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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

The leaves are falling and that must mean we are in the middle of the fall tournament season for high school sports.

The tournament already kicked into high gear as tennis players and golfers competed for titles at the state golf and tennis tournaments.

A big shoutout goes to Okemos senior golfer Alena Li who turned in a dominating performance all season long. Li capped her career in a big way as she captured the individual state title at the Division 1 state finals where she carded rounds of 73 and 73 to win the state title by four strokes. Congratulations Alena!!!

Another local golfer who finished the season in a big way was Freeland senior Averie Pumford who placed second as an individual at the Division 3 state finals. Way to go Averie!

A tip of the hat to the Williamston golfers as well as the Hornets placed third as a team in Division 3.

In tennis, Midland Dow senior Austin King capped his career in a big way as he captured the Division 2 state title at No. 2 singles. King also helped Dow place second as a team at the finals.

The football playoffs begin and what a thrill ride the next few weeks will have in store for area football teams.

In Ithaca, the excitement has been building all fall for a Yellowjacket squad that is equipped to make a run to Ford Field in Division 7.

Last year Mason and Corunna both reached Ford Field the weekend after Thanksgiving and this year a host of teams are eager to make the same trip. Along with Ithaca, teams from DeWitt, Davison, East Lansing, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Belding, Portland, Beal City and others are primed for deep playoff runs.

Plenty of playoff action will be ahead for area football fans so take advantage of the nice fall weather and get out to a playoff game!

See you at the games!



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MHSAA High School Football Playoff Preview

David Cook & Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Division 1 Area Teams to Watch

Davison: The Cardinals had another fine season, finishing 7-2 with their only blemishes coming at the hands of Grand Blanc and D2 powerhouse Warren De La Salle. Davison overcame a strong schedule with wins over Grandville, East Lansing, Saginaw Heritage, and Lapeer. The Cardinals have an electric offense that is scoring 43.3 points per game. The Davison offense is led by quarterback Jaxson Dosh who has passed for 1,755 yards this season and 22 touchdowns. Dosh is also a dangerous runner who has rushed for nine touchdowns. Dosh has a pair of talented targets to throw to in Wesley Hughes who has caught 36 passes for 562 receiving yards and seven touchdowns and Braylon Naves who has caught 28 passes for 576 yards and seven touchdowns. The Cardinals also have a productive ground threat in running back AJ Hill who has rushed for 1,079 yards and 11 touchdowns. Davison's playoff journey begins with a match against Oxford in round one.

Grand Blanc: Grand Blanc improved on last season's performance with a strong 7-2 finish that saw their losses to Muskegon Mona Shores and Romeo come by a combined three points. The Bobcats posted plenty of



Grand Ledge is eyeing post-season success in the Division 1 playoffs.

wins over the likes of Saginaw Heritage, Traverse City West, and Lansing Everett but their most impressive victory was a 55-49 win over Davison in week seven. Grand Blanc features a balanced offense led by quarterback Jake Morrow who has passed for 1,421 yards and 17 touchdowns this season. A rematch against Lapeer, who they beat 35-21 in week six, awaits in the first round.

Grand Ledge: Grand Ledge is back in the postseason after going 5-4 in the regular season. The Comets were off to a strong start, going 4-1 with wins over West Ottawa and Holt but stumbled in the second half where they lost three straight before winning their season finale against Okemos. Grand Ledge will play Brighton in round one of the playoffs.

Top D1 Contenders: Detroit Catholic Central (9-0), Howell (9-0), Belleville (8-1), Hudsonville (8-1), Macomb Dakota (8-1)

Preview: Belleville, led by star quarterback Bryce Underwood, will be the popular pick to take home the D1 title this year, but will have stiff competition in the bottom half of the bracket where Saline, Macomb Dakota, and undefeated Detroit Catholic Central pose significant threats. The top half of the bracket features top seed Howell, who beat Belleville in a thrilling season finale, favored against a field of title hopefuls that include area teams Davison and Grand Blanc along with West Michigan power Hudsonville.

HSSS Division 1 State Final Prediction: Detroit Catholic Central 27, Howell 23

Division 2 Area Teams to Watch

East Lansing: The Trojans finished the season 6-3 to clinch their 9th straight postseason appearance. East Lansing posted wins over Portage Central, Grand Ledge, and Lansing Everett plus a 42-point shutout of Holt in the final week of the season. The Trojans offense is scoring 34.6 ppg and is complemented by a defense that has limited opposing teams to 17 ppg. East Lansing will play Milford in the first round of the playoffs.

Flushing: Flushing is back in the playoffs for the first time since 2020 thanks to a 7-2 regular season. The Raiders scored impressive wins over Zeeland East in week two and Lake Fenton in week seven. Balance has been key to Flushing's success, scoring 35.8 ppg and holding opponents to just 12.8 ppg. The Raiders face a tough round one test against Midland.

Lansing Everett: It's back-to-back post-seasons for Lansing Everett after a 6-3 regular season. Everett started 4-0 on the season before a difficult second half that, despite

going 2-3, saw the Vikings beat Grand Ledge 35-12 and Holt 29-20. The Vikings will play Mattawan in the first round.

Midland: Midland enters the playoffs after an 8-1 regular season, their only blemish being a 37-7 loss to Portage Northern in week two. The second half of the season saw the Chemics run through a gauntlet that included Saginaw Heritage, Mount Pleasant, Midland Dow, and both Traverse City Central and West emerging victorious in all five games. Defense has been the key to Midland's success, limiting opposing teams to 10.2 ppg. Flushing awaits the Chemics in round one of the playoffs.

Midland Dow: The Chargers of Midland Dow return to the postseason after a 5-4 regular season. They stumbled early in the season with losses against Fenton and Saginaw Heritage before rebounding with a 5-2 finish including wins over Mount Pleasant, Traverse City West, and Lapeer. The Chargers have a tough defense that has limited opponents to 15.1 ppg this season. Dow will have a rematch with Heritage in round one.

Saginaw Heritage: Heritage is back in the playoffs after finishing the season 6-3. The Hawks began the season with quality wins over Mount Pleasant and Midland Dow before losing their next two games against D1 powers Grand Blanc and Davison. They were able to rebound with a 4-1 finish that included a 10-7 victory over Lapper. Round one features a rematch against Midland Dow, who the Hawks beat 28-27 back in week two.

Top D2 Contenders: Birmingham Groves (9-0), Dexter (9-0), Grosse Pointe South (9-0), Byron Center (8-1), Muskegon Mona Shores (8-1)

Preview: The top half of Division 2 features undefeated Dexter among the favorites along with a pair of West Michigan teams in Byron Center and Muskegon Mona Shores who have both put up impressive performances all season long. Other potential challengers include Midland and East Lansing. The bottom half is shaping up to be a gauntlet that includes two unbeaten teams in Birmingham Groves and Grosse Pointe South plus D2 powerhouse Warren De La Salle who has made the trip to Ford Field in each of the last four seasons.

HSSS Division 2 State Final Prediction: Muskegon Mona Shores 26, Warren De La Salle 18



Lansing Everett is prepared to put up some points in the Division 2 playoffs.

Division 3 Area Teams to Watch

Bay City John Glenn: John Glenn is back in the playoffs for the first time since 2020 after finishing the season 5-4. Highlights of the Bobcats' season include wins over Essexville Garber and Swartz Creek. The offense has been a high point for John Glenn, scoring 33.5 ppg and will need to continue their form in the first round when they play undefeated Petoskey. The Bobcats offense is paced by quarterback Garrett Buzzard who has passed for 1,740 yards this season and 15 touchdowns. The John Glenn ground game is led by running back Garrett Hilborn who has rushed for 683 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Cedar Springs: The Red Wings are returning to the playoffs thanks to a 7-2 regular season. Cedar Springs notched impressive wins over Auburn Hills Avondale and Kenowa Hills with their only blemishes being against Lowell and Coopersville. Round one sees the Red Wings in a rematch against Lowell, who they lost 28-14 in week five.

DeWitt: There is perhaps no bigger favorite in this year's playoffs than DeWitt. The Panthers rolled to a 9-0 record thanks to a historic offense that averaged an eye watering 57.8 ppg. They have been doing it against top opposition too, putting up 69, 55, and 70 points against Haslett, Mason, and West Virginia powerhouse Hurricane respectively. The offense is paced by dynamic senior quarterback Elliott Larner. When Larner drops back to pass he has a familiar target in his brother Abram Larner who has caught 32 passes for 913 yards and 17 scores. A true two-way threat, Larner has passed for 1,604 yards and 28 touchdowns while as a runner he has rushed for 1,341 yards and 19 touchdowns. The Panther's title run begins against St Johns in the first round.

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Mt. Pleasant is geared up to make a run in the Division 3 playoffs.

Lowell: Lowell improved on last year's performance to finish 7-2 this season to secure their spot in the playoffs. After starting the season 1-2, the Red Arrows rebounded by winning their last six games including wins over Cedar Springs and Kenowa Hills. Lowell's offense has excelled this year, scoring 39.2 ppg which will make them a tough out this postseason. The Red Arrows will have a rematch against Cedar Springs, who they beat 28-14 in week five, in the first round.

Mason: 2023 D3 runners up Mason are back for another run at Ford Field after finishing 7-2. Losses to DeWitt and Walled Lake Western were offset by wins over Williamston, Haslett, St Johns, and a 43-point shutout of Fenton in the season finale. The Bulldogs are performing at a high level on both sides of the ball, scoring 34.5 ppg while limiting their opponents to 15.8 ppg, making them contenders yet again. The journey to Detroit begins with a first-round match against Jackson.

Mount Pleasant: The Oilers of Mount Pleasant managed to qualify for their 7th straight postseason appearance after finishing the season 5-4. A 1-3 start to the season was overcome as the Oilers managed a 4-2 finish to the season that included wins over Traverse City Central and Linden. Mount Pleasant will face Cadillac in round one.

St Johns: St Johns clinched their first playoff berth since 2020 thanks to a 6-3 regular season record. The Falcons won their first five games, including a 45-21 win over Williamston, before a rough three game losing streak but rebounded with a win over Alpena in their final game. A daunting challenge awaits the Falcons in the first round as they face D3 favorites DeWitt.

Top D3 Contenders: DeWitt (9-0), Walled Lake Western (9-0), St Joseph (8-1), Zeeland West (8-1), Forest Hills Central (7-2)

Preview: DeWitt is a heavy favorite in Division 3 thanks to a historic offense this season.



Frankenmuth is locked in and ready to make another deep playoff run this season.

season, but will face a tough road to Ford Field with defending D3 champions Forest Hills Central and a pair of battle tested teams in St Joseph and Zeeland West sharing the top half of the bracket with the Panthers. The bottom half features undefeated Walled Lake Western as favorites, but they will have to contend with Mason, who the Warriors beat by only three points in week eight, and the always talented Detroit Martin Luther King. **HSSS Division 3 State Final Prediction: DeWitt 35, Walled Lake Western 33**

Division 4 Area Teams to Watch

Big Rapids: The Cardinals of Big Rapids overcame a difficult schedule to finish 8-1 and secured their 5th straight postseason appearance. After losing the season opener against Paw Paw, the Cardinals ran the table with wins over Reed City, Newaygo, and Coopersville among other playoff caliber teams. Big Rapids are a well-balanced team, scoring 33.4 ppg and limiting opponents to 13.5 ppg. The Cardinals will play Ludington in round one of the playoffs.

Freeland: Freeland is back for their 17th straight playoff appearance after finishing 8-1, their sole loss being a one-point heart-breaker to Frankenmuth. Wins against Swan Valley, Bay City Glenn, and Cadillac are highlights of the Falcon's season. Freeland has dominated opponents, scoring 45 ppg and allowing merely 68 points all season, making them a favorite in D4. The Falcons will play Lake Fenton in the first round.

Haslett: A 6-3 regular season finish has secured a postseason berth for Haslett. The Vikings stumbled out of the gates with a 1-3 finish before winning their last five including victories over Williamston, St Johns, and Parma Western. Haslett's offense is scoring at a high pace, 34.3 ppg, and will have them playing competitive postseason football. The Vikings have a rematch with Parma Western in round one, who they beat 21-18 in week seven.

Ionia: Ionia is back in the playoffs for back-to-back seasons after finishing 6-3. The Bulldogs have multiple quality wins under their belt with victories against Belding, Lansing Sexton, and St Johns the highlights. A stingy defense that is limiting opponents to 17.7 ppg will assure that Ionia will be a tough out this postseason. They will face Hastings in the first round.



Haslett is counting on its strong ground game to lead it to success in Division 4.

Lansing Sexton: The J-Dubbs are returning to the postseason after a 5-4 regular season finish that featured an impressive 13-9 win over Lansing Catholic in week two. Sexton's defense has kept them competitive in every game, holding opponents to 14.7 ppg. They will have a tough test in round one as they will have to replay Portland who they lost 33-0 in week seven.

Portland: Portland cruised to another 9-0 record this season for their 10th straight playoff appearance. The Raiders overcame a difficult three game start to the season with wins over Detroit Country Day, Olivet, and Ionia then used that momentum to run the table with further wins against Lansing Catholic and Whitehall. Portland has been holding opponents to just 11 ppg while lighting up the scoreboard on offense, scoring 42 ppg. The Raider's push for a return to Ford Field will begin with a rematch against Lansing Sexton in round one.

