a pin at 119 pounds while Ramsy Mutschler (130 pounds) and James Link (135) picked up major decisions during the run while Landon Musgrave and Owen Segorski added decisions.

After a Goodrich win at 140 pounds, Lowell wrestlers won three of the final four matches to close out the victory. Nate Cleaver (152) and Case Huisman (170) won by pin with Jared Boone (145) winning by decision.

While many factors have gone into Lowell's streak of championships, coaching and community are a pair of major common denominators.

"RJ is a great coach and the support we get from the community is great," Blough said. "The coaches we have and what they do for us is amazing. We also put in the work that it takes to do this every year."

Lowell, which finished the season with a 23-3 record, reached the finals by defeating Gaylord 50-6 in the semifinals and Birmingham Brother Rice 68-9 in the quarterfinals.

"We were prepared for any scenario," Boudro said. "We knew Gaylord was a real strong team and we knew Goodrich was a really, really good team as well."

Extending the streak was a difficult challenge that included




plenty of hard work and the team facing a challenging schedule the entire season to prepare for the state tournament.

"There are a lot of ups and downs during the course of a season," Boudro said. "This year

was not any tougher or easier. We also faced a brutal schedule and it paid off well. This season was a lot of fun. This team really got along good. The guys really enjoyed being around each other and it was a lot of fun."

The Lowell wrestling team was flying high and looking for pins during action in the Division 2 team state finals against Goodrich.

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Alma Wrestling Reaches State Title Match For First Time In Program History

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

It was a goal that the Alma wrestling team thought it would achieve last season before the Covid-19 put a damper on things. This season, the Alma wrestlers were not to be denied as they reached the Division 3 team state championship match where they dropped a tough battle to nationally-ranked Dundee.

Alma finished what was the greatest season in team history with a 28-2 overall record after dropping a 55-12 decision to Dundee in the title match. Along the way to the finals, the Alma wrestlers accomplished a bucket full of achievements throughout the season. Along with finishing as state runner-up for the first time in school history, Alma ranked inside

the all-division wrestling top ten, won its fifth straight team regional championship and beat seven state-ranked teams during the season. Alma also won the Montrose team tournament, won the New Lothrop individual tournament for the first time and won the Randy Jacobs duals.

"Overall, we did what we set out to do," said Alma coach Randy Miniard. "I think we had a great season. When you get 10 seniors in the practice room who work hard and know what needs to be done you can have a great season. They focused on takedowns and pins and that is what they did this year."

Alma turned in an impressive performance at the team state finals as it defeated Montrose 52-23 in the quarterfinals and then defeated defending Division 4 state

champion and the all-division sixth-ranked team Clinton 33-29 in the semifinals.

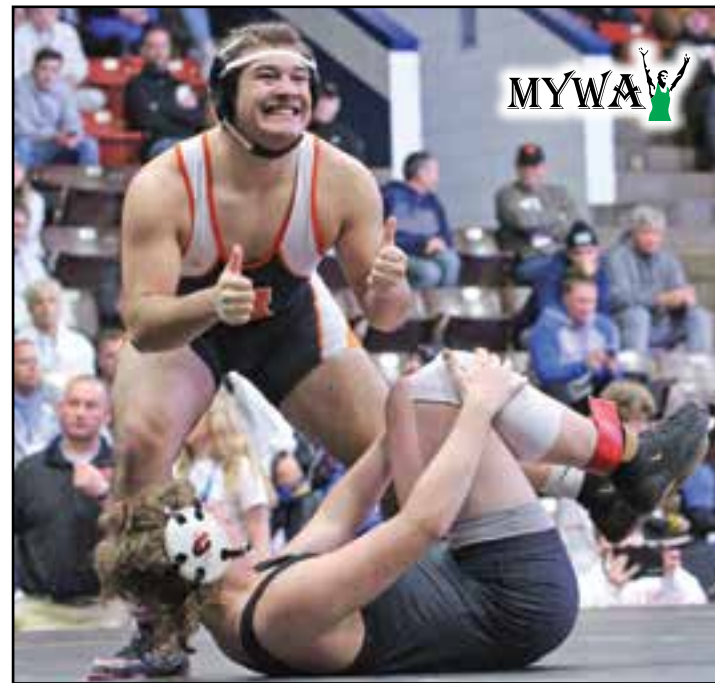
Along with all the team success this season, Alma's wrestlers enjoyed plenty of individual success. Alma had 10 first-team, all-league wrestlers this season including Isaiah Mullins (112 pounds), Fabian Facundo (125), Buddy Leonard (130), Gianni Tripp (135), Josiah Baltierra (140), Landon Bethka (145), Jaden Morrow (160), Cole O'Boyle (171), Jacob Munger (189) and Adam Garcia (215).

Alma had six regional champions this year in Mullins, Facundo, Tripp, O'Boyle, Munger and Garcia. A total of 10 Panthers qualified for individual regional and nine Panthers qualified for state. A total of six Alma wrestlers earned all-state honors including three finalists and one state champion.

"This may have been the best team Alma assembled," Miniard said. "It certainly rivals last year's team who if not for Covid I believe they would've made it to the team state title match as well. We lost four kids to covid last year at team state and if we didn't lose them I think we would've been in the same boat as this year wrestling Dundee in the finals. We had 10 seniors this year that were part of that team last year as well and that was a really good team."

Overall, Alma had solid wrestlers at every weight

The Alma wrestling team celebrates with the runner-up trophy after the Division 3 team state finals match against Dundee.



It was thumbs up for the Alma wrestling team after defeating Clinton in the Division 3 state semifinals.

class. At 103 pounds, freshman Sophia Clapp went 15-18 this year and was one-point away from qualifying for the girls state individual finals. At 112 pounds Mullins went 38-8 and placed sixth at the state meet. At 119 pounds, senior Jordan Pannill went 20-10 while freshman Daniel Rosales was 12-8.

In the middle weights, Facundo went 40-4 at 125 pounds and was a state runner-up. Leonard went 37-11 and reached the blood round at the state meet. Tripp went 34-11 and placed fifth at state at 135 pounds. Baltierra went 24-14 and finished his career with over 100 wins. Bethka went 27-13 and came within an overtime loss of qualifying for individual state. Senior Brenden Everdeen went 13-8 wrestling at 140 and 145 pounds. Senior Harrison Seeley

went 24-12.

In the upper weights, Morrow went 39-9 and lost in the blood round at state. O'Boyle finished 43-5 and placed fifth at state at 171 pounds. Munger went 44-2 and was a state champ at 189 pounds. Garcia finished 34-7 and was runner-up at state at 215 pounds. Senior Caden Adams went 19-15 and was a state qualifier at heavyweight.

With ten seniors graduating this season, next season looks to have plenty of rebuilding in the works.

"Next year it will be back to the drawing board," Miniard said. "We have a good group of kids coming up from the middle school and we are really excited about the kids we do have coming back. I think we have four kids who could win an individual state title next year."

Derek Mayle Brings Home First Individual State Title For Breckenridge In Over 20 Years

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

It was almost a quarter of a century since the last time a Breckenridge wrestler won an individual state championship but senior Derek Mayle put an end to the title drought in a big way this season.

Mayle won the first title by a Breckenridge wrestler in 24 years when he defeated Dalton Birchmeier of New Lothrop 14-1 to win the title at 130 pounds at the Division 4 individual state finals at Ford Field in Detroit.

"It feels great," Mayle said. "It was everything I ever dreamed of in wrestling coming true. I had a good season and a great finish."

The individual state title was the first won by a Breckenridge wrestler since Corey McCaw

won the 103-pound state title in 1998.

Mayle dominated the title match from start to finish as he picked up the win to cap his senior season with a 38-3 overall record. The win capped a productive four-year career at Breckenridge that saw Mayle turn in a 140-24 career record. Mayle qualified for the individual state tournament all four years of high school. Mayle was also a three-time state placer at the finals having finished in eighth place on two of his four trips to the state finals.

"I definitely feel like I've had one of the better careers," Mayle said. "I've always had a winning record and to make it to state finals all four years, you can't get better than that."

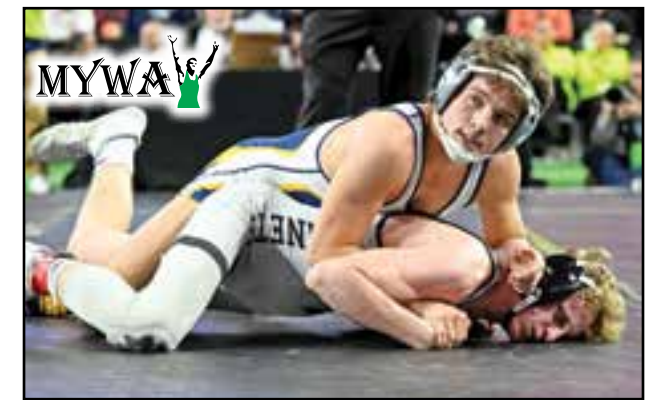
Bringing home a state title to Breckenridge also means a lot to Mayle.

