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### PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The winter sports season is in the books and what an amazing finish was provided by athletes in the winter sports.

In wrestling, the juggernaut that is Lowell wrestling continued to roll. The Red Arrows won an unprecedented 11th straight team state championship when they defeated a scrappy Freeland team that made the move up to Division 2 after competing in Division 3 last year. The Lowell program is a one-of-a-kind and with plenty of talented wrestlers coming back next year, an even dozen is in the cards.

Lowell junior Jackson Blum will be back to help the Red Arrows in the pursuit of number 12 while also having a milestone in front of him as an individual. Blum won his third individual state title this season and will be setting his sights on becoming a four-time state champion next year.

Close to home, Alma senior Cole O'Boyle put the finishing touches on an outstanding high school wrestling career. Not only did O'Boyle win the 190-pound title in Division 3, but he finished the season with a perfect record. Congratulations Cole!!!

A tip of the hat to St. Louis wrestling and coach Kevin Kuhn is in order. The Sharks, who have been reaching the semifinal round in recent years, took the next step this year as they reached the Division 4 championship match where they fell to a Hudson powerhouse that won its third straight team state title. Kudos to St. Louis sophomore Alex Rodriguez who also brought home a state title.

On the basketball court, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart went on a thrilling state tournament run that resulted in a berth in the Division 4 state championship game. While Sacred Heart came up short against Wyoming Tri-unity Christian, it has plenty to be proud of.

Saginaw Heritage basketball player Tyler Ode also has plenty to be proud of. The University of Toledo recruit helped to lead Heritage to a district title and also finished second in the state in the voting for the Mr. Basketball award. Way to go Tyler!!!

In girls basketball, a pair of local teams reached the final four in the state tournament where they both fell to the eventual state champion in the semifinals. In Division 1, Rockford dropped a heartbreaking overtime decision to eventual state champion West Bloomfield. In Division 4, Fowler fell in the state semifinals to eventual state champion Ishpeming.

This month's issue caps all the state tournament action.

With winter coming to an end, our reporters will be taking a look at the upcoming spring sports season which promises to be full of outstanding action.

We can't wait to see you at the games this spring!



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# Area Division 1 And 2 Boys Basketball Teams Turn In Deep State Tournament Runs

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The following is a look at how the Division 1 and Division 2 boys basketball state tournaments played out on the local and state level.

### DIVISION 1

Led by talented junior Trey McKenney, Orchard Lake St. Mary's won the Division 1 boys basketball state championship.

A leading candidate to win the Mr. Basketball award next season, McKenney showed why he is the favorite for the award with a standout performance during the post-season. McKenney was especially impressive in the Division 1 state championship game as he helped lead St. Mary's to a 63-52 win against North Farmington. McKenney led all scorers with 32 points as he connected on 8-of-11 shots from the floor including two-of-three from three-point range and connected on all 14 of his free-throw attempts. McKenney also hauled down 10 rebounds.

St. Mary's took charge of the game early as it jumped out to a 16-7 lead at the end of the first quarter.

St. Mary's reached the title game by defeating Ann Arbor Huron 82-42 in the semifinals. McKenney turned in a big semifinal effort as he scored 20 points to go along with 11 rebounds and six assists. McKenney hit on 8-of-12 shots in the semifinals and was four-for-four from the free-throw line.

### East Lansing Ends Season In State Quarterfinals

The East Lansing Trojans ended the boys basketball season in the state quarterfinals where they dropped a 54-48 decision to Ann Arbor Huron. East Lansing reached the quarterfinal round after winning their regional. The Trojans defeated rival Lansing Waverly 72-61 in the regional semifinals and then brought home the regional title with a 82-63 win against Portage Central. East

Lansing also won a district title with a 66-47 win against rival Okemos.

East Lansing came into the state tournament on a roll after turning in a strong regular season. East Lansing finished the regular season with a 20-2 record and posted a perfect 12-0 record enroute to winning the CAAC Blue Division championship.

East Lansing placed a trio of players on the CAAC all-conference team. Earning first-team, all-conference honors for the Trojans were juniors Cameron Hutson and Jayce Branson and sophomore KJ Torbert. With the trio due back next season, the future continues to look bright for the East Lansing program.

### Lansing Waverly Reaches Regional Round

Lansing Waverly finished the season strong by capturing a district title before falling to East Lansing in the regional semifinals. Waverly brought home a district title with a 45-42 win against DeWitt.

Waverly finished conference play in a tie for second place with Okemos in the CAAC Blue. A trio of Waverly players earned all-conference honors. Senior Deunte Phifer and sophomore Derek Thomas both were named first-team, all-conference while junior De'Whawnta Malone earned honorable-mention, all-conference.

### Saginaw Heritage Finishes Season In Regional

The Hawks of Saginaw Heritage wrapped up the season by advancing to the regional semifinals where they dropped a 63-37 decision to Muskegon. Heritage reached the regional by winning the district title where it defeated Flint Carman-Ainsworth 61-46 in the district title game.

Heritage was led this year by senior Tyler Ode. Ode, who averaged 22 points and 10 rebounds per game this season, finished second in the voting for the Mr. Basketball Award given to the top boys basketball player in the state of Michigan. Ode will be

continuing his career at the University of Toledo next season.

### DIVISION 2 Warren Lincoln

Warren Lincoln won the Division 2 boys basketball state championship as the Abes defeated Grand Rapids Christian 53-39 in the state championship game. Markus Blackwell led Lincoln with 24 points and three assists while Moses Blackwell added 12 points and three assists.

Lincoln advanced to the state title game by defeating Flint Powers Catholic 60-48 in the state semifinals.

### Saginaw Arthur Hill Closes With Tourney Run

In their final appearance in the state basketball tournament as a school, Saginaw Arthur Hill reached the regional championship game where the season came to an end with a 59-51 loss to Flint Powers Catholic. Arthur Hill, which merges with Saginaw High to form Saginaw United next school year, defeated rival Saginaw High 57-42 in the regional semifinals. Arthur Hill reached the regional round by defeating Freeland 53-47 in the district title game.

### Saginaw Closes With District Title

In their final season before merging with Saginaw Arthur Hill to form Saginaw United next school year, the black and gold of Saginaw High defeated Frankenmuth 58-26 to add one final district title to the trophy case. Saginaw High closed the books in the regional semifinals when it fell to Saginaw Arthur Hill 57-42.

### Ionia Wins District Crown

Ionia capped the basketball season in style by winning a district title before falling



Area Division 1 and 2 boys basketball teams turn in deep state tournament runs.


to Grand Rapids Catholic Central and Mr. Basketball Award winner "Phat Phat" Brooks 70-38 in the regional semifinals. Ionia secured a district trophy by stopping county rival Portland 51-43 in the district title game. Ionia, which finished sixth in the CAAC White this season, turned things on once the state tournament began. Ionia was led this season by senior Max Doty who earned first-team, all-conference honors and junior Spencer Tooker who was named honorable-mention, all-conference.

### Clare Wins District Title

Clare closed out the boys basketball season by winning a district championship before falling to Ludington in the regional semifinals. Clare won the district title as it edged Sanford-Meridian 48-46 in the finals.

### Shepard Brings Home District Hardware

Shepard claimed a district basketball district trophy with a 64-58 win against Swan Valley. The Bluejays went on to fall to Flint Powers Catholic in the regional semifinals.




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# Sacred Heart Post-Season Run Highlights Division 3 And 4 Boys Basketball Tournament

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The following is a look at how the Division 1 and Division 2 boys basketball state tournaments played out on the local and state level.

### DIVISION 4

Thanks to some sizzling shooting, Wyoming Tri-unity Christian won the sixth state title in school history as it downed Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart 79-59 in the Division 4 boys basketball state championship game.

Tri-unity shot 60.9% from the field as it jumped out to an early lead and went on to secure the title after falling short in last year's state title game. Five different players scored in double digits for Tri-unity which also shot 41.2% from three-point range. Jordan VanKlompember led the Defenders with 19 points while point guard Keaton Blanker dished out 12 assists.

Tri-unity reached the finals by defeating St. Ignace 60-53 in the state semifinal game.

### Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Ends Season In Title Game

The Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart basketball team wrapped up the season by playing for the Division 4 state championship at the Breslin Center in East Lansing where it dropped a 79-59 decision to Wyoming Tri-unity Christian.

Tri-unity shot 60% from the field to key the win with five players scoring in double figures.

"Our goal here at Sacred Heart is to do what they (Tri-unity) do and make a trip to the Breslin something that doesn't take every 20 years," said Sacred Heart coach Justin Sherlock. "We've been here twice in the last four years and it takes a lot of work. We thought we did the best we could. Tri-unity shot 60 percent from the field and that's going to be hard to overcome."

The Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart basketball team celebrates after winning the Division 4 quarterfinal game against Maple City Glen Lake.

### DIVISION 3

Niles Brandywine won the Division 3 boys basketball state championship as it defeated Detroit Old Redford 56-48 in the state championship game. Jeremiah Palmer led the way for Brandywine with 18 points and six rebounds.

Brandywine advanced to the state title game by defeating McBain 51-48 in overtime in the state semifinals.

### Laingsburg Reaches Regional Title Game

Laingsburg turned in a deep tournament run in Division 3 as it reached the regional title game. The Wolfpack dropped a 53-47 decision to Jackson Lumen Christi in the title game. Laingsburg earned a berth in the regional finals with a 63-52 win against Chesaning. Laingsburg won a district title by defeating Stockbridge 57-46 in the district title game.

### Chesaning Closes Memorable Season With District Title

It was a season to remember for the Chesaning basketball team. For 24 games the Indians were perfect. That streak lasted from the beginning of the season up to the regional semifinals where Chesaning suffered its first defeat in a 63-52 loss to Laingsburg. After completing the regular season with a perfect record, Chesaning went on to win a district title where it defeated Ovid-Elsie 50-34. Chesaning closed out the season with a 24-1 record.

### Pewamo-Westphalia Reaches Regional Finals

The Pewamo-Westphalia basketball team turned in a standout season that ended in the regional finals where the Pirates dropped a 46-45 thriller to Grand Rapids

Covenant Christian. Pewamo-Westphalia opened regional play with a 43-40 win in a thriller with North Muskegon. The Pirates qualified for the regional after turning back Vermontville Maple Valley 59-42 in the district finals.

### Ithaca Wins District Title

Ithaca closed out the boys basketball season by winning a district championship before falling to McBain in the regional semifinal. Ithaca won the district title as it turned back Blanchard Montabella 43-36 in the finals. The Yellowjackets closed out the season strong winning four straight games before falling in the regional. Ithaca finished the season with a 16-9 record and was second in the TVC White a game behind first place Saginaw Nouvel.

### Sanford-Meridian Reaches Regional Final

Sanford-Meridian went on a state tournament run that ended in the regional final where it dropped a 62-51 decision to McBain. The Mustangs, who won the Jack Pine Conference title with a perfect record this season opened the regional with a 62-42 win against Beal City. Sanford-Meridian won the district title with a 71-52 win against Saginaw Valley Lutheran. The Mustangs concluded the season with a 21-5 record.

