



**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE**  
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- **Publisher**  
Randy Miniard  
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com  
517-202-1808
- **High School Liaison**  
Paul Hornak  
plhornak@gmail.com  
989-331-1168
- **Editorial**  
John Raffel  
john.raffel@gmail.com  
616-894-2936
- Butch Harmon  
616-655-9058
- Dave Cook
- Scott Keyes  
racinitnews@yahoo.com  
989-890-4036
- **Photographers**  
Skip Traynor, Dana McCann,  
Eric Sawatzki, Marvin Hall,  
Jaymee Beard, Lynn Munger,  
John Raffel, Jason Barden,  
James Traylor, Yoland Hayward,  
Lizzy Neal, Rachel Rosales,  
Kyle Curtis, Bailey Miniard,  
Rylee Turner, Joe Vozar

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## COACHES:

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### PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

There is a chill and the air and the leaves are falling so that means one thing in the fall; time for some high school football state playoffs!!!!

The first round of the state playoffs kicked off with some outstanding games and one of the best was the Fowler and Ithaca district game at Ithaca.

What a thriller of a game by these two outstanding teams. It's a shame the playoffs are not seeded as this game would've been an outstanding state final or semifinal or regional at least. Both teams did a great job of moving the ball and battling back. Ithaca scored on a late drive to go ahead 28-21.

Fowler, however, would not quit. The Eagles drove the ball down field and scored a touchdown with just over a minute remaining to cut the margin to one. After a penalty on the extra point, Fowler had the ball at the one-yard line and decided to go for the two-point conversion and the win. Ithaca's defense, however, was up to the task and made the stop to preserve the lead and the win!!!!

What a game!!!!

Week two of the playoffs promises more great action. Ithaca travels to New Lothrop for what will be a barnburner. Down in Corunna, the high-flying Cavaliers host Pontiac Notre Dame in a battle of unbeaten teams that should be a classic.

In Mt. Pleasant, a huge battle sets up between the host Oilers who are having a great season will take on Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, a team that played in the Division 2 state title game last season. Plenty of future college talent will be on the field including Mt. Pleasant quarterback Logan Borodychuk who is headed down the street to CMU, Oiler offensive lineman Andrew Dennis, Forest Hills Central defensive back Ty Hudkins who is headed to Purdue and Central junior defensive end Max Richardson who has already committed to Stanford.

Some other outstanding games on the schedule include the big rematch in Mason where the unbeaten Bulldogs host DeWitt, Midland Bullock Creek at Chesaning, Freeland at Goodrich and Lansing Catholic at Ovid-Elsie.

So bundle up, get some hot chocolate and enjoy the great playoff games coming up.

See you at the games!



Randy Miniard  
Publisher/Owner  
517-202-1808  
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com

## Alma Soccer Team Makes Program History By Winning Regional Championship

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

An outstanding season turned into a historic one for the Alma soccer team.

After winning 14 games and reaching the regional finals last season, the Alma soccer team is in new territory this season. Alma not only reached the regional level in the state tournament again this fall but with a 2-1 win against Fremont in the regional title game the Panthers brought back the first regional championship trophy in school history. The win sends Alma to the Division 3 final four where they are scheduled to play Hudsonville Unity Christian.

"It was a pretty special moment for both the guys and the program as a whole," said Alma coach Nick O'Neill. "This is my 20th year as head coach and the program has come a long way. That first year we didn't win any games. The seniors on this year's team have won the district title three times. We made the regional finals last year and to come back and break through and win the regional title this year is pretty amazing."

Alma upped the lead to 2-0 when senior Leo Richter scored halfway through the second half. The goal was the 91st of Richter's career. Richter set a new career goal record earlier this season when he scored the 81st goal of his career. Fremont scored a goal with 19 minutes left in the game and had several scoring opportunities in the

later stages of the game only to be turned away by Alma goalkeeper Noah Vega who made a number of big saves to preserve the win.

Alma has been led this season by its senior class. The Panthers have nine seniors on this year's squad including six seniors who start. Depth is also a strong point for the Panthers.

"We have a lot of depth and we are also pretty athletic," O'Neill said. "This is probably the most athletic team I've ever had."

Offensively, Alma is led by Richter and Truman. The Panther offense also relies on sophomore attacking midfielder Jack Lemerand who has 18 goals and 15 assists this season.

"Jack really does a great job of dominating the midfield for us," O'Neill said. "He generates a lot of offensive chances for us."

Rounding out the Alma midfield are juniors Ashton Wilson and Keegan Crowe who play on the left and right side respectively and senior Aydan Marks.

"Aydan is a senior with a lot of experience," O'Neill said. "He is not a big guy but he plays very physical."

Alma built a 2-0 lead in the game before Fremont scored in the second half and kept the pressure on the Panthers in the final minutes of the match.

Alma took a 1-0 lead in the first half on a goal by sophomore Brayden Truman. The goal by Truman was his 32nd of the season.

Alma scored a goal with 19 minutes left in the game and had several scoring opportunities in the

later stages of the game only to be turned away by Alma goalkeeper Noah Vega who made a number of big saves to preserve the win.

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The Alma soccer team celebrates after defeating Fremont to win the first regional championship in school history.

Senior defensive midfielder Aidan O'Neill, son of coach O'Neill, is another key to the defense at midfield.

"Aidan is the heart of the team and sets the tone," coach O'Neill said. "He is really good defensively and sets the tone for our defense."

Along the defensive back line, the Panthers have four seniors who rotate at the three starting positions. Daniel Ash, Ethan Bailey, Eli Haller and Colin Hellinski lead the way on defense.

"Our four seniors rotate on defense," O'Neill said. "It feels like we have four starters for three positions with all that experience. All four of them have a lot of experience and are big, strong and fast players."

The Panthers also have plenty of depth to call on.

"We have a good mix of seniors and underclassmen who give us a lot of depth," O'Neill said.

Among the players providing major minutes for the Panthers off the bench are sophomore midfielder Jackson Hemker, senior wing Calvin Galloway and junior forward Aidan Fletcher.

Along with winning regional and district titles, Alma won a conference title. Alma turned in a 11-1 conference record and captured the Tri Valley Conference Red Division title.

"One of the goals we set was to win the conference title," O'Neill said. "We were excited about that. It was our first conference title since moving to the Red Division which has all the bigger schools in the TVC."

Alma has also won 17 games in a row enroute to winning the titles.

"We've been on quite a run," O'Neill said. "We've won every game since the end of August and it's been pretty exciting."

## Lowell Enjoys Another Playoff Season

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Lowell's football team has been working toward various goals all season.

"Season goals were to make the playoffs and to win the OK White," coach Jacob Henige said. "We accomplished our goal of making the playoffs, but fell short of winning the OK White. Our goal moving forward during the playoffs is to find a way to go 1-0 every week."

A highlight was beating Byron Center on Week 6, 38-28.

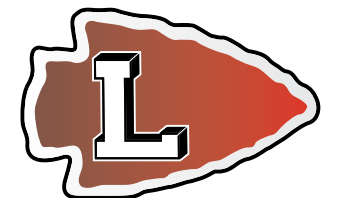
"We had injuries to multiple seniors that had to miss the majority of the season or the rest of the season," Henige said "TJ Hollern was lost for the season after he sustained

a Week 5 injury (Missed 4 games). Tacho Gonzales missed Games 2-7 (6 weeks) due to injury.

Stat leaders have been as follows

- Jackson Reisbig QB/DB: - 44/62 (71%), 744 passing yards, 9 TDs 1 INT
- 185 Rushing attempts 1,177 yards (6.36 AVG), 21 TDs
- 18 Tackles, 3 INTs
- 13 Punts, 500 yards (38.4 AVG), 2 Inside 20
- Brady Swift RB/DT: - 64 Rushing attempts, 402 yards (6.28 AVG), 3 TDs
- 1 Reception 26 yards, 1 TD
- 32 Tackles, 3.5 Sacks, 10 Tackles for loss

- TJ Hollern ILB/RB: - 6 KOR, 152yards (25.33) - 10Tackles, 1 INT
- 16 Rushing attempts, 85 yards (5.31 AVG), 1TD
- Marshall VanWagner DE/TE: - 6 Receptions 92 yards (15.33 AVG)
- 50 Tackles, 6 Tackles for loss, 2 INT
- Bobby Nichols RB/ILB: - 42 Tackles, 5 Sacks, 7.5 Tackles for loss
- 40 Rushing attempts, 179 yards (4.47 AVG), 3 TDs
- Nick Williams WR/TE: - 4 Receptions 47yards
- 8 Receptions, 130 yards (16.25 AVG), 3 TDs- Key Edge blocker for an offense that averages 280 rushing yards per game.
- 35 Tackles, 1 Sacks, 1 Tackle for loss, 1 INT, 1 FF
- The season ended at 6-4 for Lowell.
- Xavier Young DB/WR/KR/PR: - 7 KOR, 199 yards (28.42)
- 12 Receptions, 200 yards (16.66 AVG), 2 TDs
- 25 Tackles, 1 INT
- Ben Gaskin DB/WR/KR/PR: - 11 Receptions, 236 yards (21.45 AVG), 3 TDs




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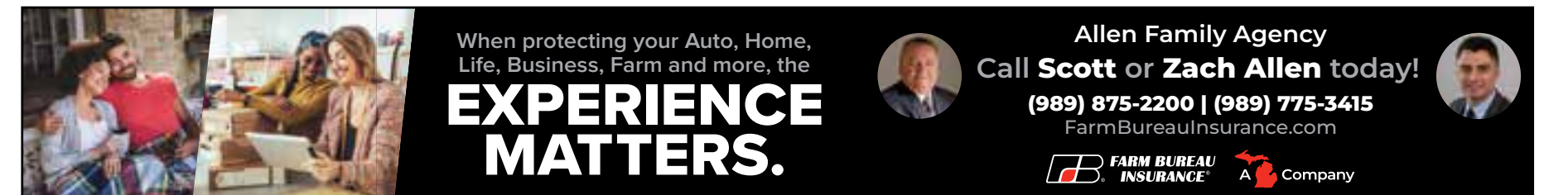
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# Division 1, 2, 3 And 4 MHSAA High School Football Playoff Preview

## David Cook & Butch Harmon Sports Scene

### DIVISION 1 AREA TEAMS TO WATCH Rockford

The Rams feature a high-powered offense led by quarterback Drake Irwin who is a dangerous dual-threat quarterback. Irwin has a variety of talented gamebreakers at wide receiver to throw. Rockford can also gash teams with the running game. Running backs Ryan Ahern, Corbin Starkey and Isaac Poot can wear teams down running behind a big and strong offensive line.

The Rams also have a solid defense. Only four teams have managed to reach double digits against the Rockford defense with 16 points allowed against Caledonia being the most any team has scored on the Rams this season.

**Davison**  
When talking high-powered offenses in the state of Michigan the conversation begins with the Cardinals of Davison. Few teams are as explosive as this Davison squad. The Cardinals are averaging 49.3 points per game and have really increased the RPMs in the final weeks of the season. Over the final six weeks of the season Davison has scored 50 or more points four times including a 76-point outburst against Lapeer in the opening game of the playoffs.



Quarterback Sawyer Glennie passed for close to 2,000 yards and 29 touchdowns during the regular season with receivers like Buddy Banks-Williams and Braylen Naves running free through opposing secondaries. Running back AJ Hill has been gashing teams via the run while operating behind a big, strong offensive line led by massive sophomore standout Ben Nichols (6-foot-6, 330 pounds).

The Davison defense also does an excellent job of shutting teams down. Linebacker Carter Herriman (6-1, 220) is a sideline-to-sideline hitter while defensive end Tyler Dosh (6-0, 225) brings the heat off the edge.

**Top D1 contenders in the state:** Rockford (10-0), Davison (10-0), Belleville (10-0), Lake Orion (10-0), Saline (9-1).

**The skinny:** The top half of the D1 bracket is absolutely loaded. Consider a district final game between last year's D1 state champion Belleville and Saline led by Notre Dame quarterback recruit CJ Carr and a potential regional final matchup of Rockford and Davison with the winner likely to face either Belleville or Saline. Lake Orion looks to be the favorite in the bottom half of the bracket with Southfield, Detroit Cass Tech and West Bloomfield in the mix as well.

**HSSS DIVISION 1 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Rockford 34, Belleville 28**

### DIVISION 2 AREA TEAMS TO WATCH Saginaw Heritage

While Davison has one of the most explosive offenses in Division 1, fellow Saginaw Valley League rival Saginaw Heritage has one of the premier offenses in Division 2. The Hawks are putting up 45.2 points per game and scored 57 and 62 points in their week nine game and first-round playoff game.

The Hawks can strike in a myriad of ways. Quarterback Ethan Mason passed for over 1,500 yards during the regular season and has the premier touchdown-making receiver in senior Braydon Isom. Pile driving senior running back Ty Robertson garners chunks of yardage in the ground game.