"It's pretty special," Mayle said. "We use to

have a great program here at Breckenridge but the last five years or so we've only had four or five kids come out for the team. Wrestling is a hard sport but we need to get the numbers back up again."

On the mat, Mayle has a simple style of wrestling and sticks to it.

"I'm just a basic wrestler," Mayle said. "I basically just shoot off the whistle. I try and make sure I get the first takedown in every match. I don't focus on scoring, I just focus on controlling the match. This year I just worked harder knowing it was my last season. I just wanted to leave it all out there on the mat."



Breckenridge senior Derek Mayle is in control of his match as he won the 130-pound individual title in Division 4.

A multi-sport athlete at Breckenridge, Mayle plays on the football team during the fall and is a member of both the golf and track teams during the spring.

After high school, Mayle plans on attending a community college first with the goal of eventually getting into teaching secondary education."

Jacob Brya Closes Out High School Wrestling Career With Third State Title

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The St. Johns wrestling programs has produced some of the greatest wrestlers in Michigan prep wrestling history over the years and senior Jacob Brya added his name to the list of elites as he capped his career with a third individual state championship.

Brya was near perfect this season as he finished the season with a 42-0 record and won the 140-pound title in Division 2 with a 1-0 win against Carsen Richards of Goodrich in the championship match. To illustrate how near perfection Brya was this season was the fact that he allowed just two offensive points the entire season. Those two points allowed were on the one time he was taken down all season.

While a third state title was impressive, what Brya really wanted was to be a four-time, state champion, however that goal was dashed last year when Brya came down with the Covid-19 virus

the day before the team district was to take place.

"It's pretty great winning a third state title, but I was hoping to win four," Brya said. "After last year and all that happened, it was great to win another one this year."

The hurt of not being able to win four state titles was most felt by Brya at last year's state finals.

"I went to state last year to help coach one of the guys on the team," Brya said. "I watched the guy win it at my weight class and I knew that I could beat him. It ended up helping motivate me this year to go after another one."

In the mind of St. Johns wrestling coach Derek Phillips, there is no doubt that Brya should be a four-time, state champion.

"I know it's hard for him because he put in the work," Phillips said. "His goal was to be a four-time state champion and he did all the things he had to do for that. He is a real hard worker and a

great kid in the wrestling room. He has a unique style. He is not content to wins one or two-point matches. He pins a lot and he looks to get a lot of six-point wins for the team."

Brya is also eager to take on all challengers. He moved up in weight this year and faced the toughest competition he could find.

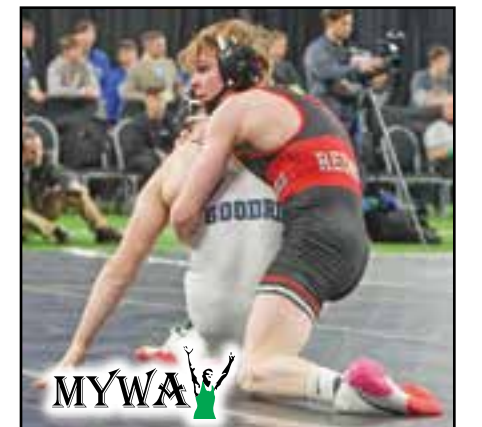
"Jacob wrestled a lot of highly-ranked kids this year," Phillips said. "He beat Ryker Johncheck, a three-time state champion, twice this year. In the post-season he defeated the number-two ranked wrestler in the district and regional final and in the state finals."

Brya handed Richards, who finished the season with a 45-3 record, all three of his losses in those title matches.

A big part of Brya's success is the mindset that he takes to the mat.

"Jacob is always on the offensive," Phillips said. "He is always looking to score points. He does not have a defensive mindset. He's not content to take a lead and just ride to win matches. I don't think he was ever called for stalling this year."

With his high school career finished, Brya will take the next step of his wrestling career at



St. Johns senior Jacob Brya closed out his career as a three-time individual state champion after winning the 140-pound title this year.

Northern Illinois where he also plans to go into the nursing program.

"I'm really excited to watch Jacob at the next level," Phillips said. "Going in to college with his aggressive style will only help him. He's also good on the top and bottom and that is an important part of college wrestling."

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Talan Parsons Wins State Title A Year After Falling One Match Short

David Cook Sports Scene

After coming one match short of a perfect season and a state title as a freshman last year, Ovid-Elsie sophomore Talan Parsons was not about to let anything keep him from a state title this season.

Parsons accomplished his goal of a state title with a major-decision win in the Division 3 individual state finals at 103 pounds with a 9-0 win against Landon Sopha of Yale. The win gave Parsons a final record of 37-1 for the season.

"Winning the state title was super special," Parsons said. "I put in a lot of hard work and dedication to come back and win it."

Parsons left no doubt as to who the premier 103-pounder in Division

3 was this year with impressive wins all throughout the state tournament.

"I thought I was very dominant in all my matches," Parsons said. "My closest match was the 9-0 win in the state finals."

Winning in impressive fashion is a by product of Parsons' style on the mat.

"Talan gets pumped up before a match an is all go, go, go," said Ovid-Elsie coach Kyle Spiess. "He wants the pace fast and furious. He is not a guy who gets ahead and just rides his opponent. He wants the pin, the tech fall. He wants to get the match over quickly."

Parsons is also a wrestler that is all in on the sport of wrestling as he wrestles the year round.

"Talan has been wrestling a long

time," Spiess said. "He wrestles freestyle and Greco and competes in national tournaments all over the country. He also has a lot of different coaches and that makes him an even better wrestler."

While he wrestles the year round, Parsons is not a one-sport athlete. Parsons is also an accomplished soccer player and also plays baseball in the spring for Ovid-Elsie.

"I think playing other sports helps me for wrestling," Parsons said. "Playing baseball and soccer works other muscles that might not get worked wrestling."

Along with being a three-sport athlete, Parsons carries a 4.0 grade-point average and would like to some day attend the University of Michigan medical school according to Spiess.

Ovid-Elsie sophomore Talan Parsons won the 103-pounds state title in Division 3 this season after taking second place at state last year as a freshman.



Parsons has two more years to add to his collection.

"These next two years hopefully I can go back and win state two more times," Parsons said.

Something that his coach believes is very possible.

"I think Talan has a very opportunity to be a three-time, state champion for Ovid-Elsie. He has a second and a first and he could win a couple more."

The lone loss of the season for Parsons came on opening night when he dropped a 4-3 decision to Isaiah Mullins of Alma in a match at 112 pounds. That loss helped fuel Parsons for the rest of the season. The four points that Parsons allowed in the Mullins match marked two-thirds of the points he allowed all season as Parsons allowed just six total points all season, surrendering just one point in two other matches this year.

"The season didn't start off like he wanted losing to Mullins of Alma," said Spiess, "but all in all it was a good season. Talan was not pushed super hard until the state meet."

With one state title to his credit

Alma Senior Jacob Munger Ends Dream Season With Individual State Wrestling Title

David Cook Sports Scene

Alma senior Jacob Munger ended a dream season winning a state title and in the process dashed the dreams of his opponent in the 189-pound state title match in Division 3.

Munger, who was hunting for his first state title, defeated Logan Badge of Clinton who was looking to close out his career with a fourth individual state title. Those dreams came to an end as Munger claimed a 11-5 decision to win the title.

"You have to take a dream to make a dream," said Munger. "I had to kill his dream to make my dream come true."

After placing fifth at 160 pounds at last year's state finals, Munger was determined to end his high school career with a state title of his own even if it meant dashing Badge's hopes for a fourth state title.

Putting in plenty of hard work was the key for Munger in his quest to win a state title.

"It was a good way to cap off four years of hard work," Munger said. "I was pleased to see all my hard work pay off. All the hard work I put in this year and extra practices paid off and it feels really good."

The title also was a culmination of a journey in wrestling that began when Munger was six-years old.

"I started wrestling when I was six years old," Munger said. "I started wrestling in Myway wrestling and a lot of us have been friends all the way through to this day. All of us seniors on Alma have been wrestling together for the past 12 years."

The state title came as no surprise to Munger's coach who has seen him progress as a wrestler over the years.

"Jacob is just a smart, hard-working farm

boy," said Alma coach Randy Miniard. "He has been wrestling since he's been knee-high to a grasshopper. Things all came together for him this year. He's also a 4.0 student who might wrestle at Michigan State."

Munger plans on majoring in civil engineering in college and is looking at Michigan Tech along with Michigan State.

While the match with Badge in the finals was a tough one, his semifinal match against Wesley Peters of Richmond was also a tough hurdle to clear.