### Beal City Wins District Title

The Beal City Aggies ended the season strong by winning a district title. The Aggies, who finished second in the Highland Conference to McBain, defeated Beaverton 58-36 in the district final. Beal City fell to Sanford-Meridian in the regional finals and finished the season with a 20-5 record.



# Rockford's Repeat Title Bid Falls Short

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Rockford coach Bradley Wilson took his team to the Division I state semifinals before the Rams fell 56-47 in overtime at Michigan State against West Bloomfield to finish at 26-2 on March 23.

West Bloomfield humbled Grand Blanc 60-30 in the title game.

Rockford had defeated West Bloomfield 40-36 in the 2023 championship game.

Wilson finished his seventh year as coach. The Rams won the OK Red Conference and took their fifth straight district title, third straight regional championship and third straight trip to the final four.

"This season was a resounding success," Wilson said. "Winning the OK Red was as tough as ever, and to make another run to the Breslin

was a dream come true. We were in position to defend our 2023 state title, up three with five seconds to go, and West Bloomfield hit an amazing buzzer beater to take it to overtime and eventually win. Our kids fought very hard, and left it all on the court. And we made our entire playoff run without one of our key players Sienna Wolfe who was sidelined with an ACL.

"For better or for worse, the expectation is always to win the state championship, however, finishing 26-2 and making it to the final four is an amazing accomplishment. I think the OK Red is the toughest conference in the state, and beating East Kentwood and West Ottawa in the last weeks of the season to win the title was magical. We then had to play a very talented Muskegon team in the first round of playoffs, and in the first few minutes Sienna went down with her injury. Our team never flinched,

and we rode that momentum to the Breslin. Sienna's injury was a devastating one, as well as the loss in the semifinal."

Anna Wypych averaged 18 points per game. "I would assume she will be the leading candidate for Miss Basketball season next year," Wilson said. "She spent three years on varsity, all three years to the Breslin. Absolute winner."

"Grace Lyons is the all time leading scorer at Rockford, with the most threes in a season and in a career, as well as steals in a career. She has committed to Ferris State University."

Sienna Wolfe: Swiss Army knife player. 6-0 tall with guard skills. "Can do it all on both offense and defense. Only a sophomore," Wilson said.

Kate Higgins is a 6-0 player. "She set a school record for rebounds in a game and in a single season," Wilson



Rockford girls discuss strategy during a timeout.

said. "She also has very good ball skills."

Rockford is graduating two seniors, Grace Lyons and Kate Frommeyer who was injured for the season.

"We have everyone back other

than Grace. And also have very talented groups at the lower levels. The future is very bright, and the goals have never been higher," Wilson said. "We are as motivated as we ever have been to make it back to the Breslin and reclaim the state title next season."

# Sacred Heart A State Quarterfinalist

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart finished at 21-4 and advanced to the girls basketball quarterfinals before losing to Frankfort 56-46.

Andrew Doerr was coach his first season/

"There are so many questions coming into a basketball season, especially one of me being a new varsity coach," Doerr said. "The first thing we wanted to do defensively was build upon man-to-man defense and challenge the girls to increase their intensity and physicality. They embraced this concept, and it was a focus of ours all season long."

"Led by our defense (allowing 28.1 ppg), we looked to create turnovers and then push the tempo on the offense end. Secondly, we looked to expand our shooting range and be able to stretch zone defenses. Also, we wanted to work on our scoring moves after getting into the paint, which allowed us to have an inside out attack."

Doerr added: "We definitely met expectations, and maybe was under the radar this season. We discussed as a team how we can only focus on ourselves and the daily tasks at hand. To play in a

quarterfinal and reach the final week of the season is a great accomplishment every single year. It is hard to win that time of year as all teams still playing are very good."

"The highlights of the year were spread throughout the season, including a win over our rival Beal City during Christmas Break. This game was played at CMU's McGuirk Arena as part of a fundraiser for the United Way, and a great overall experience for the ladies. Another highlight was winning a regional title in front of our home crowd. The energy in the gym that night was unreal, and the girls worked hard on the defensive end to secure the regional championship."

A major challenge, Doerr noted, "was winning on the road. We discussed this a lot, as it is a hard thing to do, and we did have two losses to the top teams in our conference (St. Charles and Breckenridge) in which we played poorly. We will look to build upon those and be mentally prepared for big, road game environments."

Top players included: Karis Terwilliger, FR, 14.3 ppg, 38.8%, 4 steals, 3.2 deflections, 1st Team All MSAC.

"Karis is our most explosive player on offense, with an attacking mindset," Doerr said. "She does a great job getting to the rim and drawing in de-

fenses which allow her to kick to her teammates. An aggressive defender in the full court, working for steals and transition points."

There was also Chelsea Lynch, JR, 6.9 ppg, 45.8 %, 4.7 reb, 2.1 steals, 2nd Team All MSAC.

"Chelsea is our most consistent player on both ends of the court, having many offenses running through her," Doerr said. "She does the little things on defense and does a great job keeping her girl in front of her."

There was also Sophie Hauck, JR, 6.6 ppg, 4.9 reb, HM All MSAC.

"Sophie organized offense this year and did her best to get everyone in the correct spots. She handled the ball well, looked to push tempo in transition," Doerr said.

There was also Ella McDonnell, SR, 6.4 ppg, 38.7 %, 2.2 steals, 2nd Team All MSAC.

"Ella has emerged as our 2nd scorer during February, averaging 9 ppg, and leading us in 3 pt %. She is a consistent senior who elevated her game is a leader on defense. Ella attacks offensively with a great mid-range game," Doerr said.

Finally, there was Kate Liscomb, HM All MSAC.

"Kate was our defensive leader on



The Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart Girls Basketball Team.

the court. She also brought the energy on and off the court as a senior leader and spark plug," Doerr said. "We will graduate two players, Kate Liscomb and Ella McDonnell. Kate was our defensive go to, who excelled at challenging the other team's best player and making them uncomfortable. Kate's defensive intensity aided us greatly in our regional championship win at home against Breckenridge. Kate also brought great energy, and that will be hard to replace next year."

"Ella developed her offensive game this year, to provide us a spark from the 3-point range, as well as, someone who could attack the rim for mid-range shots. Ella also was a go to on the defensive side of the ball. Returners will be led by Karis Terwilliger, Sophie Hauck, and Chelsea Lynch. Each of these girls played key roles this year as Karis was a great scorer, Sophie was our primary ball handler, and Chelsea

provided post offense and defense." Doerr added: "Kallie Smith, Erin Judge, and Savannah Jones also will be returning to the varsity team, each of them with different skill sets and gained valuable experience this year. The Varsity team returns 6 players from this year's squad, as well as, 3 incoming juniors who will look to make an impact. The Lady Irish will continue to have high expectations as we will work hard to compete for our first conference title since 2018.

"This group of ladies worked hard every single day, and they earned themselves a district and regional title. One of our goals at the beginning of the season was to play in a regional final game at home, and our girls not only achieved that goal, but also won that game in front of our home fans. That was the highlight of the year."

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# Teams Look Ahead To 2024-25

## John Raffel Sports Scene

With the winter season for 2023-24 having ended, teams are now looking at 2024-25.

### Girls Boys Basketball

#### New Lothrop

New Lothrop, 20-8, was a girls state quarterfinalist and lost to eventual state champ Ypsilanti Arbor Prep.

Jim Perry was coach.

"We have a great group of girls who have worked hard this season," Perry said. "We have had some ups and downs. We played a tough schedule but the goal is that those games will have us ready come post-season. Our goal is championships.

"We have shown that we can compete with some of the best teams in Division II. Although we have come up short in those games, we are learning a lot about what it takes to win those games.

"Lost both games to Ovid-Elsie who is in first place in the league and we are sad. Both games were close but they made plays late to win those games. Freshman Katelyn Wendling is leading us in scoring at almost 15 points per game. Sophomore Kelsey Kohlmann is second in scoring at nearly 11 points per game. Both are young but show great confidence on the court and are talented scorers. They can both shoot the ball from 3-point range and can score from outside or inside."

#### Alma Girls Basketball

Alaina Sunken's Alma girls basketball team had quite a season.

The team was 16-5 overall

"The Alma Girls Basketball team is having a remarkable season. They are accomplishing everything that the coaches knew they would be able to accomplish," Sunken said. "The girls set a new standard of performance for themselves. Our goal was to have 14 wins this season. Soon after we realized this was very possible we bumped it up to 17 wins."

Beating Freeland for the second time in program history, was a highlight, Sunken said. "The last time we won against Freeland on a Tuesday night. That Friday we lost to Garber in a close game. We played well, but shots were just not falling. Our game against Garber was our 6th game in 12 days and I think their bodies and minds just needed a break by that point."

#### Top Athletes and averages Per Game:

Bailey Walkington: 7.9 Points, 6.8 rebounds, 5.8 steals, 4.3 assists.

Gracie Mellinger: 18.4 points, 3.7 rebounds, 3.7 steals, 3 assists.

Kendall Town: 9.1 points, 9.6 rebounds, 2.5 blocks.

Giovanna Clark: 6 points, 4.6 rebounds, 2.8 steals, 2.5 assists;

Lauren Seeley: 5.1 points, 7 rebounds.

### Boys Basketball

#### Saginaw High

In boys basketball, Julian Taylor and his Saginaw High team had a high moment. He has coached 13 seasons. His team was 15-10 and won a district.

"We're making improvements each game. We've been up and down," he said. "One game we play like the best team in the state, other games we play with no energy. We exceeded my expectations with losing eight seniors from last year's final four team and four starters. Top highlights were beating a couple of top teams in the conference, Davison and Flint Powers.

"Torrior TJ Stevenson was one of the best point guards in the state at 15 points, seven rebounds, and eight assists, and the heart and soul of the team."

Brandon Macune was at 17 points, making 4 3-pointers a game and a pure shooter.

Fransco Lee averaged 16 points, five rebounds and three steals a game.

#### Midland Dow

Midland Dow and coach Michael Skinner



St. John's Boys Basketball Team.

are building toward the future.

"We lost 4 starters from a really successful team a year ago and knew it was going to be a rebuilding season," Skinner said. "We also play in one of the most difficult conferences in the state of Michigan so there is not much room for error against most teams. I'm proud of the way our team shows up to practice everyday to work hard and improve. I feel like we have improved during the second half of the season. We were hoping for more wins but knew it was going to be a challenging season with our schedule. My goal was to keep improving throughout the season and so in that respect it's been a success.

"We had a big win over our rival school in December and also had a nice win over a good Bay City John Glenn team. We did battle the injury/illness bug all season. One of our starters has missed 7 games due to a back issue and illness and another starter has battled pneumonia most of the season. We didn't have our full starting team healthy until January which made the season more challenging."

The team had some standouts.

"Ian Balch has had an outstanding senior season averaging 22 points and 8 rebounds per game," Skinner said. "Ian also plays big in some of our most important games including a 35 point game against Midland High back in December. Ben VanSumeren has also had a very good junior season averaging 14 points a game along with 14 rebounds per

game. He is one of the best rebounders I've seen at the high school level."

