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## Sacred Heart Volleyball On Top Of State In Division 4

### John Raffel Sports Scene

It was finally Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart's turn for a volleyball Division 4 state championship.

The Irish had come close to contending for the title several times but finally got the job done in 2022.

Coach Krista Davis' team was able to storm to district and regional titles. But Davis and her team knew it would be a tough quarterfinal test against perennial power Leland. The Irish prevailed 25-21, 14-25, 25-15, 26-24.

"We just matched up a little bit better with them this time around," Davis said. "They didn't have as much of a balanced attack as they typically did in the past. Overall, I think we were a better team.

"Coming into the season, it was a rebuilding year. We graduated eight seniors from that semifinal team. To be honest, we were terrible in August. We got aced 40 times in the course of our very first tournament. The only way to go was up. They showed up every day and put in the work"

Last season was the first time Sacred Heart had made it to the Final Four.

But this time in the state semifinals at Battle Creek, with was MPSH over Upper Peninsula power Crystal Falls Forest Park and it would be all Irish 25-11, 25-10, 25-22.

Leading the Irish were Sophie Hauck with 19 assists and six digs, Lillie Laney with 16 kills and three digs, Angel Brown with 12 kills and 12 digs, Bridgit Ruiz with 14 digs and Chelsea Lynch had five kills

and 11 digs.

But it appeared the Irish might not celebrate the state crown when they came up against Athens on Nov. 19 in the title match at Kellogg Arena.

Athens dominated the first two sets 25-14, 25-13 and appeared ready for a sweep. But the Irish hung tough and regrouped in the next three 25-23, 27-25, 15-11.

For Sacred Heart, Hauck had 24 assists and 10 digs, Eliza Pieratt had 17 assists and 17 digs, Ruiz had 29 digs, Lillie Laney had 19 kills and Leah Smith had eight kills and three digs.

Brown was a four-year starter and led the team in kills. Laney was a three-year starter and ran a lot of fast and quick attacks for MPSH. She was the team's blocking leader. Pieratt was a second-year setter and was the No. 1 server.



Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart finally got over the hump this season winning an elusive Class D volleyball title that has eluded the Irish in recent years.

## Lansing Christian Advances To Semifinals

### John Raffel Sports Scene

They wanted to go farther in the state tournament but coach Sarah Rottman's Lansing Pilgrims were still happy to be a semifinalist.

The team won its district and regional titles and then swept Portland St. Patrick 25-21, 25-20, 25-17 in the Division 4 quarterfinals. But in the semifinals at Battle Creek, Athens prevailed 25-18, 25-20, 25-23.

"We were disappointed

we didn't win," Rottman said. "I couldn't be more proud of the girls on such a great season and making it to the semifinals. Its quite an accomplishment. They worked hard all season long and we have nothing to hang our heads about. The other team did a good job."

It was the farthest Lansing Christian has advanced in the state tournament.

"It definitely was quite an accomplishment," Rottman said. We had good team chemistry. The girls were like

a family. They knew each other well. They encourage each other all the time. We had good hitters and worked hard in the back row."

LC's final record was 30-12-1. In the semifinal with Athens, Katelynn Rottman had nine kills and nine digs, Madelynn Rottman had 28 assists, three kills and eight digs

Eliza Wortz had 10 kills and five digs

Anna Jackson had 11 digs, Audra Usiak had 28 digs and Ava Waldron had 11 digs.



Lansing Christian's Lydia Brogan (4) goes for the ball against Athens in the state semifinals.

## Rockford Volleyball Team Falls In Quarterfinals

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Rockford's volleyball season was another good one for coach Kelly Delacher.

He's been coach 18 years at Rockford and 28 overall with a 37-14 record this season and 11-3 in the OK Red, where the Rams finished second.

"This team far exceeded my expectations," Delacher said. "Last year we lost seven seniors (two of which were All-Americans). This year we started three freshmen and a sophomore. We went on a 21-3 run to end our season after starting 16-11."

Rockford was a regional champ and lost in the quarterfinals to Forest Hills Northern.

"We played a very solid game against Forest Hills Northern," Delacher said. "We had some opportunities at the end of the first and second set to win. I think that could have changed the momentum of the match. But FHN has a couple kids that do a great job of terminating and their best kids ultimately took control of the match despite some great defense by us.

"Our two captains had great seasons. Meredith Simmons led our team in kills, aces and digs. Lizzie was a four-year starter who was the fourth player in school history with 200 aces and 1,000 digs. Freshmen Liv Hosford had a huge year and set the record for most blocks/set in school history as well as hitting .391 on the year"

Next year could be a special season. Freshmen starters returning



Rockford's volleyball team celebrated a regional championship before losing in the state quarterfinals.

are Liv Hosford, Sienna Wolfe and Izzie Delacher and a sophomore returning starter is Layla Visser. Key losses are Meredith and Lizzie.

"We will rely on our four youngsters that started this year for us and we have a great incoming group of sophomores from our JV team," Delacher said.

First team all-conference were Liv Hosford, Meredith Simmons and Lizzie MacIntosh. Honorable Mention All-Conference was Sienna Wolfe

All-Region were Sienna Wolfe, Meredith Simmons and Liv Hosford

All State Honorable Mention was

Meredith Simmons.

All State second Team was Liv Hosford.

Rockford was an Academic All State team with a GPA 4.06

Individual Academic All State honors went to Meredith Simmons, Reagan Korte and Franny Young.

# Area Cross Volleyball 2022 All-State List

### Division I

#### Third Team

Aubreigh Oswald, Lowell, senior middle hitter  
Remi Madison, Grand Blanc, senior outside hitter  
Taylor Stephens, Okemos, senior outside hitter  
Honorable mention  
Kayla Ozanich, Okemos, senior middle hitter  
Kendall White, St. Johns, senior libero  
Meredith Simmons, Rockford, senior outside hitter  
Piper Risdon, Lowell, junior middle hitter

### Division 2

#### Third Team

Alana Deshetsy, North Branch, junior middle hitter  
Audrey Geer, Frankenmuth, junior defensive specialist  
Emilia Gulock, Lansing Catholic, senior outside hitter  
Kaela Chingwa, North Branch, junior middle hitter  
Honorable Mention  
Ava Wilcox, Lansing Catholic, junior libero  
Isabella Schultz, Lansing Catholic, senior middle hitter  
Leisya Newell, Williamson, senior outside hitter

### Division 3

#### First Team

Dani Pohl, Pewamo Westphalia, senior outside hitter  
Saige Martin, Pewamo Westphalia, junior middle hitter  
Taylor Smith, Pewamo Westphalia, junior setter  
Honorable Mention  
Carley Martin, New Lothrop, senior outside hitter  
Kourtney Mack, Dansville, senior libero  
Taylor Moore, New Lothrop, senior setter

### Division 4

#### First Team

Angel Brown, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart, senior outside hitter

Lillie Laney, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart, senior middle hitter

#### Second Team

Katelynn Rottman, Lansing Christian, junior outside hitter  
Madelynn Rottman, Lansing Christian, senior setter  
Third Team  
Natalee Teachworth, Portland St. Patrick, senior outside hitter

#### Honorable Mention

Anna Vanneste, Fowler, senior outside hitter  
Reese Maas, Michigan Lutheran Seminary

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**Aaron Li**  
junior  
Midland Dow High School


**PRESENTS**



**BOYS TENNIS  
PLAYER OF THE  
YEAR**



**HIGHLIGHTS:** Li played a big role in Midland Dow claiming the Division 2 team state championship this season. Li led the way at the state finals as he came in as the top seed at No. 2 singles and came through to win the No. 2 singles championship. After dropping the first set in the finals, Li stormed back to win the title in three sets by a 1-6, 6-2, 6-1 score. Li also added a regional championship this season





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**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE  
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL BIG SCHOOL  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**Clara Gyomory**  
junior  
North Branch High School

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Gyomory played a big role in helping North Branch win its fourth state volleyball title in school history. A 5-foot-10, outside hitter, Gyomory earned first-team, all-state honors. A talented hitter with a strong all-around game, Gyomory totaled over 350 kills this season with a hitting percentage of .324 %. Along with leading the team in kills, Gyomory also totaled over 60 blocks and proved to be a defensive force at the net for North Branch.



**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE  
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL SMALL SCHOOL  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR**


**Angel Brown  
and  
Lillie Laney**  
seniors  
Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

**HIGHLIGHTS:** These two senior hitters had nearly identical stats in helping lead Sacred Heart to its first-ever volleyball state championship. Brown and Laney both earned first-team, all-state honors this season. Brown came into the state finals with 384 kills, 314 digs and 70 serving aces. Laney entered the state finals with 339 kills and a hitting percentage of .354% to go along with 60 serving aces and 83 blocks on defense.