Top D4 Contenders: Hudsonville Unity Christian (9-0), Portland (9-0), Goodrich (8-1), Niles (8-1), Paw Paw (8-1)

Preview: Hudsonville Unity Christian will be favorites in Division 4 after running the table against tough competition that included D3 defending champions Forest Hills Central, Zeeland West, and D5 favorites Pontiac Notre Dame. Their half of the bracket is stacked however with undefeated Portland and a pair of Southwest Michigan teams

in Niles and Paw Paw all posing significant obstacles for the Crusaders. The bottom half of the bracket is wide open with the likes of Goodrich, Chelsea, Harper Woods, and Madison Heights Lamphre all looking to book their trip to Ford Field.

HSSS Division 4 State Final Prediction: Hudsonville Unity Christian 30, Goodrich 25

Division 5 Area Teams to Watch

Belding: The Black Knights finished another impressive 8-1 season to make it five straight postseason appearances. After stumbling against Ionia in the season opener, the Black Knights rolled off eight wins, including victories over Holland, Fruitport, and Hopkins. With an offense that is averaging 45.8 ppg and a defense that is allowing only 11.6 ppg, Running back Codey Manley is a key element of the offense as he has rushed for 1,101 yards and scored 16 touchdowns this season. Belding should be considered a serious title contender this year. They will begin their title run against Swan Valley in round one.

Clare: Clare finished off another impressive season with a 7-2 record to secure their 9th straight playoff appearance. The Pioneers posted wins over Gladwin and Standish-Ster-

ling this season. Clare features an electric offense that is scoring 39.7 ppg and is well complemented by a defense that has limited teams to 19.8 ppg. A rematch against Ogemaw Heights, to which the Pioneers lost 41-34 in week five, awaits in round one.

Corunna: 2023 Division 5 runners up Corunna are back for another shot at a championship after a 7-2 regular season. The Cavaliers cruised through their first five games, including wins over Ortonville Brandon and Lake Fenton, before losing to Goodrich in week six. They rebounded against Clio and Linden, but finished the season with a loss to Armada. The journey back to Ford Field begins against Flint Hamady in the first round.

Flint Hamady: The Hawks have qualified for their 3rd straight postseason after finishing the regular season 5-3. Hamady started the season hot, going 5-1 before losing their final two games of the season to Ypsilanti and Lake Fenton. The offense has been the highlight for the Hawks, scoring 33.2 ppg and they will need to keep it up as they face last year's D5 runner up Corunna.

Frankenmuth: Frankenmuth finished another dominant regular season unbeaten and will now be looking to return to Ford Field as one of the favorites in D5. The Eagles started the season with an impressive 22-point shutout of Goodrich and never let up; continuing to rack up wins against the likes of Swan Valley, Freeland, and Gladwin. They are dominating on both sides of the ball, scoring 37.4 ppg while giving up only 87 points all season. The Eagle's 14th straight postseason begins against Howard City Tri-County.

Gladwin: 2022 state champions Gladwin are returning for their 5th straight postseason after a 6-3 regular season. After a 2-2 start the Flying G's were able to post a four-game winning streak before losing to Frankenmuth in the season finale. The team is playing complementary football thanks to an offense that is scoring 34.1 ppg to go along with a defense that is limiting opponents to 18.5 ppg. Gladwin's quest to return to Ford Field begins against Kingsford in round one.

Howard City Tri-County: Tri-County finished with a 5-4 record to make it to their 5th straight playoff appearance. A strong 4-1 start to the season, including a 40-22 win over Kent City in week five, was enough despite stumbling in the later half of the season. The Viking's offense is scoring 34.1 ppg and will be needed as they face Frankenmuth



Mason is looking for another strong playoff run after reaching the state title game last year.



Central Montcalm is looking to make a run in the Division 6 state playoffs.

in the first round.

Saginaw Swan Valley: Swan Valley will be in the playoffs for the 13th straight season after a 6-3 regular season finish. The Vikings stumbled early, losing their first three games, before finishing the season on a six-game win streak including a win over Bay City John Glenn. Look for Swan Valley's offense, which is scoring 35.6 ppg, to keep them competitive in the postseason. The Vikings like to air it out on offense as quarterback Colton Klein has passed for 2,197 yards and 25 touchdowns this season. Swan Valley also has a big-time receiving threat in Jamison Pelt who has hauled in a whopping 53 passes for 1,222 yards and 20 touchdowns. The Vikings will play Belding in the first round.

Williamston: Despite a 3-6 record, Williamston has qualified for their 9th straight postseason thanks to a tough strength of schedule. The Hornets notched wins over Fowlerville and Lansing Eastern to go along with a shutout of Detroit Country Day. Williamston will face title favorites Pontiac Notre Dame in round one.

Top D5 Contenders: Frankenmuth (9-0), Kingsford (9-0), Armada (8-1), Pontiac Notre Dame (7-1), Corunna (7-2)

Preview: Undeclared Frankenmuth is the favorite to come out of the top half of the D5 bracket, but the Eagles will have competition from the likes of West Catholic, Belding, and undefeated Kingsford. Corunna's return to Ford Field will prove to be a significant challenge as they share District 1 with Pontiac Notre Dame who impressed this season with wins over Grand Rapids Catholic Central, Reed City, and Jackson Lumen Christi. Armada is another team who could make a title run in the bottom half of the bracket.

HSSS Division 5 State Final Prediction: Frankenmuth 28, Pontiac Notre Dame 26

Division 6 Area Teams to Watch

Central Montcalm: The Hornets improved on last year's playoff performance, finishing 8-1 with their lone loss coming at the hands of Newaygo. Central Montcalm overcame a challenging schedule, securing wins over Houghton Lake, Berrien Springs, and Kent City. The offense is buzzing with a 43.2 ppg average while the defense has stifled opponents to 11.8 ppg. A rematch with Kent City awaits the Hornets in round one.

Chesaning: Chesaning is returning to the playoffs after a dominant 9-0 regular season. The Indians handled a tough schedule with relative ease notching victories over Bath, New Lothrop, Ovid-Elsie, and Durand plus a 50-point shutout of Montrose in week six. Chesaning's electric offense, which is scoring 42.6 ppg, is complemented by a tough defense that has limited teams to 12.1 ppg. The Chesaning is led by quarterback Maxwell Volk who has passed for 1,368 yards and 21 touchdown passes. Volk can also do damage as a runner with over 300 yards rushing and eight touchdowns this season. The ground game is led by running back Brayden Florian who has rushed for 1,180 yards and eight touchdowns this season. Their postseason journey starts with a test against Lansing Catholic.

Lansing Catholic: Lansing Catholic will make it 16 straight postseason appearances after finishing 6-3 in the regular season. Wins against Williamston, Ionia, and Pewamo-Westphalia are the highlights of this season. The Cougars' defense has been great at limiting opposing offenses to 20.3 ppg and will be key to a deep playoff run. Lansing Catholic's path to return to Ford Field will begin against Chesaning in round one.

Ovid-Elsie: Ovid-Elsie finished the season 7-2 to qualify for their 5th straight playoff

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Ithaca is set to take on the field in the Division 7 state playoffs.

appearance. The Marauders had impressive 42-7 wins over Durand and Montrose in weeks four and five along with a 42-point shutout of New Lothrop in week eight. Balance has been key for Ovid-Elsie as the offense has scored 39.7 ppg to go along with the defense's 15.1 points allowed. The Marauders face a tough test in round one against favorites Almont.

Reed City: The Coyotes will be in the post-season for the 15th straight year after a 7-2 regular season finish. Reed City began the season with an impressive 24-22 win over defending Division 6 state champions Kingsley and continued their success with wins over Newaygo, Tri-County, and Beal City. The offense has been electric for the Coyotes, scoring 36.6 ppg including a 63-point performance in their win against Newaygo. Reed City will start their postseason against Manistee.

Top D6 Contenders: Almont (9-0), Chesaning (9-0), Jackson Lumen Christi (8-1), Warren Michigan Collegiate (8-1), Reed City (7-2)

Preview: Undeclared Almont headlines the top half of the D6 bracket as they are favorites to return to Ford Field, but they will need to go through a host of contenders that include unbeaten Chesaning, Reed City, and defending champions Kingsley who beat the Raiders in last year's D6 title game. Ford Field regulars Jackson Lumen Christi will be heavy favorites in the bottom half of the bracket after another impressive season, but look for Warren Michigan Collegiate as a possible dark horse pick for a title run. Olivet and Marine City are two other teams who could challenge as well.

HSSS Division 6 State Final Prediction: Jackson Lumen Christi 28, Almont 26

Division 7

Area Teams to Watch

Bath: Bath qualified for their 3rd straight postseason appearance after a 5-4 finish in the regular season. The Bees rattled off four straight wins in the second half of the season, including an impressive 22-8 victory over fellow playoff qualifiers Saranac in week

rushed for 1,085 yards and 13 scores. Defensively, the Yellowjackets have been getting big years from Nathan Mikesell who has recorded 96 tackles, Roman Hurosky who has 61 tackles and Broghan Bupp who has totaled 60 tackles. Ithaca's quest to return to Ford Field for the first time since 2017 starts against Saranac.

Leslie: Leslie is one of this year's surprise teams going 8-1 for their first winning season since 2012. The Black Hawks impressed with wins over Manchester and Napoleon along with a 35-14 victory over previously unbeaten Hanover-Horton in the final game of the season. Leslie has been strong on both sides of the ball, scoring 40.8 ppg and limiting opponents to 18.4 ppg. Leslie features a potent passing game on offense as sophomore quarterback Joel Cranmore has passed for 2,092 yards and 29 touchdown passes. Cranmore has some talented targets to pass to led by Jaydn Colby who has 1,022 receiving yards and scored nine touchdowns and Braydin Johnson who has 478 receiving yards and seven scores. Their postseason begins against Burton Atherton.

Millington: Millington will be one of the favorites in their 21st straight postseason after a dominant 9-0 regular season that included wins over Reese and Elkton Pigeon-Bay Port Laker. The Cardinals allowed merely 52 points all season including three shutouts while their offense put up 40.4 ppg. The Cardinal offense is led by quarterback Truk Ter-Bush who has passed for 865 yards and 11 touchdowns this season and has rushed for 253 yards and eight touchdowns. Running back Tevon Dallas-Walsh has added 956 yards rushing and scored 13 touchdowns. Ford Field has eluded Millington in the past, but this year is looking promising. Their path to Detroit starts with a rematch against Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker.

Montrose: Montrose is in the playoffs for the 15th straight season with a 6-3 record featuring wins over Durand, New Lothrop, and Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard. This year's team is no stranger to hard fought and competitive games having won their last three games by a combined nine points making them a tough

out in the postseason. The Rams will face fellow perennial power Pewamo-Westphalia in round one of the playoffs.

Pewamo-Westphalia: It is 21 straight post-season appearances for Pewamo-Westphalia after a 7-2 regular season that featured many close games. The Pirates won their season opener 8-7 against playoff qualifiers North Muskegon and had a 33-28 week eight win over Saranac. Their losses to Fowler and Lansing Catholic were by a combined four points. Pewamo has been stout on both sides of the ball, scoring 39.3 ppg while allowing just 10.6 ppg. The Pirates will have a tough opening round matchup against Montrose as they look to return to Ford Field.

Saginaw Valley Lutheran: Valley Lutheran has clinched their first playoff appearance since 2020 after finishing 5-4. The Chargers started the season strong with shutout victories over Rochester Lutheran Northwest and St. Louis and finished the season with a win over Pinconning to secure their spot. They will face Cass City in the first round.

Saranac: Saranac is in the playoffs for the 2nd straight year with a 6-3 finish. The offense has been a highlight for the Red Hawks, scoring 39.6 ppg which will keep them competitive against postseason opposition. Saranac will face a tough test in the first round against favorites Ithaca, but their five-point week eight loss to Pewamo proves that the Red Hawks are sure to put up a fight.

Top D7 Contenders: Ithaca (9-0), Monroe St Mary (9-0), Millington (8-0), Hudson (8-1), Menominee (8-1)

Preview: Division 7 is shaping up to be one of the most competitive brackets this year with title contenders littered throughout. The top half features a pair of undefeated area teams in Ithaca and Millington who will need to fend off a host of challengers that include Montrose, Pewamo-Westphalia, and Menominee who is a dark horse pick to reach the finals. The bottom half is highlighted by undefeated Monroe St Mary who will have to stave off tough competition from the likes of Hudson, Lawton, Schoolcraft, and Leslie if they want to return to Ford Field. Certainly, whoever wins the D7 title will be



Bath is looking to make its mark in the Division 7 state playoffs.



Mt Pleasant Sacred Heart is looking for playoff success in the 8-man playoffs.

worthy champions this year.

HSSS Division 7 State Final Prediction: Monroe St Mary 26, Menominee 22

Division 8

Area Teams to Watch

Beal City: The Aggies are back for their 6th straight postseason after a 7-2 finish that included dominant wins over post-season teams Evert and Houghton Lake. The defense has been exceptional this season, giving up only 85 points all year including two shutouts. The Aggies path to a return to Ford Field begins against Frankfort.