"I only beat Peters by a takedown in a match earlier in the year," Munger said. "I was definitely a little nervous going into that one. I usually don't do too good against taller guys. That was my toughest match of the tournament



Alma senior Jacob Munger ends dream season winning the individual state wrestling title at 189-pounds.

both mentally and physically."

Munger trusted his technique and wrestling style to get him through all the tough challenges at the state meet.

"My offense is my best defense," Munger said. "If I stay aggressive that helps me from being taken down. My coaches tell me to try and wrestle the way I wrestle in the room. To try and stay in the moment and to take things like another match in the wrestling room."

Lowell Senior Leader Carter Blough Wins Individual State Champion

David Cook Sports Scene

After winning an eighth team state championship last year with a squad loaded with seniors, the Lowell wrestling team knew it would need some new leaders to step up if it was going to add a ninth state title this season.

Lowell senior Carter Blough answered the call for leadership and the senior leadership he provided helped the Red Arrows claim team state title number nine.

"Carter is a great leader," said Lowell coach RJ Boudro. "We needed some leaders to step up and Carter stepped up and did a great job."

Along with his leadership skills, Blough is

an outstanding wrestler. As a junior Blough placed third in the state and this season Blough had his sights set on winning an individual state title along with helping the Red Arrows win another team state title.

A week after helping the Red Arrows to the team state title, Blough added an individual state title to his resume as he won the Division 2 individual title at 215 pounds with a 4-0 win against a previously undefeated James Campbell of Mattawa in the final match.

"It feels great to win one of those," Blough said. "It felt amazing. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to win a state title."

An all-around athlete who was a standout linebacker and running back for the Lowell football team, Blough's athletic ability is a big

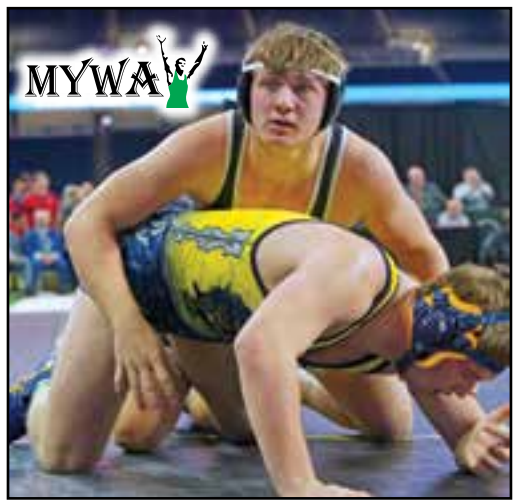
part of his success on the wrestling mat.

"Carter is very athletic and he moves really well," said Boudro. "I don't think he gave up any takedowns at 215 pounds all season. He did such a great job as a leader for us and I am so happy for him to win an individual title."

Blough has been wrestling since a young age and winning a state title has always been a goal of his.

"I have been wanting to win a state title for a long time," Blough said. "It is something that I've wanted since I started wrestling at five years old. I was glad to have the opportunity to wrestle at state and win it all. It meant a lot to me."

Lowell senior Carter Blough.



With his high school career coming to an end, Blough is looking ahead to college. Blough is looking at opportunities in college at several schools including Northern Illinois, Michigan State and Adrian College.

Lowell Freshman Wrestlers Bring Home State Titles, Set Red Arrows Up For Future Success

David Cook Sports Scene

After being hit hard by graduation last spring, the Lowell wrestling team could've been headed towards a rebuilding year.



Thanks to an impressive freshman crop of wrestlers, that rebuilding turned into a ninth state title as the Lowell freshmen exceeded expectations.

Two of Lowell's freshmen, Jackson Blum and Owen Segorski, made program history as they teamed up to both win individual state championships, the first time in Lowell wrestling history that multiple freshmen won individual state titles. Fellow freshman Carter Cichocki added a state runner-up finish this season while freshman Landon Musgrave placed fifth giving Lowell

wrestling fans plenty to be excited about in the coming years.

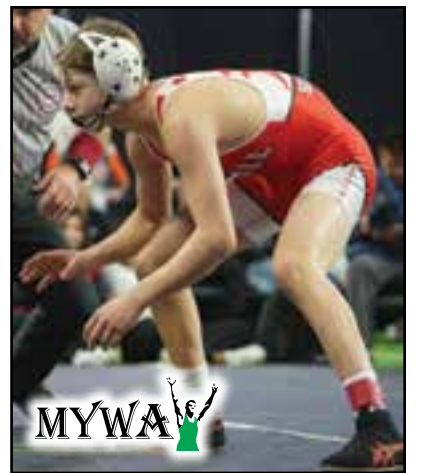
Blum, who came into the season as a nationally-ranked wrestler, lived up to all the expectations. After a couple losses early in the season, Blum went on a roll in the second half to finish the season with a 37-3 record. Blum capped the season by winning the 112-pound individual title in Division 2.

"Jackson had three losses in the first two weeks of the season and then went undefeated the rest of the way," said Lowell coach RJ Boudro. "One of the things we had to figure out was what weight he would wrestle at. Jackson works extremely hard and is a great

example of the hard work our guys put in. He is just a machine on the mat. He does not stop. He's real fast, real strong and he wrestles really hard."

Segorski wrapped up the season with a 28-11 record and won the Division 2 state title at 125 pounds.

"All of Owen's 11 losses came against guys that competed in the state tournament," Boudro said. "He did not have a bad loss all year. Owen just got better and better as the year went on. He is a slick wrestler who is difficult for his opponents to get their hands on. He has real good defense and is hard to take down.



He is young and he will just keep getting better and better"

Cichocki finished the year with a 32-5 record and reached the finals at 103 pounds. Musgrave finished his freshman season with a 25-7 record and placed fifth at the state meet at 103 pounds.

Lowell freshmen Jackson Blum (left) and Owen Segorski (top) both won individual state titles this season.

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Holt Senior Joshua Terrill Wins Individual State Title After Coming Close Last Season

David Cook Sports Scene

After coming up a few points shy of an individual state title last year, Holt senior Joshua Terrill was not about to let anything to chance this year.

Relying on his coaches, teammates and community, Terrill accomplished his mission as he won the Division 1 individual state championship in the heavyweight division. Terrill brought home the state title by defeating Giulian Bodi of Canton 6-2 in the final match as Terrill wrapped up the season with a 43-2 record.

For Terrill, the state title was satisfying in a number of ways.

"It was like this year, for our whole team, we were doing this for coach Shaft," Terrill said. "For most of us we would not even be here without him."

Coach Shaft was long-time Holt wrestling coach Rocky Shaft who passed away last summer after more than three decades of leading the Holt wrestling program.

"At the end of the match I was pointing to the saying from coach Shaft, 'the fun is in the memories,'" Terrill said. "All of the winning we experienced this season was dedicated to him. Coach Shaft was a role model to all of us and a huge part of our lives."

Terrill gave a performance at the state finals that coach Shaft would be proud of. Terrill pinned his way to the final match where he then took control of the title match early and nearly recorded a fall before winning the decision.

"We knew Josh could do it," said Holt coach Stan Granger. "I was excited and happy to see him do it. Winning a state title was one of his biggest dreams and he dealt

with a lot of adversity to accomplish it."

Granger points to Terrill's love of a challenge as a big part of his success.

"Josh loves challenges," Granger said. "The bigger the challenge the more he is interested in it. He is a kid who will not shy away from any challenges. He also put a lot of trust in his coaches and community and that is not always easy. To put your trust in everyone and follow the path. He totally trusted his coaches and the people around him to help get him to where he wanted to go."

Terrill is quick to credit the help from his coaches for his success.

"The difference this year was just everyone working hard in the room," Terrill said. "I also went to some camps in the summer and I also received a lot of extra help from the Leyrer brothers, Koort and Kollin. I put in a lot of extra technique training with them.



Holt senior Joshua Terrill won the heavyweight title in Division 1 with a decision against Giulian Bodi of Canton.

They are both former Holt wrestlers who help coach and help run practices. They have made a huge impact on Holt wrestling."

With a state title to his credit, Terrill has seen an uptick in his recruiting with a number of schools involved. Among the bigger schools Terrill is looking at are Cleveland State, Michigan State, Indiana, Southern Illinois, Northern Illinois and Clarion.

Decision To Return To Mat Pays Off With State Title For Levi Harber Of Montrose

David Cook Sports Scene

Shortley after taking second place as a junior at the individual wrestling state finals, Levi Harber of Montrose had a major decision to make. A Division 1 college football recruit, Harber could bypass his final season of high school wrestling and enroll in college early to get a jump on his college football career or return to the Montrose wrestling team and try and win the state championship that just eluded him.

Harber elected to return to wrestling for his senior year and the decision proved to be a productive one. Not only did Harber help lead Montrose to the Division team state finals, but he accomplished his goal of winning an individual state championship. Harber won his individual title in a big way as he pinned Eli Marshall of Watervliet in 3:51 in the Division 3

heavyweight championship match.