Angel Brown (top)  
and Lillie Laney (bottom).


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## Ithaca Runners Gain All-State Honors

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Steven Merchant had an enjoyable year coaching Ithaca's cross country team this season, especially with two talented All-Staters.

In the Division 3 race, Ithaca senior Parks Allen was third in 15:52.14; while for the girls Liliana Lehnst was 23rd in 19:32.84.

Hunter Jones of Benzie Central won the race in 14:46.50. Clayton Ackley of Hart was second in 15:52.14, just 0.03 seconds ahead of Allen.

“On both our boys and girls teams, they’re our hardest workers,” Merchant said. “They not only ask what we’re doing today but what more can they do above and beyond

the standard practice to achieve the goals they want to achieve this year. They work really hard. They’re great kids. They were very respectful and very dedicated. They were all-around amazing kids to have in my first year of coaching.

“I think both of them left a little bit on the table in terms of their performance at the state meet. I truly believe Parks had the capability of being second overall. He lost by a narrow margin. There were a few things in his race tactics we talked about after the race which would have enhanced his chances. For Liliana, it’s sort of the same way. It was her first time running at the state and having the pressure of being all-state. She may have been thinking too much when she was running and it held her back a little bit.”

In the Division 3 race, Ithaca senior Parks Allen (right) was third in 15:52.14; while for the girls Liliana Lehnst was 23rd in 19:32.84.

The Ithaca boys also were sparked by Landen Styka 47th in 17:20.75; Miingen Bertrand 77th in 17:37.16; Lane McDonald 97th in 17:48.60. Devyn Whitford 202nd in 19:03.58, Brent Desaeagher 202nd in 19:07.04, Brent Desaeagher 205th in 19:07.04 and Jacob Mankey 209th in 19:12.22. Ithaca was eighth as a team.

Ithaca's girls team was 15th at state. Izabelle LaLone was 101st in 21:20.96, Karisa Deacons 143rd in 21:57.08, Myleigh Hephner 147th in 22:00.891, Emma Dawe 150th in 22:01.89, Hayden Whitmore 105th in 22:19.86 and Laiyla Pray 204th in 23:26.

Allen is a senior while Lehnst is a junior and returns next season. Allen has visited Wayne State and Grand Valley for cross country and track.

## Montabella Runner Fourth In The State

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Dakota Dykhuis' performance for Montabella at the state finals was a good one. His coach Dan Gibson couldn't say enough.

“Last season Dakota was a dual sport athlete playing football and running cross country,” Gibson said. “He had a very successful season as he qualified for the state finals and finished 34th at the state meet. This year he decided

to commit to cross country and not play football. He worked hard in the off-season and he had a spectacular season. In the first meet of the season at the Warrior Invitational, he finished eighth with a time that was 50 seconds faster than he had run the previous year on the same course.

“At the Shepherd Invitational he ran a 16:07 which was over a minute faster than his previous best season time. For the season he finished first in 6 races and second twice. He

finished in first in all three MSAC league meets and was Regional Champion (the first in the history of Montabella). He finished fourth at the state finals which ties Taylor Smith for the best state finals finish in the history of Montabella.”

Dykhuis' time was 16:10.41 at the state meet

“In addition to having an outstanding season, he is also a great role model,” Gibosn said. “He was a great supporter of all of our middle school athletes as he encouraged them at practices and races.”

Dakota Dykhuis proved to be among the area's top cross country runners this season.





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# Frankenmuth's Richmond Places Third At State Meet

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Mary Richmond's junior season was a strong one for Frankenmuth's cross country team.

She had the area's best girls finish with a Division 2 third place in 18:32.14. She was 14 seconds shy of first place and less than five minutes from second. She took mostly first places all season. Her season record actually came a week after the state finals at the MITCA with a 17:59.2 in the Michigan Meet of Champions.

"I was fairly happy with that,"

Mary Richmond had one of the area's top performances at the state meet.

Richmond said of her state finals effort. "Obviously I strive for more. I was very happy with how I placed. It was a good race and every single girl fought it out to the end."

It was Richmond's third time at the state meet. She was second in 2021. She was obviously hoping for first place this season.

"I was hoping to battle it out but I did the best I could," she said. "I'm not too mad about it. (Her season overall) was pretty good. I won a few county championships. I won the regional championship for the third year in a row. Our team had a pretty good year.

We came and showed what we had. A lot of the freshmen girls came out and surprised us with how skilled they were. It was amazing. It was a very fun team this year."

Next year is promising for the Eagles.

"We won't be losing any seniors on our varsity," Richmond said. "We'll be gaining a girl and that should be our top five. Hopefully we can fight for that regional title for a team and hopefully, individually, and go to state and perform very well."

Richmond also runs track and field for Frankenmuth.

## The Student-Athletic Corner

# Playing Hurt Is Never Easy

## GraceGilbert (Swan Valley High School) for Sports Scene

It was a regular Sunday during High School basketball season, but I was getting up early at 5:30 a.m. to drive with my dad to Grand Rapids for the Rise Holiday Camp to showcase my other sport – softball. If you don't know what a Softball Showcase is then let me explain.

It is a day where high school softball players from all over the state come together to get their measurables or times. Mainly running speed, exit velocity, arm velocity, hitting and fielding. All of this is videotaped so that they can be sent to college coaches.

Less than 45 minutes into the showcase, I was shagging balls in the outfield. There wasn't any measurables of mine being taken, I was just helping get the softballs from the outfield to the infield, something I have done hundreds of times. This time a low line drive off the bat of another showcase participant skimmed the netting of the gym. I didn't see the softball until it was too late and it hit me square in the nose. Immediately tears and blood were everywhere, six hours later we were finally leaving the ER in Grand Rapids with two stitches and the X-rays confirmed a broken nose. My first thoughts were of Tuesday and basketball. One little unfocused moment could sideline me from a game I always look forward to. The Swan Valley Vikings vs The Hemlock Huskies. Would I be able to play, could I play with my nose and face so

swollen and bruised?

Sunday night and all of Monday my parents, their friends and most of Facebook looked around Mid-Michigan for a as my dad calls it "a Rip Hamilton mask".

These masks aren't usually in stock at most sporting goods stores and shipping could not put one at our house until Thursday, well after the Hemlock game. I am told the people at Mueller Sports Medicine in Wisconsin (the manufacturer of basketball face guards) called every sporting goods store in Michigan they thought could have one in stock. Finally, we found one in stock at Park Athletic Supply in Allen Park. My dad made the drive and it looked like I might be able to play.

On Tuesday night at Hemlock with 15

minutes until jump ball I was wishing that the alarm clock didn't go off on that Sunday two days ago. My face, eyes and nose are swollen and sore. A few minutes into the game I get hit in the face under the basket, I need to come out. I probably played less minutes than I did my freshman year on Varsity. I come in and out the entire game and help as much as I can, but my teammates continue to pick up where I can't. Fifteen minutes after the exciting win by the Swan Valley Girls Basketball team my face still hurts but I can't stop smiling.



Grace Gilbert - Swan Valley High School



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# Central Montcalm Runner Enjoys Solid Freshman Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It was quite a freshman season for Central Montcalm freshman runner Gage Hoffman.

He placed ninth in the state at the Division 3 state finals in 16:25.0.

His coach is Austin Sargent.

"Gage ran his first 5K when he was 5-years old and has never stopped," Sargeant said. "He ran with the CMMS cross country team beginning in fifth grade, running with his two older sisters (Kyah and Téa).

"He begins his cross training in June, he gets 2-to-3 weeks off after track to relax. He wrestled as a youth, and is going to give the 106-pound weight class a try this year. He is also planning on running track, which he did all through MS).

He enjoys the hurdles and the 400 meters, but maybe his distance coach could talk him into the mile."

Hoffman was happy with his state finals effort.

"Gage is a spitfire," Sargeant said. "He can't sit still and is always on the go. He trains hard, he works hard, and I can't wait to see how his running career pans out. Gage had an outstanding season starting in the summer.

His personal record this year was 16:24 First team All conference. He was 3rd at regionals and ninth at state finals.

"I was happy with my placement," Hoffman said. "I think it went well. It was a fun experience with all my coaches, family and friends there. I was really happy with my time and placement and am excited for next year."

"Gage put in a lot of work this offseason knowing he had high goals for his freshman year," Sargent said. "The first time I worked with him this summer I was amazed and immediately excited about his potential. The keys to Gage's success are his work ethic, attention to detail, competitiveness, and drive to succeed.