Burton Bentley: The renaissance continues at Burton Bentley after the Bulldogs made it back-to-back postseason appearances thanks to a 5-4 record. Bentley's stingy defense has kept them competitive all season, limiting opponents to 16.2 ppg. The Bulldogs face Clarkston Everest in the first round.

Fowler: Perennial powers Fowler have made it six straight playoff appearances, cruising to a 9-0 record against formidable competition. The Eagles notched wins over Hudson, Saranac, Pewamo, and McBain during the regular season thanks to a defense that has stifled opponents to just 80 points all year. Despite their regular season successes, Fowler has not been to Ford Field since 2011 but this year could be different. The Eagles begin their postseason run against Reese.

Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary: Michigan Lutheran will make their 3rd straight playoffs after finishing the regular season 6-3 with highlight wins over Saginaw Valley Lutheran and Reese. The Cardinal's defense has been the highlight, limiting opponents to 13.4 ppg and kept the team competitive even losses to Ithaca and Saginaw Nouvel. They will be hoping for redemption in the first round as they play Nouvel who

the Cardinals lost to in week four 23-14.

Saginaw Nouvel: Nouvel is back in the postseason after going an impressive 8-1 in the regular season, their only loss coming to D7 power Ithaca. Highlights included a 23-14 win over Michigan Lutheran and wins against Valley Lutheran and Manistique. Defense has been the Panther's strong suit, limiting opponents to just 14.8 ppg. A rematch against Michigan Lutheran awaits in round one.

Top D8 Contenders: Fowler (9-0), Iron Mountain (9-0), Clarkston Everest Collegiate (8-1), White Pigeon (8-1), Riverview Gabriel Richard (7-1),

Preview: The top half of D8 features a pair of unbeaten in Fowler and Iron Mountain who look to be the early favorites, but the likes of Beal City, Harbor Beach, and Clarkston Everest Collegiate will make this half of the bracket a true gauntlet for whoever is able to make it to Detroit. The bottom half is open for the taking with no clear-cut favorite. Look for Decatur, White Pigeon, or Riverview Gabriel Richard to stake their claim for a spot at Ford Field.

HSSS Division 8 State Final Prediction: Fowler 27, Riverview Gabriel Richard 18

8-Man Division 1

Area Teams to Watch

Bay City All Saints: All Saints are back in the playoffs after finishing the season 7-2. The Cougars dominated on both sides of the ball, scoring 46.2 ppg while only giving up 96 points all season including four shutouts. They will have a tough test in the first round with a rematch against Deckerville who they lost to in week 1 50-16.

Blanchard Montabella: Blanchard Montabella has clinched their first playoff appear-

ance since 2020 thanks to a 6-3 regular season finish. The Mustangs went on a four-game winning streak midseason, including a 42-12 victory over Coleman, before losing to Morrice in the final week. Indian River Inland Lakes await in round one.

Top 8-Man D1 Contenders: Deckerville (9-0), Gobles (9-0), Indian River Inland Lakes (9-0), Pickford (9-0), Alcona (8-1)

Preview: The top half of the bracket features two unbeaten teams in Pickford and Indian River Inland Lakes who will be favorites to meet in the semifinals, but do not count out Alcona whose offense is averaging 54.7 ppg. The bottom half of the bracket also features two unbeaten in Deckerville and Gobles along with two-time defending state champions Martin making it a gauntlet.

HSSS 8-Man Division 2 State Final Prediction: Pickford 34, Deckerville 28

8-Man Division 2

Area Teams to Watch

Morrice: Morrice clinched their 8th straight playoff berth thanks to an 8-1 record with their lone loss coming to fellow D2 contender Portland St. Patrick. The Orioles had an impressive regular season that saw them beat the likes of Fulton-Middleton, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, and Blanchard Montabella. Morrice is a well-balanced team, scoring 42.2 ppg while only giving up 89 points all season. Morrice feature plenty of speed on offense with players like Wyatt Cartier and Joel Fisher who have been a steady source of offense for the team this season. The Orioles have a rematch with Portland St. Patrick in the first round.

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart: Sacred Heart rallied late with wins in their last two games to reach their second straight postseason, finishing with a 6-3 record. The offense, which averaged 37.6 ppg, helped post big wins against Blanchard Montabella in week 1 and Coleman in the final week of the season. Sacred Heart is led on offense by quarterback Jason Boge. Boge is a strong runner and is also an excellent passer. Luke Hacker is one

of the top options to throw to when the Irish take to the air. At running back, Teegan Duffy and Mark Kanimi have been a steady source of yards on the ground. The Irish will play title favorite Grand Rapids Sacred Heart in the first round.

Portland St. Patrick: The Shamrocks cruised to their second straight postseason appearance with an 8-1 record, their only loss coming to D1 playoff contender Fulton-Middleton. Portland St. Patrick features a high-powered offense that is averaging 48.7 ppg. The offense is paced by versatile quarterback Brady Leonard. Leonard has passed for 831 yards this season and tossed 17 touchdown passes. Leonard has also carried the ball for 1,123 yards and scored 22 touchdowns. Running back Brayden Simon has added 597 yards rushing and scored 10 touchdowns. The receiving corps is led by Charlie Thelen who has caught 19 passes for 334 yards and seven touchdowns. On defense, Thelen is among the leaders with 66 tackles and seven sacks while Ben White leads with 89 tackles. Auggie Teachworth has 63 tackles and Simon has five sacks. The Shamrocks begin their title run against Morrice who they beat 29-12 back in week 3.

Top 8-Man D2 Contenders: Grand Rapids Sacred Heart (9-0), Crystal Falls Forest Park (8-1), Morrice (8-1), Portland St. Patrick (8-1), Powers North Central (8-1)

Preview: This year's playoffs are wide open with half of the field holding an 8-1 record. Grand Rapids Sacred Heart, the sole undefeated team, is the early favorite but are in arguably the toughest region with the winner of Morrice and Portland St. Patrick potentially awaiting them in round two. Do not count out three-time champions Powers North Central or Crystal Falls Forest Park in the top half of the bracket. A potential matchup between the two could decide who will end up playing in the Superior Dome on November 23rd.

HSSS 8-Man Division 2 State Final Prediction: Powers North Central 33, Grand Rapids Sacred Heart 25



Fulton is poised to make a strong showing in the 8-man playoffs.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE FOOTBALL STATS

PASSING YARDS

Aidan Anderson, Ewart 2,416
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 2,197
 Joel Cranmore, Leslie 2,092
 Jaxson Dosh, Davison 1,755
 Garrett Buzzard, Bay City Glenn 1,740
 Elliott Larner, DeWitt 1,604
 Jayden Arthur, Clare 1,540
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 1,520
 Tyger Whitbeck, Perry 1,501
 Maxwell Volk, Chesaning 1,368
 Hunter McGuire, Chippewa Hills 1,319
 Christian Powers, Charlotte 1,312
 Mayson Burgett, Dansville 1,286
 Kaleb Nielson, Williamston 1,118
 Jordan Allen, Saginaw United 1,101
 Zac Rogozinski, Stockbridge 1,022
 Liam Patrick, Owosso 952
 Truk TerBush, Millington 865
 Jay Kreisler, Bath 843
 Ethan Pett, Essexville-Garber 764
 Blake Burke, Okemos 724
 Shawn Skocelas, Houghton Lake 724
 Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 700

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

Joel Cranmore, Leslie 29
 Aidan Anderson, Ewart 28
 Elliott Larner, DeWitt 28
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 25
 Jayden Arthur, Clare 24
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 23
 Jaxson Dosh, Davison 22
 Maxwell Volk, Chesaning 21
 Liam Patrick, Owosso 20
 Garrett Buzzard, Bay City Glenn 15
 Christian Powers, Charlotte 15
 Hunter McGuire, Chippewa Hills 14
 Zac Rogozinski, Stockbridge 14
 Kaleb Nielson, Williamston 13
 Jordan Allen, Saginaw United 12
 Jay Kreisler, Bath 11
 Truk TerBush, Millington 11
 Shawn Skocelas, Houghton Lake 10
 Mayson Burgett, Dansville 8
 Jake Metiva, Freeland 8
 Tyger Whitbeck, Perry 8

RUSHING YARDS

Hoyt Patrick, Owosso 1,348
 Elliott Larner, DeWitt 1,341
 Nolan Rowley, Bath 1,236
 Brayden Florian, Chesaning 1,180
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 1,117
 Codey Manley, Belding 1,101
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 1,085
 AJ Hill, Davison 1,079
 Tevon Dallas Walsh, Millington 956
 Ladon Hatcher, Holt 928
 Dominick Knezec, Essexville-Garber 829
 Luke Winkler, Almont 824
 Joe Smith, Williamston 796
 Max Heyn, Freeland 753
 Liam Patrick, Owosso 740
 Aidan Anderson, Ewart 728
 Garrett Hilborn, Bay City Glenn 683
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 681
 Trav Moore, DeWitt 670
 Brandon Hamlett, Stockbridge 651
 Landon Russell, Millington 603
 Aiden Vanbonn, Clare 568
 William Salgot, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 565
 Tim Bensingher, Charlotte 530
 Marshawn Hallums, Okemos 516
 Case Johnson, Greenville 507
 Brayden Petre, Freeland 503

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS

Elliott Larner, DeWitt 19
 Hoyt Patrick, Owosso 19

JACKSON CONN, ITHACA 16

Codey Manley, Belding 16
 Aidan Anderson, Ewart 14
 Luke Winkler, Almont 14
 Max Heyn, Freeland 13
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 13
 Trav Moore, DeWitt 13
 Nolan Rowley, Bath 13
 Tevon Dallas Walsh, Millington 13
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 12
 Ladon Hatcher, Holt 12
 Garrett Hilborn, Bay City Glenn 11
 AJ Hill, Davison 11
 Jaxson Dosh, Davison 9
 Noah Reif, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 9
 Landon Russell, Millington 9
 Brayden Florian, Chesaning 8
 Noah Sandeck, Stockbridge 8
 Joe Smith, Williamston 8
 Truk TerBush, Millington 8
 Maxwell Volk, Chesaning 8
 Chase Battani, Almont 7
 Jayden Colby, Leslie 7
 Kaiden Holmes, Charlotte 7
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 7
 Jayden Arthur, Clare 6
 Boston Beaughner, Swan Valley 6
 Codey Manley, Belding 6
 Gavin Morse, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 6
 Brayden Petre, Freeland 6
 William Salgot, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 6
 Liam Patrick, Owosso 6
 Aiden Vanbonn, Clare 6

RECEIVING YARDS

Jamison Pelt, Swan Valley 1,222
 Jayden Colby, Leslie 1,022
 Abram Larner, DeWitt 913
 Lucas Johnson, Ewart 867
 Gage Perkins, Chippewa Hills 769
 Noah Vanderlinde, Ewart 718
 Quinton Burgett, Dansville 605
 Dryson Derscheid, Ewart 579
 Braylon Naves, Davison 576
 Jacob Adkins, Perry 567
 Wesley Hughes, Davison 562
 Jacob Halicek, Clare 528
 Brady Sager, Chesaning 527
 Dionquavis Hardy, Saginaw United 517
 Bradley Boyk, Bay City Glenn 512
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 494
 Brock Rochow, Stockbridge 489
 Braydin Johnson, Leslie 478
 Brayden Connell, Perry 463
 Zach Rye, Owosso 463
 Ethan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 458
 AJ Hill, Davison 445
 Cal Delisle, Swan Valley 431
 Ladon Hatcher, Holt 428
 Tommy Pratt, Williamston 423
 Hunter VanSickler, Williamston 412
 Colton Carey, Charlotte 409
 Adam Woodcock, Chesaning 397
 Owen Fortman, East Lansing 378
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 371
 Wilson Huckleby, Freeland 369
 Kaiden Holmes, Charlotte 365
 Coleson Lessner, Lake Fenton 354

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS

Jamison Pelt, Swan Valley 20
 Abram Larner, DeWitt 17
 Jacob Halicek, Clare 11
 Lucas Johnson, Ewart 10
 Gage Perkins, Chippewa Hills 10
 Noah Vanderlinde, Ewart 10
 Jayden Colby, Leslie 9
 Brady Sager, Chesaning 9
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 8
 Ethan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 8



Quinton Burgett, Dansville 7
 Kaiden Holmes, Charlotte 7
 Wesley Hughes, Davison 7
 Braydin Johnson, Leslie 7
 Tommy Pratt, Williamston 7
 Dryson Derscheid, Ewart 6
 Wilson Huckleby, Freeland 6
 Gibson Rondy, Ithaca 6
 Adam Woodcock, Chesaning 6
 Coleson Lessner, Lake Fenton 5
 Ryan Louch, Clare 5
 Brock Rochow, Stockbridge 5
 Bradley Boyk, Bay City Glenn 4
 Brayden Connell, Perry 4
 Cal Delisle, Swan Valley 4
 Lukas Gies, Bay City Glenn 4
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 4
 Trav Moore, DeWitt 4
 Jacob Phillips, Leslie 4