**East Lansing**  
East Lansing has been on a roll after opening the season with losses against strong D1 teams Portage Central and Hudsonville. The Trojans have reeled off eight straight wins since the 0-2 start with an offense that is putting up 34.8 points per game and a defense that is allowing 15.1 per game. East Lansing features a balanced offense led by quarterback Benjamin Fletcher along with wide receiver Charlier Baker and running back Jace Clarizio and Dwataye Sams.

Mt. Pleasant quarterback Logan Borodychuk is looking to lead the Oilers on a deep playoff run.

**Top D2 contenders in the state:** Muskegon (8-2), Warren De La Salle (8-2), Grosse Pointe South (9-1), Caledonia (8-2).

**The skinny:** Defending D2 state champion Warren De La Salle is the team to beat even with a pair of losses on its resume. Those losses came against D1 powerhouse Davison by five points and a five-point loss against Ohio powerhouse Toledo Central Catholic. De La Salle also has a 40-28 win against Muskegon to its credit. In the upper half of the bracket, Saginaw Heritage, Muskegon and Caledonia, a finalist in D1 last year, are the teams to watch.

**HSSS DIVISION 2 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Warren De La Salle 34, Muskegon 27**

### DIVISION 3 Mason

Mason has reached the state semifinals the past two years and this season the Bulldogs are determined to burst through the door to Ford Field. Mason checks all the boxes this season with a talented quarterback in Cason Carswell piloting a big-play offense that features plenty of receiving threats and a 1,000-yard rusher in AJ Martel. Mason also features plenty of size and experience along both lines. Mason also has a solid defense that allows just 12.9 points per game.

**Mt. Pleasant**  
Mt. Pleasant has reached the district title game the last three years and this season the Oilers are determined to take the next step. Mt. Pleasant has a potent offense led by senior quarterback and Central Michigan recruit Logan Borodychuk who has passed for over 1,500 yards and 21 touchdowns during the regular season. The Oilers have an outstanding offensive line anchored by Division 1 recruit Andrew Dennis. After opening the playoffs with a win against Grand Rapids Northview, the road become substantially more difficult with Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central looming in the district title game.

**DeWitt**  
Led by dual-threat quarterback Elliot Larner who had some 2,000 yards of total offense this season, the Panthers steadily improved as the season progressed. After starting the season 1-2 with losses against Mason and East Lansing, the Panthers have won six straight games. The Dewitt offense has also scored 40 or more points in all six of the wins including a 56-point outburst against Fenton in the first round of the playoff.

**Top D3 contenders in the state:** Mason (10-0), Mt. Pleasant (9-1), Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central (9-1), Gaylord (10-0), Detroit King

(5-5), Walled Lake Western (9-1), Zeeland West (7-3).

**The skinny:** Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central reached the D2 state title game last year and is now in D3 where it will be a tough out. Central is part of a top half of the bracket that includes Mt. Pleasant, an undefeated Gaylord powerhouse, and a dangerous Zeeland West team. Mason will be navigating the bottom half of the bracket where it will likely have to get past Detroit King. While King may not have an impressive record, the Crusaders have a load of talent and tradition and are tested tough after going through a rugged regular-season schedule.

**HSSS DIVISION 3 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Mason 28, Forest Hills Central 20**

### DIVISION 4 Portland

Portland has reached at least the regional round the last two years and this year the Raiders have a squad capable of at least that deep a playoff run if not more. Portland features an outstanding defense that is allowing just 5.3 points per game and has allowed just one opponent to reach double figures. The Raiders also have no problems scoring themselves as they are putting up 42.8 points per game.

**Freeland**  
The Falcons have reached the state semifinals twice in the past three years and this year's squad has the talent and experience to get there again. The Falcons have a high-scoring offense putting up 44.3 points per game while the defense has been solid this season. The Falcons face a rugged district final matchup against a Goodrich team that they fell 10-9 in last season's district finals.

**Haslett**  
The Vikings have faced a rugged schedule this season and have a potent offense led by big-play running back Nakai Amachree who has rushed for over 1,000 yards. Haslett faces a tough test in Chelsea in the district finals.

**Top D4 contenders in the state:** Whitehall (10-0), Portland (10-0), Goodrich (9-1), Freeland (9-1), Chelsea (9-1), Niles (9-1), Harper Woods (7-3).

**The skinny:** The top half of the bracket may come down to a semifinal showdown between unbeaten Portland and Whitehall. The bottom half of the bracket is more wide open. Chelsea, Goodrich, Freeland and Carlton-Airport are all capable of making it to Ford Field.

**HSSS DIVISION 4 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Portland 26, Goodrich 14**

# Division 5, 6, And 7 MHSAA High School Football Playoff Preview

## David Cook & Butch Harmon Sports Scene

### DIVISION 5 AREA TEAMS TO WATCH Corunna

The Cavaliers are turning in one of the best seasons in school history. Corunna has an explosive offense led by quarterback Wyatt Bower. An outstanding dual threat, Bower provides the Cavaliers with plenty of big plays. Tarick Bower, Wyatt's twin brother, is another source of explosive plays and is a big reason the Corunna offense is averaging 45.2 points per game. Corunna also features an outstanding defense that is allowing 5.9 points per game. Dayne Zeeman, Jaden Eddington and Bryce Eddington are among the players leading the way on defense along with the Bower brothers.

**Frankenmuth**  
The Eagles have reached the Division 5 state championship game two of the last three seasons and reached the semifinal in the other season. This year's squad has similar potential. Frankenmuth is averaging 45.5 points per game with a multi-dimensional offense led by quarterback Jack Rich. The Eagles also boast a solid defense that is allowing 10.2 points per game. Frankenmuth has reeled off nine straight wins after opening the season falling to Division 4 power Goodrich 14-8. The Eagles have the talent, depth and experience to make it back to Ford Field.

**Top D5 contenders in the state:** Grand Rapids West Catholic (10-0), Grand Rapids Catholic Central (9-1), Corunna (10-0), Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (9-0), Frankenmuth (9-1), Marine City (9-1).  
**The skinny:** Division 5 is loaded with outstanding teams. The top half of the D5 bracket is a gauntlet of talented squads. Grand Rapids Catholic schools powerhouses West Catholic and Catholic Central seem headed on a collision course in the regional finals. The winner of that game could face Frankenmuth in a semifinal game that is also worthy of being a state final matchup. The bottom half of the bracket is not any easier. Corunna and Pontiac Notre Dame Prep are already slated to battle it out in the district finals in another game worthy of being a state-final matchup. The winner of that game would still have to possibly face a rugged Marine City squad in the regional finals.

**HSSS DIVISION 5 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Grand Rapids Catholic Central 28, Corunna 27**

### DIVISION 6 Chesaning

The Indians of Chesaning are turning in their best season since the 2001 team that turned in a 13-1 mark and captured a state championship. Led by talented running back Brayden Florian, the Indians are putting up 31.9 points per game. After an opening-night stumble against Bath, Chesaning has reeled off nine straight wins. Defense has been a big part of that success as the Chesaning defense is allowing 10.6 points per game.

**Bullock Creek**  
The Lancers are turning in their best season since 2007 when they won eight games. After ending the regular season with a pair of wins, Bullock Creek kept the momentum going in the first round of the playoffs with a dramatic 22-19 win against Clare. Bullock Creek plays for a district title against Chesaning.

**Lansing Catholic**  
Playing a difficult schedule paid off for the Cougars. Making the playoffs with a 3-6 record, Lansing Catholic showed they belonged with a dramatic 35-34 win against Michigan Center. The Cougars have a potent offense that averages close to 24 points per game and are capable of keeping the post-season run going.

**Ovid-Elsie**  
The Marauders have a productive offense led by quarterback Tryce Tokar that is averaging 27.4 points per game. Ovid-Elsie also showed that its defense can rise up to the challenge as it held Ida to three points in the district-opening win. Ovid-Elsie is looking for its first district title since 2009 when it meets Lansing Catholic in a rematch of last year's district final.

**Top D6 contenders in the state:** Warren Michigan Collegiate (10-0), Almont (9-1), Kingsley (8-2), Constantine (9-1), Chesaning (9-1), Manistee (8-2), Gladstone (8-2), Reed City (7-3).  
**The skinny:** The top half of the bracket is wide open. Gladstone, Kingsley, Reed City and Chesaning are all capable of making a run to Ford Field. In the bottom half of the bracket, look for the winner of the Warren Michigan Collegiate/Almont district final to make in to the finals although Constantine is capable of playing the spoiler role.

**HSSS DIVISION 6 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Warren Michigan Collegiate 27, Chesaning 14**

### DIVISION 7 Pewamo-Westphalia

The Pirates are again among the premier teams in the state in Division 7 and can play with anyone in the state. After dropping a 17-14 decision to unbeaten North Muskegon in the season opener, Pewamo-Westphalia has reeled off nine consecutive wins. The Pirates are averaging 36 points per game with an offense led by dual-threat quarterback Dylan May and running back Brayton Thelen who has over 1,000 yards rushing. Defense is also a strong point for the Pirates who are allowing eight points per game.

**Millington**  
The Cardinals have won 10 games the last three years and this year's edition may be the strongest yet. Millington features a punishing ground game led by Dallas Walsh and quarterback Ian Crump can throw the ball effectively when needed. The balanced attack enables Millington to average 36.6 points per game. Millington also boasts a solid defense allowing 7.3 points per game.

**Bath**  
The Bees are turning in one of their best seasons in years. Bath has totaled seven wins this season, the most wins in a season since the 2000 team that notched eight wins. Running back Bradley Uhlmann leads the way for an offense that is putting up 21.3 points per game as he rushed for over 1,200 yards during the regular season.

**Beaverton**  
The Beavers are turning in their best season since the 2019 team which won 10 games. Beaverton is putting up 22.2 points per game on offense while the defense has turned in several solid efforts. The Beavers have played a rugged schedule with the three losses coming against bigger schools like Gladwin, Clare and Fremont.

**Montrose**  
The Rams have been in the playoffs every year since 2010 and this year's squad is another solid group. Montrose is averaging 25.1 points



Frankenmuth is looking to return to Ford Field for the Division 5 state finals for the third time in the past four years.

per game and has faced a rugged schedule. If the Rams can get past Detroit Central in the district title game a matchup with long-time rival Millington could be in the offering.

**Top D7 contenders in the state:** Millington (10-0), North Muskegon (10-0), Jackson Lumen Christi (9-1), Pewamo-Westphalia (9-1), Napoleon (9-1), Clinton (9-1), Lawton (9-1), Menominee (8-2).  
**The skinny:** Defending state champion Jackson Lumen Christi is the team to beat. The Titans have run a gauntlet of a schedule with the lone loss coming at D3 unbeaten Gaylord. Plenty of solid challengers will be in the way including unbeaten powers Millington and North Muskegon along with Pewamo-Westphalia and Lawton who have made it to Ford Field over the past few seasons.

**HSSS DIVISION 7 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Jackson Lumen Christi 35, Pewamo-Westphalia 13**

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# Division 8 And 8 Man MHSAA High School Football Playoff Preview

## David Cook & Butch Harmon Sports Scene

### DIVISION 8 AREA TEAMS TO WATCH Ithaca

The Yellowjackets have been a long-time playoff force in Division 6 and 7 and this year are a major factor in Division 8. Ithaca opened the playoffs squaring off in a district semifinal game that was worthy of being a state title game. The two Division 8 heavyweights staged a dramatic struggle with Ithaca coming away with a 28-27 win when a Fowler two-point conversion came up short. Ithaca has a prolific offense this year led by quarterback Jackson Conn and running back Nathan Mikesell. The Ithaca offense is putting up 47.4 points per game. The Yellowjackets are also stout on defense allowing an average of 7.3 points per game. Ithaca goes from the frying pan into the fire as it will face New Lothrop for the district title.

### New Lothrop

The Hornets lone loss this season came in week two when they fell 27-22 to Division 6 Chesaning. New Lothrop combines a potent offense that is putting up 33.1 with defense that is allowing 12.3 points. New Lothrop has faced



Ithaca opened up the Division 8 playoff with a dramatic win against Fowler.

a rugged schedule with wins against playoff teams like Ovid-Elsie, Muskegon Catholic, Clarkston Everest and Montrose. A district title showdown with Ithaca will draw a big crowd and is a playoff match fans have been waiting for.

### Beal City

The Aggies have reached the Division 8 state championship game twice since 2019 and another trip to the finals is a definite possibility. With an offense led by quarterback Jack Fussman and big-play performer Cayden Smith, Beal City is averaging 35.9 points per game. The Aggie defense is also solid and is allowing opposing offenses 8.3 points per game. Beal City's lone loss this season came in week eight when they fell to a 9-1 Harbor Beach team that is also among the top D8 teams in the state.

**Top D8 contenders in the state:** Ottawa Lake Whiteford (10-0), Ubly (10-0), Iron Mountain (10-0), Ithaca (10-0), Harbor Beach (9-1), Beal City (9-1), New Lothrop (9-1).