"This is my first year with Gage and I would say his most memorable moment getting ninth at the state competition. He was ranked in the mid 20's with the goal of getting All-State. It's a challenge for most at any point in their career. Gage took the challenge of the big stage and completely surpassed expectations. A top 10 finish at the state meet as a freshman is very rare."

"I exceeded my expectations," he said. "At state I was hoping for top 30. It was a great season."

Central Montcalm's Gage Hoffman finished ninth during last month's state cross country finals held at Michigan International Raceway.

## Healthy Living

# Three Common Strength Training Myths

## Zachary Goodman for Sports Scene

### Strength Training Makes You Slow

This is a common myth that has stemmed from bodybuilding and powerlifting. Athletes must train in a way that increases their ability to produce force rapidly. This involves lifting heavy weights and lifting weights explosively combined with running, jumping and throwing. Strength training will enhance speed when done correctly. According to a study done on

elite soccer players, athletes that can squat 2.1x bodyweight can sprint faster than athletes that fall below that strength level. Improvements in strength is the path to more speed.

### Heavy Lifting Will Get You Hurt

Strength training is the #1 preventative measure an athlete can take to avoid injury. Many athletes face knee, shoulder, and low back injuries all of which can be prevented through proper strength training. Strength training done right, increases your body's ability to produce and absorb force. Proper strength training reinforces your bodies soft

tissue and joints leading to less injuries and more playing time. As an athlete you must prep your body to undergo high forces and velocities. Strength training can help!

### Soreness Is A Good Indicator Of Training Success

The best indicator of training success is through progressive overload. If you lift more weight, lift a weight faster, jump higher or sprint faster, then your training is succeeding. Soreness is generally a sign of overreaching beyond your current capabilities. Some soreness is common, but you should measure your training through

the results you are getting, not the soreness you feel. This is why all training should be measured and tracked for progress.



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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE  
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY BIG SCHOOL  
RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**TJ Hansen**  
sophomore  
Freeland High School

**Highlights:** Hansen wrapped up his sophomore season in a big way as he placed fifth overall at the Division 2 state finals with a time of 15:45.91 to help lead Freeland to a 10<sup>th</sup>-place finish as a team. Hansen also turned in a sizzling time at the regional as he won the regional title with a time of 15:50.3 and helped Freeland win the team regional championship.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE BOYS  
CROSS COUNTRY SMALL SCHOOL  
RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**Parks Allen**  
senior  
Ithaca High School

**Highlights:** One of the finest runners in Ithaca history, Allen ended his high school career in a big way by placing third at the Division 3 state finals with a time of 15:52.17, helping Ithaca place eighth as a team. Allen posted a sizzling time at the regional where he turned in a time of 15:37.4 to help Ithaca win the regional team championship.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE  
GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY BIG SCHOOL  
RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**Victoria Garces**  
sophomore  
Midland Dow High School

**Highlights:** This talented sophomore turned in a strong season for the Dow cross country team this fall. Garces placed fifth overall at the Division 1 state finals with a time of 18:21.22. Garces qualified for the state finals in a big way as she won the regional title with a time of 18:22.9



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE GIRLS  
CROSS COUNTRY SMALL SCHOOL  
RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**Hannah Pricco**  
senior  
Lansing Catholic High School

**Highlights:** Pricco capped her senior season in a big way. This talented senior helped the Cougars place third as a team at the Division 3 state finals as she placed second overall as an individual with a time of 18:17.59. Pricco came into the state meet on a roll after winning the regional title with a time of 18:15.9.

Area Cross Country All-State List (Top 30 Finishers)

Nov. 5, 2022, Michigan International Speedway

**Division 1 Boys**

19-Noah Selvaraj, Bay City Western, 16:00.15.

**Division 1 Girls**

5-Victoria Garces, Midland Dow, 18:21.22

8-Annika Sandman, Lowell, 18:22.57

22-Trinity VanderWoude, 18:51.39

**Division 2 Boys**

4-Michael Hegary, Dearborn Divine Child, 15:41.81

8-Joe Bowman, St. Johns, 15:52.41

12-Landen Wise, Frankenmuth, 16:06.35

20-Camden Johnecheck, Williamston, 16:13.71

22-Tyler Dohm, St. Johns, 16:15.14

23-Nate Carmody, Haslett, 16:16.03

**Division 2 Girls**

3-Mary Richmond, Frankenmuth, 18:32.14

13-Clara Fletcher, St. Johns, 18:56.75

20-Megan Ford, Mason, 19:10.18

24-Abby Young, St. Johns, 19:11.40

**Division 3 Boys**

3-Parks Allen, Ithaca, 15:52.17

8-Gage Hoffman, Central Montcalm, 16:25.0

11-Jake O'Neil, Chippewa Hills, 16:27.44

17-Brad White, Clare, 16:34.23

22-Landon Pestrue, St. Louis, 16:37.61

26-Collin Farmer, Pewamo-Westphalia, 16:42.06

30-Nathan Day, Saranac, 16:51.88.

**Division 3 Girls**

2-Hanna Pricco, Lansing Catholic, 18:17.59

6-Cc Jones, Lansing Catholic, 19:14.05

9-Kyah Hoffman, Central Montcalm, 18:59.15

10-Tessa Roe, Lansing Catholic, 19:14.05

11-Ashley Choponis, Central Montcalm, 18:39.5

13-Whitney Werner, Pewamo-Westphalia, 19:20.4

19-Madeline Hill, Saranac, 19:27.4

23-Liliana Lehnst, Ithaca, 19:32.8

25-Ava Hollandsworth, Chippewa Hills, 19:42.8.

**Division 4 Boys**

4-Dakota Dykhuis, Montabella, 16:10.41

8-Owen Patton, 16:29.20

22-Logan Cooper, Potterville, 17:13.33.

**Division 4 Girls**

23-Ashlyn Kephart, Lansing Christian, 20:32.54.

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High School Football Season Comes To Dramatic End With Memorable State Championship Games

**Butch Harmon Sports Scene**

The high school football season came to an end with the conclusion of another memorable state tournament. Following is a look at how teams fared in the state football playoffs.

**DIVISION 1**

**Final: Belleville 35, Caledonia 17**

Sophomore quarterback Bryce Underwood took center stage as he helped to lead Belleville to its second straight Division 1 state championship and a perfect 14-0 season. Underwood passed for 155 yards and two touchdowns and added 149 yards rushing and a score to pace the offense.

**Local angle:** Grand Ledge made a deep run in Division 1 as it reached the regional finals where it fell to Caledonia 42-14. The Comets finished the season with a 9-3 record and defeated Holt 21-20 to win the district title in thrilling fashion.

**DIVISION 2**

**Final: Warren DeLaSalle 52, GR Forest Hills Central 13**

Senior quarterback Brady Drogosh led DeLaSalle to its second straight state title as he completed 21-of-23 passes for 249 yards and two touchdowns and added 152 yards rushing and three rushing touchdowns as the DeLaSalle finished the season with a 13-1 record.

**Local angle:** Midland reached the regional title game where it fell to Dexter 42-7. The Chemics defeated Waterford Mott 41-34 to win and district title and finished the season with a 10-2 record.

**East Lansing** also reached the regional finals where it fell to Forest Hills Central 21-17 in a thriller that came down to the last play. The Trojans, who finished the season with an 8-4 record, defeated Portage Northern 34-24 to win a district title.

**DIVISION 3**

**Final: Detroit King 56, Muskegon 27**

Senior quarterback Dante Moore passed for 275 yards and four touchdowns as King won its second-consecutive state title.

**Local angle:** Mason turned in another memorable season as turned in a 12-1 record. The Bulldogs reached the state semifinals for the second consecutive season where they fell short to eventual state champion Detroit King. Mason defeated Trenton 49-30 for a regional title and stopped Jackson 34-12 for a district title.

DeWitt also reached the state semifinals where it dropped a 49-21 contest to Muskegon. DeWitt finished the season with a 9-4 record

and defeated Linden 29-16 in the regional title game after defeating Mt. Pleasant 56-49 in an epic triple-overtime thriller in the district finals. **Mt. Pleasant** finished its season with a 9-2 record.

**DIVISION 4**

**Final: Grand Rapids South Christian 28, Goodrich 0**

Senior quarterback Jake DeHaan led the way for South Christian as he passed for 266 yards and two touchdowns, rushed for 99 yards and a score and intercepted a pass on defense. South won its fourth state title in school history and completed its first perfect season in school history.

**Local angle:** Freeland reached the district finals where it dropped a 10-9 decision to Goodrich in a defensive struggle. The Falcons finished the season with an 8-3 record.