#### Michigan Lutheran Seminary

Seth LaBair finished his 24th of coaching with a 9-10 record at Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

"Our season has been OK," LaBair said. "The guys took a good step forward at the mid point of the season. We lost some tough games to Ithaca, Standish, and Hemlock but we played tough. It's hard to say what our expectations were because we've had to deal with injuries and not having some players that we counted on last year. It looked like we were going to have all five starters back, but we had to deal with injuries and some other things.

"The guys beating Valley Lutheran the second time was a nice win for the guys. We also played some very competitive games against some bigger schools, even though we lost. It showed the guys that we have the ability to play with a lot of teams. It hurt losing some guys that we were counting on. Some younger guys have gotten more experience than what we thought they would, but it's also let them get used to varsity basketball. We've lost quite a few close games and it would've been nice to pull out a few of those."

Junior Will Salgat was the leading scorer, while also handling the majority of the ball handling duties because senior point guard Carson Koehler has been out all year with a

knee injury. Will is averaging about 16 points per game, four rebounds, and three assists. Junior Logan Broekhuizen is averaging close to a double double (10 points and nine rebounds). Sophomore Noah Reif has had to play a variety of positions this year.

"He has the ability to do a lot of different things. He's averaging 13 points, eight rebounds, and a little over two assists per game," LaBair said.

#### St. Johns

Nate Wade coached the St Johns boys basketball team his fourth season and was 11-11.

"We have improved a lot over the course of the season," Wade said. "After starting 0-5 our team really responded well to close out the year. We have gotten the most of each of our athletes. Beating a talented Williamston team on the road, winning the Ballin for Cancer rivalry game, winning the Reed City Holiday Tournament, seeing a sophomore Bryce Pratl become our best player on the floor as a first year starter.

It was disappointing to lose to Haslett and Eastern in the second half of the season. We could've locked up second place in the conference. Bryce Pratl is the biggest improvement and performer this year. He's averaging 16 ppg, shooting 40% from 3, and is our No. 1 option. All of this came after only averaging 5 points per game for the first seven games. He has exploded the second half of the season and really stepped up defensively. He's also leading the team with 10 charges taken and is our best rebounder.



For a sophomore guard, I'm very pleased with his play and am excited to see him grow as a leader."

#### Bowling

##### Portland

Ryan Humphrey's Portland girls bowling team had quite the season.

The team record was 11-1 as league champs.

"Coming into the season we were in rebuild mode having graduated 5 seniors and returning only 1 starter. Two new juniors and two new Freshman joined our line returning senior to form the starting lineup," Humphrey said. "This team far exceeded my expectations. We were able to get stronger as the season went on and won several close matches to propel us to defend our league title. We have far exceeded expectations for this year. As mentioned before, I would have been happy to be in the middle of the pack. To finish 11-1 with four newcomers is quite an accomplishment.

"Winning our league was by far the highlight for this team. Another highlight was one of our Freshman, Savannah Sutton, shooting her first 200 game ever in our last match of the season. This team was not disappointing very often. Each time we needed our senior captain, Lily Keller, stepped up for us. We did have some lower than desired finishes in the Melbourne Wolf tournament and the Huskie Invitational."

Senior captain Lily Keller averaged 149 on the season.



Portland's bowling team enjoyed a memorable season.

#### Competitive Cheer

##### Alma

Kathryn Cree was a new competitive cheer coach at Alma High School.

"The girls showed great improvements both individually and as a team, they faced adversities from outside factors, but the girls have persevered through it all," she said. "The team does a great job performing under pressure, it is amazing to see the girls perform as professionals, no matter what is going on - they are focused and driven and get the job done. Coming in during this season, I did not know what to expect. The girls were not sure if they were having a season (as I was hired a week into the season) and it being my first season coaching, we kept low expectations as we had a frantic start of the season. The girls were driven and worked hard, and they had an impressive season.

"One of the highlights we had as a team was at our Freeland competition, we received the highest score we have received in round one (a 213), and we were competitive with some of the teams that make an appearance at state finals- this was an emotional round to watch and I really saw the girls put their all on the mat. Definitely not a disappointing moment, but a challenging moment we had this season was when one of our seniors had a health complication right before our

round 2, which resulted in us not being able to receive a score in our round 3. This was definitely a sad competition, but the girls handled the competition and our score with grace, and I was impressed with how the girls adapted after the fact. I was shocked to see such young women showing so much perseverance and grace."

Seniors were Natalie Adams, Olyviah Albaugh, and Kendal Malarney.

"Each of our seniors performed in all three rounds at each of our competitions, which is an impressive feat- each of them showed true athleticism in their stunting and tumbling techniques," Cree said. "Another top athlete we have on our team is Annabelle Keller- Annabelle is a true athlete- she does not accept mediocrity and pushes herself to the highest level. She pushes not only herself, but also her teammates. She accepts critics with grace and is very driven.

"Sadly, our postseason came to a halt after districts, but something I know through my years of experience is that what happens after the postseason is crucial. I am hoping our Juniors step up as leaders to prepare our girls for the next season."

Midland Dow's boys basketball team has a promising future.

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# Lowell Wrestling Team Brings Home Team State Title For 11th Consecutive Year

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Like the Flat River flowing through downtown Lowell, the state titles just keep flowing in for the Lowell wrestling team.

Lowell harvested an 11th consecutive Division 2 team state title this season when it defeated Freeland 49-21 in the championship match in Kalamazoo. Ranked first in the state in Division 2 the entire year, the Red Arrow dynasty showed no signs of slowing down.

Title number 11 was just as special as all the other state titles the Red Arrows have won according to Lowell coach RJ Boudro.

"Why would it get old," said Boudro. "Look at the crowd. When I first walked in here, I looked up and you see that we have more fans here than anybody else, and that's what it's all about. Next year will be fun too. When you can still bring crowds in and you can do it 11 years in a row there's more to that than just winning."

Lowell wasted little time in taking control of the title match against Freeland. The Red Arrows won the first four matches beginning with a decision from Cody Foss at 126 pounds. Logan Dawson followed with a win by technical fall, Jackson Blum delivered a pin and Owen Segorski added a technical fall giving Lowell a quick 19-0 lead.

Freeland countered with wins in three of the next four matches to trim the Lowell lead to 25-12. A pin from Jared Boone at 165 pounds provided the Red Arrows with six points in the midst of the Freeland run.

Lowell added a pin from Casey Engle at 190 pounds that increased the Red Arrow lead to 31-12.

Freeland cut into the Lowell lead once again in the upper weights with a decision at 215 pounds and a pin at 285 pounds to cut the Lowell lead to 31-21. Those were the final points that Freeland would score as Lowell closed out the match with three consecutive pins that all took place in the first period. Jarrett

Smith (106 pounds) notched a pin in 1:52. Cole Cichocki (113) won by pin in 53 seconds and Carter Cichocki (120) closed out the dual with a pin in 1:18.

Lowell advanced to the state title match by defeating Mason 52-17 in the state semifinals.

The Red Arrows jumped out to an early 12-0 lead against Mason thanks to a pair of first-period pins by Seth Harvey (165) and Jared Boone (175). After a major decision for Mason at 190 pounds, Lowell upped the lead to 15-4 when Casey Engle won a decision at 215 pounds.

Mason cut the deficit to 15-10 after a pin at heavyweight, but that was as close as the Bulldogs would get as Lowell wrestlers won the next six matches to clinch the victory.

Cole Cichocki started the run with a pin at 106 pounds. Jarrett



The Lowell wrestling team did plenty of celebrating enroute to an 11th consecutive team state wrestling championship.

Smith followed with a technical fall at 113 pounds. Carter Cichocki added a pin at 120 pounds followed by a decision from Cody Foss (126), a pin from Logan Dawson (132) and Jackson Blum (138) picking up a win by forfeit.

Mason wrestlers won two of the final three matches with Owen Segorski picking up a win by technical fall at 150 pounds for the last Red Arrow points.

Lowell opened the team state finals with a 56-15 win against Birmingham Brother Rice.

Jarrett Smith started the match off for Lowell with a pin at 106 pounds. After Brother Rice picked up a decision at 113 pounds, the

Red Arrows reeled off five consecutive wins to take command of the dual. Mason Saylor started the run with a major decision at 120 pounds followed by Cody Foss who won a major decision at 126 pounds. Jackson Blum claimed a technical fall at 132 pounds followed by a pin from Logan Dawson (138) and a major decision from Owen Segorski (144).

Brother Rice broke the streak with a win at 150 pounds. Lowell then closed out the dual with five wins in the final six matches. Jack Lamoreaux won a decision at 157 pounds, Jared Boone won by pin at 165, Max Bigard (190) and Ari McFarland (215) won by forfeit and Kenny Kinyon (285) closed the dual out with a pin.

# Lowell Wrestlers Bring Home Four State Titles From Division 2 Individual Finals

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

A week after the Lowell wrestling team won an 11th consecutive team state championship, a total of four Red Arrows also captured individual state titles at the Division 2 individual state tournament with a total of seven more Lowell wrestlers placing in the top eight to earn all-state honors.

Lowell was led at the state finals by junior Jackson Blum.

Blum won his third consecutive individual state title and positioned himself to possibly become a four-time state champion next season. Blum won three of his matches by pin at the finals with the other win coming back a technical fall as he finished his junior season with a 35-1 record.

Lowell also had two other juniors come away with state titles. Carter Cichocki won the title at 120 pounds while Owen Segorski came away with the title at 144

pounds.

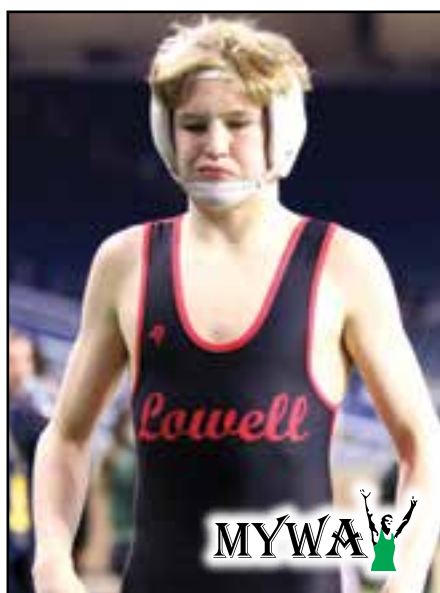
Lowell sophomore Jarrett Smith captured a state title at 106 pounds as he ended the season with a 39-1 record.

Smith, actually, was part of a guaranteed championship for Lowell wrestling at 106 pounds as he defeated freshman teammate Cole Cichocki in the title match.

"I wish we could both win," said Smith. "It's tough. One of us gets the title and one of us doesn't,

but we both worked really hard."

Also placing at the state meet for the Red Arrows were junior Casey Engle who placed third at 190 pounds, sophomore Logan Dunsmore who placed fourth at 132 pounds. Sophomore Trevor Boone who placed fourth at 138 pounds, senior Jared Boone who placed fifth at 157 pounds, junior Braddock King who took sixth at 113 pounds and senior Tacho Gonzales who placed seventh at 150 pounds



Lowell's Jarrett Smith.