**The skinny:** As usual, the smallest 11-man division in the state is loaded with big-time talented teams. A rematch of last year's state championship game between Ottawa Lake Whiteford and Ubly is not out of the question but talented squads like Iron Mountain, Ithaca, Beal City, Harbor Beach and New Lothrop stand in the way. The upper half of the bracket is choked full of powerhouses. Ithaca and New Lothrop squad off in the district finals with the winner face the winner of the Ubly/Harbor Beach showdown. Iron Mountain and Beal City are headed for a potential regional matchup. Ottawa Lake Whiteford is the favorite in the bottom half of the bracket although White Pigeon, Hudson and Clarkston Everest will provide major tests.

**HSSS DIVISION 8 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Ithaca 35, Hudson 21**

### 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL DIVISION 1

**Top 8-Player D1 contenders in the state:** Brown City (10-0), St. Ignace (9-1), Pickford

(9-1), Kingston (8-2), Indian River Inland Lakes (9-1), Norway (8-2), Martin (8-2), Gobles (8-2).

**The skinny:** Defending champion Martin is looking strong again but will face a big challenge in the quarterfinals against Gobles. Brown City and Kingston battle in the other quarterfinal in the bottom half of the bracket. Brown City upended a solid Carson City-Crystal team in the first round of the playoffs. In the top half of the bracket, St. Ignace has a long and storied playoff history and will be tough to beat. Pickford and Norway are also capable of making a run to the title game.

**HSSS 8-PLAYER DIVISION 1 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: St. Ignace 47, Brown City 40**

### 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL DIVISION 2

#### AREA TEAMS TO WATCH Portland St. Patrick

The Irish have been on a roll this season as they look to get back to the state title game for the first time since 2020. The Irish have a potent offense that is putting up 41.8 points per game. St. Patrick has a solid ground game led by quarterback Brady Leonard and running back Brayden Simon. The lone loss the Irish suffered was a one-point defeat against Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart. St. Patrick has reeled off seven straight wins since that game including a pair of big wins against Fulton-Middleton and a big win against Morrice.

### Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart is led by a high-powered offense that is putting up 44.5 points per game. The Irish also have a solid defense that is allowing 16.4 points per game. Portland St. Patrick



Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart opened the 8-man playoffs with a win against Au-Gres Sims.

opened the playoffs in a big way with a 34-0 win against Au-Gres Sims.

**Top 8-Player D2 contenders in the state:** Adrian Lenawee Christian (10-0), Climax-Scotts (10-0), Marion (9-0), Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart (9-1), Portland St. Patrick (9-1), Powers North Central (8-2), Deckerville (8-2).

**The skinny:** Powers North Central has won the last three D2 state championships and is the team to beat once again. North Central faces a major test in the quarterfinals against a Lake Linden-Hubbell team that defeated North Central earlier this season. Adrian Lenawee Christian and Climax-Scotts are a pair of undefeated teams slated to square off in the quarterfinals as well. Mid State Activities Conference powers Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart and Portland St. Patrick are both looking to make it into the finals from the lower half of the bracket.

**HSSS 8-PLAYER DIVISION 2 STATE FINAL PREDICTION: Adrian Lenawee Christian 54, Powers North Central 40**

# Ithaca Football Wins 15th Straight League

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a rather typical regular season for Ithaca football.

Jordan Hessbrook, in his third season, coached the Yellowjackets to a 9-0 record and 4-0 mark in the league for first place.

"The kids have been focused and worked hard all year," Hessbrook said. I have been pleased with the way that kids embraced their new roles and leadership positions. They have stepped into these roles maybe a little quicker than I had thought they would. They have done a great job so far this season, but we still have a lot

of work left to do."

Winning the league championship for the 15th consecutive year was gratifying for Hessbrook and his program.

"We have had more challenging moments, but players have embraced them and grown from them," Hessbrook said. "Jackson Conn has done a nice job taking over as our quarterback this season," Hessbrook said. "Noah Risner has been a key player for us on the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. He has returned strong from a knee injury last year. Owen Mikulka, Ryley White, and Kaleb Hallock are all close to each

other in leading our team in receiving. Nathan Mikesell has done a nice job as a wide receiver/running back for us. Brandon Pass, Broden Peska, and Nicholas Mikesell have been our leaders on the offensive and defensive line for us this season."

In rushing yards per game, leaders are Nathan Mikesell (58.4), Jackson Conn (52.7) and Noah Risner (50.8). Owen Mikulka has 50.4 receiving yards per game and Ryley White 48 yards per game. Risner has 92 tackles; Mikulka has five pass interceptions. Risner has scored 13 touchdowns, Mikesell 12 and Conn 11.



The Ithaca Yellowjackets have a 9-0 record this season.

# MLS Football Team Hoping For Another Huge Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Karl Schmutz's Michigan Lutheran Seminary team is coming off a strong season with hopes of repeating their fortunes in 2023.

MLS was 9-2 last year and had one loss in the conference. MLS beat Harbor Beach for the first time in the playoffs.

The Cardinals started off the season with impressive wins of 37-14 over Unionville-Sebewaing and 21-14 over Marine City Cardinal Mooney.

They were 5-1 after six games with the only loss being to Bullock Creek.

Key graduates from last year's team were quarterback Evan Wakefield with 24 touchdowns, starting running back Ryan Dabe, top linebacker Will Eubank, Mark Vogel and Maddox Retberg at starting cornerback.

Key players this year should include senior Carson Koehler at running back and safety who Schmutz said is a top leader and player and led the area in interceptions last year. Another key player is also sophomore running back/linebacker Noah Reif and leader on the offensive line and Logan Broekhuizen, a three-year starter.

"We expect to compete in every game," Schmutz said, adding the

offensive line will be a strength. "All starters are back except for one."

MLS hopes to contend for a TVC title. "We should be fighting for first," Schmutz said. "But Ithaca and Nouvel are always strong."

Seniors on the team are Logan Foresi (WR/DB), Gavin Frederick (WR/DB), Andrew Archibald (RB/DB), Carson Koehler (RB/QB/DB), Levi Schroeder (RB/LB), Timmy Faustin (TE/LB), Caleb Iles (OL/DL), Drew Luetzow (OL/LB), Aidan Dehn (OL/DL), Joey Coon (OL/DL), Luke Zondervan (OL/DL), Garrett Robinson (OL/DL) and Michael Stehle (OL/DL)

Juniors on the team are Brady Falck (WR/DB), Brennan Burke (TE/DL), Brock Ochoa (WR/DL), Gavin Morse (RB/LB), William Schoch (WR/LB), William Salgat (QB/LB), Caleb Martin (WR/DB), Hayden Powers, (WR/DL), Ethan Wakefield (TE/DE), Lance Hatfield (WR/DB), Logan Broekhuizen (OL/DL) and Wyatt Schuette (OL/DL).

The lone sophomore is Noah Reif (RB/LB).

Carson Koehler will be a key player for Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

Assistant coaches are Josh Wakefield, Ken Teske, Dave Broekhuizen and Andy Retberg.



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# Ovid-Elsie Enjoys Playoff Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Travis Long's Ovid Elsie football team made the playoffs this season and there was plenty for the Marauders to feel good about.

Long has coached for 14 seasons.

"Our season was really up and down. We had some close games where we didn't finish the last drive," Long said. "We challenged the players to finish with a winning record (5-4) after our week 7 loss to New Lothrop (14-13) and they responded.

Our expectations were pretty high going into the season. With

of offense, 26 Tds.; WR Jamison Custer 266 yds, 19 rec, 6 Tds.; RB Clayton Fruchey 662 total yds, 21 rec, 37 rush, 3 Tds.; RB Carter Kelley 296 yds, 39 rush, 3 Tds.; LB Javen Bellil 88 tackles, 6 TFL, 5 Sacks; DB Tryce Tokar 56 Tackles, 4 TFL, 1 Sack, 1 INT; DL Cole Workman 42 Tackles, 7 TFL, 2 Sack...LB Brock Spitzley 56 Tackles, 5 TFL, 1 Sack; DB Owen Long 31 Tackles, 1 TFL, 1 INT, 2 Fum Rec.; DE Cohen Brown 54 Tackles, 5 TFL, 5 Sacks; DE Hunter Bates 36 Tackles, 3 TFL, 4 Sacks.

of offense, 26 Tds.; WR Jamison Custer 266 yds, 19 rec, 6 Tds.; RB Clayton Fruchey 662 total yds, 21 rec, 37 rush, 3 Tds.; RB Carter Kelley 296 yds, 39 rush, 3 Tds.; LB Javen Bellil 88 tackles, 6 TFL, 5 Sacks; DB Tryce Tokar 56 Tackles, 4 TFL, 1 Sack, 1 INT; DL Cole Workman 42 Tackles, 7 TFL, 2 Sack...LB Brock Spitzley 56 Tackles, 5 TFL, 1 Sack; DB Owen Long 31 Tackles, 1 TFL, 1 INT, 2 Fum Rec.; DE Cohen Brown 54 Tackles, 5 TFL, 5 Sacks; DE Hunter Bates 36 Tackles, 3 TFL, 4 Sacks.

O-E beat Ida in the playoffs 14-3 to advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Top athletes included: QB Tryce Tokar 1563 total yards

O-E's offense celebrates a touchdown.



# Merrill Football Celebrating Excellent Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Christian Wiley is the coach of a Merrill football team which plays in the Central Michigan 8-Man Football League, Blue Division. He's been coaching football 27 years at Merrill.

The Vandals for the regular season were 8-1 overall and 6-1 in the league.

"We knew it was going to be tough replacing all the seniors we had last year,"

Wiley said. "Any team that makes the State Finals is going to have high expectations the next season. This year's team has stepped up to the challenge and worked hard to keep Merrill Vandal Football one of the top football programs in the State.

"Qualifying for the playoffs is always a goal of our team. It was great to see we were able to achieve this goal.

Our game against Carson City was definitely disappointing because we didn't play as well as we could have. We had

7 turnovers in that game. We are really hoping we win this week and they do as well so that we get another shot at them.

"We like how we are playing right now. Our Region is very tough but our goal is still to go out and win the region."

Standouts have included wide receiver Grant Vedrohe who is also a standout defensive end and has averaged 16.8 tackles a game. Jacob Krill is a right guard and has six pancake blocks. Braden Buckley has been effective at cornerback.



Braden Buckley has been a key player for Merrill.

# Charlotte Football Coach Finishes His 31st Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Mike Sparks has been in his 31st season as Charlotte High School football coach and it was an excellent regular season with a 6-3 record to qualify for the playoffs.

Charlotte was also 5-2 in the OK White. "It was a good season and we are looking forward to playing in the playoffs," Sparks said. "Expectations have not really been met. I thought we could compete for the league title but we finished

third." Sparks had a team with talented players who took advantage of their strengths to have success. "It was very good defense and hopefully we are poised to make a very deep playoff run," he said.

It was an extremely exciting game in the playoffs but Charlotte wasn't able to overcome Hastings in the playoffs and fell 30-28. The season started off with wins of 52-22 over Three Rivers, 39-8 over Lakewood and 35-33 over Lansing Catholic. Lansing Sexton defeated

Charlotte 29-0 but Sparks' team came back with a 23-22 win over Ionia and 42-6 victory over Olivet. A loss to Portland 35-8 was followed by a 56-6 win over Eaton Rapids.