**DIVISION 5**

**Final: Gladwin 10, Frankenmuth 7**

Three years after turning in a 1-8 record, Gladwin won the first state championship in program history and finished the season with a perfect 14-0 record. Treyton Siegert kicked a field goal with just two seconds remaining in the game for the deciding points in a classic defensive struggle. Frankenmuth ended the season with a 13-1 record and reached the state championship game for the second time in the past three seasons.

**Local angle:** Portland joined Gladwin and Frankenmuth in local teams making deep playoff runs in Division 5 as reached the regional finals where it fell to Grand Rapids Catholic Central 42-19. The Raiders, who finished the season with a 10-2 record, defeated Corunna 34-28 in the district finals.

**DIVISION 6**

**Final: Grand Rapids West Catholic 59, Negaunee 14**

Led by an explosive offense, West Catholic won its sixth state football title. The Falcons scored a finals-record 59 points and totaled 520 yards of total offense led by senior running back Timy Kloska who rushed for 241 yards and four touchdowns.

**Local angle:** Lansing Catholic made a strong run in defending its state title before falling to West Catholic 37-7 in the regional final. Lansing Catholic defeated Ovid-Elsie 20-0 to win the district title and finished the season with a 6-6 record.

**DIVISION 7**

**Final: Jackson Lumen Christi 15, Traverse City St. Francis 12**

Lumen Christi won its 12<sup>th</sup> state title in



Area teams Gladwin and Frankenmuth hooked up for a defensive classic in the Division 5 state championship game.

program history in dramatic fashion as it came from behind 12-0 in the fourth quarter and won the game with a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns. Lumen Christi started the season with an 0-3 record falling to New Lothrop in the season opener and then losing to St. Francis 35-28 in week two. The Titan defense stymied a St. Francis offense that entered the game averaging 47.5 points per game.

**Local angle:** New Lothrop reached the state semifinals before falling 53-8 to Traverse City St. Francis. New Lothrop finished the season with a 10-3 record and defeated Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port 29-20 in the district finals and Pewamo-Westphalia 28-7 in the district title game. **Ithaca** finished the season with a 10-2 record. The Yellowjackets defeated Ravenna 63-27 to win a district title before falling to Traverse City St. Francis 63-0 in the regional title game.

**DIVISION 8**

**Final: Ottawa Lake Whiteford 26, Ubly 20**

Whiteford quarterback Shea Ruddy broke a 20-20 tie with a touchdown run with 1:59 remaining in the game to give Whiteford its second state title in program history. Whiteford finished the season with a 14-0 record.

**Local angle:** Fowler made a deep run in Division 8 as it reached the regional title game where it fell 49-7 to Ubly. Fowler finished the season with a 10-2 mark and defeated Beal City 28-27 in a district final thriller. **Beal City** ended its season with a 10-1 record. **Evert** ended the season with a 10-2 record after falling 34-33 to Iron Mountain in the regional finals. Evert defeated East Jordan 35-7 to win a district title. **Michigan Lutheran Seminary** finished the

season with a 9-2 record after falling 49-14 to Ubly in the district finals.

**8-MAN DIVISION 1**

**Final: Martin 74, Merrill 20**

Martin won its first football state title since 1987 when it outlasted Merrill 74-20 in the D1 title game. Merrill quarterback Joel Tack passed for 328 yards and three touchdowns as Merrill finished a memorable season with a 12-1 record.

**Local angle:** Breckenridge joined conference rival Merrill in making deep playoff runs. Breckenridge reached the regional title game where it dropped a 68-28 decision to Merrill. Breckenridge, which finished the season with an 8-3 record, dropped two games to Merrill this season and the third game to conference rival Morrice who reached the D2 state semifinals.

**8-MAN DIVISION 2**

**Final: Powers North Central 66, Mendon 26**

Powers North Central won its third straight 8-man state title and extended its winning streak to 37 games by stopping Mendon in the title game.

**Local angle:** Morrice ended the season with a 9-3 overall record. The Orioles defeated Au-Gres Sims 34-14 to win a regional championship before falling to Mendon 30-14 in the state semifinals.

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★

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE BIG SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

★

Braylon Isom

Junior

Saginaw Heritage

Highlights: If you want to describe what a playmaker is on the football field watching Saginaw Heritage junior wide receiver/defensive back Braylon Isom would be a prime example. This 6-foot-3, 195-pound junior did a little bit of everything this season on his way to earning all-state honors in Division 2. As a receiver, Isom caught 59 passes for 1,447, an amazing 24.5 yards per catch or the equivalent of a quarter of the football field. Isom caught 18 touchdowns this season and also added a kick return for a touchdown and returned an interception for a score. As a defender, Isom totaled 62 tackles this season along with four interceptions and two forced fumbles. Isom heads into the offseason with college offers from Central Michigan and Toledo with more on the horizon.

★

O F F E N S I V E

★

QB) Logan Borodychuk, Mt. Pleasant, jr.

This talented passer stepped in and provided the Oilers with a big-time passing attack this season.

RB) Nakai Amachree, Haslett, jr.

This talented junior running back has big-time speed and is drawing plenty of interest from D1 colleges.

WR) Evan Boyd, East Lansing, sr.

Latest in a long line of outstanding East Lansing wide-outs, Boyd will continue his career at Central Michigan.

WR) Braylon Isom, Saginaw Heritage, jr.

One of the top junior receivers in the state, Isom is a big-time playmaker getting heavy interest from D1 colleges.

WR) Alex McLean, Rockford, sr.

All-state in Division 1. Elusive receiver headed to Grand Valley State to continue his career.

WR) Scooter Polk, Mt. Pleasant, sr.

Polk was a threat to take it to the house any time he touched the football for the Oilers.

OL) Gabe Blanchard, Freeland, sr.

A first-team, all-state lineman in D4, Blanchard was a four-year starter and a rock on both sides of the line for the Falcons.

OL) Andrew Dennis, Mt. Pleasant, jr.

This talented junior is one of the premier young linemen in the state and is being recruited by D1 colleges across the Midwest.

OL) Brian Ingram, Mason, sr.

This massive (6-foot-5, 330 pounds) lineman paved the way for a powerful Bulldog running game this season.

OL) Caden McPhillips, Midland, sr.

First-team, all-state in D2, McPhillips is a punishing blocker on offense and playmaker on defense.

OL) Matthew Nehf, DeWitt, sr.

A powerful force in the middle of the Panther offensive line, Nehf will play in college at Central Michigan.

UTL) Bryce Kurncz, DeWitt, sr.

This do it all athlete rushed for 1,409 yards, scored 33 touchdowns and totaled 797 receiving yards.



GABE BLANCHARD  
OL, FREELAND, SR.



MATTHEW NEHF  
OL, DEWITT, SR.



EVAN BOYD  
WR, EAST LANSING, SR.



SCOOTER POLK  
WR, MT. PLEASANT, SR.



NAKAI AMACHREE  
RB, HASLETT, JR.

★

O F F E N S I V E

★

DL) Hunley Horn, Mason, sr.

First-team, all-state selection in D3, Horn is a defensive playmaker with his ability to record sacks or tackles for loss.

DL) Carlos Speed, Holt, sr.

Speed has big-time skills and proved it with his ability to provide impact plays in a variety of ways on defense.

DL) Sam Talaga, Freeland, jr.

This 6-foot-3, 230-pound junior is an all-state defensive end and standout quarterback who is already being heavily recruited.

DL) Teddy Williams, Grand Ledge, sr.

All-state in Division 1, this talented sack master will take his big-play ability to college at Grand Valley State.

LB) Rick Beison, Rockford, sr.

Beison was a tackling machine for the Rams and was a centerpiece of the defense the past couple years.

LB) Max Humphrey, Mt. Pleasant, sr.

A sideline-to-sideline hitter, Humphrey provided big plays and steady production for the Oilers on both sides of the football.

LB) Kanye Jackson, East Lansing, sr.

A high-volume tackler on defense with big-play ability, Jackson was also a force on offense for the Trojans.

DB) Daniel Duley, Freeland, jr.

An excellent all-around athlete, Duley intercepted seven passes this season and was a big-play performer on offense.

DB) Blake Haller, DeWitt, sr.

A standout on both sides of the football and special teams, Haller was a solid defender and tackler in the Panther secondary.

DB) Braden Hill, Charlotte, sr.

A first-team, all-state selection in D4, Hill used his outstanding quickness and speed to impact games on both sides of the line.

DB) Aidan Klein, Mt. Pleasant, sr.

A talented all-around athlete, Klein earned all-state honors at defensive back and was also a productive wide receiver.

PK(P) Brandon Soltis, DeWitt, sr.

Soltis finished his career with a school-record 207 extra points, connected on 8-of-10 field goals and averaged 34.2 yards per punt.



BLAKE HALLER  
DEWITT, SR.