For Harber, the decision he made could not have worked out any better.

"It was sweet," Harber said. "I planned on early enrolling last year but after losing in the finals and taking second last year I decided to stick around and put my hat in the ring and see if I could win a state title. Winning the title fulfilled what I was really aiming for. It was sweet. It's hard to describe how awesome it felt."

With the state title to his credit, Harber can now turn his full attention to his football career. Harber signed with Vanderbilt University of the Southeastern Conference where he will be an offensive lineman. While Harber may have been busy wrestling and training for wrestling in the offseason, his focus was still on football and everything he did during the wrestling season and before was helping him as a football player.

"Wrestling has helped me a lot in football," Harber said. "One thing coaches have always told me is that wrestling will make me a better football player. I grinded harder than ever in the offseason to get ready for wrestling this year and that helped me in football too. I knew the level I wanted to get at. I wanted to get bigger and stronger and become more athletic. Everything I was doing during wrestling season I did it with an eye on football also. When I was being recruited for football, every time I told a football coach I was also a wrestler their eyes would light up."

Harber's hard work during the offseason not only improved him for football but set him up for a huge wrestling season where he went 44-4 and reached the state finals for a second straight season.

"Levi came up a match short last year and he



Montrose heavyweight Levi Harber capped his wrestling career by winning the state title in Division 3.

dedicated himself to winning a state title this year," said Montrose coach Jason Perrin. "He put in a lot of work to get prepared. He loves the weight room more than any kid I've ever met. He put on a lot of muscle and it showed. He had a dominant year. He pinned his way through the state tournament. He had the most pins in the smallest amount of time as anyone at the state meet."

Love Of Wrestling Pays Off With A State Title For Montrose Senior Aidan Bernard

David Cook Sports Scene

When it comes to wrestling, Montrose senior Aidan Bernard is all in. That attitude and the love of the sport paid off for Bernard this year as he climbed to the top of the podium in Division 3 at 135 pounds.

Bernard came into the individual state tournament as the number-one seed and he showed he deserved that lofty ranking as he marched through the weight class and eventually defeated Logan Sander of Dundee by an 8-1 score in the championship match.

"Aidan is one of those kids who if he played basketball you'd call him a gym rat," said Montrose coach Jason Perrin. "I call him a mat rat. He has been a wrestler his whole life and he is super dedicated to the sport. He is the kind of kid that you have got to kick out of the wrestling room. He can't get enough practice in and going to camps in the summer. He is also a great leader by example."

Bernard has been through adversity on his way to the top of the podium as well. A shoulder injury hampered him as a freshman and the Covid-19 pandemic played havoc on his season last year as he placed fourth place at

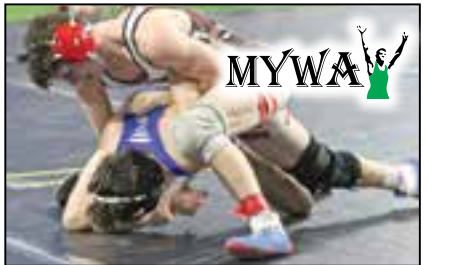
the state meet. Heading into this year, Bernard left nothing to chance as he took his training into overdrive.

"This year I put a lot of time in the weight room and a lot of time in the wrestling room," Bernard said. "I also have a great coaching staff that helped me so much. Steven Garza was a two-time state champion who wrestled at Cornell who helped me out a lot as did Bradley Payne who wrestled in college at Olivet. Those two guys made a big impact on me this year."

Bernard was nearly impossible to defeat this year as he wrapped up the season with a 46-1 record. Bernard then went on a tear at the state finals. In his first match at state he defeated a returning state champion by a 6-0 score. He then won his next two matches by pin and in the state finals

he scored an 8-1 win, with the lone put surrendered coming when he cut his opponent after a takedown. That one point was the only point he allowed at the state meet despite having a tough draw to navigate.

"Aidan was the overall number one seed and we were a little surprised with his draw when the charts came out," Perrin said. "I thought he had one of the toughest draws on the chart. His first match was against a defending state champion in Division 4 and he won that match. His next match was against a kid who beat him twice at state last year and was ranked number one most of this year and he beat him. At that point I had a real good idea he was going to ride the momentum from there. I was happy to see him do what



Montrose senior Aidan Bernard.

he did. He is a kid who deserved it."

Bernard is not satisfied with his state title as he is already looking ahead to college and hopes to challenge for a national title. Currently, Bernard is verbally committed to Albion College but he is still receiving recruiting interest from several other colleges and has yet to sign a commitment.

Ryker Johnnecheck Of Williamston Wraps Up Career As Three-Time State Champion

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Williamston senior Ryker Johnnecheck closed out an outstanding high school wrestling career in a big way as he won his third consecutive state title.

Johnnecheck made it three in a row when he defeated Peter Pena of Milan 5-1 in the 140-pound title match in Division 3. The win gave Johnnecheck a 38-2 final record this year and closed out his four years at Williamston with a

157-12 overall record.

"It was one of the best ways to end a high school wrestling career," said Johnnecheck. "Winning the third title felt great and I'm excited for the next chapter of life."

Winning a state title is never easy but with the experience of two state titles under his belt the path was a little smoother.

"Having won two titles already definitely made thing smoother this year," Johnnecheck said. "The first one was definitely the hardest. The next

year it came a little smoother because I knew what to expect and this year it was about the same."

Johnnecheck was in command throughout the state finals. He won his first match at the state meet by technical fall and then won his next two matches by pin before winning a decisive victory in the final match.

"It felt good," Johnnecheck said. "I thought I wrestled well the entire tournament."

Johnnecheck feels that he has come a long way since his freshman season.

"My freshman year did not go as I expected it to go," Johnnecheck said. "I didn't even place at state. I grew a lot that summer and going into my sophomore year I knew what I had to

do. My time at Williamston was special and I have a lot of great memories."

Johnnecheck got into wrestling at an early age and steadily climbed the ladder to wrestling success.

"I started wrestling in the fourth grade," Johnnecheck said. "My dad was a wrestler in high school and on the college level also and he got me into it and I progressed from there."

The next chapter in Johnnecheck's life will definitely take him to a higher level in more ways than one. Along with wrestling at the Division 1 level, Johnnecheck will head to the mountains of Colorado where he will attend the



Ryker Johnnecheck of Williamston.

United States Air Force Academy.

"I went out there for a visit last summer and it was awesome," Johnnecheck said. "I'm excited to wrestle there. I'm excited about the education I will get there and I'm excited about becoming a member of the Air Force."