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# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE FOOTBALL STATS

## 11 Man Football

**PASSING YARDS**  
 Preston Wallace, Eart 2,236  
 Sawyer Glennie, Davison 1,915  
 Chad Brown, Henon Otter, Saginaw Nouvel 1,750  
 Kyle Stratton, Whitehall 1,768  
 Jalen Rogozinski, Stockbridge 1,744  
 Preston Otter, Sagan Novuvel 1,607  
 Cason Carswell, Mason 1,600  
 Wyatt Bower, Corunna 1,592  
 Logan Borodychuk, Mt. Pleasant 1,542  
 Ethan Mason, Saginaw Heritage 1,503  
 Owen Terwilliger, Otisville-Lakeville 1,439  
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 1,435  
 Jacoby Dunlap, Alma 1,390  
 Zach Cribbs, Williamson 1,364  
 Landon Mann, Roscommon 1,347  
 Drake Irwin, Rockford 1,333  
 Alex Fernandez, Lansing Catholic 1,319  
 Jake Morrow, Grand Blanc 1,161  
 Benjamin Fletcher, East Lansing 1,103  
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 1,088  
 Jayden Arthur, Clare 1,022  
 Eliott Larner, DeWitt 1,012  
 Tryce Tokar, Ovid-Elsie 1,118  
 Christian Powers, Charlotte 998  
 Brock Sandridge, Warren Cousino 887  
 Ian Crump, Millington 869

**PASSING TOUCHDOWNS**  
 Sawyer Glennie, Davison 29  
 Kyle Stratton, Whitehall 27  
 Preston Wallace, Eart 27  
 Cason Carswell, Mason 22  
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 22  
 Logan Borodychuk, Mt. Pleasant 21  
 Alex Fernandez, Lansing Catholic 19  
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 19  
 Wyatt Bower, Corunna 18  
 Jake Morrow, Grand Blanc 18  
 Zach Cribbs, Williamson 16  
 Owen Halsstead, Essexville-Garber 16  
 Drake Irwin, Rockford 16  
 Landon Mann, Roscommon 16  
 Jayden Arthur, Clare 14  
 Chad Brown, Henon Otter 14  
 Tryce Tokar, Ovid-Elsie 14  
 Jacoby Dunlap, Essexville-Garber 14  
 Benjamin Fletcher, East Lansing 10  
 Brayden McCoon, Traverse City Central 9  
 Jake Melvia, Freeland 9  
 Austin Poirier, Perry 9  
 Jackson Reisbig, Lowell 9  
 Owen Terwilliger, Otisville-Lakeville 8

**RUSHING YARDS**  
 Blake Sloan, Manchester 1,713  
 Brayden Florian, Chesaning 1,689

**RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**  
 Blake Sloan, Manchester 17  
 Jackson Reisbig, Lowell 17  
 Keaton Pratt, Roscommon 17  
 Codye Manley, Belding 20  
 AJ Martel, Mason 20  
 Jayden Terry, Grandville 17  
 Josephus Andaverde, Hart 17  
 Keaton Pratt, Roscommon 17  
 Codye Manley, Belding 20  
 AJ Martel, Mason 20  
 Jayden Terry, Grandville 17  
 Josephus Andaverde, Hart 17  
 Keaton Pratt, Roscommon 17  
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 Codye Manley, Belding 20  
 AJ Martel, Mason 20  
 Jayden Terry, Grandville 17  
 Josephus Andaverde, Hart 17  
 Keaton Pratt, Roscommon 17  
 Codye Manley, Belding 20  
 AJ Martel, Mason 20

## 8 Man Football

**PASSING YARDS**  
 Vance Sysak, Coleman 1,526  
 Garrett Somers, Lincoln-Alcona 1,475  
 Braden Reedler, Carson City-Crystal 1,341  
 Jace Brown, Mayville 1,151  
 Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge 1,012  
 Carter Zeien, Au Gres-Sims 888  
 Robert Krol, Ashley 826  
 Cameron Peterson, Rudyard 826  
 Jack Romel, Posen 805  
 Colin McCrinion, Marion 712  
 Tommy Storey, Pickford 673  
 Colton Karpovich, Akron-Fairgrove 637  
 Parker Adams, Marcellus 595  
 Brady Leonard, Portland St. Patrick 585

**PASSING TOUCHDOWNS**  
 Gavin Riske, Concord 33  
 Garrett Somers, Lincoln-Alcona 29  
 Gavin Reedler, Carson City-Crystal 21  
 Vance Sysak, Coleman 18  
 Jace Brown, Mayville 16  
 Brady Leonard, Portland St. Patrick 14  
 Colin McCrinion, Marion 13  
 Carter Zeien, Au Gres-Sims 13  
 Parker Adams, Marcellus 12  
 Robert Krol, Ashley 12  
 Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge 12  
 Cameron Peterson, Rudyard 11  
 Tommy Storey, Pickford 11  
 Colton Karpovich, Akron-Fairgrove 10  
 Jack Romel, Posen 8

**RUSHING YARDS**  
 Eli DeYoung, Gobles 1,685  
 Dawson Lehaw, Marcellus 1,634  
 Tommy Storey, Pickford 1,443  
 Wyatt Cartier, Morrice 1,349  
 Landon VanderVlucht, Carson City-Crystal 1,308  
 Cole Dewald, Au Gres-Sims 1,267  
 Drayten Evans, Central Lake-Ellsworth 1,207  
 Joel Fisher, Morrice 1,153  
 Jack Romel, Posen 1,153  
 Brady Leonard, Portland St. Patrick 1,135  
 Mason Mansfield, Gobles 1,069

**RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**  
 Eli DeYoung, Gobles 29  
 Tommy Storey, Pickford 24  
 Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge 21  
 Wyatt Cartier, Morrice 20  
 Brady Leonard, Portland St. Patrick 20  
 Dawson Lehaw, Marcellus 20  
 Jack Romel, Posen 19  
 Cole Dewald, Au Gres-Sims 18  
 Landon VanderVlucht, Carson City-Crystal 18  
 Joel Fisher, Morrice 17  
 Mason Mansfield, Gobles 17  
 Drayten Evans, Central Lake-Ellsworth 16  
 Garrison Barrett, Central Lake-Ellsworth 15  
 Cameron Peterson, Rudyard 14  
 Ethan Stockero, Coleman 14  
 Carter Zeien, Au Gres-Sims 13  
 Gunner Bennin, Pickford 11  
 Sam Vyner, Whittemore-Prescott 11  
 Braden Billa, St. Charles 10  
 Garrett Somers, Lincoln-Alcona 10  
 Jon Pinco, Akron-Fairgrove 9  
 Aiden Bickel, Rudyard 8  
 John Ernest, Posen 8  
 Taylor Grunas, St. Charles 8  
 Cole Pendred, Au Gres-Sims 8

**RECEIVING YARDS**  
 Mekhi Wingfield, Concord 1,329  
 Trey Most, Breckenridge 920  
 Grayson Ackels, Carson City-Crystal 692  
 Collin Walker, Lincoln-Alcona 555  
 TJ Allen, Concord 544  
 Cole Pendred, Au Gres-Sims 514  
 Samuel Bovee, Coleman 505  
 Austin Foster, Montabella 503  
 Gunner Bennin, Pickford 493  
 Jeremiah Bullis, Lincoln-Alcona 477  
 Logan Timm, Posen 452  
 Jordan Medelinn, Concord 436  
 Luka Campbell, Mayville 400  
 Gavin Prielipp, Marion 390  
 Jordan Medelinn, Concord 387  
 Jared DeVreze, Coleman 379  
 Collin Stockero, Coleman 370  
 William Long, Ashley 354

**RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**  
 Eli DeYoung, Gobles 29  
 Tommy Storey, Pickford 24  
 Jaxon Laubscher, Breckenridge 21  
 Wyatt Cartier, Morrice 20  
 Brady Leonard, Portland St. Patrick 20  
 Dawson Lehaw, Marcellus 20  
 Jack Romel, Posen 19  
 Cole Dewald, Au Gres-Sims 18  
 Landon VanderVlucht, Carson City-Crystal 18  
 Joel Fisher, Morrice 17  
 Mason Mansfield, Gobles 17  
 Drayten Evans, Central Lake-Ellsworth 16  
 Garrison Barrett, Central Lake-Ellsworth 15  
 Cameron Peterson, Rudyard 14  
 Ethan Stockero, Coleman 14  
 Carter Zeien, Au Gres-Sims 13  
 Gunner Bennin, Pickford 11  
 Sam Vyner, Whittemore-Prescott 11  
 Braden Billa, St. Charles 10  
 Garrett Somers, Lincoln-Alcona 10  
 Jon Pinco, Akron-Fairgrove 9  
 Aiden Bickel, Rudyard 8  
 John Ernest, Posen 8  
 Taylor Grunas, St. Charles 8  
 Cole Pendred, Au Gres-Sims 8

**RECEIVING YARDS**  
 Mekhi Wingfield, Concord 1,329  
 Trey Most, Breckenridge 920  
 Grayson Ackels, Carson City-Crystal 692  
 Collin Walker, Lincoln-Alcona 555  
 TJ Allen, Concord 544  
 Cole Pendred, Au Gres-Sims 514  
 Samuel Bovee, Coleman 505  
 Austin Foster, Montabella 503  
 Gunner Bennin, Pickford 493  
 Jeremiah Bullis, Lincoln-Alcona 477  
 Logan Timm, Posen 452  
 Jordan Medelinn, Concord 436  
 Luka Campbell, Mayville 400  
 Gavin Prielipp, Marion 390  
 Jordan Medelinn, Concord 387  
 Jared DeVreze, Coleman 379  
 Collin Stockero, Coleman 370  
 William Long, Ashley 354

**RECEPTIONS**  
 Mekhi Wingfield, Concord 86  
 Trey Most, Breckenridge 56  
 Samuel Bovee, Coleman 42  
 TJ Allen, Concord 39  
 Jared DeVreze, Coleman 38  
 Jordan Medelinn, Concord 38  
 Aiden Mossier, Portland St. Patrick 89  
 John Ernest, Posen 88  
 Brady Hoag, Mayville 85  
 Mason Halsne, Mayville 84  
 Braden Billa, St. Charles 82  
 Owinn Comerford, Posen 82  
 Ethan Halfman, Carson City-Crystal 81  
 Luka Campbell, Mayville 81  
 Braden Billa, St. Charles 82  
 Owinn Comerford, Posen 82  
 Ethan Halfman, Carson City-Crystal 81  
 Luka Campbell, Mayville 81  
 Braden Billa, St. Charles 82  
 Owinn Comerford, Posen 82  
 Ethan Halfman, Carson City-Crystal 81  
 Luka Campbell, Mayville 81

**RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS**  
 Mekhi Wingfield, Concord 18  
 Grayson Ackels, Carson City-Crystal 10  
 Samuel Bovee, Coleman 10  
 Collin Walker, Lincoln-Alcona 10  
 Jeremiah Bullis, Lincoln-Alcona 9  
 Trey Most, Breckenridge 9

**RECEPTIONS**  
 Mekhi Wingfield, Concord 86  
 Trey Most, Breckenridge 56  
 Samuel Bovee, Coleman 42  
 TJ Allen, Concord 39  
 Jared DeVreze, Coleman 38  
 Jordan Medelinn, Concord 38  
 Aiden Mossier, Portland St. Patrick 89  
 John Ernest, Posen 88  
 Brady Hoag, Mayville 85  
 Mason Halsne, Mayville 84  
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 Luka Campbell, Mayville 81  
 Braden Billa, St. Charles 82  
 Owinn Comerford, Posen 82  
 Ethan Halfman, Carson City-Crystal 81  
 Luka Campbell, Mayville 81

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# Area Golfers Cap Season In Big Way By Competing For Honors At State Meets

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The girls golf season drew to a close with several area teams playing for state titles on what was a wicked weekend weather-wise for golf as players battled cold, rainy and windy conditions for two days. Following is a look at how this year's Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) girls golf state tournaments played out.

### DIVISION 1

The Division 1 state finals had a familiar ring to it as Rochester Adams and Brighton against finished first and second at the tournament that took place at Forest Akers West Course on the campus of Michigan State University. Adams finished with a team score of 669 while Brighton placed just one shot behind. Plymouth took third place with 683 points.

Elise Fennell of East Kentwood captured individual medalist honors in a tight competition as she carded two rounds of 70 for a 140 total. Macie Elzinga of Byron Center and Jessica Jolly of Rockford tied for second place with totals of 141 for the two-day tournament.



### Rockford Golfers Finish Four

The Rockford girls golf team capped the season by placing fourth at the Division 1 state finals. The Rams, who placed fifth at last year's state tournament, finished with a 693 team total for the tournament, three strokes better than last year's total.

Senior Jessica Jolly led the way for Rockford. Jolly, who placed third overall last year, finished in a tie for second place this year as she carded rounds of 71 and 70 for a 141 total, eight shots better than her total from last year. Senior Aubrey Wilson placed 23<sup>rd</sup> overall with a 170 total. Senior Morgan Vanos placed 47<sup>th</sup> with a 187 total while senior Carly Sampson placed 70<sup>th</sup> with a 203.

Rockford qualified for the state meet by winning the regional that was hosted by Traverse City West with a team score of 340. Jolly led the way at the regional as she placed second individually with a 70 while Wilson was fifth with an 87 and Sampson was ninth with a 90.

### Okemos Golfers Place In Top Ten At State

The Okemos girls golf team closed out the season by placing eighth at the Division 1 state finals. Okemos was led by standout junior Alena Li who placed in the top ten individually for the third straight season. Li, who placed ninth as a freshman and sixth as a sophomore, carded rounds of 77 and 77 for a 154 to finish in seventh place this season. Senior Addie Karpinski followed with rounds of 92 and 95 for a 187 to place 45<sup>th</sup> while senior Rachel Chomas added rounds of 98 and 93 for a 191 to place 52<sup>nd</sup>. Freshman Emma O'Shea placed 64<sup>th</sup> with rounds of 103 and 196 for a 199 total.

Okemos qualified for the state meet by winning the Midland regional championship with a team score of 350. Li captured individual medalist honors at the regional with a score of 72. Karpinski finished ninth with a 90 while Chomas took 15<sup>th</sup> with a 93.