# St. Louis Wrestling Team Finishes Season Battling In D4 State Championship Match

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

After coming close the past few years, the St. Louis wrestling team took the next step as it ended the season wrestling in the final Division 4 match of the season in the state finals.

The Sharks, who were ranked second in the state throughout the year, showed they deserved that ranking by reaching the Division 4 state championship match where they dropped a 41-17 decision to Hudson.

The win for Hudson secured a third straight title for the Tigers, however, St. Louis gave the champs all they could handle.

"We made it to the semifinals the last three years and this year we got over the hump and made it to the finals," said St. Louis coach Kevin Kuhn. "We were ranked second in the state all year and making that stand up says something, but our goal was to win it all. I thought the guys wrestled well but it just didn't happen. From the team regional all the way to the final match our guys just gave up two pins. When you do that, it gives you a puncher's chance every time."

Kuhn especially knew what he was going up against as he himself is a graduate of Hud-

son, the long-time Division 4 powerhouse in the state of Michigan.

"We knew what we were up against," Kuhn said. "That is my alma mater and we were going up against my old coach and I wrestled with some of their coaches. We knew we had to be prepared in every match."

Picking up wins for St. Louis in the state title match were Drew Challender who won a major decision at 157 pounds, Ramon Anguiano who won a decision at 215 pounds, Owen Fogel who won by a major decision at 106 pounds and Alex Rodriguez who won by pin at 113 pounds.

Getting to the semifinals and finals was no easy task either as the Sharks needed to beat a pair of traditional wrestling powers to get to the final match. In the quarterfinals St. Louis turned back Martin 39-26 and in the semifinals the Sharks defeated Benzie Central 37-22.

In the quarterfinal win against Martin, the Sharks jumped out to a strong early lead with wins in the first three matches by Ulder Tweh (190 pounds), Anguiano, and Tiger Russell (285). The Sharks then picked up pins in three of the next five matches with Colin Kuhn (126), Laythan Haworth and Rodriguez



(113) all picking up pins as St. Louis opened up a 27-6 advantage.

After a Martin win at 138 pounds, St. Louis sealed the deal with pins from Martine Wiggins (144) and Challender (157).

St. Louis followed a similar formula against Benzie Central with Fogel, Rodriguez, Kuhn, and Haworth all recording pins. Anguiano added a major decision while Genaro Soto (120), Wiggins and Challender won by decision.

"I feel our kids really peaked at the end of the season," Kuhn said. "We had a really tough quarterfinal against Martin. We knew we had to beat a couple of great programs to get to the finals."

A key for St. Louis in its drive to the finals was the production from a pair of seniors,

Tweh and Anguiano, in the upper weight classes.

"Those two seniors really stepped up," Kuhn said. "In years past we lost in the semifinals when no one in the upper weights stepped up. Those two guys stepped up and carried a big load this year."

While the Sharks will lose some key seniors to graduation this year, plenty of talent is expected back next year for another run at the title.

"We made progress this year but it's never as much as you'd like," Kuhn said. "That is just how the sport is. It's very humbling. It gives you a reason to go back to work. We are already back in the weight room and working out. We will be back next year better yet and we will keep climbing that mountain."

# Alex Rodriguez Leads St. Louis Wrestling With MHSAA Individual Title

## David Cook Sports Scene

Led by standout sophomore Alex Rodriguez, the St. Louis wrestling team turned in an impressive showing at the Division 4 individual wrestling state finals.

Rodriguez capped his season in a big way as he won the 113-pound individual state title in Division 4 with a pin against Austin Garcia of Lawton. Rodriguez wrapped up a big sophomore season with a 48-2 record.

"Alex is just an absolute pinning machine and he does it quietly," said St. Louis coach Kevin Kuhn. "Alex is also a coaches' dream. He shows up to work and puts in extra time and doesn't say much. He's a silent assassin."

Rodriguez puts up the numbers to prove it on the mat as through his sophomore season he has accumulated 85 pins.

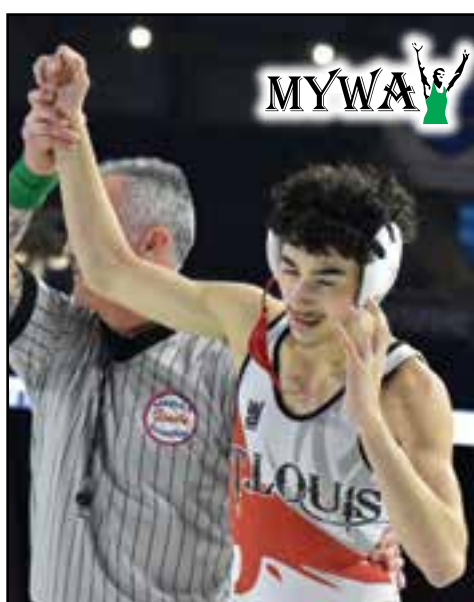
"As long as he stays healthy, he should get the school pin record," Kuhn said. "He can end up with 150 pins which is very hard to

do these days."

St. Louis also had five more wrestlers earn all-state honors. Owen Fogel placed third at 106 pounds, Colin Kuhn took fourth at 126, Ramon Anguiano was sixth at 215, Drew Challender was seventh at 157 pounds and Ulder Tweh was eighth at 190 pounds.

In the girls division St. Louis had a pair of all-staters in Olesya Mullins who placed second at 100 pounds and Tekoah Henry who placed seventh at 190 pounds.

St. Louis' Alex Rodriguez.



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Talan Parsons  
Ovid-Elsie

**106 pounds Jarrett Smith, Lowell:** After taking third place at the state meet last year, Smith responded with an even bigger sophomore season as he went 39-1 and won the 106-pound title in Division 2.

**113 pounds Talan Parsons, Ovid-Elsie:** A four-time state placer, Parsons won his second state championship this year and finished the season with a 46-1 record. Parsons was a combined 96-2 the last two seasons.

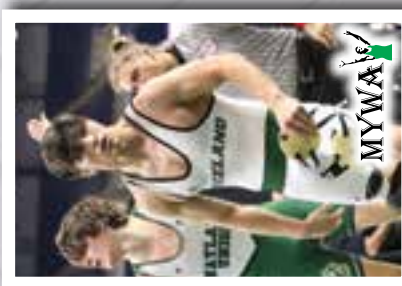
**120 pounds Carter Cichocki, Lowell:** After taking second at state last year, Cichocki came back to win the 120-pound title in Division 2. Cichocki finished the season with a 28-9 record.

**126 pounds Colin Kuhn, St. Louis:** A junior and three-time state placer, Kuhn placed fourth this season. 51-6 record.

**132 pounds Jackson Blum, Lowell:** One of the premier high school wrestlers in the nation, Blum won his third state championship this year as a junior with a 35-1 record. For his career Blum has a 111-7 record.

**138 pounds Buddy Leonard, Alma:** Leonard turned in a big junior season as he placed second at state in Division 3 and finished the year with a 43-2 record. A two-time state placer, Leonard is 92-9 the last two seasons.

**144 pounds Owen Segorski, Lowell:** This talented junior won a second state title this season after placing second last year. Segorski turned in a 34-6 record this year and is 91-24 for his career.



Fabian Facundo  
Freeland

**150 pounds Fabian Facundo, Freeland:** A junior and two-time state placer, Facundo turned in a 45-1 record this season with his lone loss coming in the state finals in Division 3.

**157 pounds Noah Graham, Freeland:** Along with helping Freeland reach the team state championship match, Graham also placed third in the state as an individual and turned in a 49-3 record.

**165 pounds Naythan Dobson, Greenville:** After taking sixth last year as a junior, Dobson capped his career in a big way by winning the 165-pound state title in Division 2 and turning in a 41-4 record.

**175 pounds Derek Badgley, Mason:** Badgley wrapped up his career as a top-five placer at state all four years. Badgley placed second at state this year and finished the season with a 40-3 record.

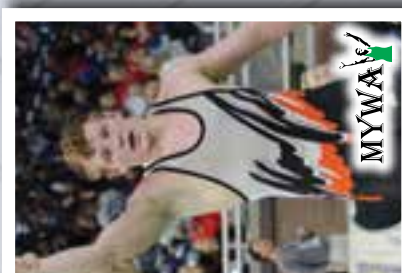
**190 pounds Cole O'Boyle, Alma:** O'Boyle capped his career in a big way as he won a state championship and finished the season with a perfect 48-0 record. O'Boyle finished his career as a three-time state placer.

**215 pounds Logan Demarest, Bay City John Glenn:** Demarest turned in a big senior season as he won the 215-pound title in Division 2 with a 44-1 record. Demarest was also a two-time state placer.

**285 pounds Ryan Ahern, Rockford:** Ahern capped an outstanding prep career in a big way with a 49-1 record and the Division 1 state title at 285 pounds. A four-time state placer, Ahern finished high school with a 167-10 record.



Jackson Blum  
Lowell



Ryan Ahern  
Rockford



Derek Badgley  
Mason



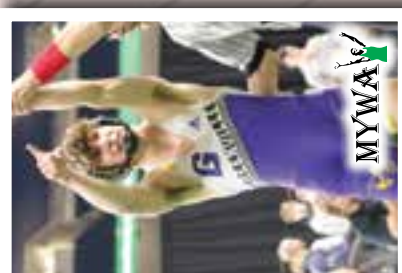
Owen Segorski  
Lowell



Cole O'Boyle  
Alma



Carter Cichocki  
Lowell



Naythan Dobson  
Greenville

**BIG SCHOOL DIVISION 1 AND 2 FIRST TEAM**

**First Team**

**106 pounds Cole Cichocki, Lowell:** Second in state in Division 2. 26-13 record.

**113 pounds Braddock King, Lowell:** Sixth at state in Division 2. 23-18 record.

**120 pounds Noah Webster, Mt. Pleasant:** Placed fourth at state in D2. 33-6 record.

**126 pounds Matt Ausel, Mason:** Placed fourth at state in D2. 16-5 record.

**132 pounds Trenden Bashore, DeWitt:** Three-time state placer, took second at state in Division 2 this year.

**138 pounds Trevor Boone, Lowell:** Sophomore took fourth at state in Division 2 with 29-15 record.

**144 pounds Garrett Hilborn, Bay City John Glenn:** Placed fourth at state in D2. 35-11 record.

**150 pounds Tyler Bashore, DeWitt:** Freshman was fourth in the state in D2 with a 44-6 record.

**157 pounds Jared Boone, Lowell:** Senior finished fifth at state with a 33-10 record this season.

**165 pounds Michael Baldwin, Saginaw Arthur Hill:** Placed third in state in Division 1. 25-4 record.

**175 pounds Garrett Forgash, Bay City John Glenn:** Placed sixth in state in D2, 38-4 record.

**190 pounds Casey Engle, Lowell:** Junior took third in state in Division 2. 32-10 record.

**215 pounds Case Johnson, Greenville:** Junior placed second in state in D2. 52-3 record this year.

**285 pounds Ryan Dimmick, St. Johns:** Capped senior season with 48-5 record and placed fifth at state.

**Big School Division 1 and 2 Special Mention**

(106) Easton Rosebush, Freeland; (120) Darius Ambis, Mason; (126) Luke Egan, Cedar Springs; (132) Logan Dawson, Lowell; (132) Perrin Dimmitt, Bay City; John Glenn; (132) Liam Patrick, Rockford, (138) Connor Greer, Bay City; John Glenn; (144) Ayden Mosher, Holt; (144) Tex Smith, Mason; (150) Liam Dailey, Greenville; (150) Jady Grimes, Mason; (150) Tacho Gonzales, Lowell; (150) Christian Bossbach, Bay City; John Glenn; (157) Tyler Parmeter, Cedar Springs; (165) Ashton Delaney, Grand Ledge; (165) Gibson Shepard, Freeland; (175) Louis Bosscher, Rockford, (175) Logan Hammingh, Rockford; (175) Elijah Murphy, Freeland; (190) Zach Rye, Owosso; (215) Logan Tollison, Grand Ledge; (215) Cayden Bell, Lansing; Waverly.