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SPORTS SCENES 2022

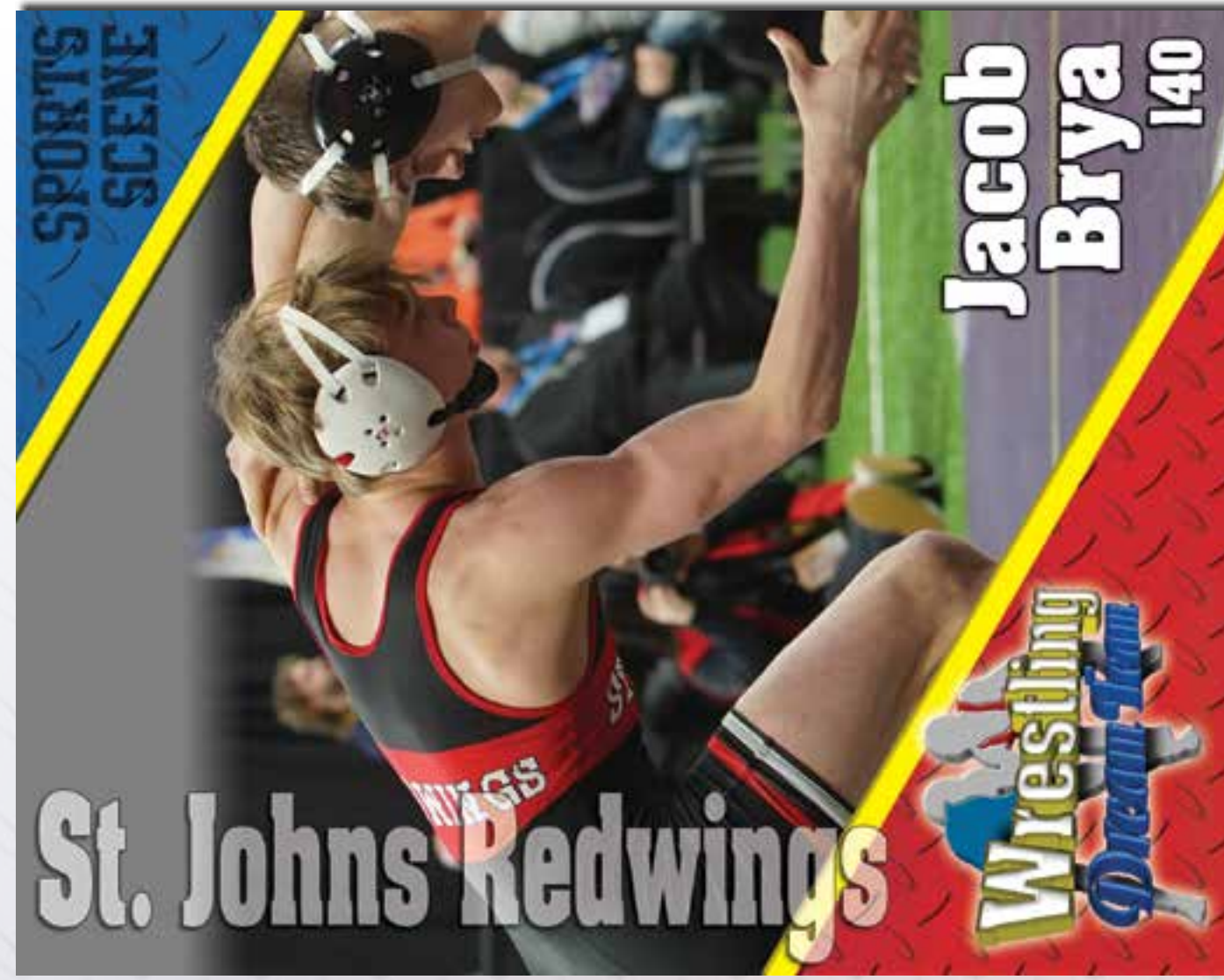
Wrestling Dream Team

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2022 Wrestling Dream Team



Butch Harmon

Sports Scene

The High School Sports Scene Wrestling Dream Team has been home to some of the premier wrestlers in the state and this year is no exception. This year's team is stocked with state champions and multiple state champions. A total of 15 area wrestlers won

state championships this year including Jacob Brya of St. Johns and Ryker Johnnecheck of Williamston who capped their high school careers by winning their third individual state title. This year's squad includes Lowell freshmen Jackson Blum, who won the first of what can be multiple state championships as his career continues. The Dream Team also includes a quartet of wrestlers who turned in perfect seasons.

SPORTS SCENE'S WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Jacob Brya, St. Johns Redwings: St. Johns senior Jacob Brya turned in a monster season as he wrapped up a memorable career and his hard work earned him the title of High School Sports Scene wrestler of the year. Brya turned in a perfect 42-0 record this season and won the 140-pound title at the Division 2 individual wrestling state finals. Brya not only turned in a perfect season but was nearly impossible to score against as he allowed just two offensive points to be scored against him all season.



Talan Parson, Ovid-Elsie Marauders: After taking second at 103 pounds in Division 3 last season as a freshman, Parson returned to the finals this year and came away with the state championship and finished his sophomore season with a 37-1 record and is 61-2 the past two seasons.



Jackson Blum, Lowell Red Arrows: Blum came into his freshman season as a nationally-ranked wrestler and his performance matched the ranking. Blum finished the season with a 37-3 record and was unstoppable during the second half of the season.



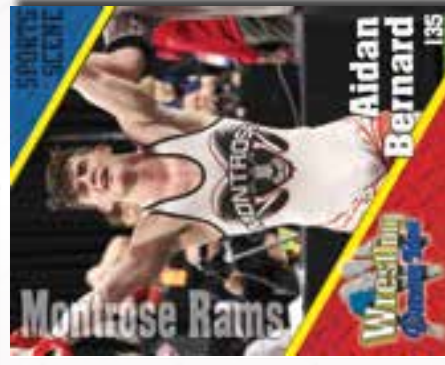
Tayden Miller, Mason Bulldogs: This talented junior has been near the top of the podium his first three years of high school wrestling. After taking third at state as a freshman, Miller placed second last season and took second again this season with a final record of 38-1.



Fabian Facundo, Alma Panthers: One of several outstanding freshmen this season, Facundo turned in a 38-4 record this season and reached the title match at the Division 3 state finals. Facundo was a district and regional champion and won a title at the New Lothrop tournament.



Zachary Gibson, Lakewood-Lake Odessa Vikings: One of the most decorated wrestlers in school history, Gibson capped his career as a four-time state placer. Gibson turned in a 39-0 record this season as he captured his second consecutive individual state championship.



Aidan Bernard, Montrose Rams: A three-time state placer who took fourth at state as a junior, Bernard made it to the top of the podium at 135 pounds in Division 3 this season. Bernard turned in a 46-1 record this season and over the past three seasons he compiled a 115-10 record.



Ryker Johnnecheck, Williamston Hornets: A second area wrestler to win a third individual state championship, Johnnecheck made it three state titles in a row by winning the 145-pound title in Division 3. Johnnecheck finished the season with a 38-2 record and was a combined 109-4 the past three years.



Brysonn Aubach, Rockford Rams: A conference, district and regional champion, Aubach also placed third at the Division 1 state finals and finished the season with a 43-2 record. Aubach also won a title at the Kent County Classic and was third at Detroit Catholic Central.



Connor Owens, Flint Powers Chargers: A junior and three-time state placer, Owens made it to the top of the podium this season winning the 160-pound title in Division 3 and finishing the season with an 18-0 record. Owens took fourth place at state as a freshman and placed second last year.



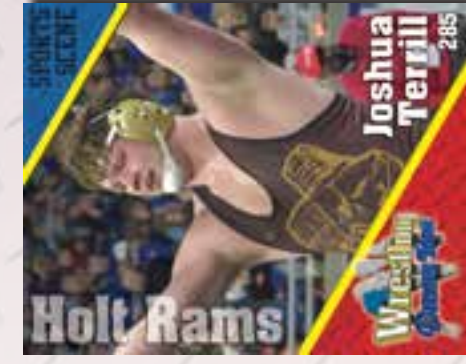
Cole Hopkins, Ewart Wildcats: After coming close his first two seasons, Hopkins marched to the top of the podium with a 54-0 record and the Division 3 state title at 171 pounds. A three-time, state placer, Hopkins went 22-1 last year before falling short in the state title match.



Jacob Munger, Alma Panthers: Munger capped his career in a big way as he turned in a 42-2 record and won the 189-pound title in Division 3. A three-time, state qualifier, Munger turned in a 27-3 record last year and helped to lead the Panthers to Division 3 state team finals last season.



Carter Blough, Lowell Red Arrows: A senior team captain, Blough helped to lead the Red Arrows to an eighth consecutive state team title. Blough turned in a big season as he won the 215-pound state title in Division 2 and finished the season with a 37-2 record after taking third at state last year.



Joshua Terrill, Holt Rams: One of the premier heavyweights in the state the past few years, Terrill is a three-time, 43-2 entrant to winning the heavyweight title in Division 1 after placing second at the state meet last season.

SPORTS SCENE'S AREA SECOND TEAM

- 103 Pounds - Carter Cichocki - Lowell
- 112 Pounds - Connor Greer - Bay City Glenn
- 119 Pounds - Noah Graham - Freeland
- 125 Pounds - Owen Segorski - Lowell
- 130 Pounds - Derek Mayle - Breckenridge
- 140 Pounds - Jared Boone - Lowell
- 145 Pounds - Camden Johnnecheck - Williamston
- 152 Pounds - Darrin Alward - Durand
- 160 Pounds - Payton Brooks - Bullock Creek
- 171 Pounds - Cole O'Boyle - Alma
- 189 Pounds - Hunter Wardell - Midland Dow
- 215 Pounds - Aidan Huguélet - Gladwin
- 285 Pounds - Levi Harber - Montrose

SPORTS SCENE'S HONORABLE MENTION

- 103 Bayless Aubach, Rockford; Quinton Everett, Chesaning; Ryan Kiers, Flint; Michael Freedman, Freeland; Joshua Culp, Freeland; Colin Kuhn, St. Ignace; Matt Linton, Mt. Pleasant; Ryan Peck, Freeland; Lakeview; Joe Perez, Lakeview; Ruben Rivera, Bay City Glenn; Reese Tere, Sanford-Meridian.
- 112 D'Angelo Campos, Corunna; Jack Chambers, Williamston; Ashton Clark, Lakewood-Lake Odessa; Daven Lockwood, New Lothrop; Kaden Lapaugh, DeWitt; Mariano Lopez, Holt; Riley Lotz, Swan Valley; Ryan Mosier, Holt; Isaiah Mullins, Alma; Tyler Ueberroth, Swan Valley; Noah Webster, Mt. Pleasant.
- 119 Blake Baker, Danville; Treadan Bashore, DeWitt; Noah Cronin, DeWitt; Ryan Gaudin, Freeland; Alex Kolar, Huletts; Easton Lyons, Lowell; Cole Workman, Ovid; Eric Gier, Chippewa Hills; Lane Hartzel, Bay City Glenn; Jak Kallor, Rockford; Jayden Miller, Mason; Gibson Shepard, Freeland.