### Grand Ledge Golfers Place In Top 15 At State Finals

The Grand Ledge golf team wrapped up the season by placing 13<sup>th</sup> as a team at the Division 1 state finals. Grand Ledge was paced by junior Isabel Kelly who finished 10<sup>th</sup> individually with rounds of 77 and 82 for a 159. Kelly qualified for the state meet last year as a sophomore when she placed 19<sup>th</sup> overall with a 166 total. Junior Aubrie Parish placed 54<sup>th</sup> with a 193 total for the Comets while sophomore Erin

McGinnis finished with a 210 total and senior Kelbi Roman totaled a 211.

Grand Ledge qualified for the state finals by placing second at the Midland Invitational with a 366. Kelly finished second individually at the regional with a 78. Parrish was 12<sup>th</sup> at the regional with a 92.

### DIVISION 2

Farmington Hills Mercy took home the team trophy in Division 2 for the second year in a row and the fourth time in program history. Mercy totaled a 636 for the two-day tournament to best second place Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood who finished 17 strokes behind. Mason finished in third place with a 657. Coopersville senior Lauren Davis won individual medalist honors as she carded rounds of 70 and 70 to finish with a 140 total. Dexter sophomore Avery Manning finished four strokes behind in second place while Muskegon Reeths-Puffer senior Paige Anderson placed third with a 148.

### Mason Golfers Take Third Place At State Finals

The Mason golf team wrapped up a big season with a third-place finish in Division 2 with rounds of 338 and 319 for a 657 total. Senior Ava Clark led the way for the Bulldogs as she placed seventh individually with a 154 total as she carded rounds of 79 and 75. Junior Kortney Osborn placed 16<sup>th</sup> overall as she recorded rounds of 82 and 78 for a 160 total. Sophomore Tylar Southwell placed 24<sup>th</sup> overall as she finished with a 165 total. Senior Claire Heathman finished in the top 50 for the second consecutive year as she finished with a 178 total. Junior Gabby Hanover placed 64<sup>th</sup> as she totaled 185.

Mason qualified for the state meet by placing second at the regional it hosted. Clark led the way at the regional as she finished seventh with an 82 while Osborn was ninth with an 85. Heatherman was 12<sup>th</sup> with an 87 while Southwell was 17<sup>th</sup> with a 91.

### DeWitt Golfers Place 12<sup>th</sup> At State Meet

The DeWitt girls golf team capped the season by placing 12<sup>th</sup> as a team in Division 2 with a 709 total. The Panthers were led by junior Courtney Novak who placed 20<sup>th</sup> individually with a 174. Junior Cate Piesko placed 39<sup>th</sup> with a 174 while senior Jordyn Crawley finished 50<sup>th</sup> with a 178 and senior Laynie Hanlin totaled 193.

DeWitt advanced to the finals after winning the Mason regional with a team score of 341, four strokes ahead of second place Mason. Novak placed second individually as she fired a 76. Crawley was fifth with an 81 followed by Piesko in 14<sup>th</sup> with a 90 and Hanlin in 20<sup>th</sup> with a 94.

### Lowell Golfers Finish In Top Ten At State Finals

The Lowell golf team finished the season by placing ninth overall at the Division 2 state finals with a team score of 700. Junior Elle Sluss led the way for the Red Arrows as she placed 16<sup>th</sup> overall as she shot rounds of 84 and 76 to finish with a 160 total. Sluss placed 40<sup>th</sup> last year as a sophomore. Sophomore Elyse Veldman placed 31<sup>st</sup> with a 168 while junior Leah Krieger finished 37<sup>th</sup> with a 173 and freshman Kaila Richards totaled a 200.

Lowell qualified for the state meet by placing third at the Muskegon regional. Veldman led the way at the regional as she placed 10<sup>th</sup> with an 85. Sluss and Krieger both carded 93s to finish in 15<sup>th</sup> place while Richards was 28<sup>th</sup> with a 98.

### Midland Golfers Finish In Top 15 At State Meet

The Midland girls golf team competed at the Division 2 state finals where it placed 13<sup>th</sup> overall with two-day total of 721. Senior Lindsey Deckrow led the way for the Chemics as she placed 37<sup>th</sup> overall with a 173 total. Sophomore Lauren Deckrow placed 54<sup>th</sup> with a 179 followed by junior Eve Jenkins with a 184 and senior McKenna Sanders with a 188.

Midland qualified for the state finals by winning the regional at St. Johns. The Chemics totaled 378 to win the regional by five strokes over second-place Petoskey. Lauren Deckrow led the way as she captured regional medalist honors with an 82. Lindsey Deckrow was fifth overall with a 91. Jenkins finished 19<sup>th</sup> overall with a 92.

### St. Johns Golf Team Competes At State Meet

The St. Johns golf team capped the season by competing at the Division 2 state finals. The Redwings finished in 15<sup>th</sup> place overall with a two-day total of 803.

Senior Leea Gorman and junior Sunni Devereaux led the way for St. Johns as they both carded 191 for the two-day event.

St. Johns qualified for the state meet by placing third at the regional it hosted. The Redwings finished with a 392 total at the regional, two strokes ahead of Alpena for the final qualifying spot for the state meet. Gorman led the Redwings as she placed fourth individually with a 90 while Devereaux was sixth with a 93. Sophomore Emma Miller was 22<sup>nd</sup> with a 103.

### Pair Of Haslett Golfers Compete At State Individually

A pair of Haslett golfers competed at the state meet after qualifying as individuals. Senior Mina Yoo placed 25<sup>th</sup> individually as she carded rounds of 86 and 80 for a 166 total. Junior Molly Fortier finished in 35<sup>th</sup> place as

she shot rounds of 87 and 85 for a 172 total.

Yoo and Fortier earned a trip to the state finals as they both finished in the top five at the Mason regional. Yoo finished fourth overall with an 80 while Fortier was fifth individually with an 81.

### DIVISION 3

Grand Rapids Catholic Central won the first girls golf state championship in program history as it shot a 673 to win the Division 3 title at The Meadows at Grand Valley State. Williamston finished 12 strokes behind in second place while Macomb Lutheran North, the 2022 state champion, finished in third place. Macomb Lutheran North senior Lauren Timpf made history as she became the seventh golfer in MHSAA Lower Peninsula girls golf history to win a third individual state title. Timpf finished with a two-day total of 141 to win her third straight title. Zoe Dull of Spring Lake and Lillian O'Grady of Grand Rapids Christian tied for second with rounds of 149.

### Williamston Takes Second Place At State Meet

After placing 10<sup>th</sup> in the state last fall, the Williamston golf team capped off this season with a big effort at the Division 3 state finals. Williamston placed second at the state meet, 12 strokes behind champion Grand Rapids Catholic Central, with a two-day total of 685. The Hornets fired a 352 team score on the first day and came back with a 333 on Saturday.

Junior Nicole Schafer, who placed in the top 20 as an individual her first two years of high school golf, led the way for the Hornets as she finished fourth individually. Schafer carded rounds of 77 and 73 to finish with a two-day total of 150. Freshman Paige Radebach turned in a big tournament as she carded rounds of 82 and 86 to finish in 14<sup>th</sup> place. Senior Ellie Thorburn followed with a 178 total to place 22<sup>nd</sup> while senior Allison Kane placed shot a 189 to place 42<sup>nd</sup>.

Williamston qualified for state by winning the title at the Grosse Ile regional by 25 strokes over Pinckney with a 357 total. Schafer placed second individually at the regional with an 83. Thorburn finished fourth with an 87 followed by Radebach in fifth place with a 91 and Hart in ninth place with a 96.

### Freeland Golfers Cap Season Competing At State

The Freeland golf team ended the season competing at the Division 3 state meet where it placed 11<sup>th</sup> overall with a 778 total. The Falcons were led at the state meet by sophomore Reese Conlee who placed 24<sup>th</sup>. Conlee carded rounds of 92 and 87 for a total of 179. Freshman Alexis Heinz placed 27<sup>th</sup> with rounds of 91 and 90 for

a 181 followed by junior Ava Pumford who finished 35<sup>th</sup> with rounds of 97 and 88 for a 185.

Freeland earned a trip to the state finals by placing second at the Alma regional where the Falcons shot a 378. Pumford won individual medalist honors as she shot a 77. Conlee was 14<sup>th</sup> with a 98 while junior Lilly Spencer was 20<sup>th</sup> with a 101 and Heinz was 21<sup>st</sup> with a 102.

### Chippewa Hills Golfers Compete At D3 State Meet

After placing 16<sup>th</sup> at the Division 4 state finals last year, the Chippewa Hills golf team moved up to Division 3 this season and placed 15<sup>th</sup> in D3 with a total of 798. Senior Ryleigh Allen led the way for Chipp Hills as she placed 12<sup>th</sup> individually with rounds of 81 and 84 for a 165 total. Junior Madison Allen placed 18<sup>th</sup> individually with rounds of 91 and 83 for a 174 total.

Chippewa Hills advanced to the state meet by placing second with a team score of 391 at the regional held at St. Ives Golf Course. Ryleigh Allen led the team as she finished second overall with an 82 while Madison Allen was fourth overall with an 84. Sophomores Erin Riesenberg and Rileigh Abel both finished in the top 30 to round out the scoring for Chipp Hills.

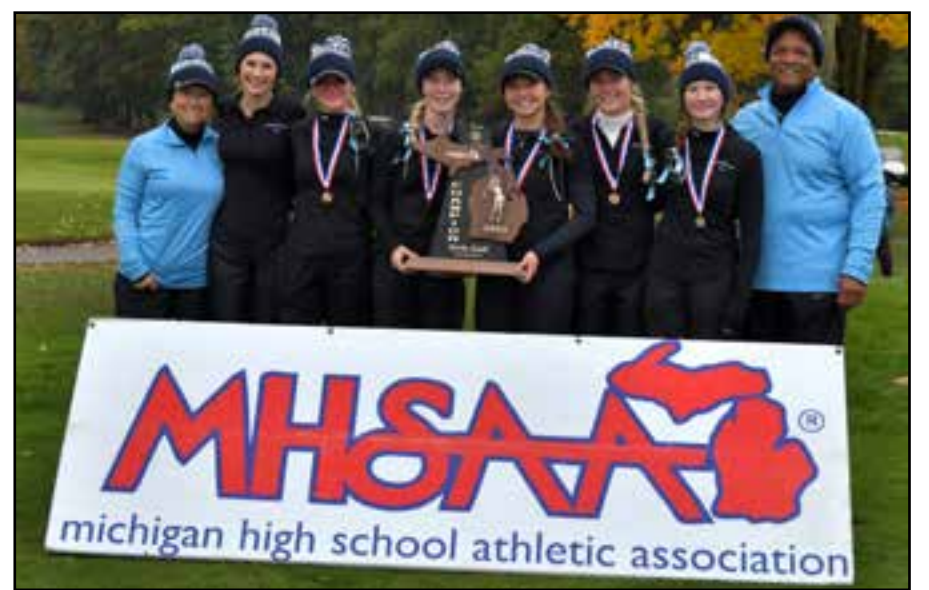
### DIVISION 4

After placing third last year, the Lansing Catholic golf team came away with the top prize this season as the Cougars won the Division 4 state championship with a team score of 705. Kalamazoo Christian finished second with a 731 while Brooklyn Columbia Central was third with a score of 732. Ann Arbor Greenhills junior Mia Melendez captured the individual medalist title for the third straight season as she shot rounds of 79 and 69 for a 148 total. Brooklyn Columbia Central junior Logan Bentley finished two strokes behind while Sophie Hauser of Lansing Catholic finished four strokes behind in third place.

### Lansing Catholic Golfers Win State Title

After taking third place with a young squad last year, the Lansing Catholic golf team won the title this season. The title was the first for the Cougars since 2010 and came after top three finishes the past three years. The Cougars finished with a team total of 705 as they posted scores of 357 and 348.

Senior Sophie Hauser led the way for Lansing Catholic as she placed third overall 152 total as she carded rounds of 78 and 74. Junior Brynn Anderson placed 12<sup>th</sup> with a 179 total as she posted rounds of 91 and 88. Junior



Julia Sambaer was 22<sup>th</sup> overall with a 189 total while sophomore Addi Rule was 28<sup>th</sup> with a 191.

Lansing Catholic earned a trip to the state meet by winning the Perry regional with a team score of 369. Hauser won individual medalist honors with a low score of 79. Rule was fourth with a 94 followed by Anderson in fifth with a 95 and Sambaer eighth with a 101.

### Bath Golfers Place In Top Five At State Meet

After placing 13<sup>th</sup> in the state last year, the Bath golf team made a big jump at this year's state finals as it finished fifth with a team score of 757. Junior Anna Schaibly, who placed 21<sup>st</sup> at last year's state finals, led the Bees as she finished eighth with rounds of 86 and 82 for a 168 total. Senior Aubrie Schaibly finished 14<sup>th</sup> with rounds of 94 and 88 for a 182 total followed by followed by junior Aubrie Torok who placed 35<sup>th</sup> with a 200 and senior Kaitlyn Dickey who finished 54<sup>th</sup> with a 214.