MAX HUMPHREY  
LB, MT. PLEASANT, SR.



CARLOS SPEED  
DL, HOLT, SR.



BRUCE KURNCZ  
UTL, DEWITT, SR.



SAM TALAGA  
DL, FREELAND, JR.

★

SPECIAL-MENTION-OFFENSE

★

Ryan Ahern, RB, Rockford;

Jack Bakus, QB, Midland

Dow; Lionel Baldwin, OL,

Saginaw United; Adam Bren-

ske, OL, Midland Dow; Jalen

Brown, RB, Midland; Jack-

son Burkholder, PK, Rock-

ford; Cason Carswell, QB,

Connor Bailey, DL, Haslett;

Kaden Benaske, DB, Mt.

Pleasant; Austin Benchley,

DL, Midland Dow; Cutler

Brandt, DB, Charlotte; Zach

Buschlen, LB, Midland; Colin

Coffey, DL, Midland; Juan

Dominguez, DL, DeWitt;

Devon Eaton, DL, Charlotte;

Foster, QB, Grand Ledge;

Kaeson Frost, WR, Bay

City Wester; Dorjian Jack-

son, TE, East Lansing; Kal

Kowalic, OL, Mt. Pleasant;

Carlos Lopez, OL, Saginaw

Heritage; AJ Martel, RB,

Mason; Alex McPhee, OL,

LB, Bay City Western; Mer-

rick Hocking, LB, Midland;

Colton Hopp, DL, Bay City

Western; Brady Houtck, LB,

Charlotte; Drew Leuter, DB,

Midland Dow; Ethan Krieger,

LB, Lowell; Cody Malenfant,

DL, East Lansing; Jackson

Mason, DL, Saginaw Her-

Rockford; Caleb Neubecker,

RB, Mt. Pleasant; Mason

Nickel, OL, Midland Dow;

Colin Page, WR, Mason;

Zack Parker, WR, Midland

Dow; Aidan Robinson, RB,

Bay City Western; Mar'Tav-

ion Robinson, WR, Lansing

iteage; Tommy Melzo, LB,

Freeland; Colter Mahabir,

DL, Midland; Blake Moore,

LB, Mt. Pleasant; Isaac

Poot, DB, Rockford; Zander

Prince, DB, Big Rapids; Car-

lington Pryor, DB, Saginaw

Heritage; Cole Ries, DB, Ma-

son; Thys Segard, LB, Rock-

★

SPECIAL-MENTION-DEFENSE

★

Waverly; Ty Robertson, FB,

Saginaw Heritage; Nick

Saade, OL, Mason; Linkin

Stine, OL, DeWitt; Matthew

Uter, OL, Charlotte; Mac

VandenHout, QB, Rockford;

Jonathan Warner, TE, DeWitt

ford; Grant Stahl, DL, Mt.

Pleasant; Tyler Streeter, LB,

Midland Dow; Landon Tabor,

LB, DeWitt; Jack Town, LB,

Haslett; Colby Weston, LB,

Rockford.

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**Nick Wheeler**  
Senior  
Gladwin High School

Highlights: With Wheeler in command of the offense the past three seasons, the Gladwin football team wrapped up the greatest three-year run in school history. An all-state quarterback in Division 5, Wheeler capped his career by leading the Flying G's to the Division 5 state championship this season and a perfect 14-0 record. Wheeler passed for over 1,000 yards and 12 touchdowns this season while running for over 900 yards and 19 touchdowns. A three-year starter at quarterback, Wheeler helped the Flying G's to a pair of conference championships and 27 wins the past three seasons. Wheeler also came up big as a defensive back with over 50 tackles and six interceptions this season including a key fourth-quarter interception in the state semifinals against defending state champion Grand Rapids Catholic Central to help seal the win.

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SMALL SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## OFFENSE

**QB) Nick Wheeler, Gladwin, sr.**  
Passed for over 1,000 yards and rushed for over 900 yards enroute to leading Gladwin to its first-ever state title.

**RB) Kahleel Brown, Birch Run, sr.**  
One of the premier running backs in the state, Brown rushed for 1,828 yards and scored 23 touchdowns this season.

**RB) Drew Miller, Portland, sr.**  
Miller is pound-for-pound one of the best all-around players in the state as he impacts games on both sides of the ball.

**WR) Grayson Ackels, Carson City-Crystal, jr.**  
Ackels provided plenty of big plays this season on his way to earning first-team, all-state honors in Division 8.

**WR) Ethan Hull, Ithaca, sr.**  
Hull turned in a huge season as he hauled in 46 passes for 963 yards and 11 touchdowns this season.

**WR) Connor Hulliberger, Laingsburg, sr.**  
A first-team, all-state receiver in Division 6, Hulliberger was a major threat in the Laingsburg passing game this season.



**DREW MILLER**  
RB, PORTLAND, SR.



**ETHAN HULL**  
WR, ITHACA, SR.



**CARTER WEISS**  
OL, FRANKENMUTH, SR.



**KAHLEEL BROWN**  
RB, BIRCH RUN, SR.



**LINCOLN MCKINNON**  
OL, GLADWIN, SR.

## DEFENSE

**DL) Kaidon Achtabowski, Swan Valley, sr.**

First-team, all-state selection in D5, Achtabowski is a playmaker on defense who totaled 15 tackles for loss and four sacks.

**DL) Branson Goodman, Portland, sr.**  
Goodman earned first-team, all-state honors as a defensive lineman in D5 and is also a standout fullback on offense.

**DL) Brenden Marker, Frankenmuth, sr.**  
A first-team, all-state pick in D7, Marker is a big-play defender who totaled 66 tackles for loss and eight sacks this season.

**DL) Grayson Orr, New Lothrop, sr.**  
A 6-foot-3, 240-pound defensive end, Orr totaled 9.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks as he earned first-team, all-state honors.

**LB) Dalton Debeau, Frankenmuth, sr.**  
Debeau (6-0, 210) is a rangy linebacker who racked up a high volume of tackles and provided impact plays.

**LB) Logan Kokotovich, Gladwin, sr.**  
Kokotovich is a punishing tackler who was a leader of state champion Gladwin's defense this season.



**LOGAN KOKOTOVICH**  
LB, GLADWIN, SR.



**CHARLIE MARTIN**  
DB, ITHACA, SR.



**CAYDEN SMITH**  
DB, BEAL CITY, JR.



**KALEB PESKA**  
LB, ITHACA, SR.



**WILL SOULLIERE**  
PK/P, FRANKENMUTH, JR.

### SPECIAL-MENTION-OFFENSE

Sanford-Meridian: Nolan Mulcahy, RB, New Lothrop; Zack O'Neal, QB, Monroe; Delvon Pascoe-Ward, TE, Altma; Alex Petersburg, QB, Williamston; Lucas Powell, K, Chesaning; Ty Randall, QB, Laingsburg; Riley Ransom, OL, Ewart; Marcel White, WR, Ewart; Josh Wilson, WR, Beal City; Jehiel Wingard, OL, Saginaw Nouel.

Sanford-Meridian: Kaden McDonald, Gladwin, sr. A first-team, all-state defensive back in D7, McDonald is a ball-hawking safety and big-play receiver on offense.

Sanford-Meridian: Cayden Smith, Beal City, jr. An outstanding all-around athlete, Smith is a versatile football player who earned first-team, all-state honors in D8 at defensive back.

Sanford-Meridian: Will Soulliere, Frankenmuth, jr. Soulliere connected on 67 of 68 extra points this season and 13-of-16 field goals with a season-long 42-yarder to his credit.

### SPECIAL-MENTION-DEFENSE

Ithaca: Jake Panches, DL, Clare; Brayden Riley, DB, Sanford-Meridian; Krus Runney, DL, Morley-Stanwood; Evan Sanson, DL, Durand; Hayden Simerson, LB, Saginaw Nouel; Michael Stevenson, DL, Montrose; Ben Straus, DL, Beal City; Caden Thelen, DB, Portland; Drew Tittsworth, DL, Frankenmuth; Troy Wetman PIATH.

Powamono-Westphalia: Alex Wenzlick, DB, New Lothrop; Nathan Willette, LB, Lakewood-Lake Odessa; Clay Wittenberg, LB, Ovid-Elsie; Thomas Zacharko, DB, St. Louis; Liam Zastrow, LB, Hemlock.

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Jan and Cy Fairchild

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**Congratulations Kaden and Collin**

on a Dream Season... What a ride it was!

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**What A Season!!!**

Special thanks to Mike Kolleth, Ryan Heath and Chip D. Grace for your help with all the amazing photos in this month's issue of High School Sports Scene.