Staff Photos

- Leddy, Gladwin; Jaden Morrow, Alma; Dylan Reynolds, Bay City Western; Alex Russell, Holt.
- 171 Derek Bagley, Mason; Carter Folan, Cedar Springs; Garrett Goggin, Bay City; Kyle Goggin, Grand Haven; Andrew Lake, Seaton; Olegario, Mt. Pleasant; Justin Walker, Freeland; Ivan Walefield, Michigan Howard City Tri-County; Justice Onstott, St. Louis; Randy Pryzowski, Gladwin.
- 189 Ryan Alern, Rockford; Tristin Almanza, Blandhard Montebello; Sam Bailey, Ewart; Miles Bell, Okemos; Nathan Bremer, Holt; Mikky Brooks, Langsbury; Carson Crace, Lowell; Ben Dousnah, St. Louis; Case Johnson, Greenville; Landon Peiffer, Mason; Brezton Powell, Freeland; Ryan Rasmussen, Freeland; Ryan Walefield, Michigan Howard City Tri-County; Jack Ward, Riddell.
- 215 Dillon Babb, DeWitt; Luke Chambers, Williamston; Ryan Danisick, St. Johns; Adam Garcia, Alma; David Hernandez, Swan Valley; Matthew Johnson, Byron; Joe Mater, Bay City Glenn; Harun Mkhambawa, Lansing Eastern; Owen Nazad, Birch Run; Cole Newman, Holt; Grayson Orr, New Lothrop; Ethan Schmid, Riddell; Joel Simon, Lakewood-Lake Odessa.
- 285 Lionel Baldwin, Saginaw Arthur Hill; Rolando Bell, Lansing Eastern; Mark David Funder, Mason; Zach Nichol, Freeland; Matt Rasmussen, Freeland; Ryan Vandermeulen, Chesaning; Bryson Vandermeulen, Lowell; Alden Vanc, Montrose.

INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING STATE PLACERS

DIVISION 1

HOLT Joshua Terrill, state champ 285 Mariano Lopez, 2nd 112 Nathan Bremer, 4th 189 Ryan Mosher, 5th 112 MIDLAND Cole Schelb, 7th 145 MIDLAND DOW Aidan Wardell, 2nd 189 ROCKFORD Elijah Bunn, 2nd 130 Jak Keller, 3rd 125 Ryan Ahern, 3rd 189 Brysonn Aulbach, 3rd 152

DIVISION 2

BAY CITY GLENN Connor Greer, 2nd 112 Joe Maier, 5th 215 Garrett Forgash, 7th 171 BAY CITY WESTERN Dylan Reynolds, 6th 160 CHARLOTTE Logan Haughton, 8th 145 DEWITT Trenden Bashore, 6th 119 GREENVILLE Zac McMillan, 5th 285 Nayte Dobson, 7th 160

HASLETT

Alex Kolar, 7th 119 LANSING EASTERN Harun Mikumbakwa, 4th 215 LOWELL Jackson Blum, state champ 112 Owen Segorski, state champ 125 Carter Blough, state champ 215 Carter Cichocki, 2nd 103 Ramsy Mutschler, 2nd 130 James Link, 2nd 135 Jared Boone, 3rd 140 Carson Crace, 4th 189 Landon Musgrave, 5th 103 Landon Miller, 7th 140 MASON Derek Badgley, 2nd 171 Tayden Pleasant, 3rd 125 MT. PLEASANT Grant Stahl, 3rd 130 Noah Webster, 8th 112 ST. JOHNS Jacob Brya, state champ 140

DIVISION 3

ALMA Jacob Munger, state champ 189 Adam Garcia, 2nd 215 Fabian Facundo, 2nd 125 Gianni Tripp, 5th 135 Cole O'Boyle, 5th 171

ISAAH MULLINS

Isaiah Mullins, 6th 112 BELDING Jack Ward, 5th 189 Ethan Schmid, 5th 215 BULLOCK CREEK Zachary Gibson, state champ 130 MONROSE Aidan Bernard, state champ 135 Levi Harber, state champ 285 CHIPPEWA HILLS Tyler Geer, 5th 125 Jon Koepf, 7th 140 CLARE Bryson Hernandez, 7th 119 CORUNNA Xavier Anderson, 5th 152 DURAND Darrin Alward, 3rd 152 EVART Cole Hopkins, state champ 171 FLINT POWERS Connor Owens, state champ 170 HOWARD CITY TRI-COUNTY Jake Nelson, 2nd 171 Ian Boden, 7th 130 Trent Behrenwald, 8th 160 FREELAND Malachi Hill, 6th 103 Noah Graham, 6th 119 Joseph Klopff, 7th 189

GLADWIN

Hunter Huguelet, state champ 215 Randy Pyrzewski, 3rd 171 LAKEWOOD-LAKE ODESSA Peyton Brooks, 4th 160 CHESANING Quinton Everett, 5th 103 CHIPPEWA HILLS Tyler Geer, 5th 125 Jon Koepf, 7th 140 CLARE Bryson Hernandez, 7th 119 CORUNNA Xavier Anderson, 5th 152 DURAND Darrin Alward, 3rd 152 EVART Cole Hopkins, state champ 171 FLINT POWERS Connor Owens, state champ 170 HOWARD CITY TRI-COUNTY Jake Nelson, 2nd 171 Ian Boden, 7th 130 Trent Behrenwald, 8th 160 FREELAND Malachi Hill, 6th 103 Noah Graham, 6th 119 Joseph Klopff, 7th 189

DIVISION 4

BLANCHARD-MONTABELLA Tristin Almanza, 5th 189 BRECKENRIDGE Derek Mayle, state champ 130

BYRON

Matthew Johnson, 4th 215 DANSVILLE Blake Baker, 7th 119 HEMLOCK Josh Collins, 2nd 152 ITHACA Joseph Dawe, 5th 140 LAINGSBURG Mikey Brooks, 3rd 189 Aden Baynes, 5th 130 LAKEVIEW Cameron Perez, 3rd 103 Joe Perez, 4th 103 MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY Evan Wakefield, 6th 189 NEW LOTHROP Dalton Birchmeier, 2nd 130 Grayson Orr, 2nd 215 Isiah Pasik, 2nd 285 Cooper Symons, 4th 189 Daven Lockwood, 8th 112 PERRY Seth Grooms, 6th 140 ST. LOUIS Colin Kuhn, 6th 103 Martine Wiggins, 6th 140 Justice Onstott, 6th 171 Ben Dousuah, 8th 189 Dylan Marr, 8th 130

GIRLS WRESTLING STATE TOURNAMENT PLACERS

David Cook Sports Scene

The Michigan High School Athletic Association held the first girl's wrestling finals this year at Ford Field in Detroit in conjunction with the boys state wrestling finals. Following is the list of area wrestlers who placed at the girl's state finals.

State Champion

Sydney Thompson, Eaton Rapids, so. 110 pounds

2nd Place

Madasyn Frisbee, Belding, fr. 255 pounds Gabby Motz, Laingsburg sr. 110 pounds Tricia Pyrzewski, Gladwin, so. 100 pounds

3rd Place

Caylynn Chandler, Birch Run, jr. 130 pounds Marah Olger, Eaton Rapids, sr. 255 pounds

Lydia Roope, St. Charles, jr. 145 pounds Kennedy Tiitola, Swan Valley, so. 125 pounds

4th Place

Shai Curtis, Shepherd, fr. 110 pounds Arden Eschtruth, Midland, jr. 120 pounds Natalie Gibson, Chippewa Hills, fr. 100 pounds

5th Place

Morgan Bailey, Gladwin, sr. 135 pounds Jaime Cook, DeWitt, fr. 115 pounds Morgan Ludwig, Midland, fr. 145 pounds

Danielle Ruiz, DeWitt, sr. 120 pounds

6th Place

Maikia Wittig, Chippewa Hills, fr. 100 pounds

7th Place

Mackenzie Burger, Mt. Pleasant, jr. 100 pounds Lindsey Gibson, Chippewa Hills, jr. 120 pounds

8th Place

Hannah Hart, Owosso, fr. 170 pounds Kiara Hulbert, Lowell, so. 130 pounds Sharla Juhas, Ovid-Elsie, sr. 105 pounds

Sydney Thompson of Eaton Rapids captured a state title at the girls individual wrestling state finals.



Senior Class Leads Bath Basketball Team To District And Regional Titles

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

With a talented senior class leading the way, the Bath boys basketball team turned in its best state-tournament run since 2007.