TACKLES

Hoyt Patrick, Owosso 137
 Carter Moore, Charlotte 112
 Cohen Ferqueron, Almont 108
 Miles Keener, Williamston 103
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 96
 Brady Burns, Perry 93
 Justin Rodriguez, St. Louis 93
 Timmy Bensingher, Charlotte 87
 Van Reed, Charlotte 86
 Carson Moore, Owosso 83
 Noah Reif, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 83
 Garrett Hilborn, Bay City Glenn 81
 Jack Pestrue, Essexville-Garber 81
 Valentino Solano, Bay City Glenn 80
 Logan Broekhuizen, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 76
 Cal Frasier, Chesaning 72
 Melchizadek Washington, Saginaw United 72
 Brayden Bundy, Davison 70
 Kane Romano, Dansville 70
 Aiden Van bonn, Clare 70
 Michael Borie, St. Louis 66
 Blake Bawks, Perry 68
 Morgan Laupchler, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 66
 Joey Bouchy, Clare 64
 Ryan Louch, Clare 64
 Zach Rogozinski, Stockbridge 64

Alex Mcewan, Perry 63
 Braiden Royal, Stockbridge 63
 Jamaris Graham, Okemos 62
 Nathan Precise, Okemos 62
 Chase Battani, Almont 61
 Quinton Everett, Chesaning 61
 Roman Hurosky, Ithaca 61
 Keegan Whelton, Freeland 61
 Broghan Bupp, Ithaca 60

SACKS

Alex Mcewan, Perry 13
 Tristan Comer, Freeland 7
 Braydon Wendling, Chesaning 7
 Landon Qualls, Chesaning 7
 Van Reed, Charlotte 5
 Logan Broekhuizen, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 4.5
 Austin Blaha, Owosso 4
 Trenton Farkas, St. Louis 4
 Ethan Fowler, Freeland 4
 Cal Frasier, Chesaning 4
 Brevin Hendricks, Millington 4
 Marcus Joshua, Bay City John Glenn 4
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 4
 Karson Tweh, St. Louis 4
 Ethan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 4

INTERCEPTIONS

Kam Reynolds, Swan Valley 7
 Brock Rochow, Stockbridge 7
 Tray Haido, Davison 5
 Elijah Smith, Ithaca 5
 Abram Larner, DeWitt 4
 Truk TerBush, Millington 4
 Miller Wing, DeWitt 4
 Aiden Wolf, Bath 4
 Jadon Bender, DeWitt 3
 Owen Case, Freeland 3
 Jaydin Colby, Leslie 3
 Dionquavis Hardy, Saginaw United 3
 BJ Henry, Holt 3
 Braydin Johnson, Leslie 3
 Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 3
 Jacob Phillips, Leslie 3
 Cortez Porter, Davison 3
 Tommy Pratt, Williamston 3
 Torrian Stevenson, Saginaw United 3

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

Ithaca Eyes State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Jordan Hessbrook is in his fourth season as head coach at Ithaca which has been undefeated and will be doing for a title.

“Our team has played well at times this season, but we have plenty of work to do. The players are continuing to work hard and focused on getting better,” Hessbrook said.

“We have gotten better as the season has gone on. We hope to continue to improve and be playing our best football as the playoffs come up. I think we have met our expectations in many areas for the regular season, but we must keep working to improve if we want to accomplish our goals for the remainder of the season.”

“We were able to capture our 16th-consecutive league championship vs. a 6-0 Saginaw Nouvel team. We achieved the 600th win in our program’s history



The 2024 Ithaca varsity football team.

during Week 8 vs. Tecumseh.

“We have dealt with several injuries at different points of the season, but the players have handled these well and stepped up when called upon.”

Nathan Mikesell has been a

leader for Ithaca offensively and defensively. He leads the team in rushing, receiving, and tackles.

“Jackson Conn has played well for us at the QB position. He has ran the ball hard when called on and thrown for over 1,300 yards

through 8 games,” Hessbrook said.

“Gibson Rondy, Riley Guild, Ryley White, Elijah Smith, and Connor McMurphy have all played well for us at the WR position and have pretty balanced statistics.”

“Lloyd Stoneman, Broden Peska,

and Nicholas Mikesell have been leaders for us on the offensive and defensive lines.”

“We hope to continue to improve and be playing our best football as we head into the playoffs.”

Swan Valley Enjoys Strong Regular Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Kevin Gavenda is in his ninth season as Swan Valley football coach and the team was 4-2 in the Tri-Valley Red and 5-3 overall during the regular season.

“We started off slow going 0-3 against three extremely great teams but we stayed together and have won 5 in a row,” Gavenda said. “We did not meet our expectations but expectations are always high at Swan Valley.”

Highlights for Gavenda included: Winning five in a row and never giving up and our fourth

year starting quarterback throwing for over 1750 yards through 8 games. I’m pretty sure that is a school record Jamison Pelt with over 800 yards receiving and 14 touchdowns close if not a school record.”

A down moment was losing week one after leading 20-0.

Colton Klein, quarterback, had 1,754 yards passing, 19 touchdowns and one interception.

“As a freshman we talked about eliminating turnovers and he has done a great job taking care of the ball. He has also rushed for 276 yards and seven touchdowns,”

Gavenda said. “Jamison Pelt has 40 receptions for 819 yards and 14 touchdowns and 1 touchdown fumble return Cal DeLisle: Cal has 431 yards receiving and 4 touchdowns and 203 rushing yards and three touchdowns.”

Graduates will be Colton Klein QB; Walker Murphy OL/DL; Cal Delisle WR/DB; Logan Zahn WR; Damon Neiderquill OL/DL; Marcelo Ortiz DE/TE.

Returners are Boston Beougher S/RB; Jack Lagan RB/LB. Jamison Pelt WR/CB; Kam Reynolds S/WR; Gavin Grandy OL/LB; Mikey Gerard OL/DL; Byron Wilson FB/LB; Caleb Horney DE/TE; Charles

Malacos OL/DE. Elijah Smith OL/DL; Hayden Taylor OLB/K; Cam Campbell OL/DL; Jenner Miller WR/CB; Garrett Zwingman WR/CB”

“Next year we return a very talented senior class with seven guys with three years of varsity experience,” Gavenda said. “This was just a great group of kids that never gave up on themselves, their coaches or their team after starting 0-3. It took a lot of great character to keep working every day to improve and it really showed at the end.”

Swan Valley has a playoff game at Belding on Nov. 1.

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Carson City-Crystal Looks Ahead

John Raffel Sports Scene

Carson-City Crystal football coach Nate Lindloff is looking forward to the 2025 season as his building work continues.

"We have had a very difficult season, The injury bug hit us early on in the season and we struggled staying healthy the rest of the year," he said. "I was very proud of the resilience some of our boys showed in dealing with adversity throughout the course of the year. We have lost a few very close games this year and dealt with many injuries. However for the most part the kids are playing very hard and battling each week.

"We had higher goals and expectations for this season, but

again the injuries did not help us out at all.

Starting the season with a win on the road against Byron (was a highlight). Dealing with the injuries and having to rely on freshmen and sophomores to play meaningful varsity minutes was hard. Losing a few close games that could have easily gone our way was difficult as well."

There were several outstanding athletes on the team.

"Hunter Doolittle has been an outstanding player for us this year, Lindloff said. "There have been various different games where he has ran the ball at least 35 times. He is over 1,000 yard mark this year and has been an absolute workhorse for us on both sides of



The 2024 Carson City-Crystal football team.

the ball.

"Bryson LeDuke has been a force for us on both the offensive

and defensive lines. He rarely comes off the field, and he has been a great senior leader for us. We hope to finish the season strong.

The kids have really been working hard to improve throughout the season so keeping that mindset will be huge for us."

MLS Enjoys Football Playoff Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Karl Schmugge has coached Michigan Lutheran Seminary for 16 seasons and this year's team was 3-2 for third in the league and 6-3 overall. The team plays Saginaw Nouvel in the first round of the playoffs. "We have fought through a myriad of injuries and sickness, so I am proud of the effort our boys put forth," Schmugge said. "We weren't able to meet expectations of winning the conference, and losing two games in conference, but I can't fault the effort put forth."

Key highlights for the team included coming back with strong second half performances against Valley and Reese.

"Any time you lose it is disappointing to the team, but again, I am very proud of how coachable the boys have been, and how they have fought through a lot of adversity," Schmugge said. "Logan Broekhuizen leads the team in tackles at DE with 72 tackles, including 14 tackles for loss, and he is a four-year starter on offense at left tackle. Ethan Wakefield is probably the top tight end in the conference. He has 20 receptions for 424 yds and 8 touchdowns. He also

has 40 tackles at the other defensive end, with 11.5 TFL. Noah Reif is second in tackles at MLB with 69 tackles, 5 for loss and 1 INT.

Key graduates are Broekhuizen, Ethan Wakefield, Gavin Morse, Will Salgat and Brock Ochoa. Key returners are Andrew Miller, Noah Reif, Morgan Laupichler, Tyler Stehle, Ethan Roth, Joey Cain, Luke Robinson and Brady Teske.

"We will only lose one player on the offensive line. The offensive backfield will mostly be back. We will need to replace key players on the defensive line," Schmugge said.



Ithaca Soccer Posts Winning Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Paige Beracy was in the fourth year of coaching an Ithaca boys cross country squad that was 9-7-2 overall and 4-2 for second place.

"At the beginning of the year we set a goal as a team to finish above 500 and win league. So I think we did a little of both. We got off to a slow start but finished the season with a 7-game unbeaten streak," Beracy said. "One of our highlights

this season was scoring a goal on Grayling High School, the goal we scored was the first one they had conceded all season. Another highlight was our seven-game unbeaten streak and winning our first district game.

"We struggled at the beginning of the season giving up a lot of goals, basically running out of gas at the end of games with our small roster. After winning our first round district game we ended up playing one of the best teams in the state in Lansing Christian."

Ithaca had several outstanding players on its team.

Junior Tanner Lamey: finished the season with a personal best 20 goals and added 3 assists. He scored all but 16 of our goals. "Tanner has really worked hard at gaining leg strength and working on his finishing and it is paying off," Beracy said.



Senior Luis Gustavo: finished the season with 6 goals and 10 assists. "Luis came to us this season from Brazil and he definitely had that Brazilian flair and ball skills that helped us control the ball in the midfield," Beracy said.

Freshman Jaren Paradise: finished with four goals and three assists. "Although he didn't have many stats he is someone that is one of the hardest workers and one of the most talented players on our roster. He was given lots of praise from other coaches in our district," Beracy said.

Junior Brady Paradise: finished

with two goals and four assists. "Brady is the glue of our midfield his knowledge of the game and tactics set him apart. He's the one that we look to in big moments to help us close out games," Beracy said.

There will be some key graduates "We are losing 3 of our 4 defenders: Andrew Lombard, Brandon Hephner, and Michael Goldsmith. The three of them have held down the back line for the last four seasons and it will be hard to replace them. Luis Gustavo will also be returning to Brazil," Beracy said

Key Returners will be Tanner Lamey, Brady Paradise, Carson Hardman, Jaren Paradise and Griffin Marcy.

"We are losing a total of six seniors so with an already small roster we are going to have to do some work this off season to get some more players. Next year however we are excited to welcome our manager Blake Hardman into the squad as he will be a freshman next year. I'm hoping to get back a few guys that decided not to play this season and we can have a productive next season," Beracy said.

New Lothrop Football Looks To Future

John Raffel Sports Scene

Clint Galvas had coached New Lothrop football for 16 season and is used to having his program contend for a state title.

But. Not this season.

New Lothrop was 3-5 overall.

"We did not meet expectations as far as wins and league placement, however, we had a successful season in many other areas including growth, adding a key highlight was a big week one win against Muskegon

Catholic that came right down to the final play

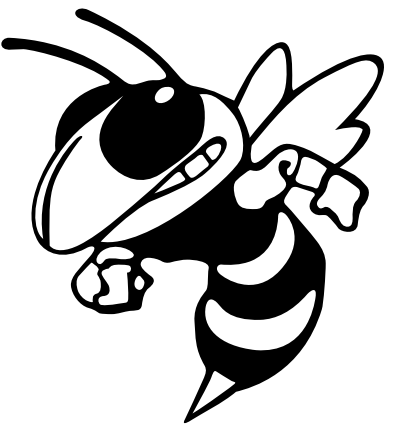
"We lost three games this season by one score that was disappointing. Kaven Unangst is our top athlete. He is a tremendous three sport athlete and a great leader. Ethan Wesener is our anchor on both sides of the ball for us. His work ethic is what set him apart from everyone else this season and he has been a great example for our youth. Hayden Hopkins is our middle linebacker and leads our team in tackles. His toughness and

passion for the game has been a real positive influence for our young players."

Key graduates are Kaven Unangst, Dalton Birchmeir, Ethan Wesener and Hayden Hopkins.

Key returners are Karson Agnew and Michael Schlachter

"Next year we will still be young with many sophomores and juniors that will need to contribute and have a tremendous offseason in order to see success on the field," Galvas said.



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

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The girls golf season drew to a close with several area teams playing for state titles on what was a glorious weekend weather-wise for golf. Following is a look at how this year's Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) girls golf state tournaments played out on the state and regional level.