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE FOOTBALL STATS



Jack Kulhanek, New Lothrop 1,386  
Cole Hopkins, Ewart 1,340  
Bronson Bupp, Ithaca 1,193  
Thomas Churchill, Saginaw Heritage 1,142  
Earl Essline, Gladwin 1,140  
Jaylen Flowers, Davison 1,133  
Jalen Brown, Midland 1,110  
Aidan Robinson, Bay City Western 1,103  
Wyatt Bower, Corunna 1,094  
Amarion Jenkins, Flushing 1,085  
Braden Hill, Charlotte 1,081  
Tyler Drain, Swan Valley 1,033  
Travis Tucker, Ionia 956  
Austin Williams, Flushing 945  
Logan Kokotovich, Gladwin 932  
Nick Wheeler, Gladwin 905  
Jace Clarizio, East Lansing 892  
Brayden Riley, Sanford-Meridian 888  
Ty Fournier, Freeland 884  
David Evans, Lakeview 828  
Alex Petersburg, Williamston 816  
Kanye Jackson, East Lansing 790  
Collin Sitts, Breckenridge (8-man) 777  
Logan Demarest, Bay City Glenn 769  
Griffin Barker, Frankenmuth 768  
Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 750  
Sawyer Jordan, Merrill (8-man) 728  
Kale Snyder, Bullock Creek 728  
Nolan Mulcahy, New Lothrop 721  
Max Vandenhout, Rockford 711  
Cutter Brandt, Charlotte 709  
Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge (8-man) 680  
Jackson Boge, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (8-man) 668  
AJ Hill, Davison 668  
Jason Davenport, Midland 658  
Caleb Neubecker, Mt. Pleasant 652  
Ben Grant, Lakeview 624  
Aidan Heard, Frankenmuth 610  
Jack Borgman, Laingsburg 608  
Ryan Dabe, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 603  
Samuel Barger, Frankenmuth 599  
Dallas Walsh, Millington 589  
Max Humphrey, Mt. Pleasant 575  
Mason Stocker, Grand Ledge 573  
Ian Crump, Millington 558

### PASSING YARDS

Preston Wallace, Ewart 2,547  
Ethan Mason, Saginaw Heritage 2,362  
Braylen Himmelein, Davison 2,090  
Max Vandenhout, Rockford 1,985  
Dalen Adams, East Lansing 1,965  
Joel Tack, Merrill (8-man) 1,846  
Cade Coquillard, Essexville-Garber 1,830  
Logan Borodychuk, Mt. Pleasant 1,793  
Ty Randall, Laingsburg 1,764  
Bronson Bupp, Ithaca 1,732  
Jack Kulhanek, New Lothrop 1,697  
Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge (8-man) 1,696  
Colton Klein, Swan Valley 1,515  
Jack Bakus, Midland Dow 1,506  
Aidan Heard, Frankenmuth 1,483  
Wyatt Bower, Corunna 1,429  
Alex Petersburg, Williamston 1,369  
Anthony Evans, Concord (8-man) 1,278  
Sam Rosales, Alma 1,173  
Nick Wheeler, Gladwin 1,079  
Ian Crump, Millington 1,026  
Jackson Boge, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (8-man) 1,011  
Elliott Lerner, DeWitt 966  
Jack Jacobs, Lansing Catholic 943  
Shawn Foster, Grand Ledge 893  
Austin Williams, Flushing 890

### PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

Preston Wallace, Ewart 34  
Braylen Himmelein, Davison 27  
Jack Kulhanek, New Lothrop 26  
Joel Tack, Merrill (8-man) 26  
Ethan Mason, Saginaw Heritage 25  
Max Vandenhout, Rockford 23  
Wyatt Bower, Corunna 20  
Cade Coquillard, Essexville-Garber 19  
Bronson Bupp, Ithaca 18  
Aidan Heard, Frankenmuth 18  
Anthony Evans, Concord (8-man) 18  
Ty Randall, Laingsburg 18  
Logan Borodychuk, Mt. Pleasant 16  
Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge (8-man) 15  
Dalen Adams, East Lansing 13  
Bruce Thelen, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 13  
Alex Petersburg, Williamston 12  
Nick Wheeler, Gladwin 12  
Jack Jacobs, Lansing Catholic 11  
Colton Klein, Swan Valley 11  
Dalen Adams, East Lansing 10  
Jack Bakus, Midland Dow 10  
Jackson Boge, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (8-man) 10  
Elliott Lerner, DeWitt 10

### RUSHING YARDS

Bruce Thelen, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 2,638  
Michael Nunn, Farwell (8-man) 1,949  
Kahleel Brown, Birch Run 1,838  
Evan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 1,644  
Shawn Foster, Grand Ledge 1,489  
Bryce Kurncz, DeWitt 1,409

### RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS

Bruce Thelen, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 37  
Michael Nunn, Farwell (8-man) 34  
Aidan Heard, Frankenmuth 28  
Evan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 24  
Kahleel Brown, Birch Run 23  
Shawn Foster, Grand Ledge 21  
Cole Hopkins, Ewart 20  
Nick Wheeler, Gladwin 19  
Jaylen Flowers, Davison 18  
Bryce Kurncz, DeWitt 18  
Jack Kulhanek, New Lothrop 17  
Amarion Jenkins, Flushing 16  
Alex Petersburg, Williamston 16  
Travis Tucker, Ionia 16  
Austin Williams, Flushing 16  
Jalen Brown, Midland 15  
Thomas Churchill, Saginaw Heritage 14  
Earl Essline, Gladwin 14  
Griffin Barker, Frankenmuth 13  
Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge (8-man) 13  
Collin Sitts, Breckenridge (8-man) 13  
David Evans, Lakeview, 13  
Ian Crump, Millington 12  
Ty Fournier, Freeland 12  
Mason Stocker, Grand Ledge 12  
Jason Davenport, Midland 11  
Braden Hill, Charlotte, 11  
Max Humphrey, Mt. Pleasant 11  
Kanye Jackson, East Lansing 11  
Samuel Barger, Frankenmuth 10  
Jackson Boge, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (8-man) 10  
Wyatt Bower, Corunna 10  
Ryan Dabe, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 10  
Tyler Drain, Swan Valley 10  
Aidan Heard, Frankenmuth 10  
Aidan Robinson, Bay City Western 10  
Max Vandenhout, Rockford 10  
Dallas Walsh, Millington 10  
Jace Clarizio, East Lansing 9  
Bryce Cornelius, Holt 9  
Caleb Neubecker, Mt. Pleasant 9  
Ty Randall, Laingsburg 9  
Brayden Riley, Sanford-Meridian 9  
Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 8  
Logan Thompson, Ovid-Elsie 8  
Mason Weaver, Midland 8

### RECEIVING YARDS

Brayton Isom, Saginaw Heritage 1,447  
Evan Boyd, East Lansing 994  
Dakobe White, Ewart 980  
Ethan Hull, Ithaca 963  
Ryan Wolfgang, Breckenridge (8-man) 904  
Zack Parker, Midland Dow 901  
Alex McLean, Rockford 838  
Bryce Kurncz, DeWitt 765  
Scooter Polk, Mt. Pleasant 758  
Marcel White, Ewart 758  
Brandon Lewis, Lansing Catholic 737  
Kaleb Walker, Merrill (8-man) 717  
Brayden Tacey, Essexville-Garber 633  
Teon Armstrong, Davison 630  
Jadon Podolak, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 598  
Connor Hulliberger, Laingsburg 591  
Drew Kaeckmeister, Swan Valley 570  
Henry Carstarphen, Davison 566  
Aiden Klein, Mt. Pleasant 551  
Dorrian Jackson, East Lansing 525  
Cade Sutherland, Alma 524  
Nick Barnette, New Lothrop 517  
Denver Coty, Merrill (8-man) 503  
Ethan Burrows, Essexville-Garber 450  
Connor Stempky, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (8-man) 443  
Teddy Williams, Grand Ledge 433  
Sam Wickham, Swan Valley 432  
Max Fellows, Essexville-Garber 431  
Zach Gribble, Williamston 427  
Brody Thompson, Rockford 426  
Jack Borgman, Laingsburg 425  
Mitch Jackson, Saranac 415  
Braden Hill, Charlotte 414  
Clay Wittenberg, Ovid-Elsie 414