**SMALL SCHOOL DIVISION 3 AND 4 FIRST TEAM**

**First Team**

**106 pounds Owen Fogel, St. Louis:** Sophomore placed third at state in Division 4 with a 53-4 record.

**113 pounds Alex Rodriguez, St. Louis:** Sophomore won a state championship in Division 4 with a 48-2 record this season.

**120 pounds Cameron Bacchus, Durand:** Senior placed fifth at state in Division 3 with a 40-4 record.

**126 pounds Quinton Everett, Chesaning:** A junior and three-time state placer, Everett placed fifth at the state meet this season and turned in a 40-3 record. For his career Everett is 129-15.

**132 pounds Ryan Woods, Belding:** Sophomore went 54-4 this season and placed seventh in Division 3.

**138 pounds Cole Workman, Ovid-Elsie:** Placed fifth in Division 3 this year and turned in a 38-7 record.

**144 pounds Johnathan Krebs, Lakewood-Lake Odessa:** Senior finished second in state in Division 3 and turned in a 39-3 record.

**150 pounds Landyn Thornburg, Montrose:** Capped senior season placing fifth in D3. 45-7 record.

**157 pounds Blake Peasley, Belding:** Junior turned in a 54-5 record and placed seventh in state in D3.

**165 pounds Brad Meyers, Portland:** Meyers placed sixth in Division 3. Turned in 40-8 record.

**175 pounds Landen Johnson, Lakeview:** Junior placed fifth in Division 4 finals. Finished the season with 50-8 record.

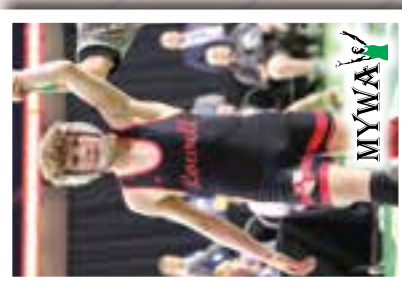
**190 pounds Colton Symons, New Lothrop:** Senior wrapped up high school career winning a D4 state title and turning in a 47-5 record.

**215 pounds Jack Ward, Belding:** Senior won a state title this year and is a four-time state placer. 54-2 record this year and 189-18 for career.

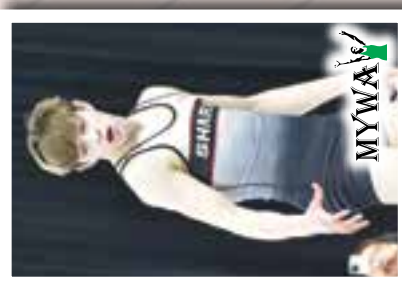
**285 pounds Isaac Casey, Belding:** Senior placed sixth at state in Division 3. 43-7 record.

**Small School Division 3 and 4 Special Mention**

(106) Brady Demory, Gladwin; (106) Drew Holevac, Eaton Rapids; (120) Vincent Stamm, Lakewood-Lake Odessa; (132) Cameron Perez, Lakeview; (138) Timothy Plamondon, Saginaw Valley Lutheran; (144) Tyler Greer, Chippewa Hills; (144) Daniel Rosales, Alma; (144) Matthew Adams, Swan Valley; (150) Eli Roe, Beaverton; (150) Hawk Harding, Williamston; (150) Joseph Dawe, Ithaca; (157) Drew Challenger, St. Louis; (165) Anthony Szubinski, Belding; (165) Jack Kulhanek, New Lothrop; (165) Owen Mikulka, Ithaca; (175) Anthony Schultz, Central-Montcalm; (175) Holden Hollinghead, Clare; (175) Nolan Rowley, Bath; (175) Noah Risner, Ithaca; (190) Gaje Glavin, Belding; (190) CJ Copeland, Lakeview; (190) Ethan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary; (190) Ulder Tweh, St. Louis; (215) Joel Simon, Lakewood-Lake Odessa; (215) Luke Chambers, Williamston; (215) Jaden Edington, Corunna; (215) Cameron Doody, Perry; (215) Ramon Anguiano, St. Louis; (285) Waylon Lingeman, Central-Montcalm.



Jarrett Smith  
Lowell



Colin Kuhn  
St. Louis

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# Cole O'Boyle Caps Perfect Season With Individual State Wrestling Title

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Mission accomplished! Alma senior wrestler Cole O'Boyle came into the season with a goal of capping an outstanding high school career with an individual state championship. O'Boyle reached that goal and some as he not only won the 190-pound individual title at the Division 3 state finals, but he ended the season with a perfect 48-0 record.

"It felt amazing," said O'Boyle, about not only winning a state title but also going undefeated for the

season. "My goal was to win the state title as a senior and to do that and go undefeated is pretty special."

A two-time state placer heading into his senior season, O'Boyle came into the season ranked as one of the top 190-pounders in the state. The entire season was one of solidifying his No. 1 ranking in Division. O'Boyle defeated all challenges during the season and then kept the momentum going with district and regional titles.

At the state finals, O'Boyle came out blazing. O'Boyle recorded pins in his first two matches at the state meet and then in the semifinals he

kept the falls coming with a pin in 1:42 seconds.

In the finals O'Boyle faced his biggest challenge in Hillsdale senior Stephen Petersen who came in with a record of 41-4. Petersen managed to go the distance but O'Boyle was in command throughout the match and came away with a 3-1 victory.

"I felt good coming into the state tournament," O'Boyle said. "I felt like I was the best 190-pounder there in all divisions. My closest match was in the finals and I pinned everyone else."

The state title was the perfect

topper to a career that saw O'Boyle place fifth in the state meet as a sophomore and third in the state last season.

O'Boyle put in plenty of time preparing for his big senior season by training the entire offseason and working out.

O'Boyle feels like he is positioned to make a strong run at reaching the top of the podium at this year's state finals.



Alma senior wrestler Cole O'Boyle celebrates with his coach, Randy Miniard.

"I felt more confident coming into this year," O'Boyle said. "I felt healthy and stronger this year. I lifted a lot of weights over the strong and that made me lot bigger and stronger."

# Area Wrestlers Bring Home Individual State Titles

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

It was a productive individual state tournament for several area wrestlers who brought home state titles. Along with four Lowell wrestlers, Cole O'Boyle of Alma and Alex Rodriguez, several more wrestlers reached the top of the podium.

### RYAN AHERN WINS TITLE IN D1

Rockford senior Ryan Ahern capped a productive high school wrestling career by winning the 285-pound state title in Division 1.

Ahern turned in an impressive performance at the finals where he recorded two pins, a major decision and a decision to claim the crown. Ahern, who finished the season with a 49-1 record, claimed a 17-6 win against Anton Byarnas of Jenison in the title match.

Ahern finished his career as a four-time state placer with a final record of 167-10 for his high school career.

### NAYTHAN DOBSON OF GREENVILLE WINS TITLE

Greenville senior Naythan Dobson wrapped up his career in a big way as he won the 165-pound title in Division 2.

Dobson clinched the crown in a close contest in the title match with a 5-4 win against Harrison Meehof of Allendale. Dobson also claimed a 5-4 decision in the semifinals against Ben Triola of Fenton. Dobson, a state placer last year, finished the season with a 41-4 record.

### DEMAREST CAPS PREP CAREER WITH TITLE

Bay City John Glenn finished his high school career in style when he won the 215-pound title in Division 2.

Demarest won his title the hard way as he held off Case Johnson by a 3-2 score in the championship match. Demarest also had a close call in the semifinals. That was where he defeated Joey Scaramuzzino of Crosswell-Lexington 3-2. Demarest opened the finals

with a pair of wins.

A two-time state placer, Demarest wrapped up the season with a 44-1 record.

### PARSONS WINS SECOND STATE CROWN

Ovid-Elsie senior added to his trophy case in a big way as he won a second individual state title.

Talan Parsons won his second high school state title with an 8-4 win against Hayden Nutt of Dundee in the finals at 113 pounds. Parsons had a close call in the semifinals where he edged Mason Haines of Dundee 1-0. Parsons opened the finals with a pair of first-period falls.

A four-time state placer, Parsons finished the year with a 46-1 record.

### JACK WARD WINS TITLE IN DIVISION 3

Belding senior Jack Ward ended his high school career with a big prize as he won the 215-pound title in Division 3.

Ward, a four-time state placer, brought home the big trophy this season as he claimed a 2-1 decision over Elizin Rouse of Kingsford in the title match. Ward reached the finals with three pins including two first-



Belding's Ward wins D3 215lb championship.

period pins. Ward turned in a 54-2 record this season and won 50 or more matches the last three seasons.

### COLTON SYMONS WINS CROWN IN D4

New Lothrop senior Colton Symons ended his high school career by winning the 190-pound title in Division 4.

Symons clinched the title in style with a second-period pin in the championship match. Symons ended the season with a 47-5 record.

# Freeland Wrestling Team Ends Season Competing For D2 State Championship

## David Cook Sports Scene

After defeating Division 1 Brighton in the beginning of the year, Freeland wrestling coach Scott VanLuven knew his team has the potential to make a deep tournament run come the post-season. That forecast was spot on as Freeland went on a post-season run that didn't stop until the Division 2 state championship match where the Falcons dropped a 49-21 decision to a powerhouse Lowell team that won an 11th consecutive state championship.

"Once we beat Brighton, I realized we had a pretty good team," VanLuven said. "Then we beat John Glenn in the district and the ball kept rolling."

Freeland rolled all the way to the state title match. After winning a regional title, the Falcons went to state where they defeated Lake Fen-

ton 44-27 in the quarterfinals. Freeland took a quick 12-4 lead after three matches as Easton Rosebush won by forfeit and Malachi Hill won by a fall.

After Lake Fenton responded with a pair of wins, Ty Fournier picked up a pin at 138 pounds to put the Falcons up 18-10. The two teams then traded pins with Fabian Facundo picking up a pin at 150 pounds giving Freeland a 24-16 lead.