Bath qualified for state by placing second at the Perry regional with a 382. Anna Schaibly led the way at the regional as she placed second with a round of 83. Aubrie Schaibly took fifth with a 95 followed by Torok who was seventh with a 99 and Dickey who was 12<sup>th</sup> with a 105.

### Perry Golfers Compete At State Meet

The Perry golf team wrapped up the season at the Division 4 state finals where they placed 16<sup>th</sup> with a team score of 893. Junior Addyson Lampron led the way for the Ramblers as she placed 54<sup>th</sup> overall with a 214. Senior Neela Willson was 60<sup>th</sup> overall with a 217 followed by junior Maddie Kloeckner who was 79<sup>th</sup> with

a 229 and junior Emily Provost who was 82<sup>nd</sup> with a 233.

Perry qualified for state by placing third at the regional tournament it hosted. Lampron led the way at the regional for Perry as she finished eighth with a 101. Kloeckner was 15<sup>th</sup> with a 113 while Willson and Provost tied for 25<sup>th</sup> place with 118.

### Ithaca Golfers Place In Top 15 At State Finals

The Ithaca golf team ended the season in a big way by finishing 14<sup>th</sup> at the Division 4 state finals.

Junior Ivy Davenport led the way for the Yellowjackets as she placed 37<sup>th</sup> individually with a 202 total. Junior Lakyn Zimmerman finished 66<sup>th</sup> with a 222 while senior Breonna Becker finished 70<sup>th</sup> individually with a 224.

Ithaca earned a trip to the state finals by placing second at the Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart regional where it posted a 418 team score, two strokes behind first-place Sandusky. Zimmer led the way for Ithaca as she placed third individually with a 97 while Davenport placed seventh with a 103. Seniors Elizabeth Hudson and Nicole Hollabaugh placed 14<sup>th</sup> with rounds of 109.

### St. Louis Goller Competes At State As An Individual

St. Louis senior Natalie Hoyt qualified for the Division 4 state finals as an individual. Hoyt turned in rounds of 99 and 96 at the state finals to finish in 30<sup>th</sup> place overall with a 195 total. Hoyt earned a trip to the state finals after she finished second individually at the regional tournament where she carded a 96.

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# Sisters Spark Chippewa Hills Golf Team

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Chippewa Hills' golf squad won the Central State Activities Association title handily this season and also qualified for the state title their fifth straight season.

Sisters Ryleigh Allen, a senior and Madison Allen, a junior, deserve high kudos for that.

They consistently shot in the 80s all season. Ryleigh Allen was the overall conference champion Madison Allen was the league runner up.

Their three-year high school tenure of playing together has ended.

Ryleigh will be graduating but Madison returns to next year's squad.

The Warriors took 15th out of 18 teams in the recent two-day state meet at Grand Valley's Meadows Golf Course. Ryleigh (81-84) led the team with a 165 and Madison (91-83) was second with a 174.

"I think I kind of played bad the first day but really well the second day," Madison said. "The team did well. I was proud of them."

Weather conditions weren't easy.

"The conditions were pretty bad," Allen said. "It was pretty rainy and really cold. It was a tough day to play golf. It affected some golfers' scorers."

Allen has a year left of high school golf and doesn't play other sports so her focus will be on golf and getting better.

Ryleigh Allen is the only graduate.

"We're definitely looking for another player and making the others better," Madison said.

At the state finals, "I thought I did well but I definitely lost some shots due to my putter," Ryleigh Allen said. "Conditions weren't the best. We all kept our heads high and played through tough conditions."

Playing with her younger sister "was a lot of fun," Ryleigh said. "I will definitely miss her."

Warrior coach Lenny Starck enjoyed coaching the sisters and the rest of the girls.

"This was an outstanding group of girls that really came together and continued to improve throughout the season," he said.



Chippewa Hills' Ryleigh Allen (top) and Madison Allen (bottom).

# Ryleigh Reese Has Strong Season For Greenville Golf

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Sam Gallup had an enjoyable second season watching his Greenville golf team led by Ryleigh Reese while competing in the tough O-K White.

"We had a chance to win multiple conference jamborees but came out a few shots short," Gallup said. "It was impressive to see ourselves compete with some of the best players and teams in the state of Michigan. Our highest finish as a

team came at the Laingsburg invitational. It was a different scoring event where teams had players alternate shots and scramble. We finished in second place as a team with Ryleigh Reese and Emma Durdle dominating the scramble portion with an even par round besting the next best team by 11 shots and taking home first place medals.

"Ryleigh Reese was our best player throughout the year. With phenomenal long and accurate tee shots she took home All Conference

Honorable Mention. She had multiple rounds in the low 40s this year. Overall our team showed great fundamentals and understanding of their personal golf game. Everyone showed great improvement especially with consistency and short game which helped us defeat many teams this season."

The future looks bright.

"Greenville will have a strong team next year with all of the talent remaining other than the departure of our one Senior Ryleigh Reese," Gallup said.



Ryleigh Reese led the golf attack for Greenville this season.

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# Holt Cheer Coach Reflects On Amazing First Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Teryn Henderson is Holt's head cheer coach and appreciates how much work goes into preparing for the sideline season.

"Cheerleaders performed an engaging and challenging homecoming routine although it was early in the season," she said. "All the flyers on the team are hitting or working on extended libs. Every group has hit some sort of 360-degree rotation into their stunt. This team had no drama and really acted as a family."

"We battled some ongoing injuries on our team and had to figure out how to keep our spirit and energy up no matter the score on Friday nights."

Henderson talked about her top

athletes:

Taylor Peterson: "Senior, captain, and backspot on the team. Taylor is one of our strongest backspots and having worked with her since she was in 8th grade; she has grown in so many ways both as a cheerleader and an individual."

Grace Fisher: "Junior, captain, side base. Grace is one of the most dedicated cheerleaders I have ever worked with. She is all in with cheer and her work inside and outside of practice pay off regularly. She is a great teammate and a talented athlete."

Avery Nearpass: "Sophomore, captain, backspot. Avery is one of the most respectful and coachable athletes I have ever worked with. I don't think I have ever heard her complain about anything while at practice, she only focuses on



what she needs to do to improve and be better for her team."

The fall season has ended. Next up is the winter campaign.

Holt's cheerleading season was an active one.

"We are looking forward to the start of our competitive season and feel prepared based on the things we did during the sideline season," Henderson said. "With this being

my first sideline season at the varsity level, I don't think I could have asked for a better group of athletes to work with."

# Okemos A State Power Again

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Karim Jelassi is Okemos boys tennis coach and has been coaching about 13 years including 10 with East Lansing and three with Okemos.

"Okemos came very strong and with success this year," Jelassi said. "We won the CAAC conference

with seven of eight brackets. At states, we did compete very well. We ranked No. 10 and then before regionals we did not rank in the top 10. Then we finished top 7 for state championship in Division 1. The beginning of the season we had a little difficulty winning my singles and 2, 3 and four doubles. It was a lack of experience on how to play singles and doubles.

"The Okemos boys varsity tennis team understands the work ethic I try to instill to my players. They understand hard work and patience pays off. Last season, we were looking for a strong team in Division 2. My 2 doubles and my 4 singles were injured at states. I feel this season, especially at states in Midland, we came very close to beating the top teams, ranked."

Jelassi indicated his singles and doubles performed well with the strategy he presented.

"I believe my singles and doubles did very well," he said. "We had so many chances to beat the top seed on this tournament. I am looking forward for next year to play Division I. I am losing only three players this year for 2023."



Okemos coaches enjoy winning more trophies this season.

# Rockford Rugby Team Eyes Third Straight Title

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Andy Dauser is the girls rugby coach at Rockford.

"We are currently 6-0 heading into playoffs," he said. We have 36 girls on our team and I am proud of all of them on their constant

effort to improve. We have scored 361 points and have only allowed 69. Eleven of our 15 starters are underclassmen. Last year we finished ranked third in the nation and in 2021 we finished 12th in the nation. We are going for our 3rd state championship in a row.

"We have state championships over the next two weeks. We are also gearing up for a huge spring season where we will play in multiple national tournaments against teams all around the country."

Ten of the team's 14 seniors from

2023 are also playing college rugby this fall.

"We continue to grow our club and recently had 26 middle school girls attend our girls only rugby camp," Dauser said. "They will have the opportunity to play rugby for our Rogue River Rugby Club in the spring."



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# Midland Dow Wins State Title As Area Tennis Players Wrap Up Season At State Tournament

## David Cook Sports Scene

The boys tennis season wrapped up with area teams battling for post-season glory in the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) state tournament. Following is a look at this year's state finals and how area teams fared in the state tournament.

### DIVISION 2

The Midland Dow tennis team defended its state title as it won the Division 2 state championship with a total of 29 team points at the Grand Rapids Racquet and Fitness Club. Birmingham Seaholm took second place with 24 points followed by Mattawan in third place with 22 points.

### Dow Tennis Team Captures Eighth State Title

Led by a talented group of seniors, the Midland Dow tennis team won state tennis title number eight and its second consecutive state title.

The Chargers showed outstanding balance at the finals. Dow swept all four of the singles flights and reached the finals of five of the eight flights. The Chargers were paced by the seven seniors on the squad and featured plenty of experience with all but three players returning from last year's state title team.

In singles action, junior Austin King, who reached the semifinals last season, came away with the state title at No. 1 singles this year. Senior Aaron Li repeated as state champion at No. 2 singles. Senior Logan Yu, a state finalist at No. 3 singles last season, won the title at No. 3 singles this season while junior Nimai Patel won the title at No. 4 singles for the second straight year.

In doubles play, Dow's No. 1 doubles team of Roofy Elsaadany and Vishagen Karthikeyan reached the finals. The No. 4 doubles team of Andrew Frickey and Matthew McGaugh reached the semifinal round.

### East Lansing Reaches State Finals

The East Lansing tennis team ended the season by qualifying for the state tournament in Division 2.

East Lansing qualified for the state meet by placing second at the Dexter regional where

it finished one point behind South Lyon East. The Trojans were led at the regional by their doubles teams as all four squads reached the finals. Three East Lansing doubles teams won regional titles including the No. 1 doubles team of Bryce Aho and JD Hawthorne, the No. 2 doubles team of Grant Pennock and Nat Hickner and the No. 4 doubles team of Miles Johnston and Kailin Foster. The No. 3 doubles team of Mason Briere and Jonny Kalt placed second.

In singles play, sophomore Iskandarkhuja Ismoil placed second at No. 1 singles and junior Henry Mahler placed second at No. 4 singles.

### DIVISION 1

It was business as usual in Division 1 as Bloomfield Hills won the state title for the second straight season. Bloomfield Hills brought home the title as it scored a total of 36 points followed by Northville and Troy who tied for second with 27 points. Northville and Troy also finished in the top three last season.

### Okemos Tennis Team Places In Top Ten

The Okemos tennis team moved up to Division 1 this season and after placing in the top ten last year it did the same this season. Okemos totaled 11 points to finish in seventh place.

Okemos was led at the state meet by senior Rikhil Rajanikanth who reached the semifinals at No. 2 singles.

Okemos qualified for the state tournament by winning the Kalamazoo Loy Norrix regional where it totaled 31 points. Okemos turned in a dominant performance at the regional by winning seven of the eight flights. In singles action, junior Suchir Nagisetty won at No. 1 singles, Rajanikanth won at No. 2 singles, freshman Sahaj Pakala won at No. 3 singles and junior Shaurya Padwal won at No. 4 singles.

In doubles action Kai Minamisono and Alex Zhang won at No. 1 doubles, Addy Sarda and David Shi won at No. 2 doubles and Daniel Kwon and Akash Krishnan won at No. 4 doubles. Revanth Vuyyuru and Jignesh Sadipirala reached the finals at No. 3 doubles.



The Midland Dow tennis team won a second consecutive state title.

### Holt Tennis Team Reaches State Meet

The Holt tennis team capped the season by qualifying for the state finals in Division 1.

Holt qualified for the state meet by placing second to Okemos at the Kalamazoo Loy-Norrix regional where it scored 25 points.

Holt was led at the regional tournament by the No. 3 doubles team of senior Davin Thelen and sophomore Luke Redd who teamed up to win the regional title.

In singles action, all four Rams reached the finals. Senior Adam Williams was a finalist at No. 1 singles, junior Haytham Sandu at No. 2 singles, junior Mitchell DuBois at No. 3 singles and senior Justin Jenkins at No. 4 singles.

Holt also had a trio of doubles teams advance to the finals. Cade Greene and Anderson Threadgould reached the finals at No. 1 doubles, Thomas Groenewoud and Riley Lennox were finalists at No. 2 doubles while Wesley DuBois and Noah George reached the finals at No. 4 doubles.