Bath reached the state finals for the first time since 2007 when the Bees won a state championship. Bath began the tournament run by winning the title at the Laingsburg district. Bath defeated rival Laingsburg in the district final by a score of 54-48. The meeting was the third of the season between the rivals with both teams winning once in conference play.

"We both won on our home courts during the season," Bath coach Gabe Sowa said. "We knew it was going to be a tough game and our guys played extremely well.

That win gave us back-to-back district titles and we knew then that we could make a run."

Ethan Swenson led the way for Bath as he totaled 20 points and nine rebounds. Fellow senior Josh Kares also had a big game with 17 points and four rebounds while DeVondre Chandler added 11 points and seven rebounds.

"That was a fun one we will all remember," Kares said. "We were playing Laingsburg and they are our rivals. The gym was packed and it was a back-and-forth game the whole way. They started the second half with an 8-0 run but we came back in the fourth quarter. It is one game we will all remember.

Bath opened regional play with a 49-39 win against Homer in the semifinals. Chandler, a junior guard, led the Bees with 23 points while Swenson added 16 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots.

In the regional title game against Michigan Center the Bees used a big fourth quarter to come away with a 62-51 win. Swenson led the way for Bath with 22 points and 14 rebounds while Ryan Knitter added 16 points and Chandler and Kares both scoring nine points. Swenson scored 14 of his points in the fourth quarter when Bath broke open a tie game heading into the final quarter.

"It was a close game all the way through," Kares said. "We did what we had to do and won it in the fourth quarter. We also did a good job of hitting our free throws in the fourth quarter."

The tournament run came to an



The Bath basketball team won its first regional title since the 2007 Bath team that won a state championship.

end for Bath in the Division 3 state quarterfinals when they dropped an 80-49 decision to Ecorse. Swenson led the way for Bath with 22 points while Knitter added seven points.

"We were definitely led by our seniors," Sowa said. "We had eight of them and they were all in the rotation. DeVondre Chandler was our junior point guard and he really stepped up after coming back from an injury. We had a real

nice group of kids who worked hard and have played together for so long. We had a slow start due to some injuries and covid issues but by the end of January we were back to full strength and once we got to February, we were hitting our stride. We were playing our best basketball when the district came around."

Bath ended the season with a 17-7 overall record.

Basketball Season Comes To An End With Boys, Girls State Finals

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

An exciting basketball team came to an end with championships being decided by boys and girls teams in all four divisions. Following is a recap of the state basketball finals.

DIVISION 1 GIRLS

West Bloomfield won its first state title in girls basketball with a 51-42 win against Hartland. Indya Davis led the way for West Bloomfield with 17 points and 11 rebounds as the Lakers ended the season with a 25-1 record. Amada Roach led the way for Hartland with 21 points as the Lakers finished the season with a 25-2 mark.

DIVISION 1 BOYS

After winning a state football title in the fall, Warren De La Salle Collegiate

accomplished the rare feat of winning a state basketball title in the winter. De La Salle won the first boys basketball state championship in school history by defeating defending Division 1 state champion Grand Blanc 67-58. Nino Smith led the way for De La Salle, which finished the season with a 19-7 record, with 18 points.

DIVISION 2 GIRLS

Detroit Edison regained the Division 2 state championship with a 73-55 win against Grand Rapids West Catholic. State champions from 2017 to 2019, Edison was prevented from winning a title the last two seasons due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Michigan Miss Basketball Ruby Whitehorn led the way for Edison with 28 points and nine rebounds. West Catholic was paced by Michigan State recruit Abbey Kimball who scored 26 points.

DIVISION 2 BOYS

Williamston ended a perfect season in a big way by defeating defending Division 2 state champion Grand Rapids Catholic Central 68-65 in an overtime thriller. Senior guard Mason Docks led the way with 27 points as Williamston won its first state title since 1940 while senior center Max Burton added 23 points for the Hornets who finished the season with a 27-0 record.

DIVISION 3 GIRLS

Ypsilanti Arbor Prep won its second state title in school history with a 54-50 win against Kent City in the Division 3 state finals. Arbor Prep was led by Mya Petticord, a Texas A&M recruit, who totaled 27 points for the Gators who finished the season with a 25-2 record. Kent City, the Division 3 runner-up last year as well, finished the season with a 26-1 record.

DIVISION 3 BOYS

Schoolcraft won its first state title since winning the Class C state title in 2011 with a 59-49 win against Menominee. Senior Ty Rykse led the way for the Eagles as he just

missed a triple-double with 15 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. Schoolcraft, which reached the state semifinals last season, finished the season with a 25-2 record. Menominee finished the season with a 23-4 record.

DIVISION 4 GIRLS

The Fowler Eagles won a second consecutive Division 4 state championship as they defeated Plymouth Christian Academy 61-46. Senior Mia Riley led the way for Fowler with 15 points and 12 rebounds while her young sister Emma added 14 points. Grace Epkey added 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Eagles.

DIVISION 4 BOYS

Wyoming Tri-unity Christian won its fifth state title in school history and first since 2011 with a thrilling 56-45 overtime win against Ewen-Trout Creek in the Division 4 state finals. Senior guard Brady Titus led the way for the Defenders as he scored 33 points. Tri-unity ended the season with a 20-6 record while Ewen-Trout Creek ended the season with a 22-3 mark.

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Williamston Wins First State Title In 82 Years

Scott Keyes Sports Scene

The Hornets were playing their best basketball late in the season winning seven of their last eight games by 20 points or more.

But the game where they won by only three points was probably its best played game all season.

Williamston, the top ranked team in Division 2, accomplished its goal of winning a state title by knocking off defending state champion Grand Rapids Catholic Central 68-65 in overtime March 25 in the finals played at the Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University.

"It feels like we have the whole city with us, pushing us," said 6-foot-4 Williamston senior



Jacob Wallace, after the Hornets semifinals win over Freeland. "I'm playing not only for my coaches and teammates, but the whole community."

Williamston finished the year a perfect 27-0, but the run to the title and perfection is never easy.

How They Did It

The Hornets jumped out to an early lead, and only gave it up once, near the end of the first quarter.

They led by as much as 16 with 1:31 left in the third, but GRCC clawed back and forced overtime, but fell just short at the buzzer with a shot to tie.

"These guys did something that people will remember forever," said Williamston coach Tom Lewis. "I really don't have the words to say how proud I am of my entire team."

Mason Docks led Williamston with a team-high 27 points, to lead the Hornets. Max Burton added 23 points and seven rebounds for Williamston before fouling out in late in the extra period.

Kaden Brown had a game-high 33 points for GRCC, which missed a potential tying 3-pointer as time expired to end the game.

What They Are Saying

Docks was almost speechless after the Freeland victory.

"I would say the main feeling I have right now is excitement," said Docks. "We've been preparing all season for this moment. Now it's time to go out and have some fun and play our game."

The Hornets did just that after doing the unthinkable. You had to know that 22 minute drive back to Williamston was a memorable one after securing the victory and the title.



Presenting

2021-22 Boys Basketball Dream Team

The area was home to some outstanding boys basketball teams and players this season. Williamston proved to be the most successful team in the area as the Hornets put together a perfect season that was culminated by winning the Division 2 state championship. Senior point guard Mason Docks led a talented senior class at Williamston and Docks heads up this year's High School Sports Scene boys dream team. Freeland also turned in a fantastic season this year as the Falcons reached the Division 2 state semifinals while a trio of teams from the Central Michigan Athletic Conference reached the quarterfinals in Division 3 and 4. Following is a look at this year's Dream Team and the remainder of the all-area squad.

Player Of The Year

Mason Docks, Williamston, sr.

Max Burton, Williamston, sr.

Bryson Huceby, Freeland, sr.

Tyler Ode, Saginaw Heritage, so.

DJ Voltz, Carrollton, sr.

(High School Sports Scene Photos)

The point guard position is one of the most important in basketball and the Williamston boys basketball team had one of the premier floor generals in the state in Mason Docks who is this year's High School Sports Scene boys basketball player of the year. With Docks providing outstanding leadership and clutch play, Williamston turned in a perfect record this season and won the Division 2 state championship. An outstanding all-around player, Docks, who will be playing his college basketball at Maryland-Baltimore County, was also named the player of the year in Division 2.