Lake Fenton added a win at 157 pounds before Freeland reeled off four straight wins to take control of the match. Noah Graham started the run with a major decision at 165 pounds while Gibson Shepard and Elijah Murphy added pins. Bringham Smith (215) closed out the run with a major decision.

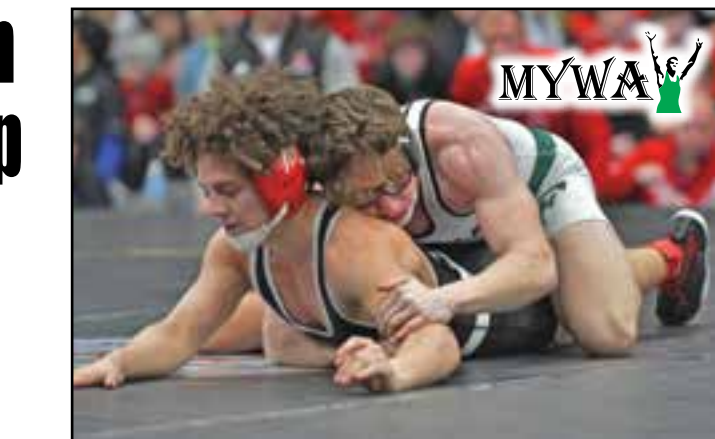
The Falcons then won a 33-32 decision over Greenville to punch their ticket to the finals.

The match was close most of the way with Greenville up 17-15 with six matches remaining. Freeland wrestlers, however, won the next four matches to clinch the victory as it led 33-20 with two matches to go. Malachi Hill (120 pounds) started the run with a decision at 120 pounds. Joseph Klopff (126) added a technical fall followed by a major decision by Nolan Cunningham (132) and a pin from Fournier.

Earlier in the match the Falcons received a pin from Elijah Murphy (190), a decision from Bringham Smith (285) and a pin from Easton Rosebush.

That win sent Freeland into the finals where it had the opportunity to snap Lowell's string of 10 consecutive team state titles. While the Falcons put up a solid fight, they came out on the short end.

"The kids wrestled hard," VanLuven said. "They wrestled hard and



didn't let the pressure of Lowell's reputation get too big for them."

Freeland was also on a mission to get to the finals after missing out on a trip to team state last year when they fell just one point short of advancing in the regional finals.

"Losing last year in regionals by that one point really made the kids come back and work their tails off," VanLuven said. "We have a good group of seniors leading us and after being so close to making it last year and as freshmen they were on a mission to make it here this season."

While the seniors will be missed next year, Freeland has a solid core of wrestlers returning to make another run at team state.

"Obviously the kids we are losing will be hard to replace," VanLuven said. "I have some kids who if they get in the gym and put on more muscle, they can fill in the gaps in the upper-weight classes. We also have some kids who were on the B team that would've been able to start on a lot of other teams. We also have a good group of freshmen coming in in the lower weights."

# Mason Wrestling Team Wraps Up Season In Final Four At Division 2 State Meet

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Mason wrestling team was ranked among the top four teams in the state in Division 2 for much of this year and the Bulldogs capped the season off by reaching the final four in Division 2 at the team wrestling state finals.

Qualifying for the state finals for the second time in the past three years, Mason reached the final four thanks to a 38-34 win against fifth-ranked Monroe Jefferson in the quarterfinals.

Jordan Evans started things off for Mason with a pin at 106 pounds. Two matches later

Darius Ambs added a pin putting the Bulldogs up 12-6.

Monroe Jefferson then reeled off three consecutive wins to go up 22-12. At 144 pounds, Tex Smith of Mason stopped the Jefferson run as he won a major decision. Jefferson, however, won the next two matches to put Mason in a deep hole and take a 34-16 lead.

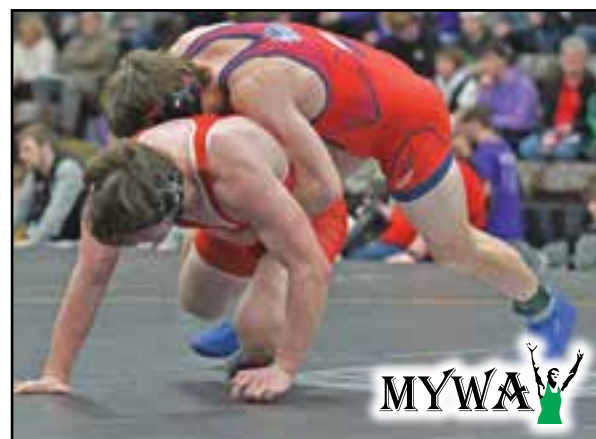
Mason began to chip away at the deficit at 165 pounds when Dylan Granger won a close 12-9 decision. AJ Martel then added a major decision cutting the Jefferson lead to 34-23.

Momentum really began to build when Derek Badgley won by pin at 190 pounds cutting the deficit to 34-29. Mason fans then

had plenty to celebrate in the next match when Grant Gilchrist won in overtime to bring the Bulldogs within two points of the lead going into the final match.

That set the stage for Mason heavyweight Kaleb Parrish and he did not disappoint. Parrish needed just 1:19 seconds to record a fall and send Mason into the semifinals against 10-time defending state champion Lowell.

The Red Arrows, however, were on a march to state title number 11 and turned back Mason 52-17 in the semifinals. Mason received



a major decision from Badley, a pin from Parrish at heavyweight, an overtime win by Smith at 144 pounds and a pin from Jadyn Grimes at 157 pounds.

Mason closed out the season with a 24-1 record in dual meets.

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# Wrestling State Finals Girls Division State Placers



Natalie Gibson  
Chippewa Hills

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105 pounds Natalie Gibson, jr. Chippewa Hills  
235 pounds Madasyn Frisbie, jr. Belding

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Krysta Luce, sr., 6<sup>th</sup> 155  
Paige Heise, jr., 8<sup>th</sup> 170

#### CHIPPEWA HILLS

Jazmyne Lake, sr., 7<sup>th</sup> 140

#### CLARE

AnnMarie Green, so., 3<sup>rd</sup> 235

#### DANSVILLE

Mekenzie Herrick, sr., 5<sup>th</sup> 135

#### DEWITT

Jamie Cook, jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> 125  
Ryleigh Ruiz, jr. 3<sup>rd</sup> 105

Elliana Hillard, sr. 7<sup>th</sup> 135

#### FREELAND

Violet Cabrera, jr. 3<sup>rd</sup> 140

#### GLADWIN

Tricia Pyrzewski, sr., 2<sup>nd</sup> 105

#### HEMLOCK

Nellie Maltby, fr., 8<sup>th</sup> 235

#### HOLT

Brynn Campbell, sr., 2<sup>nd</sup> 155

#### LANSING EASTERN

Olivia DeLaCruz, so., 8<sup>th</sup> 105

#### LOWELL

Veronica Tapia, so., 4<sup>th</sup> 100

#### MIDLAND

Halle Spears, so., 6<sup>th</sup> 190

#### OVID-ELSIE

Maddisyn Miller, sr., 3<sup>rd</sup> 190

#### ROCKFORD

Hailee Budrick, sr., 4<sup>th</sup> 145

#### SHEPHERD

Shai Curtiss, jr., 7<sup>th</sup> 115

#### ST. LOUIS

Olesya Mullins, so., 2<sup>nd</sup> 100

Tekoah Henry, jr., 7<sup>th</sup> 190

#### SWAN VALLEY

Kennedy Tiitola, sr., 3<sup>rd</sup> 125



Madasyn Frisbie  
Belding

## Frankenmuth Boys Celebrate Division 3 Title

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Frankenmuth coach Ron Krueger's boys won the Division 3 state title and also had the individual champ in Mayson Knop.

"Expectations were high but we built our team/foundation as the season went on," Krueger said. "We really focused on improving our Baker game average so we spent a lot of time and work on that.

"We won the Houghton Lake Invitational tournament and were runners up in the Flint Kearsley Tournament and won the D2 Regional Tune Up tournament in Flint. We won our Regionals and had our guys place 1, 2 and 3 in Singles in Regionals. We won the Division 3 State Title in Jackson. Our three bowlers qualified and first Miles Paetz, fifth Liam Liddle and 10th Mayson Knop to make the cut of 16 at the singles in states.

"Mayson Knop ended up winning the state singles championship. All three finished first team all state

and first team all conference TVC. Pretty much it was a great season."

season

by 50 pins. Top 16 finish at states and 3rd at Regionals

Miles Paetz was a junior who averaged 189 in TVC; finished second at regionals two years in a row, Lead

qualifying at state finals singles event, finished in top eight at state finals.

Alex Palmer, sophomore, increased his average from the previous season by 30 pins. "He was a solid number two slot bowler for us and threw some great shots in the state finals for us," Krueger said.

Noah Morris, senior, Noah was our lead off man most of the season and really got us going throwing a lot of strikes to start us off," Krueger said, adding Lincoln Waliczek, senior, "came in at the lead off position in the final 8 at Jackson and threw a ton of strikes and was a big reason we were state champions.

Jack Varney was a freshman. "Jack threw some big shots also for us in Regionals and at states although he did not see much playing time because of the log jam of talent in front of him," Krueger said. "By losing Mayson we lose about 30 pins per game...we will have to replace those pins in other ways. Also losing both lead off bowlers in Noah and Lincoln we will have to find that guy. I'm hoping Jack will step into that role with some hard work over the summer.

"Miles and Liam returning is huge, they both will improve and take these games even



Mayson Knop was the individual state champion in Division 3 for Frankenmuth. (Photo courtesy MHSAA)

higher and challenge each other for the anchor spot. Alex and Jack will both work hard over the summer to bring their averages up a little more. We have a few guys on the JV squad that we hope and need to coach up to contribute this upcoming season. Trust is the word I can use to describe them; they believed in each other and almost always picked each other up when things started to go wrong; they never let it. It was a true team season and State Championship."

## Holt Girls Bowler Takes State Title

### John Raffel Sports Scene

The area was very competitive when it came to quality bowling this season.

#### Division 1

For the boys, Davison defeated Holt in the state semifinal and Davison lost to Grandville in the title match. Joe Merz was an individual state semifinalist for Davison.

For the girls, Holt was state quarterfinalist in the team section.

Emma Cadwell of Holt was the Division I state individual champion. She beat Hannah Reid of Flushing 362-359 in the title match.

#### Division 2

Bay City Western was a boys state quarterfinalist. Nathan Gwizadam of Bay City John Glenn and Daniel Barth of Mason made it to the field of 16 finalists.

For the girls, Bay City John Glenn lost in

the title match to Flint Kearsley. Caeli Schultz of Bay City John Glenn and Lori Jackson of Charlotte were quarterfinalists.

#### Division 3

Frankenmuth won the boys team title while Midland Bullock Creek was a semifinalist before losing to Milan. Frankenmuth's Mayson Knop won the state individual title. Anthony Davis of Bullock Creek was a semifinalist.

#### Division 4

St Charles advanced to the semifinals but lost to Traverse City Christian. Saginaw Nouvel also advanced to the team semifinals and lost to Jonesville.