DIVISION 1

Northville came away with the title in dominating fashion at the Division 1 state finals that were played at Katke Golf Course in Big Rapids. Northville finished with a two-day total of 646 to win the title by 46 strokes. Caledonia placed second with a 692 total while Macomb Dakota was third with 703.

Okemos senior Alena Li closed out her fabulous high school career by capturing



individual medalist honors. Li carded rounds of 73 and 73 to finish with a 146 total. Tula Puzzuoli of Romeo was second with a 150 while Copelin O'Krangley of Caledonia was third with a 152 for the two-day tournament.

Okemos Golfers Place In Top Five At State

Led by super-senior Alena Li, the Okemos golf team capped a big season by finishing fifth in Division 1. Okemos finished with a two-day total of 711 with rounds of 354 and 357. Li, who placed in the top ten individually during all four years of her high school career, led the way for the team as she won individual medalist honors with rounds of 73 on both days for a 146 total.

Freshman Anika Srivastava turned in a strong effort as she placed 19th individually after carding rounds of 89 and 81 for a 170 total. Sophomore Emma O'Shea placed 71st with rounds of 97 and 100 for a 197

total while freshman Zoey McArdele placed 74th with rounds of 95 and 103 for a 198 total.

Okemos qualified for the state meet by placing second at the regional that took place at Forest Akers. Okemos finished with a 329 team total, five points behind regional champion Grand Blanc.

Li captured individual medalist honors at the regional with a sizzling score of 64. Srivastava finished second with a 74 while sophomore Anisha Pabbathi was 17th with a 94.

Grand Ledge Golfers Place In Top 10 At State Finals

After placing 13th last year, the Grand Ledge golf team returned to the Division 1 state finals this season and finished in 10th place. The

Northville won the state title at the Division 1 golf finals.

Comets showed plenty of consistency as they recorded rounds of 369 and 368 to post a 737 team total.

Grand Ledge was paced by senior Isabel Kelly who capped her career in a big way. Kelly, who placed 10th as an individual last year, finished in sixth place this year as she carded rounds of 82 and 79 for a 161 total. Kelly finished in the top 20 at state three times during her career.

Senior Meghan Zann placed 56th with a 190 total followed by junior Erin McGinnis who placed 58th with a 191 and senior Aubrie Parish who placed 69th with a 195.

Grand Ledge qualified for the state finals by placing third at the Forest Akers regional with a 339. Kelly led the way at the regional as she finished second individually at the regional with a 74. Parrish finished in eighth place at the regional with an 82 while Zann placed 13th with a 87.

Midland Dow, Holt Golfers Compete At State

Both Midland Dow and Holt had golfers who qualified for the Division 1 state finals as individuals.

Midland Dow junior Sophia Lee finished 13th individually at the state meet as she carded rounds of 86 and 78 for a 164 total.

Lee earned a trip to the state finals as an individual after placing second at the regional with a 74.

Holt freshman Racheeni Her also competed at the state finals. Her placed 18th individually with rounds of 86 and 83 for a 169 total.

Her qualified for the state finals after placing fifth at the regional where she shot a 79.

DIVISION 2

Farmington Hills Mercy made it a threepeat at the Division 2 state golf finals that took place at The Meadows in Allendale. Mercy totaled a 677 for the two-day tournament to win the Division 2 state title for the third straight year. Dexter placed second with 682 while Lowell finished third

with 688.

Dexter junior Avery Manning, who finished second individually at last year's state finals, reached the winners circle this year as she won individual medalist honors with a 141 after shooting rounds of 69 and 72. Spring Lake senior Zoe Dull was second with a 146 while Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern junior Chaille Payne was third with a 147 total.

Lowell Golfers End Season In A Big Way

After placing in ninth place at last year's Division 2 state golf finals, the Red Arrows made it back to the state finals this season and improved to a third-place finish. The Red Arrows turned in back-to-back rounds of 346 to finish with a two-day total of 688, besting last year's score by 12 strokes.

Senior Elle Sluss led the way for the Red Arrows as she placed 11th overall as an individual as she carded rounds of 80 and 84 to finish with a 164. Sluss placed 16th last year as a junior.

Lowell finished with their next three golfers also placing in the top 40. Senior Leah Krieger was 24th with a 171, junior Elyse Veldman placed 25th with a 172 while sophomore Kaila Richards placed 38th with a 181.

Lowell qualified for the state meet by placing second at the Cedar Springs regional with a 362 team score, 10 strokes behind winner Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern. Veldman led the way at the regional as she placed fourth with an 84. Sluss placed 10th with an 89 while Krieger placed 13th with a 93.

Mason Golfers Finish In Top Ten At State Finals

The Mason golf team wrapped up a strong season as it placed 10th at the Division 2 state finals with rounds of 362 and 384 for a 746 total.

Senior Kortney Osborn led the way as she placed 32nd overall as she recorded rounds of 84 and 94 for a 178 total. Junior Tylar Southwell placed 35th overall as she finished with a 180 total. Senior Gabby Hanover placed 48th with a 188 total while freshman Ruby Peete placed 73rd with a 200.

Mason qualified for the state meet by placing second at the Coldwater regional with a 353, 12 strokes behind champion Dexter. Hanover led the way at the regional as she finished third with an 82. The

Bulldogs also had two more golfers in the top ten as Osborn placed fifth with a 84 and Southwell finished eighth with an 86.

Midland Golfers Finish In Top 15 At State Meet

For the second straight year the Midland girls golf team placed in the top 15 at the Division 2 state finals. The Chargers placed 14th at this year's event with two-day total of 787.

Junior Lauren Deckrow led the way as she placed 28th with a 175. Senior Eve Jenkins followed with a 192 to place 60th while junior Keira Shaffner placed 77th.

Midland qualified for the state finals by placing third at the regional at Currie Municipal Golf Club in Midland. The Chemics totaled a 3998 at the regional that was won by Petoskey.

Lauren Deckrow led the way at the regional as she placed third individually with an 82. Jenkins finished 12th overall with a 96 while Shaffner was 15th with a 97.

DeWitt, St. Johns Individuals Compete At State

Both DeWitt and St. Johns sent golfers to the Division 2 state finals who qualified as individuals.

DeWitt senior Courtney Novak placed 41st individually at the state meet as she carded rounds of 90 and 93 for a 183 total.

Novak earned a trip to the state finals as an individual after placing fifth at the regional with an 84. As a team DeWitt just missed out qualifying for the state meet it placed fourth.

St. Johns senior Sunni Devereaux also competed at the state finals. Devereaux placed 68th individually with rounds of 96 and 101 for a 197 total.

Devereaux qualified for the state finals after placing ninth at the regional where she shot a 92.



Pumford Leads Freeland To Top-Ten Finish At State

Freeland senior Averie Pumford finished her high golf career in a big way as she helped the Falcons to a sixth-place finish at the Division 3 state meet a 732 total.

Pumford fired rounds of 75 and 79 to finish with a two-day total of 154 to place second overall as an individual. The Falcons also received strong showings from junior Reese Conlee who placed 36th with back-to-back rounds of 92 for a total of 184 and sophomore Alexis Heinz who placed 38th with rounds of 91 and 94 for a 185.

Freeland earned a trip to

Farmington Hills Mercy came away with the title at the Division 2 golf finals.



Grand Rapids Catholic Central won the state title in Division 3 golf.

the state finals by winning the championship at the Alma regional where the Falcons shot a 370. Heinz won individual medalist honors at the regional as she shot an 81. Pumford was second with an 88 while Conlee was fourth with a 94.

Big Rapids Golfers Compete At D3 State Meet

The Big Rapids golf team ended the season by placing 11th at the Division 3 state finals. The Cardinals finished with a team score of 763.

Junior Kate Posey led the way for Big Rapids as she placed 18th individually with rounds of 86 and 85 for a 171 total. Rounding out the lineup for the Cardinals were juniors Lala Tucci who placed 54th, Abby Doering who finished 60th and Hannah Leyder who placed 69th.

Big Rapids advanced to the state meet by placing third at the Whitehall regional with a 378. Posey led the team at the regional as she placed second individually with an 81. Tucci placed 10th with a 96 while Leyder was 12th with a 98.

Frankenmuth Takes Part In D3 State Finals

The Frankenmuth golf team capped the season by

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Anna Schaibly of Bath placed sixth individually at the Division 4 golf finals.

as she placed second seventh with a 99. Yoo placed 13th with a 104.

Area Individuals Compete At State Golf Finals

A trio of area golfers qualified for the Division 3 state finals as individuals.

Chippewa Hills senior Madison Allen placed 9th individually at the state meet as she carded rounds of 76 and 89 for a 165 total. Allen earned a trip to the state finals as an individual after placing fifth at the regional with an 88.

Charlotte sophomore Peyton Howarth also competed at the state finals. Howarth placed 44th individually with rounds of 98 and 91 for a 189 total. Howarth qualified for the state finals after placing seventh at the regional where she shot a 90.

Allison Brandon of Clare also competed at the state finals as an individual. Brandon earned a trip to the finals by placing ninth at the Alma regional.

DIVISION 4

After taking second place last year, the Kalamazoo Christian golf team took the next step this season and captured first place at the Division 4 state championship with a team score of 732. Grand Rapids NorthPointe Christian and Brooklyn Columbia Central finished in a tie for second place as both squads totaled a 748.

Traverse Cith St. Francis senior Grace Slocum captured the individual medalist title as she carded rounds of 75 and 69 for a 144 total. Brooklyn Columbia Central senior Logan Bentley finished five strokes behind with a 149 while Ann Arbor Greenhills senior Mia Melendez took third with a 156.

Lansing Catholic Golfers Place In Top Five At State

For the fifth consecutive season the Lansing Catholic golf team placed in the top five at the Division 4 state finals. State champions last season, the Cougars placed fourth this season with identical rounds of 375 to finish with a 750 team total.

Senior Julia Sambaer led the way for Lansing Catholic as she placed ninth overall with a 178 total as she carded rounds of 89 on both days. Senior Brynn Anderson placed 10th with a 181 total as she posted rounds of 89 and 92. Junior Addi Rule was 13th with a 183 total while junior Elisabeth Ruddell was 43rd with a 208.

Lansing Catholic earned a trip to the state meet by placing second at the Paw Paw regional with a team score of 381. Anderson led the way at the regional as she placed fourth with a 90. Sambaer was seventh with a 92 while Rule was eighth with a 95.

Bath Golfers Finish In Top Ten At State Meet

The Bath golf team placed in the top ten

at the state meet for the second consecutive season. The Bees finished ninth at this year's Division 4 state finals with a team total of 832.

Senior Anna Schaibly, who placed eighth at last year's state finals, led the Bees as she finished sixth individually this season with rounds of 78 and 85 for a 163 total. Freshman Mya Vietzke placed 75th individually while senior Lilly Dilday placed 81st and sophomore Sophia Perales was 92nd.

Bath qualified for state by placing second at the Novi regional with a 371. Schaibly led the way at the regional as she placed second with a round of 73. Senior Aubri Torok placed seventh with a 91 while Vietzke placed 16th with a 101.

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Golfers Compete At State Meet

The Perry Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart team wrapped up the season at the Division 4 state finals where they placed 18th. Sophomore Polly Taylor led the way for the team as she placed 77th overall.

Sacred Heart qualified for state by placing third at the regional tournament at the Mt. Pleasant Country Club. Sophomore Chloe Cotter led the way at the regional for Sacred Heart as she finished in sixth place. Taylor placed in ninth place while junior Claire Long placed 16th.

Area Individuals Compete At State Golf Finals

A total of five area golfers qualified for the Division 4 state finals as individuals.

Central Montcalm senior Alexis Curry placed 10th individually at the state meet as she carded rounds of 91 and 90 for a 181 total. Allen earned a trip to the state finals as an individual after placing fifth at the regional with a 91.

Byron freshman Adalen Brown placed 25th individually with rounds of 96 and 101 for a 197 total. Brown qualified for the state finals after placing fifth at the regional where she shot an 89.

Senior Lakyn Zimmerman of Ithaca placed 46th individually with round of 108 and 103 for a 211 total. Zimmerman earned a trip to the finals by placing second at the regional with a 100.

Farwell junior Jacey Stover 56th individually at the state meet as she carded rounds of 111 and 108 for a 219 total. Stover earned a trip to the state finals as an individual after placing eighth at the regional with a 102.

Senior Murphy Linehan of Saginaw Valley Lutheran placed 65th individually at the state meet as she carded rounds of 114 and 108 for a 222 total. Linehan earned a trip to the state finals as she shot a 98 to win individual medalist honors at the regional tournament.

competing at the Division 3 state finals. The Eagles finished in 16th place with a 824 total.

Haslett Golfers End Season At State Meet

Sophomore Maxie Schmidt led the way for the Eagles as she placed 56th with a 196. Junior Alysén Peterson placed 76th while senior Mylie Jacob placed 78th and sophomore Ainsley Roberts was 81st.

Frankenmuth qualified for the state meet by placing second at the Alma regional with a team score of 402. Schmidt led the team at the regional as she placed fourth individually with a 94. Jacob was sixth with a 97 while Roberts was eighth with a 101.