COACH OF THE YEAR - Tom Lewis, Williamston

SECOND TEAM

- Drew Barrie, Midland
- Alex Duley, Freeland
- Jamison Eklund, Pewamo-Westphalia
- Josh Elliott, Freeland
- Will Young, Okemos

THIRD TEAM

- Jonathan Tunney, Saginaw Nouvel
- Karim McCune, Saginaw
- Ethan Swenson, Bath
- Jay Wallace, Williamston
- Mason Woods, East Lansing

HONORABLE MENTION:

- Ithaca: Ty Osborn, Flushing; Hayden Palmer, Vestaburg; Caden Pokorzynski, Rockford; Jacob Recker, Clare; Trenton Risdon, Coleman; Sam Rosales, Alma; Jacob Shelagowski, Hemlock; Jared Simon, Blanchard-Montabella; Blake Smith, Pewamo-Westphalia; J.T. Smith, Blanchard-Montabella; Mason Smith, Carson City-Crystal; Mason Struck, Chesaning; Bruce Thelen, Fulton-Middleton; Alex Watters, Lansing Catholic; Mitchell Wing, Carson City-Crystal; Brendan Wood, Ithaca; Trevor Zammarron, Greenville.
- Evan Booker, Elvis Machul Jr., Chris Smith, Saginaw Arthur Hill; Tyler Chovancec, Breckenridge; Cole Dailey, Vestaburg; Thomas Dodd, Haslett; Javari Holliday, Saginaw; Marcus Hosner, Montrose; Michael Howey, Alma; Lane Ingram, Clare; Joe Lung, Fulton-Middleton; Ty Kohlmann, New Lothrop; Bryce Kurncz, DeWitt; Jack Lamancusa, Rockford; Connor Lemerand, Alma; Nate Lott, Webberville; Kolson Lycos, Webberville; Gibson Marr,

A force in the paint for the Hornets, this 6-foot-10 inch center earned first-team, all-state honors this season. Burton averaged 13.1 points per game and scored 23 points in the Division 2 state championship game. Burton is a force on the boards as he pulled down 5.3 rebounds per game.

Huceby played a key role in leading Freeland to its first-ever appearance in the final four in the Division 2 state tournament. A second-team, all-state selection in Division 2 and three-time, all-conference player, Huceby is an outstanding all-around player who averaged 14.7 points, 8.8 rebounds and 6.4 assists.

One of the top young players in the area, this 6-foot-6 sophomore is an offensive dynamo with his three-point shooting skills and ability to get to the basket. A first-team, all-state selection in Division 1, Ode averaged 24 points per game and seven rebounds per game and has already been offered by a Division 1 school.

One of the premier multi-sport athletes in the area who will play college football at Saginaw Valley State, Voltz capped his basketball career by earning first-team, all-state honors in Division 2. The versatile Voltz averaged 18 points per game this season along with 9.1 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 3.7 steals per game.

Good Luck All Area Sports Teams

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Fowler Celebrates Another State Title In Division 4

John Raffel
Sports Scene

It's usually tough for a team which has won back-to-back state championships to compare which one might be sweeter.

But after Fowler ended its season at 24-3 and claimed its second straight state title with a 61-46 win over Plymouth Christian on March 19, Eagle senior Mia Riley, the Associated Press Division 4 player of the year, had to admit the 2022 crown was especially rewarding for other reasons.

Fowler got out to quick starts against Plymouth Christian with 11-5 and 27-14 leads after the first two quarters. Fowler had a 34-32 scoring advantage in the second half to seal the win. It marked Fowler's third state title.

The Eagles won 54-20 over Bellaire in the 2021 title game but in front of only 750 fans when

COVID restricted attendances. There was a solid group of fans for the 2022 game.

"It was disappointing last year that more fans couldn't come and it wasn't the same environment," Mia said. "We were so glad to come through it with the fans. It was a great experience."

Fowler had a tough 51-45 victory over Baraga from the Upper Peninsula in Thursday's semifinal game.

Mia Riley shot 10-of-21 from the floor for 24 points and 11 rebounds. Emma Riley was only 5-of-20 from the floor but made up for with 6-of-7 free-throw shooting and 17 points plus nine boards.

"We didn't play our best but we're happy we made it this far," Mia said.

"We'll have to come out with more energy come Saturday," coach Nathan Goerge said after



Thursday's game. "I believe we will. I hope this was a wakeup call for the girls."

Fowler led 17-4 after the first quarter against Baraga and 28-18 at halftime. But Baraga pulled to within one point several times down the stretch against the Eagles.

"Late in the game, it got crazy a little bit but luckily the ball bounced our way," Goerge said.

"We just knew we had to go to the next play and take the opening that was there," Baraga coach Tyler Larson said. "Give credit to Fowler, they played great defense on us. In the second half, we switched to a man-to-man and our girls adjusted. It flustered them a little bit and limited their opportunities."



Fowler ended the season at 24-3. "The league we play in (Central Michigan Athletic Conference) is the toughest Class C-D league in the state," Goerge said. Fowler finished second in the CMAC with two losses to Portland St. Patrick 53-49 and 58-51. But Fowler prevailed 50-41 in the district title game with St. Patrick. The Eagles also lost to Division 2 school Portland 47-34 during the regular season and beat Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart 66-30 and Saginaw Nouvel 55-42 in the regionals and Gaylord St. Mary 52-42 in the quarterfinals.

Fowler's Emma Riley (1) boxes out Baraga's Kinsei Jahfetson during the semifinal round.



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Player Of The Year

Mia Riley, Fowler, sr.

The Fowler girls basketball team has been one of the premier teams in the state of Michigan the past two years and senior Mia Riley has been a big part of that success. Riley, who is this year's High School Sports Scene girls basketball player of the year, is an outstanding all-around talent and is a big reason why Fowler has won the past two Division 4 state championships. The player of the year in Division 4, Riley provided Fowler with outstanding leadership, a dynamic offensive player on the court and an impact player on the defensive end of the floor.

- SECOND TEAM**
- Kamari Forrest, Saginaw
 - Alexa Kolnitys, Midland Dow
 - Madison Looby, Saginaw Nouvel
 - Mia McLaughlin, Frankenmuth
 - Soraya Timms, East Lansing
- THIRD TEAM**
- Mia Judd, Lansing Christian
 - Lydia Meredith, Portland St. Patrick
 - Abby Rey, Midland Dow
 - Emma Riley Fowler
 - Alexis Smith, Bay City Central

- HONORABLE MENTION:**
- Alina Anderson, Rockford; Braxcynn Baker, Lowell; Isabelle Beach, Saginaw Valley Lutheran; Braelyn Berry, Morley-Stanwood; Jordan Cleveland, Alma; Sofah Coker, Clare; Caitlyn Dickerson, Midland Calvary Baptist Academy; Whitney Farrell, Freeland; Regan Finkbeiner, Hemlock; Madison Garbow, Morley-Stanwood; Sydnie Gillett, Corunna; Claire Groenewoud, Holt; Rylie Haist, Big Rapids; Grace Isenbath, Haslett; Emma Kerkauf, Frankenmuth; Jordyn Lawrence, Durand; Megan Leslie, Greenville; Grace Lyons, Rockford; Halen McLaughlin, Sanford-Meridian; Alexis Miller, New Lothrop; Ella Miller, East Lansing; Zar'ria Mitchell, Saginaw Heritage; Zoey Persalls, Frankenmuth; Katelyn Pnack, Coleman; Andee Raphael, Shepherd; Rachel Resio, Swan Valley; Anna Richards, Lansing Catholic; Aubrey Rogers, Morrice; Delaney Scully, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart; Delaney Seaman, Ithaca; Erin Sherwood, Dansville; Natalie Skowron, Vestaburg; Kennedy Stout, Carson City; Crystal; Bailey Stimac, St. Charles; Lorna Strieff, Laingsburg; Adi Sysum, Eaton Rapids; Madison Travis, Farwell; Lauren Walker, Essexville-Garber; Caitlyn Walter, Ovid-Elsie; Chloe Watson, Hemlock; Alyssa Wypych, Rockford; Megan Zeitz, Dansville.

Presenting 2021-22 Girls Basketball Dream Team

Ashley Bower, Portland, sr.

One of the premier shooters in the state of Michigan, Bower holds the Portland record for single season and career three-pointers and is also Portland's all-time leading scorer. Bower, who averaged 19.1 points per game this season, will be continuing her career at Wayne State.

Brook Simpson, Belding, so.

One of the premier sophomores in the entire state, Simpson is already being heavily recruited by several Division 1 schools including Michigan State. This year Simpson averaged 26 points per game along with seven rebounds and 4.2 steals.

Ellie Toney, Corunna, sr. guard

A first-team, all-state selection in Division 2, Toney averaged 23.5 points per game this season along with 10.3 rebounds and 4.4 assists. Toney, who will continue her career at Davenport University, finished her career with a school-record 1,361 points.

Janae Tyler, Holt, jr.

Only a junior, Tyler is already the all-time leader in rebounds for Holt. A first-team, all-state selection in Division 1, Tyler averaged 18.8 points per game along with 13.5 rebounds, 2.1 blocked shots and 2.1 steals.

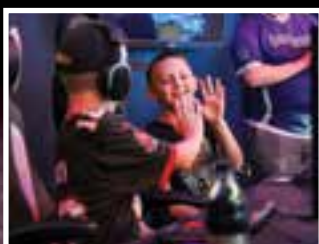


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