Cole Bradshaw of New Lothrop was an individual semifinalist. Teammate Ashtin Andres advanced to the quarterfinals.

Ithaca was a girls state quarterfinalist. Isabella Dilts of New Lothrop was a state quarterfinalist for individuals.

The Frankenmuth Eagles Girls Varsity bowling team ended the season with a strong performance in the Regionals team event. The girls started out struggling in their 8 bakers games but turned it around in their 2 Peterson games to finish 5th overall with a score of 2065. The Eagles high baker game was 134. Their two Peterson games were 596 and 644. High individual games for the team competition included Katie Deal 182 and 176, Kenzie Kratz 130, Addy Muehlfeld 129, Shelby Blehm 116, and Maddy Muehlfeld 112. The top team qualifiers were Caro with a score of 2669 and Bullock Creek with a 2613.

The singles competition took place on Saturday. There were 52 girls competing in the singles event, with the top 7 moving on to the State Finals. The girls bowled 6 Peterson games. We had two girls finish in the top 20. Addy Meiningier finished in 15th place with a total of 791 with a high game of 171. Shelby Blehm finished 19th place with a 764 and a high game of 152. Other high games for the



Emma Cadwell of Holt was the Division 1 girls individual state titlist. (Photo courtesy of MHSAA)

singles event included Katie Deal with a 133, Maddy Muehlfeld 115, and Kenzie Kratz with a 121. Sarah Montney from Shepherd was the Regional Champ this year with a score of 1103.

Tecumseh in the semifinals.

Individually, Jameson Vanier of Kearsley defeated Nolan Pepper of Madison Heights Lamphere for the Division 2 boys individual title.

Frankenmuth captured the Division 3 state crown with a 3-0 win against Milan in the finals. Frankenmuth reached the title match by defeating Gladwin 3-0 in the semifinals.

Individually, Mayson Knop of Frankenmuth defeated Matt Meyer of Gladstone for the Division 3 individual title.

In Division 1, Grandville claimed the title with a 3-0 win against Davison in the title match. Davison reached the finals by stopping Holt in the semifinals.

Individually, Dylan Harnden of Utica Eisenhower defeated Ben Prokopec of Grand Haven for the Division 1 individual title.

Traverse City Christian captured the Division 4 state crown by defeating Jonesville 3-0 in the title match. Christian reached the title match by defeating St. Charles 3-1 in the semifinals.

Individually, Carter Fournier of Hudson defeated Bryce Cadaret of Allen Park Cabrini for the Division 4 individual title.

## Boys, Girls Bowling Teams Bring Home Titles At Team And Individual State Tourneys

### David Cook Sports Scene

Area bowlers competed for titles as individuals at the Michigan High School Athletic Association bowling ski finals. Following is a look at the bowling champions.



#### GIRLS BOWLING

The Flint Kearsley girls bowling teams was among the squads bringing home team state championships in bowling.

The Kearsley girls defeated Bay City John Glenn 3-1 to capture the title in Division 2. Kearsley reached the title match by defeating New Boston Huron 3-0 in the semifinals. Bay City John Glenn stopped Tecumseh 3-1 to earn its spot in the finals.

Individually, Caitlyn Johnson of Livonia Clarenceville defeated Kelly Hartman of Grand Rapids Northview for the individual title.

Zeeland East defeated South Lyon 3-0 to win the Division 1 state title.

Individually, Emma Cadwell of Holt defeated Hannah Reid of Flushing for the Division 1 individual title.

Jameson Vanier of Flint Kearsley won the individual state title at the Division 2 bowling state finals.



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# Meridian Cheerleaders Take Fifth In State Competitive Cheer

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Val MacKenzie has been coaching 34 years for competitive cheer and her Sanford Meridian squad enjoyed an outstanding season.

Meridian won the Jack Pine Conference and was second in districts, second in regionals and fifth in the state finals for Division 4.

"The Meridian team this year was a persistent, dedicated, goal-originated team," MacKenzie said. "They met all the standards of their goals. We met our expectations. We set goals at the beginning of the season. First to be Jack Pine champions, second to place at districts to go on to regionals, third to place at regionals and on to states. We did it all."

MacKenzie was impressed with her team's growth.

"We have one senior, four juniors, two sophomores, and five freshmen," MacKenzie said. "The training the freshman took from the older girls to learn and grow was phenomenal. Each girl had great achievements this season which proved great for season ending."

"We had a great season and we coaches are very proud of them. Key graduate is Kailee Charette. She is the only senior and is a great athlete. She is an awesome back spot for round three and has great jumps and fundamentals for round one. Kailee made second team all-state."

Returners are juniors Lexi

Cryderman, Danica Poston, Harlee Quesada and Angela Nichols, Lillian Stout, and Julie Teachworth will be great assets next season with their skills, jumps, and round three for backs and bases. Lexi, Danica, Harlee, and Angela all made the district and regional teams. Lexi and Harlee made the state team.

"Sophomores, Gabby Streeter and Makenzie Cowell will be back with great abilities in jumps, and round 3 requirements. Freshman, Ellie Beach, Amiah Brandt, Marlee Kelly, Payton Mathe, and Alyza Molski will return also next season," MacKenzie said. "Ellie, Marlee, Payton, and Alyza all have great skills, fundamentals and jumps. They all made the district, regional team with Ellie, Marlee,



Sanford Meridian's competitive cheer team placed fifth at the state finals.

and Alyza making the state team.

"Next year looks great. We are excited to start again and will be adding some upcoming freshman that we feel will be assets to our team."

As for this year, "we had a great sisterhood and everyone excelled to the best of their ability. This

team proved that hard work is key."

Other local teams also placed at the state meet.

Pewamo-Westphalia was second and Merrill fourth in Division 4.

Portland was sixth, Tri County seventh and Lake Odessa Lake-wood eighth in Division 3. Cedar Springs was fifth in Division 2.

# Fowler Girls Fall In State Semifinals

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Fowler posted Division 4 state titles in 2021 and 2022 but the last two years have been stymied in the semifinals at Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

A year ago, the Eagles were edged 46-44 by Baraga from the Upper Peninsula. This season, another Upper Peninsula team came down and it was Ishpeming, which moved down from Division 3 the previous year. This year, it was just too much for Fowler to handle with Ishpeming, which

also won the state title, taking a 75-40 victory. Ishpeming beat Kingston 73-54 in the title game.

Fowler ended the year at 24-4 overall and 16-2 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference. The Eagles finished second to Portland St. Patrick in the CMAC but in the district title game against the Shamrocks, the Eagles prevailed with a 64-58 win. Fowler beat Muskegon Catholic Central 68-17 in the regional semifinals and Gobles 72-38 in the regional title game.

In the quarterfinals, it was all Fowler 51-32.

But in the semifinals it was a different story.

Ishpeming, 27-1, was led by Jenna Maki who was 11-of-22 from the floor and 7-of-12 in free throws for 30 points and had three assists. Jenessa Eagle added 14 points. The winners led 23-6 after the first quarter, 42-19 at halftime and 60-29 after the third quarter.

Fowler was 14-of-43 from the floor. Katie Spicer led the Eagles with eight points and four rebounds. Elizabeth Hufnagel added eight points. Kelcie Pung had six points.



Fowler coach Nate Goerge took his team to the state semifinals at the Breslin Center again.

# Rockford Gymnastics Team Enjoys State Title Three-Peat

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Rockford coach Michelle Ankney led her team to its third straight state title in early March. Ankney just completed her seventh season. The Rams were undefeated in the conference, and the only non first-place finish was at Canton Invite (sixth place). Rockford won regionals at state

"We had an amazing season," Ankney said. "We had a lot of growth this season. We started off scoring in the 139s and ended the season scoring a 144. That is a lot of growth for one season. In my opinion, we exceeded expectations. We had a few key athletes from last year either graduate or have injuries and didn't return or didn't return at full strength. We started off the year just trying to figure out who could fill those gaps, and we had some very clunky

moments throughout the season. We went into state knowing there was some great gymnastics across the state and honestly didn't know where we would end up. Winning was the dream but not the expectation.

"At state, our highlight was the vault. Vault isn't always our strongest event, but we had three new vaults in our lineup and that really gave us the boost in scores we needed. Regionals was also an amazing highlight. It is so much fun when the entire team gets to compete. We had 19 gymnasts perform that day and 11 qualify individually. It is such a fun experience when the whole team gets to participate."

There were some unique challenges. "Our hardest moment was the Canton Invite early in February. We had a crazy injury happen in the middle of the meet and some

other mental and physical struggles from different athletes, and we had to fight just to finish that meet," Ankney said. "We learned a lot about each other and what we needed to do, but it was a definite low point in our season."

"We are a strong team due to our depth. We actually have very few all arounders, and we have a lot of event specialists. At team state, we had 11 girls compete for our team, and we couldn't have been successful without any of them. Team State competitors: Hailey Hill, Leah Koch, Kayley Burke, Avery Renberg, Kate Tracey, Genna Thompson, Anjaleah Barraza, Ellie Wilcox, Mael Stelma, Avi Einfeld, and Elise Watkins

Hailey Hill is a senior.

"Hailey is as consistent as they come," Ankney said. "She has a strong routine on all four events, and she can be counted on to com-

pete consistently throughout all the events. She upgraded her vault for Regionals and State and that provided an extra boost to her overall score and the team score. At state she placed on every event - vault third, bars seventh, beam second, floor fifth, and all around first/

Leah Koch is a junior.

"Leah is strong and powerful," Ankney said. "She joined the team this season, and she brings a lot of power and consistency to the all-around. At state, she performed her vault near perfection two days in a row. She placed first on vault for Division 1.

Kate Tracey is a junior.

"Kate has a beautiful beam routine," Ankney said. "She is strong and consistent with it. She had some injuries this season that prevented her from doing more events, but we are grateful for her beam contribution this season. Kate won Division 2 beam.

"Anjaleah Barraza, Mael Stelma, and Ellie Wilcox all stepped in as key contributors to our bar scores, Avery Renberg has an amazingly powerful floor routine, Kayley

Burke had a key pike tuck vault to contribute to our vault score, Avi Einfeld showed her strength and power on floor and vault, and Genna Thompson and Elise Watkins had consistently hard strong beam routines."

Rockford has nine seniors graduating, "so there will be a big turnover into next season," Ankney said. "Hailey Hill, Ellie Wilcox, Kayley Burke, Anjaleah Barraza, Mael Stelma, Addi Pitzer, Bella Elliott, Kennedy Wood, and Julia Robach are all graduating.

"My junior class is strong, and I look forward to their return. We have Leah Koch, Kate Tracey, Avery Renberg, and Avi Einfeld all set to return next year as seniors. We also have Elise Watkins as a strong all arounder coming back as a junior next year. There is still a strong and consistent group returning despite so many graduates, so it will be exciting to see where next year takes us."

Ankney added:

"Next year both looks like a rebuilding year and a strong returning year. We are losing some key athletes, but the hardest part is we are losing our depth. We had so many girls ready to step in on every event this year, and I think we will feel it most in our depth next year. We are hoping to have a good turnout of new athletes wanting to join the team next year."