Senior Molly Fortier led the way for the Vikings as she placed 60th individually with consecutive rounds of 99 for a 198 total. Juniors Reagan Campbell and Sehna Yoo both finished in a tie for 64th place.

Haslett earned a trip to the state meet by placing third at the Alma regional with a 440. Fortier led the Vikings at the regional

Farwell Golfer Posts Huge Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Jacey Stover, a Farwell junior, golfer, decided two years ago to test her time and talents in golf.

It was a smart move.

She finished 56th among all golfers at Michigan State University's Forest Akers Golf Course at the Division 4 girls state finals.

"Overall it was a great experience," Farwell coach Hugh Lewis said. "Jacey did not golf as well as she wanted to. She golfed a 111 on

the first day and a 108 on the second day for a combined score of 219 for 36 holes. She played well with her driver and second shots during the event. It was chipping and putting that was more difficult due to the speed and breaks of the green. If you hit a ball on the green it would roll off the back unless you could put a ton of spin on the ball."

It's Stover's second of varsity golf.

"Last year I was pretty much in the 60s (for nine holes)," Stover said, noting she has improved into the 40s this season. "Definitely

my driver and putting have improved."

Her best nine-hole total was a 45.

"It depends on the game but I would say my long irons," have been her strength, Stover said, adding she has improved in club management. "I've learned which clubs to hit and which not to."

"I am very proud of her for qualifying and finishing 56 out of 105 golfers at state. My hope is she builds on this for next year and comes back to place higher next year," Lewis said.



Mount Pleasant Golfers Post Solid Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Aaron Gardner was in his eighth season coaching the Mount Pleasant varsity girls golf team in the Saginaw Valley League. The team took sixth place in the SVL. "It was a good finish for us in a highly competitive conference," Gardner said. "It was up and down. We placed in the top twi in a couple of tournaments and our No. 1 Donata Gockel was medalist at the Heritage Hawk invite shooting a score of 78. We did well in some tournaments but we really struggled during our regional. It is common for two out of the five or even three out of the five to have bad

rounds but for some reason all five Oilers struggled at the regional competition."

Taking second place at the Houghton Lake and Lakeview invitationals and also shooting a 382 at the Heritage Invite, were highlights.

The regional was disappointing.

"I felt bad that the seniors had bad rounds in their last high school match but they kept their heads up," Gardner said.

Top golfers included:

Donata Gockel, Exchange studentm from Germany, Season scoring average of 87.8, SVL 1st team, All state academic team; Willow Gott, SVL honorable mention, All state academic individual, All state academic

team.

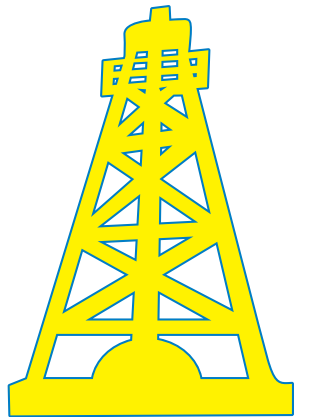
Sydney Moutsatson, SVL honorable mention, All state academic individual, All state academic team.

Key graduates are Donata, Willow, Sydney and Charlotte Jaeger.

Key returners are Ava Deans, Claire Sroufe, Hannah Lehr and Lindsey Reed.

:

Next year, "we are very young. We only have four returners and currently zero seniors next season. We will be recruiting pretty hard to strengthen our numbers," Gardner said. "It was a great group of kids and our seniors will be missed."



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P-W Girls Finish Solid Golf Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Lisa Bartlett had a strong golf season for Pewamo-Westphalia High School in her third season. "We placed third in our league," Bartlett said. "I felt our season went well. We were hoping for a higher finish but knew everyone had to contribute consistently to finish at a higher level. I felt we met expectations. The girls continued to improve as the season progressed, which helped us finish towards the top. "In our third year of having a program at PW, we had 19 players. With so many golfers, many brand new to the sport, some highlights included watching them progressively get

better as the season went on. This year our focus was emphasizing the integrity of the game and worked hard to understand all of the rules of the game. Some of our highlights include watching girls play 18 holes for the first time. At the varsity level, we had a school record broken twice."

Bartlett added:

"We struggled in the middle of the season due to illnesses and injuries of some of our varsity players, which left us struggling a bit at the end of the season when tournament time started. Taylor Nurenberg was our #1 golfer, who broke the school record twice for low 18-hole rounds. Ayla Thelen, Kaitlyn Nurenberg, and Summer Wirth were consistently on the

varsity, contributing to the third place finish."

Taylor Nurenberg and Summer Wirth received second team all conference Kaitlyn Nurenberg received honorable mention.

"My key players who will graduate this year are Taylor Nurenberg and Ayla Thelen, who are in their third year and were part of the team at its inception. Kaitlyn Nuenberg and Taryn Trierweiler will also graduate this year. Key returners will be Summer Wirth, Ella Thelen, Reylee Thelen. There are several players that have potential to secure a varsity spot next year," Bartlett said.



"I'm excited to see what next year brings, hoping everyone stays healthy for the season. This was the first year we had freshmen go out for the sport, so I'm excited to see the growth in all of the girls.

I am so proud of the girls this year. They all worked hard and improved their game. I am excited that they are learning the great game of golf."

Mulcahy Leads New Lothrop Golf Team

John Raffel Sports Scene

Ella Mulcahy led the way for New Lothrop's golf team this season. The team was coached by Terry Tate in his second season. We were a little disappointed

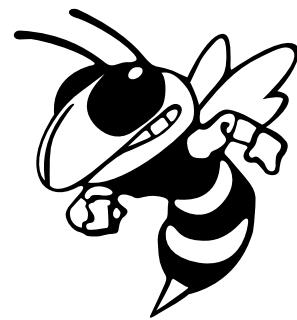
but happy all that the girls all improved," he said. "I was hoping for a little higher finish. We had a few rounds in 40s and a near hole-in-one. We didn't do as well as would have liked at the regionals.

"Ella Mulcahy was our top golfer

this year. She was consistently shooting in the 40s and low 50s. For the second year in a row a two, she earned second team all-conference. Grace Wendling was another one of our top golfers. Out of nine golfers, we will graduate

seven. Returning will be Meredith Knieper and Lydia Keeler."

As for next year, "we will wait and see," Tate said. "We will have two girls returning. We qualified for all-state academic as a team for the second year in a row."



Area Cross Country Teams Capture Regional Championships

David Cook Sports Scene

Alma Boys Win Title At DeWitt

The Alma boys cross country team claimed the title at the Division 2 regional hosted by DeWitt. The Panthers turned in a big effort with 59 points, 45 points better than second-place Parma Western.

Alma was paced by the one-two combination of sophomore Ezekiel Baltierra and junior Thomas Larson. Baltierra finished in third place with a time of 15:50.7 while Larson placed fifth in 15:54.5. Bodie Heiss placed 15th in a time of 16:44.6 while junior Elijah Baltierra placed 19th in a time of 16:57.4. Sam Johnson placed 20th individually while sophomore Kevin Terpstra placed 22nd.

Pewamo-Westphalia, Central-Montcalm Stage Nailbiters

The Central Montcalm and Pewamo-Westphalia boys and girls cross country teams staged a pair of races at the Division 3 regional at DeWitt that came down to a total of three points between them.

In the girls race, Central Montcalm edged Pewamo-Westphalia by a single point, 39-40. Central Montcalm was led by Kyah Hokffman who won the individual regional title with a time of 17:38.4 while her

teammate Ashley Choponis placed second in 18:23.6. Alyssa Kramer of Pewamo-Westphalia placed third in 18:33.8 while her teammate, Whitney Werner, placed fourth in 19:08.5. Central Montcalm's Grace Coston placed sixth while Andrea Rolston took tenth place. Pewamo-Westphalia's Adelyn Thelen finished eighth while Abbie Schneider took 11th place.

In the boys race, Central Montcalm won by two points with a 48-point total while Pewamo-Westphalia totaled 50 points. Central Montcalm was led by Gage Hoffman who won the individual race with a time of 15:55.6. Sylus Wilson placed second (16:39.1) followed by Tyler Fortig (11th), Johnny Coston (12th) and Evan Rolston (19th).

Pewamo-Westphalia was led by John Kowatch who placed sixth (16:41.3) followed by Sam Muirhead (seventh), Nolan Mitchell (ninth) and Wyatt Werner (13th).

Ithaca Boys, Girls Run To Titles

Both Ithaca girls and boys cross country teams came away with regional championships at the Division 3 regional hosted by Shepherd.

The Ithaca girls totaled 41 points to outdistance second-place Saginaw Valley Lutheran by 42 points. Ithaca was led by

freshman Khloe Lehnst who placed second overall with a time of 19:13.35. Sophomore Makinna Foglesong placed fourth with a time of 19:56.96 followed by MyLeigh Hephner (seventh) and freshman Isabelle Strand (12th).

In the boys race the Yellowjackets finished with 40 points, 38 points ahead of second-place Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker. The one-two combination of Landen Styka and Miingen Bertrand led the way for Ithaca as Styka won the race in 15:49.27 while Bertrand was second in 15:33.3. Evan MacLaren placed tenth followed by Jacob Mankey (13th), and Christopher Shemes (17th).

DeWitt Girls Win Regional Title

The DeWitt girls cross country team continued to roll as it captured the title at the Division 2 regional it hosted. The Panthers turned in 33 points to outlast second-place Williamston which finished with 133. Senior Mia Williams led the way for DeWitt as she placed second in a time of 18:31.2 while senior Ayla Holben placed third in a time of 18:34.2. Senior Kayla Williams placed fifth followed by freshman Aurora Doepker (11th) and senior Autumn Thompson (12th).

Breckenridge Girls Capture Regional Crown

The Breckenridge girls cross country team came away with the title at the Division 4 regional at Shepherd. Breckenridge totaled 27 points to win the title. The team turned in a dominant performance with five runners placing in the top 10 individually. Danica Aldrich led the way as she placed second in a time of 19:55.84 while Ally Schmitz was third in a time of 20:20.17. Avery Westall placed fifth followed by Nataly Vine (eighth) and Maizy Matthews (ninth).

Okemos Boys Win Regional In D1

The Okemos boys cross country team came away with the title at the Division 1 regional at Shepherd. Okemos totaled 60 points to top second-place Midland that totaled 68 points. Ian Morgan led the way for Okemos as he won the individual regional title as he covered the course in 15:46.70. Nathan Wilkinson placed seventh for Okemos with a time of 16:18.93. Nathan Beemer was next for Okemos in 13th place while Malcolm Cesarion was one spot behind in 14th place.

Frankenmuth boys claim D2 regional crown

The Breckenridge boys cross country team captured the trophy at the Division 2 regional at Shepherd. Frankenmuth totaled 68 points to edge host Shepherd by four points. Brett Magnus led the way for Frankenmuth as he placed eighth overall with a time of 16:12.18. Cougar Clark placed 13th in a time of 16:26.42 followed by Nicklas Parker (14th), Anthony Plana (16th) and Cole Pergram (17th).

Sacred Heart Boys Win D4 Regional Trophy

The Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart boys cross country team came away with the title at the Division 4 regional at Shepherd. The Irish totaled 26 team points to outlast Michigan Lutheran Seminary which placed second with 65 points. Sacred Heart was paced by Wesley Chaffee who was the top individual with a time of 16:51.22. Jonah Pollatz placed second with a time of 17:01.14 followed by Noah Dubridge (eighth), Brady Edwards (ninth) and Jonah Egan (13th).

The Alma boys cross country team came away with the regional championship trophy at the DeWitt regional.



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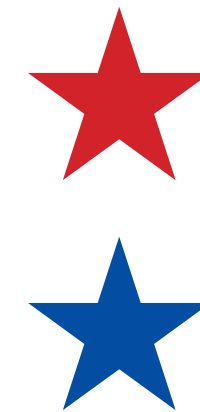
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Midland Dow Girl Runners Have Exceptional Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Midland Dow's cross country team and coach Jamie Haruska entered the postseason with a lot of smiles.

"We have had an exceptional season," Haruska said. "The team took the SVL cross country championship title, bringing in the MVP, three 1st team and two second team all-conference finishes. Throughout the season we have earned multiple team Champion and Runner-up positions in meets, and the depth of the team has also allowed us to compete well in split meets.

"I believe we are meeting our expectations this year. The SVL title was certainly a goal, and individual athletes are meeting their racing goals as well. We still have a few more goals to

meet by the end of the season, and the Regional meet will be a great opportunity to challenge us. The team has been focused on pushing everyone forward and challenging each other to reach their potential. As a result, we have seen some of the fastest times Dow High girls have ever recorded, and a depth of speed that has created incredible running packs."

Highlights included winning the SVL Championship and taking first place for varsity and JV at the Veterans Serving Veterans Invitational, Oiler Blue and Gold Invite, and Heritage Invite.

"There are always races where athletes feel they could have done more and wanted

a different place than they earned, but it is a learning process. They use the experience to compete stronger the next time they are on the course," Harusk said.