### DIVISION 3

After taking second place last season, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood captured the Division 3 state title for the second time in the last three years. Cranbrook-Kingswood totaled 37 points to win the title at Kalamazoo College while Detroit Country Day took second with 28 points and East Grand Rapids was third with 20 points.

### Haslett Netters Cap Season At State Meet

The Haslett tennis team finished the season in 14<sup>th</sup> place at the Division 3 state finals with six team points.

Haslett earned the trip to the state finals by placing second at the Mason regional with 22 points.

Haslett was paced at the regional by junior Sree Komiresetty who won the regional title at No. 1 singles for the second straight season and his third career singles title. Senior Ian

Opel won the regional title at No. 2 singles for the second straight season. Freshman Jackson Clark won the title at No. 3 singles and sophomore Rany Omar placed second at No. 4 singles. In doubles play the No. 4 team of Connor Leighton and Conner Pineda placed second.

### Mason Tennis Players Compete At State

The Mason tennis team ended the year by finishing in a tie for 17<sup>th</sup> at the Division 3 state finals.

The Bulldogs qualified for state after winning the regional tournament it hosted with 24 points.

Mason was led at the regional tournament by its doubles teams. All four of Mason's doubles teams won regional titles led by the No. 1 doubles team of senior Isaac Johnson and sophomore Graysen Thomas. Also winning regional titles were the No. 2 doubles team of Andrew Stahle and Ryan Barnhart, the No. 3 doubles team of Colin Haynie and Drew Perrault and the No. 4 doubles team of Nate Brooks and Luke Marlan.

All four of Mason's singles players advanced to the semifinals including senior Jayden Miller (No. 1 singles), senior Ethan Rice (No. 2 singles), junior Cooper Cross (No. 3 singles) and junior Jackson Page (No. 4 singles).

### DeWitt Tennis Competes At State

The DeWitt tennis team capped the season by finishing in a tie for 17<sup>th</sup> place at the Division 3 state finals.

DeWitt qualified for the state meet by taking third place at the Mason regional with 19 points.

The Panthers were led at the regional by their doubles teams as all three of the four squads reached the finals. The No. 1 doubles team of Parker Havard and Jace Montgomery placed second as did the No. 2 doubles team of Meric Gust and Brandon Keefe and the No. 3 doubles team of Austin Blackmer and Jack Williams. In singles play sophomore Rowan Pagel placed second at No. 3 singles.

### DIVISION 4

Champions in Division 3 last year, Ann Arbor Greenhills dropped down to Division 4 this season and came away with the state title at Hope College in Holland. Greenhills finished with 39 points while Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett, last year's state champions, totaled 22 points and Traverse City St. Francis placed third for the second straight year with 19 points.

### Williamston Places In Top 20 At Tennis Finals

The Williamston tennis team ended the year by placing 14<sup>th</sup> at the Division 4 state

finals with six team points.

Williamston punched its ticket to the state finals by winning the Portland regional championship with 28 points. Williamston players reached the finals in all eight flights and came away with four regional flight titles.

The Hornets were paced by their doubles teams at the regional where they won three of the four titles. Winning regional titles for the Hornets were the No. 2 doubles team of Owen Masi and Jack Robke, the No. 3 doubles team of Adrian Eby and Seth Pennington and the No. 4 doubles team of sophomores Devin Yadav and Kaden Steinke. Taking second place was the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Ben Gorsline and Ben Smith.

In singles play, Williamston was led by junior Jacob McNew who won the title at No. 2 singles. Senior Jameson Hurley was second at No. 1 singles while sophomore Luke Harkema took second at No. 3 singles and freshman Mitch Belloli was second at No. 4 singles.

### Bullock Creek Tennis Reaches State Meet

The Bullock Creek tennis team qualified for the Division 4 state finals by winning the regional championship at Saginaw Nouvel.

Bullock Creek was led at the regional by their doubles teams. All four of the doubles teams reached the finals and three squads won regional titles. Winning regional doubles titles for the Lancers were Brady Puehl and Lane Wedge (No. 2 doubles), Gavin Hockstra and Justin Hays (No. 3 doubles) and Harley Rewerts and Dylan Workman (No. 4 doubles). Bullock Creek's No. 1 doubles team of Seth Radosa and Jaren Kipfmiller were regional finalists.

The Lancers were led in singles play by junior Andrew Whittington who won the title at No. 3 singles. Whittington won the regional title at No. 4 singles last year. Reaching the semifinals in singles play for Bullock Creek were junior Bryce Herron at No. 1 singles and senior Griffen Anderson at No. 4 singles.

### Saginaw Nouvel Tennis Team Competes At State

The Saginaw Nouvel tennis team capped the season by taking second at the regional it hosted to earn a trip to the Division 4 state finals.

A Williamston doubles team waits to return a shot at the Division 2 state finals.



The Bullock Creek tennis team competed at the Division 4 state finals at Hope College.

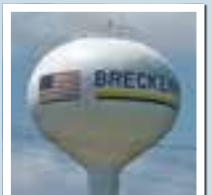
Nouvel was led at the regional by senior Cooper Swackhamer who won a regional title at No. 4 singles. Jayden Lucas took second at No. 3 singles.

In doubles play, the No. 2 doubles team of Reece Kenny and Charles Groya and the No. 3 doubles team of Conrad Wardin and Owen Tunney both placed second.


### Essexville-Garber Tennis Team Competes At State Finals

The Essexville-Garber tennis team capped the season by taking third at the Saginaw Nouvel regional to earn a trip to the Division 4 state finals.



Garber players turned in some big efforts at the regional as it won three flights. In singles play, senior Bryce Talaga won the title at No. 1 singles while senior Connor Lyman won the crown at No. 2 singles. In doubles play, the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Isaiah Ciesla and Hayden Steele won a regional title.



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# Ionia Volleyball Season Has Been A Winner

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It's been quite a season for coach Heidi Wenzel and her Ionia volleyball team. The Bulldogs entered the postseason at 22-17-2. "I knew it was going to be a season where we needed to find connections and work through having a young group that doesn't have a lot of varsity experience. However, overall I felt the season was good. What were some top highlights for the team? Several games we had strong runs and came

back from deficits to secure the win." There's been several standouts on the team. "Sophomore setter Grace Droste made a lot of strides this year in becoming a more well-rounded 5-1 setter and getting comfortable being more offensive," Wenzel said. Droste's totals are kills - 162; Digs - 267; Blocks - 26; Aces - 88 "Senior Kate Brown stepped into a big role as the libero and even though she was unavailable for some of the games due to injury, she had a big impact on the defensive

efforts this year," Wenzel said. Totals are: Digs - 289; Aces - 40. Assists - 43 "Junior Alexias Daugherty also stepped up big for the defense this year and has been a difference maker in many games," Wenzel said. Her totals are: Digs - 301; Assists - 63; Aces - 39 "Freshman Logan Thomas has been an offensive leader all season for us as well as an



The 2023 Ionia varsity volleyball team. all-around standout as she navigated a young first season on varsity," Wenzel said. Totals: Kills - 251; Aces - 50; Digs - 345; Assists - 52.

# Dow Volleyball Coach Salutes Standout Players

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Ali Mendoza coaches the Midland Dow High School volleyball team in her fourth season and enjoyed coaching two players in particular. "Maryn Chritz is our libero," Mendoza said. "She is our quiet leader

on the floor. She is passing at 2.00 and has gotten to 255 balls for an out of system attack. "She is also able to read the other team's hitters and be in the right place at the right time to get to 90 percent of the balls that come her way on the court. She also serves at 96.9 percent behind the line."

But Mendoza had several other players who contributed to a competitive season. "Brynn Hansen is our starting outside hitter," Mendoza said. "Brynn is a force at the net whether that is attacking or blocking. Brynn is leading our team in kills with 229. Brynn has also added 27 blocks."



Midland Dow's Maryn Chritz.

# Rockford Volleyball Team Young, But Successful

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Kelly Delacher has a young team at Rockford for volleyball but it's been a highly successful one. This is Delacher's 20th season at Rockford and his 30th overall. As of late October, the Rams were 31-13 overall and 11-3 in the OK Red. "We have a very young team, with only two seniors on the team and start one freshmen and three sophomores," Delacher said "We have played, arguably the toughest schedule in the state and have

beaten several top teams including Northville and Hudsonville who were ranked No. 1 at the time we beat them." Highlights for the team have included finishing third at the Beast of the East, beating Grand Haven after being down 0-8 in the 3rd game and then knocking off No. 1 Northville in the quarterfinals and finishing second in the OK Red which has had four teams ranked in the top 10 this year. "We lost two players to season ending injuries early in the season.

We have had some other players that have really stepped up into some roles for those players," Delacher said. "Our two seniors have done an amazing job leading our team this year. They both play middle and have been done a great job mentoring and pushing our younger players. Offensively and defensively we have been led by sophomores Liv Hosford and Sienna Wolfe. Liv was a second team all-state middle hitter last year as a freshmen and has transitioned to the six-man rotation

outside hitter role and leads in all of our offensive and defensive categories. "She is followed closely by sophomore Sienna Wolfe. Sienna was on the state championship basketball team as a freshman last year and is in her second year as a varsity starter for volleyball. Freshmen Mallory Wandel has given us a big boost offensively as well this year. Our setters, junior, Ashley Williams and sophomore, Izzie Delacher have done a great job of running our offense."

Rockford has made deep runs into the playoffs and is hoping for another one.



"We are excited about the post season and have goals of making a deep run in the state playoffs," Delacher said.

# Ovid-Elsie Endures Solid Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Angela Ehle was among the area's newest volleyball coaches and had a solid season at Ovid-Elsie. "I think my team has met my expectations and in some ways exceeded my expectations. I don't think we were able to represent ourselves in our league as well as I had hoped but, overall, I'm happy with where we are," Ehle said. "Some top highlights for our team were playing some top ranked teams in our division and competing well with them. Overall, we did not have the experienced players that many other programs have. We were able to put up some good scores and finish close. "We had just begun to find some traction and flow as a team when our leading attacker was injured.

Our seniors really stepped up and have led the charge at the net. Also, our inexperience and lack of skill give away many sets. We'd win one set and then give away the next set. Finding consistency has been a challenge." Kyden Ehle "is our junior setter," Ehle said. "She is a three-year varsity starter and an All-State Honorable Mention setter who has done a nice job of stabilizing this team by providing opportunities for her teammates to learn and grow. She has a very strong work ethic and is a very determined leader. Kyden's regular season totals are: 541 assists, 76 aces, 161 digs. "Braeden Tokar is a senior middle hitter, co-captain. Due to injuries, Braeden has not played volleyball since her freshman year. Braeden is an incredible athlete who has picked

up the game very quickly. She is a tough competitor who loves a challenge. She's done a great job leading her teammates both on and off the court this season. Braeden's regular season totals are: 179 Kills, 34 blocks." Ashton Ehle "is a sophomore outside hitter. Ashton is a 2-year varsity starter. She is a tough competitor who has a well-rounded skills set. She brings a lot of energy, balance, and stability to her team. Ashton suffered a foot ligament injury a few weeks ago and hasn't been playing with the team. She hopes to return to play during districts next week. Ashton's stats: 171 kills, 59 aces, and 171 digs. Hailee Campbell "is a senior middle hitter, co-captain. Hailee is a three-year varsity starter. Hailee



Ovid Elsie's 2023 volleyball team.

is an outstanding athlete who does not back down from a challenge. She has made many adjustments to improve her skills throughout the season. Hailee has become a huge part of the success of our offense and is a big presence at the net defensively. She does a great job leading her

team on and off the court. Hailee's stats: 130 kills, 40 aces, and 26 blocks." The Marauders hope to finish strong "I hope to play well and capture a win in the first round of districts and we'll see where it takes us," Ehle said.

# Well-Balanced Roster Sparks Holt Volleyball Team

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Billie Jo Olcheske is in her fourth season as Holt volleyball coach and likes how her team has been playing. Holt was 10-1 with one league game remaining and was tied with DeWitt. The overall record is 19-6-3. "I am really proud of this season but mostly the girls," Olcheske said. "We had a plan, a vision and they took it as seriously as I did. We lost the opening league game to DeWitt and sat down and talked about taking the rest of the league games, one by one and putting ourselves in a position to still get to that

exceeded others in the area. "This year was the first time, in my four years and for every player on my varsity roster to beat Okemos and Dewitt and to beat them in the same week was an incredible mental hump for us to get over. The second round with DeWitt was eventful and went to five and was so close, very intense game." Olcheske admitted there have been ups and downs "However, this group has bounced back up and is always ready for the next challenge," Olcheske said. "We are very well balanced this year."

Top players: Sadie Laubenthal: Junior, middle blocker, "3rd year varsity player, leader in Kills and serve receptions(yes our MB receives serve for a reason), she is also in the top 3 of many categories and is a great leader for our girls." Sophia Anderson: "Our little setter that loves a good challenge. She is only 5-4 but has 15 blocks on the year, leads in points for her team, assists with over 500 plus this year and over 125 digs. She should easily get to the 1000 assists early next season." Claire Tobias: "The senior that is just so athletic. Claire doesn't always do "volleyball football" but she gets the job done just the same. She is a basketball player, playing at LCC next year, but she has really grown her game this year. She is consistent every game and is in the top three of many statistical categories."