### RECEPTIONS

Zack Parker, Midland Dow 65  
Alex McLean, Rockford 63  
Evan Boyd, East Lansing 61  
Brayton Isom, Saginaw Heritage 59  
Brandon Lewis, Lansing Catholic 53  
Marcel White, Ewart 51  
Ryan Wolfgang, Breckenridge (8-man) 50  
Bryce Kurncz, DeWitt 49  
Ethan Hull, Ithaca 46  
Dakobe White, Ewart 44  
Connor Stempky, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (8-man) 41  
Jack Borgman, Laingsburg 38  
Connor Hulliberger, Laingsburg 38  
Teon Armstrong, Davison 37  
Mitch Jackson, Saranac 35  
Henry Carstarphen, Davison 34  
Ethan Burrows, Essexville-Garber 32  
Cade Sutherland, Alma 31  
Brayden Tacey, Essexville-Garber 31  
Drew Kaeckmeister, Swan Valley 30  
Dorrian Jackson, East Lansing 29  
Jadon Podolak, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 29  
Joe McDonald, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (8-man) 28  
Brody Thompson, Rockford 27  
Jacob Ladd, Ewart 26

### RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS

Brayton Isom, Saginaw Heritage 18  
Dakobe White, Ewart 13  
Kaleb Walker, Merrill (8-man) 12  
Ethan Hull, Ithaca 11  
Bryce Kurncz, DeWitt 11  
Henry Carstarphen, Davison 9  
Brandon Lewis, Lansing Catholic 9  
Alex McLean, Rockford 9  
Scooter Polk, Mt. Pleasant 9  
Marcel White, Ewart 9  
Ryan Wolfgang, Breckenridge (8-man) 9  
Denver Coty, Merrill (8-man) 8  
Drew Kaeckmeister, Swan Valley 8  
Noah Mulcahy, New Lothrop 8  
Zack Parker, Midland Dow 8  
Jadon Podolak, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 8  
Jacob Ladd, Ewart 7  
Ethan Burrows, Essexville-Garber 6  
Max Fellows, Essexville-Garber 6  
Cade Sutherland, Alma 6  
Brayden Tacey, Essexville-Garber 6  
Teddy Williams, Grand Ledge 6

### TACKLES

Ethan Burrows, Essexville-Garber 124

Carter Herriman, Davison 118  
Kieran Jackson, East Lansing 114  
Rick Beison, Rockford 110  
Collin Sitts, Breckenridge (8-man) 108  
Cameron Raftery, Merrill (8-man) 105  
Cole Hopkins, Ewart, 104  
Ryan Ahern, Rockford 102  
Cutter Brandt, Charlotte 99  
Cade Coquillard, Essexville-Garber 98  
Garrett Forgash, Bay City John Glenn 97  
Kaleb Peska, Ithaca 96  
Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 94  
Jaxon Craven, Ewart 93  
Jacob Ladd, Ewart 93  
Tommy Melzo, Freeland 93  
Brody Houck, Charlotte, 92  
Gabe Blanchard, Freeland 90  
Taveon Demps, East Lansing 88  
Kanye Jackson, East Lansing 88  
Nick Gruber, Lansing Catholic 87  
Tanner Szczepanski, Essexville-Garber 87  
Clay Wittenberg, Ovid-Elsie 86.5  
Liam Zastrow, Hemlock 82  
Bruce Thelen, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 80  
Tanner Graber, Ewart 77  
Bo Schwartz, Bullock Creek 76  
Ben Sporman, Bay City Central 76  
Westyn Bryant, Clare 72  
Dezmond Blair, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 71  
Zayne Mowles, Morley-Stanwood 66  
Camden Smith, Breckenridge (8-man) 65  
Peyton Reynolds, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 64  
William Eubank, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 62  
Jackson Vrable, Bay City Glenn 60

### SACKS

Xzavior Garcia, Breckenridge (8-man) 16  
Dezmond Blair, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 12  
Devon Eaton, Charlotte 9  
Kevin Ley, Ovid-Elsie 9  
Colin Sain, Frankenmuth 9  
Collin Sitts, Breckenridge (8-man) 9  
Landon Stoneman, Ovid-Elsie 9  
Cameron Raftery, Merrill (8-man) 8  
Camden Smith, Breckenridge (8-man) 8  
Tyler Dosh, Davison 7.5  
Brandon Pass, Ithaca 7.5  
Teddy Williams, Grand Ledge 7.5  
Tanner Graber, Ewart 7  
Brenden Marker, Frankenmuth 7  
Jaxon Clark, Davison 6.5  
Grevin Hendricks, Millington 6.5  
Carter Herriman, Davison 6.5  
Kruz Rumsey, Morley-Stanwood 6.5  
Kieran Jackson, East Lansing 6  
Matthew Neff, DeWitt 6  
Peyton Reynolds, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 6  
Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 5.5  
Garrett Forgash, Bay City Glenn 5  
Michael Nunn, Farwell (8-man) 5  
Derek Simmons, Frankenmuth 5  
Drew Titsworth, Frankenmuth 5

### INTERCEPTIONS

Wyatt Bower, Corunna 7  
Daniel Duley, Freeland 7  
Carson Koehler, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 7  
Jaxon Guilbeaux, Swan Valley 6  
Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge (8-man) 6  
Jadon Podolak, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 6  
Braxton Stenger, Ovid-Elsie 6  
Ethan Burrows, Essexville-Garber 5  
Max Eastman, Breckenridge (8-man) 5  
Charlie Martyn, Ithaca 5  
Joe McDonald, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (8-man) 5  
Brayden Rabideau, Lansing Catholic 5  
Bruce Thelen, Fulton-Middleton (8-man) 5  
Preston Wallace, Ewart 5  
Nick Wheeler, Gladwin 5

### PUNTING

Fulton Reed, Charlotte 40.9  
Blake Guilford, Central-Montcalm 39.8  
Noah Duncel, Williamston 39.7  
Sam Rosales, Alma 37.8  
Eli Murphy, Freeland 37.6  
Sawyer Glennie, Davison 37.2  
Westyn Bryant, Clare 36.6  
Mitchell Roberts, East Lansing 36.1

Coaches, statisticians, High School Sports Scene Magazine wants to be the source for high school football stats this season. Feel free to contact us with any updates or statistics you have. Send any updates to [greg102300@yahoo.com](mailto:greg102300@yahoo.com). HSSS will be updating the football stats page on a daily basis.

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PRESENTS



GIRLS GOLF  
BIG SCHOOL  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR



**Kate Brody**  
senior

Grand Blanc High School

Kate Brody did it all this season for Grand Blanc High School. She was named Miss Golf after winning her second MHSAA Division 1 state golf championship. She also won the state title in 2020. Now she can add the Sports Scene Big School Girls Golfer of the Year to her resume.

Brody won 10 - of 11 - invitational tournaments this fall while averaging 69.2 strokes per tourney. She shot 73-72 - 145 to win the state title in October.

She also set a course record at The Fortress in Frankenmuth with a 62.



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GIRLS GOLF  
SMALL SCHOOL  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR



**Averie Pumford**  
sophomore

Freeland High School

Averie Pumford is long off the tee, with drives reaching in excess of 240 yards and her scores showed it this season.

For her outstanding season leading Freeland to the Division 3 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 3 Finals Pumford is being honored as the Sports Scene Small School Player of the Year.

The Falcon sophomore broke the school record twice this season shooting a 74 earlier in the season breaking the old record of 75. Less than a week later Pumford bettered her own record with a 71 at Pine River Country Club in Alma.



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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE  
BOYS SOCCER BIG SCHOOL  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**Andrew Bultman**  
senior  
Rockford High School

**Highlights:** Bultman turned in a huge season as he helped lead Rockford to the championship match in Division 1. A talented forward who is a threat to score or set up a teammate, Bultman totaled 18 goals and 11 assists as he was selected to the all-state Dream Team and also earned first-team, all-state honors in Division 1. The senior captain also scored a big goal in Rockford district win which gave the Rams their first district title in 15 years.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE BOYS  
SOCCER BIG SCHOOL PLAYER OF  
THE YEAR

**Leo Richter**  
junior  
Alma High School

**Highlights:** This talented junior is taking his place as one of the finest soccer players in Alma soccer annals and just helped the Panthers to one of the finest seasons in school history. A second-team, all-state forward, Richter scored a school-record 35 goals this season, breaking the previous record of 33, and added 10 assists. Richter helped Alma win a district title for the second time in the past three years. Richter also helped the Panthers win a regional semifinal game before coming up short in the regional title match.

# Area All-State Soccer Players

**DIVISION 1  
First Team**

Leo Arana, Okemos, midfield, sr.  
Andrew Bultman, Rockford, forward, sr.

**Second Team**

Ben Bottreall, Rockford, forward, sr.  
Alex Gandhi, Okemos, midfield, sr.

**Third Team**

Zenon Fedorowych, Rockford, midfield, sr.  
Sawyer VanAntwerp, Okemos, keeper, sr.  
**Honorable mention**

Tegan Gumbs, Rockford, keeper, so.  
Holden Knapp, East Lansing, midfield, sr.  
Isaac Skinner, Midland Dow, midfield, sr.