Midland Dow has had several outstanding athletes

Victoria Garces - "She is our school record holder, and she has already beaten her record from last year twice," Haruska said. "Her current PR is 16:59, but she is continuing to push herself going into Regionals. She was the SVL Girls Cross Country MVP. She has also been an incredible leader this year, working with our other athletes to lift them up and learn all they can from her vast knowledge of running."

Emilia Garces - "As a freshman with big shoes to fill from her sister, she has proven herself to be a fierce competitor and important member of the team for her times, but also her leadership," Haruska said. "Her current PR is 17:49, which is impressive for any runner, but especially for a freshman. She is 1st Team All-Conference for SVL."

Sydney Roberts - "As a Senior, she has been a vital part of setting the team culture," Haruska said. "Additionally, her push in her last mile of races has clinched some of our wins. She has incredible

drive and can outkick most of her competitors. Her current Season Best is 19:13. She is 1st Team All-Conference for SVL."

Kate Macfarlane - "While just a freshman,



The Midland Dow girls cross country team;

she has worked very hard to learn more about the support and stays focused as she is competing and training. She has shown some great times this season, with big goals moving into Regionals. Her current PR is 20:10. She is 2nd Team All-Conference for SVL," Haruska said.

Allison Nussear - "As a Senior, she has been a strong runner for us for four years. This year she has some set backs with illness, but did not let it stop her. She had a break through race at the Heritage Invite and she is 2nd Team All-Conference for SVL. Her current Season Best is 20:23," Haruska said

Graduates will be Victoria Garces, Sydney Roberts, and Allison Nussear.

"While they are hard to replace for their times and their leadership and impact on the team, we have some

new runners that have shined this year, including Emilia Garces, Kate Macfarlane, Madeleine Varhola, and Joylin Brillhart," Haruska said. "Next year, I foresee another strong team. We have multiple athletes returning and a strong team coming up from the middle school. I see the determination and focus in the team to

continue to train smartly over the off-season to prepare to crush their goals in 2025.

"I couldn't be more proud of this group of girls this year. They have worked as a team more than ever before to push each other forward and challenge each other to greatness. I am excited to see what the end of the season brings."

MLS Runners Have Excellent Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Seth LaBair concluded another season as coach for Michigan Lutheran Seminary cross country League. "This is my ninth season as the head coach for our boys and girls cross country teams," LaBair said. "Our guys finished second in our conference and our girls were third. Our league is a lot smaller than in the past but we see some good

competition. I think that our guys are about where I thought they would be. We had a few guys not come out for the team that we were counting on but we also got a few guys that we didn't know about. The girls have improved a lot and we made really good progress during the season.

"Both teams have a chance to make it to the state meet. The guys have a better chance but the girls can definitely do it. Our two

top runners on the guys' side are Camden Fager (Sr.) and Amos Norder (So.). Both of these guys have been under 18 minutes and they give us two guys that we can always count on. The girls are led by Olive Wakefield (Jr.) and Piper Schultz (Fr.). These two are both new to our team and have PR's below 22 minutes. They also give us a good one-two punch. Camden was named 1st team all conference. Amos, Olive, and Piper all made 2nd team all conference.

Camden and Amos were both part of the guys team that made it to the state meet last year."

LaBair said MLS will graduate one senior guy from the top seven (Camden Fager) and one girl in our top seven (Grace Steiger).

"We should have five of our top seven guys back next season while six of our top seven girls should be back," LaBair said. "It looks like we should be solid next year but it's hard to tell. It's tough replacing a

runner like Camden. He's been our MVP the past two years and he was our second runner when we won our region in 2022.

"We will hopefully get everyone back and have runners improve from this past season. We should be getting some good additions to both teams next year but that's a long way off. I'm happy with how our season has gone so far and I'm excited to have a chance to get both teams to the state meet."



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Long-Time Coleman Coach Retiring

John Raffel Sports Scene

After 25 years, Coleman coach Jerry Falor is retiring at the end of this season.

"The kids work hard every practice and we try to have fun every day," he said. "Coleman Had a small team this year. Varsity boys were led by senior Logan Dudley. He has been running since 7th grade. He is on the record board in 7th place for middle school. Logan earned sixth place in the MSAC this year. He is a great leader with a strong heart always willing to help out the younger

runners. He is on pace to make it to states this year.

"The varsity girls had two runners Katelin Wilson and Imani Davis. They both got personal records over last year."

Middle School boys were led by eighth grader Eli Baker.

"He placed near the top in the MSAC this year with a PR of 11:54. Eli earned Medals in every invite this year with a fifth place at regionals. Eli is fifth all time on the MS record board. Brantley Lattimer ran a PR of 16:38 for the year," Falor said. "The Middle school Girls Placed seventh at



The 2024 Coleman cross country team.

regionals this year. Sophie Ellison led the way all year medaling in every meet.

"Sophie is third all time on the middle school cross country record board with a 14:42. Kallie Sharp-

Seil, Lucille Hurd, Olivia Crafard, and Jave Haggart all got PR's this year as seventh graders."

Ionia Runners Post Strong Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Brianna Wiles has been coaching Ionia High School cross country for four years and likes what her teams achieved this season.

"Last year the boys lost our top seniors which set us back a bit," Wiles said. "Our juniors and sophomores stepped up in major ways this year. We were able to finish strong in the CAAC White with two athletes getting all-conference recognition.

"This year our girls focused on being able to score points at our bigger meets and important meets. The girls were able to finish well in the league with one athlete getting all-conference recognition."

For the boys, a top highlight was placing third at Shepherd. "Although it was in the JV race it is still a highlight as it gave my athletes more confidence in themselves," Wiles said. "For the girls

a top highlight would be just being able to score as a team this year in almost all races. One of our biggest challenges this year was when our band kids were not at the meet. This pushed many of our students out of their comfort zone when it comes to knowing when to "step up" for those who can't race."

For the girls, this year our biggest challenges "was not having all girls at every race. This year we have dealt with injuries and sicknesses."

There were many top runners.

"Liam Thelen is a freshman," Wiles said. "He came to us with three years of cross country under his belt from MS. Liam went from a 19:17 to a 17:43. Lam earned all-conference awards for the CAC White Division.

"Jaxxon Thelen is a junior. Jaxxon is one of our team captains and Jaxxon has made wonderful improvement all around. Jaxxon earned All conference awards for the CAAC White Division. Connor

Morrison is a sophomore. Connor has made tremendous improvement this year. Connor has consistently been our number 3 runner. Connor finished the League Season running a 18:53.0"

For the girls, "Carleigh Thompson is a junior," Wiles said. "Carleigh is also a captain for the women's team. Carleigh went from a 23:155 to running 21:01.9, Carleigh has also earned all-conference honor for the third year in a row. Ava Benedict is a freshman. Ava comes to us with a soccer background. Ave went from running a 23:07 to running a 21:48.0

"Fiona Sizemore is a freshman. Fiona comes with three years of cross country from MS. Fiona's transition from MS to HS has been tremendous. Fiona went from 24:00 to running a 22:24.5. We do not have any seniors and all athletes should be returning next year. We will be graduating five seniors next year but also gaining a big number of freshmen. We are looking forward to big numbers and more."



The 2024 Ionia cross country teams.

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Lakewood Cross Coach Happy With Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Heather Carter was in his first years coach for Lakewood's cross country team and liked what he saw from the program.

In the CAAC White Division, the boys finished sixth in the league and girls finished 7th.

"I thought we had a great season last year the boys finished 7th and our goal was to be better than that," Carter said. "Everyday boys and girls showed up and worked really hard to improve their times. I thought for the boys and girls we exceeded expectations. We had an up and down season we had a lot of injuries and illnesses. The team persevered and ran great times.

"This year we had three boys break

19 minutes where last year they only had one. The girls had 6 out of 7 girls break 30 minutes where last year they only had 3."

Top athletes Lakewood had were Riley Johnson, Bryce Goodemoot, Kaden Rohrbacher and Raelin Schrock.

"Riley Johnson was my top runner for the boys his best time this season is 17:50," Carter said. "He earned honorable mention all conference for our league. This was Bryce Goodemoot's first year running and he improved a lot throughout the season. His best time this season is 18:03. He earned honorable mention all conference for our league. Kaden Rohrbacher first started the season playing tennis. Once he finished that

season he ran with us. He ran some great times! His best this season is 18:30.

"Raelin Schrock was my top girl runner for this season. Her best time this season is 22:58. Not only she was my top runner, she was also a freshman. Next year I'm expecting big things from her. I only have two runners graduating this year Riley Johnson and Hudson Goethals. My key returners for boys are Bryce Goodemoot, Kaden Rohrbacher, and Ethan Langmaack. My key returners for girls are Raelin Schrock, Emma Tidd, and Heidi Carter. I think next year we will exceed expectations just like this year. I have a really good group of runners and they really work hard everyday."



The Lakewood cross country team for 2024.

New Lothrop Runners Make Strides

John Raffel Sports Scene

New Lothrop cross country coach Justin Skinner liked what he saw from his runners this season.

"The boys team placed fifth overall in league, struggling to stay healthy all season. The girls team placed third and was consistent all season," he said. "We have worked hard this season. The boys team felt like we should have

competed for 1st in the league, but could never maintain the consistency from week to week. The girls team finished about where we thought we would."

Challenges included "a mix of staying healthy and bringing the freshmen runners up to speed," Skinner said.

Top athletes include:

Lieu Vincke- Senior runner, ran

17:48 at Webberville and is now 11th in the top 30 school record book.

Lexy Andres- Senior runner, ran 22:08 at Birch Run and is now 30th on the top 30 girls list.

"We hope to finish the season strong at regionals with several runners reaching their career PRs," Skinner said.



The 2024 New Lothrop cross country team.



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MLS Volleyball Posting Strong Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Allen Ash coaches the Michigan Lutheran Seminary volleyball team which has shown plenty of promise this season. Ash has coached seven seasons at MLS. The team in nonleague 10-12 and league place is fifth.

"Our season started with us being very competitive in every set but not winning a lot of matches," Ash said "In the middle of the season we really came together and had a number of wins. The last two weeks we have been in a slump with illness plaguing our team. We did better than I expected early on and into the middle of the season. We took second in Vassar's Tournament. The last two weeks have been challenging, not continuing to build on our success. We have also played a lot of close matches that we could have won."

Lydia Darling, a junior, is the team's libero with 259 digs. Kennedy Koehler, a Junior, is an OH with 74 kills

Sophia Vondra, a senior, is a setter with 204 assists. Bella DeLong, a Senior, a middle

hitter with 110 block kills.

"We will really miss Samantha Priem who is one of our captains and plays all the way around, Bella DeLong who is a strong hitter and blocker, and both of our setters Sophia Vondra and Addison Whitmer," Ash said.

Sapp Leads The Way For Coleman Volleyball

John Raffel Sports Scene

Katherine Schallhorn is in her third year as Coleman volleyball coach and is fond of the season her team has posted so far.

"I always think we can do better," Schallhorn said. "I am proud of my girls as we have had some injuries this season that we have had to adapt to. We are in a pretty solid conference so

I feel like every year we see a team we react to and play the best we can.

"Autumn Sapp, senior and team captain, leads our team on and off the court. She is the one that sets the tone off a kill and carries her team around the court. Autumn has the highest hitting percentage as well as kill percentage."

Schallhorn used a freshman as a leader for her offense.

"Kendall Allen, freshman setter, has been an asset to our team," Schallhorn said. "She took the role of setter for the first time this year and has run with it. She is a powerhouse and it is just the beginning. Kendall is able to read the court and help set her teammates up for success. I am very excited to see her continue to develop over the years.

"We are eager to enter the post season and look forward to districts."

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The MLS 2024 Volleyball Team



Area Tennis Teams And Players Wrap Up Season With Big Efforts At State Tourney

David Cook Sports Scene

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

DIVISION 2

Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern won a competitive struggle for the Division 2 state championship. The Huskies came away with the title at Kalamazoo College with a total of 26 team points while Midland Dow and Birmingham Seaholm tied for second place just two points behind with 24 points.

Dow Tennis Team Places Second At State

The Midland Dow tennis team came up just short of a third consecutive state title as it finished two points behind champion Forest Hills Northern.

Dow was led at the finals by senior Austin King who won the No. 1 singles state title for the second consecutive year. King defeated Sam Schumacher of Portage Central 6-4, 7-5 in the title match.

At No. 4 singles, junior Siddarth Venkatesan reached the finals while at No. 3 singles, senior Nimai Patel reached the semifinals. Sophomore Yassin Elсандany reached the quarterfinals at No. 2 singles.

In doubles play, Dow's No. 1 doubles team of junior Matthew McGaugh and sophomore Nathan Song and the No. 2 doubles team of junior Ian Kohl and senior Dominic Griffin both reached the semifinal round. Reaching the quarterfinal rounds



for the Chargers were the No. 3 doubles team of junior Jack Elwell and freshman Raymond Chai and the No. 4 doubles team of freshman Vettel Xu and sophomore Jashwanth Thamminana.

Dow earned a trip to the state meet by winning the regional it hosted with a total of 31 points. The Chargers won three singles titles with King winning at No. 1, Patel winning at No. 3 and Venkatesan winning at No. 4.

The Chargers also won all four doubles flights.

East Lansing Reaches State Finals

The East Lansing tennis team ended the season placing 11th at the Division 2 state finals with a total of nine team points.