"Each team is unique. This team had the most fun at state that I've seen so far, and that is such a joy to coach. I'm so proud of each member and how everyone stepped up this year. Every girl on this team improved throughout the season. This kind of growth only works if we are all in it together. We had a great season, and we will continue to celebrate the amazing feeling of a 3-peat."



Rockford celebrated its third straight state title.

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# Saginaw Heritage Reaches D2 Semifinals At State Hockey Tournament

## David Cook Sports Scene

State titles were captured at the Michigan High School Athletic Association hockey state tournament and while the Saginaw Heritage hockey team didn't claim a title, it reached the final four in Division 2. Following is a recap of the hockey state tournament.

### DIVISION 1

Detroit Catholic Central came into the Division 1 state hockey tournament ranked No. 1 in the state and the Shamrocks showed why as they won the Division 1 state championship.

### DIVISION 2

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood won the Division 2 state title in thrilling fashion as it defeated East Grand Rapids 3-2 in triple overtime in the Division 2 state finals.

David Schmitt scored the game-winning goal at the 3:34 mark of the third overtime.

Cranbrook-Kingswood goalkeeper Garrett Dudlar came up big in net with 53 saves.

Cranbrook-Kingswood, who finished the season with a 16-13-1 record, reached the finals by defeating Houghton 5-0 in the semifinals.

### DIVISION 3

Byron Center came away with the state title in Division 3 as it defeated Trenton 6-1 in the championship game.

The Bulldogs, who finished the season with a 27-2-1 record, were led by Jackson Froysland who recorded a hat trick with three goals. Cade Pratt added two goals to the attack.

Byron Center reached the finals by defeating Saginaw Heritage 6-2 in the semifinals.

### SAGINAW HERITAGE REACHES SEMIFINALS

A productive season ended in the semifinal round for the Saginaw Heritage hockey team when it dropped a 6-2 to



A total of five Saginaw Heritage players earned all-state honors as the Hawks reached the Division 3 state semifinals.

eventual state champion Byron Center.

Heritage scored single goals in the second and third period during the semifinals contest. Logan Boettcher, who was named to the all-tournament team, scored a goal in the second period off an assist from Nolan Drapp. Boettcher also scored a goal in the third period with assists from Owen Turner and Carsyn Marshall. Heritage finished the season with a 14-12 overall record.

Heritage reached the semifinals after

turning back Midland 3-2 in the state quarterfinals. Heritage earned a trip to the quarterfinals by winning the regional title. The Hawks defeated Fenton 4-1 in the regional semifinals and then won the regional title with a 2-0 win against Bay City Central.

A total of five Heritage players were named to the all-state team this season including Alec Mellon, Owen Gohm, Boettcher, Drapp and Turner.

# Skiers Take Final Trips Down The Hill At State Ski Finals

## David Cook Sports Scene

Area skiers took one final trip down the ski hill at the Michigan High School Athletic Association state ski finals. Following is a recap of the state ski finals.

### DIVISION 1 GIRLS

Traverse City Central won the girls competition with a score of 77 while Traverse City West took second with 84 and Grand Rapids Forst Hills Northern placed third with 97. Individually, Katie Fodale of Rochester Adams won the slalom while Maddy Stern of Marquette won the giant slalom.

### DIVISION 1 BOYS

Traverse City schools dominated the boys Division 1 competition as Traverse City

West won with a score of 38.5 followed by Traverse City Central with 75 and Rochester Adams with 90. Caleb Lewandowski of Traverse City West was the individual slalom champion while Nathan Dehart of Rochester Adams won the giant slalom.

### DIVISION 2 GIRLS

Cadillac came away with the state title in a closely contested Division 2 state final meet. Cadillac finished with a total of 104 points followed by East Grand Rapids with 110 points and Harbor Springs with 112 points. Individually, Sydney Schulte of Notre Dame Prep won the slalom while Marley Spence of Petoskey won the title in the giant slalom.

### Lowell Skier Turns In Pair Of Top-Five Efforts

Kaylee Byrne of Lowell wrapped up a successful high school ski season in style

by placing second in the giant slalom and third in the slalom at the Division 2 state ski finals. Byrne, who plans on skiing in college at Northern Michigan University, followed up her high school effort by skiing for Team Michigan at the Eastern National Championship races.

### DIVISION 2 BOYS

Petoskey won the Division 2 boys team state title with 86 points while Pontiac Notre Dame Prep placed second with 99 points and Cadillac took third place with 116 points. Individually, Connor Abraham of Gaylord won the slalom while Reed Heathman of Houghton won the state title in the giant slalom.

### Mt. Pleasant Places At State Ski Finals

The Mt. Pleasant boys ski team wrapped



up the season by placing 8th at the Division 2 state ski finals with a 223 total. Mt. Pleasant was led by Aiden Percha who placed 24th in the slalom and 23rd in the giant slalom. Lincoln Gott placed 26th in the giant slalom and 32nd in the slalom while Aidan White placed 41st in the slalom and 44th in the giant slalom. Kyle Sytsema placed 43rd in the slalom for the Oilers.

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# Area Swimmers And Divers Compete At State Swimming And Diving Finals

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

### DIVISION 1

Ann Arbor Pioneer won the Division 1 state title for the fourth consecutive season as the Pioneers totaled 275 points. Saline took second place with 245 points while Detroit Catholic Central placed third with 243.5 points.

### Rockford Swimmers Compete At State Finals

The Rockford swim team placed 13th at the Division 1 state finals with a total of 58 points.

Rockford was led by senior diver Julian Cardenas. Cardenas, won the diving title for a second consecutive year with a score of 537.95.

In the pool, the Rams were paced by senior Will Cheney who placed sixth in the 50 freestyle and 11th in the 100 freestyle.

Senior Andrew Lepech placed 10th in the 100 breaststroke.

The Rams also had a pair of relay teams place as the 200 freestyle relay team of Andrew Lepech, Parson Ursell, Kade Polcick and Will Cheney placed 11th while

the 200 medley relay team of Jake Herrington, Lepech, Seymour and Cheney placed 13th.

### DIVISION 2

#### Okemos Places In Top 10 At State

The Okemos team placed ninth overall at the Division 2 state swim finals with 89 total points.

Okemos was led individually by senior Alex Huang who placed fourth in both the 100 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke. Senior Derek Latimer also earned all-state honors in a pair of events as he placed 13th in the 50 freestyle and 16th in the 100 free.

Okemos also had a pair of relay teams place. The 200 free relay team of Huang, Carlo Macerata, Derrin Cosguner and Latimer placed third. The 400 free relay team of Latimer, Huang, Macerata and Karim Hussein

placed eighth.

### Midland Dow Swim Places In Top 15 At State

The Midland Dow swim team finished in 13th place at the state finals with 70 points.

Dow was led at the finals by a pair of relay teams that placed in the top eight. The 200 free relay team of Henry Ladwein, Noah Buist, Ransom Kurzer and Eli Soderberg placed sixth while the 400 free relay team of Ladwein, Buist, Ransom and Soderberg placed seventh.

Individually, Soderberg placed in a pair of events as he took sixth in the 200 IM and 10th in the 100 backstroke.

### Saginaw Heritage Swimmers Compete At State

The Saginaw Heritage swim team wrapped up the season by placing 28th overall at the Division 2 swimming state finals with nine points.

Heritage was paced by a pair of relay teams earning all-state honors. The 200 free relay team of Tommy Mackley, Nathan Booth, Alex Baillie and Tyler Hammis placed 15th. The 400 free relay team of Mackley, Booth, Baillie and Hammis also placed 15th.

Mackley also placed as an individual as he took 16th in the 50 freestyle.

### Lansing Waverly-Catholic Co-Op Competes At State Meet

The Lansing Waverly-Lansing Catholic co-op team placed 23rd at the Division 2 state finals with 16 points.

Senior Elijah Nevins led the way for the team as he earned all-state honors in a pair of events. Nevins placed eighth in the 100 backstroke and 12th in the 100 butterfly.

### DIVISION 3

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood won the Division 3 swimming and diving state championship with 380 points. East Grand Rapids placed second with 243 points while Holland Christian was third with 211 points.

### DeWitt Places 10Th At State Meet

DeWitt placed 10th overall at the Division 3 state finals with 90 points.

The Panthers were led by sophomore diver Carson Reynolds who placed second in the



Area swimmers dove head first into the action at the MHSAA state swimming and diving finals.

diving competition. Reynolds placed third in diving last season. Junior Lily Kauffman placed 16th to also earn all-state honors.

Senior Erik Keisling turned in a big state-finals effort as he placed seventh in the 500 freestyle and 14th in the 200 freestyle. Junior Dominic Rose placed 12th in the 200 freestyle and 16th in the 100 free. Junior Kaleb Casler placed 13th in the 200 IM while senior Lucas Busch was 14th in the 100 freestyle.

In the pool, senior Dominic Rose led the way for the Panthers as he placed third in the 200 freestyle and fourth in the 100 free. Freshman Vincent Rose earned all-state honors in a pair of events as he placed 13th in both the 200 IM and the 100 breaststroke. The Panthers also received all-state efforts from junior Ben Mion who placed 11th in the 100 butterfly, senior Owen Reed who placed 11th in the 500 freestyle and senior Kaleb Casler who placed 12th in the 200 IM and 14th in the 100 butterfly.

DeWitt also had a trio of relay teams reach the medal stand. The 400 free relay team of Kaleb Casler, Reid Rusthoven, Owen Reed and Dominic Rose placed sixth. The 200 free relay team of Dominic Rose, Casler, Rusthoven and Noah Berns placed 8th as did the 200 medley relay team of Grayson Busch, Vincent Rose, Mion and Berns.

### Alma Swimmer Earns All-State Honors At State Meet

Alma senior Jack Chiodini helped the Alma swim team finish 20th overall at the Division 3 state finals.

For the second year in a row Chiodini earned all-state honors in a pair of events. Chiodini placed fifth in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 58.66 and took eighth place in the 200 individual medley.

### Mason Places In Top 10 At State Swim Finals

The Mason swim team finished 10th at the Division 3 state swimming finals with a total of 93 points.

Senior Nick West led the way for the Bulldogs as he placed fourth in the 200 freestyle and fifth in the 100 freestyle. Senior Evan Collins also placed in two events as he took 12th in both the 500 freestyle and the 200 freestyle. Senior Max Collins placed 14th in the 200 freestyle while senior Aiden Metzger placed 15th in the 100 breaststroke. Mason also had a pair of divers place as sophomore Bruno San Felipe took ninth and senior Atticus Erbe placed 13th.

The Bulldogs also had a relay team earn all-state honors as the 400 free relay team of Evan Collins, Jerry VerHage, Max Collins and Nick West placed seventh and the 200 medley relay team of Blake Delaney, Aiden Metzger, West and Landon Voss placed 11th.

### Haslett Diver Earns All-State Honors

Haslett senior Griffin Porter put the finishing touches on an outstanding high school diving career with his third straight top five finish at the Division 3 swimming and diving championships. Porter placed fifth overall in diving with a total score of 421.5.

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