The 2023 Holt volleyball team.

Libby Baswell: "She has turned into a power MB and has the second most kills, only 1 behind Sadie. She does lead our blocking with 28 on the season. Libby really played a huge role in our win against Dewitt when I made her stay in game 5 in the backrow and she made some crucial plays for us on defense."

# Fowler's Cross Country Teams Have Impressive Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Fowler's cross country teams have been low in numbers but high in quality according to coach Brett Schafer, now in his eighth season. "Both the girls and the boys team had a strong season for a small team of athletes," he said.

"The girls ran with five total and we're very competitive throughout the season. We had similar results with the boys having six athletes and competed well in all of our league and invites this year. "I feel that we met all the expectations that we put out at the start of the season during

cross country Camp. For the girls team they placed second at Bret Clements Invite Division 3, first at the Chesaning Invite Small School Division, second at the Saranac Color Run Invite and took fifth overall at the Michigan Class D State Championship in Shepherd. The boys team this year finished second at the Chesaning Invite Small School Division and 11th overall at the Michigan Class D

State Championship." Schafer said the only challenging moments for both teams is having a small team and making sure everyone was healthy all year to compete. "Also, both teams were fairly young with the girls having two freshmen, one junior and two seniors. The boys had four freshmen, one sophomore, and one senior," Schafer said. "Overall as a

team they performed very well." Top runners have been: Girls Kelcie Pung (11th grade) Rebecca Smith (12th grade) Isabella Halfmann (9th grade) Grace O'Hare (12th grade) Kerigan Pung (9th grade); Boys Trevor Feldpausch (12th grade) Quentin Smith (10th grade) Landon Miller (9th grade) Carter Thelen (9th grade) Ben Keebaugh (9th grade) Jack Bremer (9th grade).

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# Beal City Continues With Strong Cross Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Stefanie Locke has had an enjoyable first year as Beal City cross country coach.

"I have been very pleased with how the season has gone so far," she said. I am blessed to have a great group of kids. It is a small group, but overall, a very hard-working and teachable crew which makes coaching fun."

Jordan Weber (10) "is our veteran sophomore, having run cross country since the sixth grade," Locke said. "He is a gifted runner. Having spent the last few seasons dealing with the struggles that come with growth, he is really emerging out of that. He broke into the 18s at Apples to Apples, with a PR...a huge victory for him. Jordan has positioned himself to be in the running for All-Conference/Honorable Mention with a strong race at our third Jamboree. Jordan is a leader, works hard, and has high expectations for himself."

Connor Sienkiewicz "is a freshman, and has

also run since he was a sixth grader," Locke said. "Connor has been gaining momentum and confidence both

in racing and in practice. He is quite consistent and has a nice sense for pace. "He also had a huge breakthrough at Apples to Apples, also breaking into the 18's."

Conner Fenton "is a sophomore, having run since he was in 8th grade. It has been awesome to see huge improvement every season Conner runs, and this season has been no different. He is significantly faster than last year. But additionally, I am so proud of his work ethic and attitude, which is paying off."

For the girls, Nolee Leppert (9) is a state qualifier.

"She has run consistently strong all year, and has done great for her 1st high school season," Locke said. "Nolee sustained a foot injury early in the summer, one where we were not sure if she would have a XC season at all. Thankfully, she healed very well and her body responded to easing her into the training. Nolee is competitive, driven, and a very hard worker; she persevered and has had a great season

so far. She was runner-up last year in the conference as a middle schooler. She will be named conference champion for high school as a freshman, having won our 1st two Jamborees.

Brianna Locke (11): "Bree has run been our consistent No. 2 this season. She came off a great track season and had a solid summer of training, and has been running very well,"coach Locke said. "She sustained a foot injury in 2022, and missed competing for most of the season. It has been great to have her healthy. She has shown consistent improvement on race days, and is a solid leader at practice in work ethic and in other ways."

Lilly Leppert (11): "Lilly is another one of our juniors," Locke said. "She is a gifted athlete, that I believe is still working to run up to her potential this season. She had a solid summer of running, and has been healthy. I think we can expect to see some strong performances from Lilly in our final few races of the season. Lilly had a really solid Jamboree No. 1, and if she runs tough in No. 3 she should end up all-conference as well.

Molly Trommater (10) "is her first cross country season," Locke said. "She is one of our hurdles for track, and I have been thrilled to have her out. Molly brings a mind and

body ready to work hard every day. She does what she is asked without complaint. She has done great while managing some aches and pains. I believe she will be stronger on the track for having had this season, and I hope she sticks with it.

Lauryn Licari (11): "Super excited to have Lauryn out for her third year of XC. She is a gifted athlete in multiple sports, her first love being softball. She is always a wonderful addition to the team. Lauryn is very positive, a hard worker, a joy to have out. I believe we will see Lauryn finishing the season strong."



Brianna Locke works on her pace during a race for Beal City.

# MLS Runners Have Strong Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Seth LaBair has coached cross country for 11 years at Michigan Lutheran Seminary and this was a special season.

"I think both of our teams have improved during the season," he said. "As a coach, you know who you have coming back (usually) and you have an idea of what other teams return. At MLS we don't exactly know all of our new runners because they come from all over the country. We even have some international runners who have helped our teams. We don't have a grade school program like most schools. We know some of the area kids but it's just a lot different."

"The girls have made some

really big strides these last few weeks. Our team time has dropped and girls are still running PR's and season bests. The boys have been consistent all the way through. We had our top two runners returning from our regional championship last year. We also have two freshmen that have exceeded our expectations (Amos Norder and Simeon Kober). They are both now in our top five fastest Fr. of all time. Camden Fager (Jr.) has been our MVP and he was honorable mention all conference. Jeffrey Harden (Sr.) has been solid all year as well."

MLS has been able to overcome some injuries.

"There were a couple of injuries that sidelined some of our varsity runners early in the season. They seem to have recovered and are

now in our top five," he said. "Our top five for the girls are currently: Greta Schroeder (Fr.), Amelia Rivera (Sr.), Aisly Taylor (Fr.), JoAnna Harden (Sr.), and Sarah Kober (Sr.). Greta Schroeder (Fr.) has been our MVP. She has consistently been our first runner. She was a great addition to our team.

"Amelia Rivera has been a four-year varsity contributor and a key to our late season success. Aisly T. has been a nice story. She joined the team late and has cut over 10 minutes from her time. She has been in our top five the past couple of weeks."

The guys top five are: Camden Fager (Jr.), Jeffrey Harden (Sr.), Amos Norder (Fr.), Simeon Kober (Fr.), and Summer Yuan (So.).



Seminary's top three runners have been Greta Schroeder (Fr.), Amelia Rivera (Sr.), and JoAnna Harden (Sr.).

"We also have two freshmen that have exceeded our expectations (Amos Norder (18:05) and Simeon Kober (18:16). They are both now in our top five fastest freshmen of all time. Camden Fager (Jr.) (17:38) has been our MVP and he was honorable mention all conference. Jeffrey Harden (Sr.) (17:47) has been solid all year as well," LaBair said. "Our girls have jumped around from fourth and fifth in the regional

predictions. We're excited to be our best at the end of the season."

cutline for photo (he sent three photos but no IDs and can't get ahold of him—combine the pics with this cutline

Seminary's top three runners have been Greta Schroeder (Fr.), Amelia Rivera (Sr.), and JoAnna Harden (Sr.).

Her personal best came this season in the Cougar Falcon Invitational with 18 minutes, 21.5 seconds.

Other top moments for Roe were at the Greater Lansing Cross Country championship with a time of 18:55.1 and an 18:23.4 in the 2023 Shepherd Bluejay Invitational.

# Lansing Catholic Standout Runner A Regional Champ

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It's been another strong season for Lansing Catholic's cross country team.

Coach Tim Simpson points out senior Tessa Roe has continued to be among the best runners in the state.

"She has been one of the top runners in D 3 all season and one

of best in Lansing area and played in state championship golf team and was in state championship basketball team last winter," Simpson said. "In track she was all state in 4 events including state

champ in 4x800. She has continued to progress in her racing."

Lansing Catholic edged Leslie 31-34 for the regional title Roe won the regional in 19:22.7.

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# Rockford Field Hockey Team Shows Massive Improvement

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Rockford field hockey team exceeded expectations this season according to coach Mark Neumen.

The team finished at 12-5-1.

"I have been coaching Rockford field hockey for four years," he said; "This year's team exceeded all our expectations in only our fourth year as a program. Starting our first year with only two wins to just our fourth year and picking up 12 wins this year was a

tremendous accomplishment. This year was especially special, not only because we had 12 wins this season, but we also competed against some

of the best teams in the state.

"We went undefeated this year on the west side of the state for the first time in program history and we won our first playoff game advancing to the State Quarterfinals for the first time. I loved how this team fought through adversity and always gave it their all despite some difficult games. They remained positive and really played for one another."

Neumen added: "We were pretty heavy on seniors this year and we really are going to miss them next year. We did have some seniors leading the way this year. Maddie Pyle, Hope Deuel and Vicky Iacboni led the team in scoring with 29, 22, and 20 points

respectively. Senior Tessa Gregory was our quarterback playing out of the center defensive back position. Also providing strong play out of the midfield were seniors Hailey Hill and Aubree Frazier.

Senior forward Ava Host provided some scrappy work in front of the net for us. She was our fifth leading scorer and Senior Jillian Paul was a consistent defender on a defense that allowed less than a goal per game during the regular season."

The future is bright.

"Despite losing a good portion of the team to graduation, we do return a good group of talent at

several positions," Neumen said.

"Sophomore Ella Larva was the fourth leading scorer on the team and she will be paired up with sophomore Maddie Rock. Junior Sydnee Schrauben is a returning starter at the forward position and junior goalie Naomi Green, who



Rockford's field hockey team and players had an exceptional season.

had an outstanding year in goal, allowing only 0.98 goals a game, is also returning.

We may be a little young next year

but we are excited about some of our underclass girls as

well as our incoming freshman. It should be an exciting year in 2024."

# Rockford Water Polo Team Posting Outstanding Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

The sky, not the swimming pool, is the limit for Rockford's water polo team this fall. Coach Craig Peterman has been a coach for 17 seasons, five as head coach.

As of late October, the team had a record of 37-8 with regionals and state tournaments to go.

Rockford was conference and champions

"The season has been a great success," Peterman said. "The team has pushed through many injuries and sickness that we have encountered this year. I am extremely pleased with how we have been doing and pushing through many challenges.

"As of right now we have met our expectations for the season. We have beaten teams that we have not beat in the past four years, we have been

ranked in the top 3 the entire season, and we have made some major adjustment to the team after losing a large senior class last season. We still have goals to meet by making a push at regionals and state."

There have been some major highlights.

"There was beating Hudsonville for the first time in five years, winning the OK conference, having an astonishing record against top 10 opponents (19-2), facing some of the top teams from Ohio, finding a rotation of players and getting all the guys to contribute in a positive way," Peterman said.

"We had multiple sicknesses throughout the season, losing one of our top seniors to a concussion early in the season (was out for seven weeks) having to replace our top scorers from last season, and struggling against teams from out of state.

Andrew Lepech is (senior) captain, was all-conference, All-region first team and West side MVP.

"He's the leader on the offensive side for the team and the voice in the pool," Peterman said. "He is the one keeping our team focused and in position to improve and move forward in a positive direction."

Lepech has 137 goals, 60 assists and 140 steals.

Will Cheney is captain, all-conference, and all-region.

"He is the leader of our defense and the voice for how we need to run our defense," Peterman said. "He has made a major impact on playing exceptional 2-meter defense and also winning multiple sprints in a game."

Stats are 72 goals, 62 assists and 194 steals.

Evan Gleason was all-conference.

"He has made a major impact and has been a dominant force on offense and defense," Peterman said. "He stepped up big when one of our leaders was out with a concussion.

Evan has battled through many injuries but has overcome them and has played a huge role this season. He has been a dominant defender



The 2023 Rockford water polo team.

and finds a way to make things happen on offense."

Gleason has 69 goals, 52 assists, and 72 steals.

Brady Haskins is a Captain, all-conference and honorable mention.

"Brady is a true leader in and out of the pool," Peterman said. "He is always working to help the younger guys and keep his team motivated. Brady has missed a large portion of the season due to a major concussion but has kept motivated

through the recovery process. Brady works exceptionally hard and is an athlete who is coachable and wanting to get better."

He has 27 goals, 13 assists and 36 steals.

"Our goal is to contend and potentially win a state championship and regional championship, to continue improving and getting better every day," Peterman said. "We want to stay healthy for the remainder of the season."

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