East Lansing was led at the finals in singles play by junior Miles Johnston who reached the quarterfinals at No. 1 singles.

A trio of Trojan doubles teams reached the quarterfinals including the No. 1 doubles team of seniors JD Hawthorne and Nat Hickner, the No. 2 doubles team of seniors Henry Mahler and Gerrit Garcia and the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Sacha Karp and Jonny Kalt.

East Lansing qualified for the state meet by placing third at the Portage regional where it totaled 20 points to place behind winner Portage Central and second-place Mattawan.

The Trojans were led at the regional by their doubles teams as all four squads reached the finals. Three East Lansing doubles teams won regional titles including the No. 1 doubles team of Hawthorne and Hickner, the No. 2 doubles team of Mahler and Garcia and the No. 3 doubles team of Karp and Kalt. The No. 4 doubles team of Bodhi Alwin and Kailin Foster placed second.

DIVISION 1

The beat went on at the Division 1 finals in Grand Rapids where Bloomfield Hills won the state title for the third straight season. Bloomfield Hills brought home the title with a total of 35 points followed by Troy with 27 points and Northville with 20 points. Northville and Troy also finished in the top three last season.

Okemos Tennis Team Competes At State

The Okemos tennis team finished the season placing 12th at the Division 1 state finals with a total of seven team points.

Okemos was led at the state meet in singles play by sophomore Sahaj Pakala who reached the semifinals at No. 3 singles.

In doubles play, a pair of teams reached the quarterfinals including the No. 1 doubles team of senior Alex Zhang and freshman Krishna Shah and the No. 3 doubles team of sophomore Akash Krishnan and freshman Ayan Arora.

Okemos qualified for the state tournament by placing second at the Brighton regional that was won by eventual state champion Bloomfield Hills. Okemos totaled 23 team points at the regional.

Okemos turned in a total-team effort at the regional with seven of eight flights placing second. In singles play, senior Suchir Nagisetty (No. 1 singles), Kai Minamisono (No. 2), Pakala (No. 3) and senior Shaurya Padval all placed second.

In doubles action, the No. 1 team of Zhang and Shah and the

The Okemos tennis team placed 12th at the Division 1 state finals.



Midland Dow claimed second place at the Division 2 tennis state finals.

No. 3 team of Krishnan and Aroral placed second along with the No. 2 doubles team of Kai Cuthpert and Addy Sarda.

Rockford Tennis Team Reaches State Meet

The Holt tennis team capped the season by qualifying for the state finals in Division 1. The Rams placed 13th in Division 1s with six team points.

Rockford was led at the finals by a pair of doubles team that reached the quarterfinal round. Reaching the quarterfinals for the Rams were the No. 2 doubles team of senior Colin Okonoski and Joshua VanTimmeren and the No. 4 doubles team of senior Zachary Danks and junior Joseph Miesiack.

Rockford qualified for the state meet by winning the regional at Holland West Ottawa with 23 points.

Rockford was led at the regional tournament by its doubles teams who claimed three titles. Winning doubles titles for the Rams were the No. 2 doubles team of Okonoski and VanTimmeren, the No. 3 doubles team of Sam Martin and Logan Christophel and the No. 4 doubles team of Danks and Miesiack.

In singles action, Elijah Johnson won the regional title at No. 1 singles.

DIVISION 3

The Division 3 state tournament at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood was a wide-open contest that ended with a pair of teams sharing the state title. Ann Arbor Greenhills and Detroit Country Day shared the crown with a total of 32 points while Cranbrook-Kingswood finished in third place with 30 points.

Mason Places In Top Ten At State Finals

The Mason tennis team ended the year in a big way by finishing in seventh place at the Division 3 state finals with a total of nine points.

The Bulldogs were led at the state meet by the No. 4 doubles team of seniors Nate Brooks and Landon Lucas who reached the semifinal round. Reaching the quarterfinal round for the Bulldogs were the No. 2 doubles team of seniors Colin Haynie and Ben Chouinard and the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Owen Gustafson and Luke Richmond along with senior Jackson Page at No. 3 singles.

Mason qualified for state after placing second at the regional tournament it hosted with 24 points.

Mason was led at the regional tournament by its doubles teams who claimed three regional championships. Winning regional doubles titles for the Bulldogs were the No. 2 doubles team of Haynie and Chouinard, No. 3 doubles team of Gustafson and Richmond and the No. 4 doubles team of Brooks and Lucas.

In singles action Page took second at No. 3 singles.

Haslett Netters Cap Season At State Meet

The Haslett tennis team finished the season by placing 10th at the Division 3 state finals with eight team points.

The Vikings were led at the state meet by its singles players who all reached the quarterfinal round. The singles lineup included senior Sree Komiresetty at No. 1 singles, freshman Anish Komiresetty at No. 2 singles, sophomore Jackson Clark at No. 3 singles and sophomore Amogh Kodur at No. 4 singles.

Haslett earned the trip to the state finals by winning the championship at the Mason regional with 23 points.

Haslett was paced at the regional by senior Sree Komiresetty who won the regional title at No. 1 singles for the third straight season. Freshman Anish Komiresetty won the regional title at No. 2 singles. Sophomore Jackson Clark won the title at No. 3 singles for the second straight season while Kodur won the title at No. 4 singles.

Big Rapids Tennis Competes At State

The Big Rapids tennis team capped the season by finishing in 12th place at the Division 3 state finals with seven points.

The Cardinals were led at state by junior Brayden Pischel who



reached the quarterfinals at No. 4 singles. In doubles play the No. 1 doubles team of junior Noah Sweppenheiser and senior Isaac Zocco and the No. 2 doubles team of senior Gavin Hogan and junior Landon Gross also reached the quarterfinal round.

Big Rapids qualified for the state meet by taking second place at the Big Rapids regional with 18 points.

The Cardinals were led at the regional by the No. 4 doubles team of junior Isaac Wilhelm and senior Ethan Voight who took first. In singles play junior Carson Coles placed second at No. 1 singles. Pischel also placed second at No. 4 singles.

DIVISION 4

At the Division 4 state finals in Midland the Holland Christian Maroons won the state title with 33 points. Maple City Glen Lake placed second with 23 points while Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett took third with 21 points.

Williamston Places In Top 10 At Tennis Finals

The Williamston tennis team ended the year by ninth at the Division 4 state finals with eight team points.

The Hornets were paced at the finals by their doubles teams led by the No. 4 doubles team of juniors Gabe Robke and Evan Byelich who reached the semifinal round. Reaching the quarterfinals for the Hornets were the No. 2 doubles team of seniors Owen Masi and Liam Agnew and the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Keith Hanson and Kendal Hampton.

Williamston punched its ticket to the state finals by taking second at the Portland regional with 23 points.

Williamston was led at the regionals by its doubles teams as the No. 2 doubles team of Masi and Agnew, the No. 3 team of Hanson and Hampton and the No. 4 team of Robke and Byelich all won regional titles. In singles play Gavin Beck placed second at No. 4 singles.

Lansing Catholic Finishes In Top Ten At State Meet

The Lansing Catholic tennis team capped the season by placing ninth at the Division 4 state finals with eight points.

The Cougars were led at state by senior Hayden Riley who reached the finals at No. 4 singles. Freshman Noah West reached the quarterfinal round at No. 1 singles while senior Dominic Perez reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles.

Lansing Catholic qualified for the state meet by winning the Portland regional championship with 25 points.

The Cougars were paced at the regional by Perez who won the title at No. 3 singles and Riley who won the title at No. 4 singles. West placed second at No. 1 singles while Asher Zakhen took second at No. 2 singles.

Also finishing as runner-ups were the No. 1 doubles team of Kiernan Bradford and Connor McGuire, the No. 3 doubles team of Jacob Paye and Ben Palinski and the No. 4 doubles team of Dominic Taylor and Alex Frank.

Portland Tennis Team Finishes Season At State

The Portland tennis team capped the season by placing 15th at the Division 4 state finals.

The Lansing Christian tennis team reached the Division 4 state finals this season.



Detroit Country Day shared the title with Ann Arbor Greenhills in Division 3 tennis.

The Raiders were led at the state meet by senior Damien LeDu who reached the quarterfinals at No. 2 singles and the No. 3 doubles team of juniors Gavin Beckett and Vander Nye who also reached the quarterfinal round.

Portland qualified for the state meet by placing third at the regional it hosted with 19 points.

LeDu led the way at the regional as he won the title at No. 2 singles. The No. 1 doubles team of juniors Max Weller and Camden Calkins also won a regional title. The No. 2 doubles team of senior Keagan Krieger and Keaton Bayless placed second at the regional.

Lansing Christian Netters Compete At State Finals

The Lansing Christian tennis team finished the season by placing 16th with three points at the Division 4 state finals.

The Pilgrims were led at the state meet by sophomore Stephen Gollapalli who reached the semifinals at No. 1 singles.

Lansing Christian qualified for the state meet by placing fourth at the Portland regional. The Pilgrims were led at the regional by Gollapalli who won the championship at No. 1 singles. Brennan Sendow also placed second at No. 3 singles.

Saginaw Nouvel Tennis Team Competes At State

The Saginaw Nouvel tennis team wrapped up the season by competing at the Division 4 state finals where it placed 18th overall.

Nouvel was led at the state meet by freshman Phillip Sturtz who reached the quarterfinals at No. 4 singles.

Nouvel qualified for the state meet by placing third at the Traverse City St. Francis regional. The Panthers were led at the regional by junior Ty Iamurri who placed second at No. 3 singles.

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Ionia Swim Team Having Impressive Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Amy Fuller is head swim coach at Ionia and has been very happy with her team's swim season.

It's her 10th season as coach and the team is 4-1 in the conference and 7-2 overall.

"The team has improved a lot since the beginning of the season," Fuller said "They have raced hard, tried new events, and dropped time. In spite of losing several veteran swimmers, team members have stepped up to fill the gaps. They are practicing hard, learning new skills and working on their technique. They ask good questions to get better. We have had over 20 best times at every meet.

"We have met expectations

considering we lost several key returners. Younger swimmers have had a chance to shine as we have had several very small teams as opponents. It is challenging to continue to work hard when the season is long, but the swimmers have taken on the challenge. The team was disappointed with the loss against Williamston, but we learned some valuable lessons."

Ionia has had several standout swimmers.

"Amelia McGee is our top point scorer and has qualified for the MHSAA Division state finals in five events. She is an all-around strong swimmer and will swim any event. She is a leader on team and always willing to help others with technique,

advice or encouragement," Fuller said. Isabelle Robinson has been co-captain for the past 2 years. She is a lead distance swimmer on the team, but she swims in whatever event she is needed. She is dependable and full of encouragement for younger team members.

"Adah Drown is a sophomore who has made a ton of growth this year. She works incredibly hard in practice. She swims in any event where she is needed. She is our go-to butterfly swimmer. Adah never shies away from a challenge and always has a positive attitude."

"This team is a joy to coach. They work hard; they take feedback to improve; they support each other as a family."



Amelia McGee is Ionia swim team's top point scorer and has qualified for the MHSAA Division state finals in 5 events.

Future Looks Bright For Mount Pleasant Swimmers

John Raffel Sports Scene

Eric Beckman is Mount Pleasant High School's girls head swim coach and said the future is very bright.

"In relay and invitational meets we have scored more points that we have in the past," Beckman said. "The team has exceeded expectations for this season. For a school without a pool, a practice location with limited time and lane availability and a lack of starting blocks, they girls have been kicking butt.

"Currently one girl is .1 of a second away from a State qualifying time. During one meet she has swam the state qualifying time but it didn't count because it was 4th in the relay, which would have broke our school record as well. I anticipate the school record will fall before the end of the season."

Mount Pleasant has no pool.

"So we have to get pool time from CMU and their SAC pool, which has no deep water and no starting blocks," Beckman said. "So that is a challenge. \We are blessed

that they let us practice there, but are limited in the amount of time we are in the water vs other swim teams. Furthermore, we have to travel to practice starts and relays. Alma High School is kind to host our home meets for us."

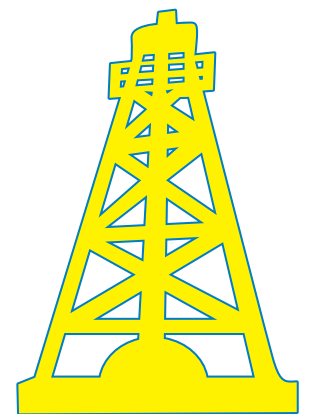
Top highlights have included "Rowan Frost and Ellery Boyle scoring a significant amount of individual points on their career. Rowan Frost qualifying for the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (MISCA) meet for the 50 free on the verge of breaking the record. The 200

Free Relay team of Kelly Zheng, Ashley Bootz, Ellie Patterson and Rowan Frost also qualifying for the MISCA meet and being 2.1 seconds from our school record."

Graduates include Rowan Frost, Addi Koch, Ellery Boyle, Grace Bellinger and Hanna Ford-McLemore.

Key Returners are Kelly Zheng, Ellie Patterson and Ashley Bootz.

"The future looks bright with a good core of swimmers coming back, and rookies who have stepped up this season," Beckman said.



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