**DIVISION 2  
Second Team**

Lucas Nay, Mason, midfield, jr.  
Lucas Perez, DeWitt, midfield, sr.

**Third Team**

Ruslan Masalitin, DeWitt, midfield, soph.  
Brayden Powers, DeWitt, forward, jr.

**Honorable mention**

Dominic Casali, Mason, keeper, sr.  
Blendi Jahiri, Mason, forward, soph.  
Jackson Janderwski, DeWitt, keeper, soph.  
Caiden McDonald, DeWitt, defender, sr.  
Zane Sarka, Ionia, forward, jr.

**DIVISION 3**

**First Team**

Evan Baker, Frankenmuth, midfield, sr.

**Second Team**

Brady Lendzion, Flint Powers, forward, jr.  
Kendall Morris, Frankenmuth, forward, sr.  
Nathan Niederquell, Freeland, midfield, sr.  
Leo Richter, Alma, forward, jr.

**Third Team**


Kyle Bush, Eaton Rapids, keeper, sr.  
Jack Lemerand, Alma, midfield, fr.  
Leo Stravato, Flint Powers, defender, soph.

**Honorable Mention**


Daniel Ash, Alma, forward, jr.

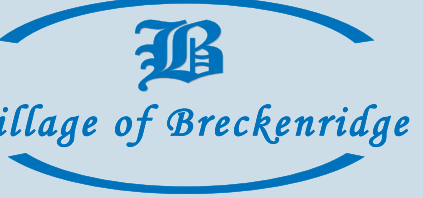
Many area soccer players took home All-State honors during the 2022 season.







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# Area Swimmers, Divers Compete At State Finals

**Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene**

**DIVISION 1**

Ann Arbor Pioneer came away with the Division 1 state title as the Pioneers totaled 322 points. Northville placed second with 218 points while Saline was third with 174.

**Rockford Swimmers  
Take 12<sup>th</sup> At State Finals**

The Rockford swim team placed 12<sup>th</sup> at the Division 1 state finals with a total of 57 points. The Rams were led at the finals by their relay teams and a pair of divers.

Rockford was led by a pair of divers who finished in the top ten. Sophomore Emma Shutich placed ninth overall in diving while junior Lucy Verwys placed 10<sup>th</sup>.

A trio of relay teams scored points by finishing in the top 16 to earn all-state honors. The 200-medley relay team of Adrianna Alcala, Madelyn St. Charles, Cambell Quijano and Faith Bargwell placed 12<sup>th</sup> while the 200-free relay team of Taylor Scott, St. Charles, Avery Rottier and Bargwell also took 12<sup>th</sup> place. The 400-free relay team of Allie Stiles, Marie Prawdzik, Rottier and Cambell placed 13<sup>th</sup>.

Individually, Cambell, a sophomore, placed sixth in the 100 butterfly with a time of 58.21.

**Holt, Diver Earn All-State Honors**

Holt junior Bella Emery earned all-state honors in Division 1 in the diving competition. Emery finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place in diving to score Holt a total of six team points.

**DIVISION 2**

East Grand Rapids won the Division 2 swim championship as it totaled 280 points. Jenison was second with 219 points and Birmingham Seaholm was third with 183 points.

**Okemos Diver Competes  
For State Title**

Okemos senior Caroline Li capped her career in a big way as she placed second in the diving competition in Division 2. Li totaled 492.25 points to take second behind Lily Witte of Dexter who totaled 554.65.

**Dow Places In Top  
10 At Swim Finals**

The Midland Dow swim team wrapped up the season with a top-ten finish at the Division 2 swimming state finals as the Chargers placed seventh overall with 140 points.

Dow was led by senior Ella Roberson who

won the 100 freestyle in a time of 50.13 and placed second in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:49.65.

Roberson was also a part of a pair of Charger relay teams that earned all-state honors. Leading the way for Dow was the 200-free relay team of Roberson, Emmy Sower, Eryn Murphy and Meya Luft who took second place. The 400-free relay team that included Roberson, Sower, Emily Thackery and Morgan Retzlloff placed fifth while the 200-medley relay team of Sower, Murphy, Alea Casipit and Luft placed 11<sup>th</sup>.

Dow also had a trio of individuals earn all-state honors. Senior Emily Krzciok placed seventh in the diving competition, Sower placed seventh in the 100 butterfly and Murphy placed 12<sup>th</sup> in the 50 freestyle.

**Dewitt Swimmer Places  
In Pair Of Events**

DeWitt senior Anya Hopek capped her high school swimming career with a pair of strong efforts. Hopek placed eight in the 50 freestyle and 15<sup>th</sup> in the 100 freestyle to earn all-state honors. The swims by Hopek enabled DeWitt to placed 24<sup>th</sup> as a team.

**East Lansing Diver  
Places At State Finals**

East Lansing senior Gwen Petrie ended the season by earning all-state honors in diving at the state finals. Petrie placed ninth overall in the diving competition.

**DIVISION 3**

Bloomfield Hills Marian came away with the Division 3 swimming and diving state championships with a total of 245 points. Holland Christian was second with 230.5 points while Milan took third place with 208 points.

**St. Johns Swimmers  
Place 13<sup>th</sup> At State**

The St. Johns swim team wrapped up the season by placing 13<sup>th</sup> overall with a total of 57 points in Division 3. Junior Ella Schafer led the way for the Redwings as she finished in third place in both the 100 freestyle and the 100 breast stroke. Schafer also set new school records in each event. Junior Katarina Schaefer also turned in a pair strong efforts as she placed sixth in the 200 freestyle and ninth in the 100 butterfly.

St. Johns also had a relay team earn all-state honors as the 200 free relay team of Adriana Longoria, Madelyn Sweckard, Natalie Ott and Katarina Schaefer placed 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Ionia Swim Team Places In Top  
20 At D3 State Swim Finals**

The Ionia swim team finished the season



The action was fast and furious as area swimmers competed at the state swimming and diving finals this season.

strong by placing in a tie for 16<sup>th</sup> place at the Division 3 state swimming finals.

The Bulldogs were led by Amelia and Madeline McGee who both earned all-state honors in a pair of events. Madeline McGee placed second in the 100 backstroke and sixth in the butterfly. Amelia McGee took seventh place in the 100 backstroke and 13<sup>th</sup> in the 100 freestyle.

**Begres Leads The Way For Bay  
City Glenn At State Meet**

Belle Begres led the way for the Bay City John Glenn swim team at the Division 3 state meet. Begres earned all-state honors in a pair of events and was also part of a relay team that earned all-state honors as John Glenn placed 25<sup>th</sup> as a team.

Begres placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the 100 breast stroke and 15<sup>th</sup> in the 100 freestyle. Begres team up with Jayna Darbee, Emily Lang and Olivia Leasure to finish in 10<sup>th</sup> place in the 200 free relay.

**Owosso Swimmers Earn  
All-State Honors At State**

The Owosso swim team has a number of swimmers earn all-state honors as the

Trojans placed 27<sup>th</sup> at the Division 3 state finals.

Kate Grinnell led the way for Owosso as she placed 12<sup>th</sup> in the 500 freestyle and 13<sup>th</sup> in the 200 freestyle.

Owosso also had a pair of relay teams earn all-state honors. The 200-free relay team of Lily Pumford, Amanda Brainerd, Sophie Voss and Grinnell placed 13<sup>th</sup> while the 200-medley relay team of Pumford, Brainerd, Lily Usher and Voss placed 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Corunna Diver Earns  
All-State Honors**

Emma Kirkey of Corunna capped another solid season of diving by earning all-state honors in Division 3. A three-time, state qualifier, Kirkey placed 14<sup>th</sup> overall at this year's state finals. That performance wrapped up a big season that saw Kirkey set a new school record in diving.

**Eaton Rapids Swimmer  
Earns All-State Honors**

Bethany Stowell of Eaton Rapids earned all-state honors in a pair of events at the Division 3 state finals. Stowell placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the 200 IM and 12<sup>th</sup> in the 100 backstroke.

# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SWIMMER OF THE YEAR

**Ella Roberson**  
senior

Midland Dow High School

**Highlights:** Roberson wrapped up her career in a big way as she won the Division 2 state title in the 100 freestyle in a time of 50.13 at the Division 2 state swimming finals. Roberson also placed second in the state in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:49.65. Roberson was also part of a pair of Dow relay teams that earned all-state honors at the state meet. An outstanding student with a 4.76 grade-point average, Roberson is undecided on her college choice. One of the finest swimmers to come out of Dow, Roberson is the school record holder in the 100 freestyle, the 200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle.





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