

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE
KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

555 E Downie St
Alma, MI 48801
(517) 202-1808

www.highschoolsportsscene.com

- Publisher**
Randy Miniard
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com
517-202-1808
- High School Liaison**
Paul Hornak
p1hornak@gmail.com
989-331-1168
- Editorial**
John Raffel
john.raffel@gmail.com
616-894-2936
- Butch Harmon
616-655-9058
- Dave Cook
- Photographers**
Skip Traynor, Eric Sawatzki,
Marvin Hall, Jaymee Beard,
John Raffel, Jason Barden,
James Traylor, Yoland Hayward,
Rachel Rosales, Kyle Curtis,
Bailey Miniard, Rylee Turner,
Joe Vozar, Kim Larner,
Donovan Ort, Russ Pierce,
Ali Bauman

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

The snow has arrived and with it comes the winter sports season for high school teams and athletes.

As we turn the page to winter lets take a last look at the fall season.

What a fall season it was for area football teams!

A big shoutout goes to the gritty football team from Beal City that came home with the Division 8 state championship. The Aggies had to go through a virtual battle royale to even reach Ford Field where they put on a dominating performance in defeating River Gabriel Richard. Beal City needed to defeat a trio of highly-ranked foes to get to Ford Field including a powerful Fowler squad that they edged in a thrilling 17-16 struggle in the state semifinals.

The title was number three for the storied program and you can be sure this one was as hard-earned as any as the Aggies were underdogs numerous times only to end up standing at the game.

While the title was number three for Beal City, the program at Millington reached the state championship game for the first time in school history and came home with the big trophy!

What a job by the Cardinals who defeated Monroe St. Mary 24-0. Millington has been one of the most consistent teams in the state for the past several decades. The roots of Millington's success on the football field can be traced to legendary Hall of Fame coach Tom Furno. Furno took over the Millington program in 1978 and at that time the Cardinals had only six winning seasons in the 28 years prior to his taking over. Under Furno, who coached Millington for 32 years, the team had 26 winnings seasons and 16 playoff berths.

This year's title put a huge bow on all the success the Cardinals have had over the years and are sure to have in the future.

A tip of the hat goes to both the Frankenmuth and Lansing Catholic football teams. Like Millington, both the Eagles and Cougars know a thing or two about post-season success. Frankenmuth was in the state title game for the third time in the past five years while Lansing Catholic was making its sixth appearance in a championship game.

A slew of other area teams also put together memorable playoff runs as the 2-24 state playoffs was as exciting as ever for area teams.

The action now moves inside where area basketball teams and wrestling teams are getting the season going along with bowling teams, swim teams, hockey team, ski teams and competitive cheer squads. Look for reports on winter sports teams in our next issue.

Until then, see you at the games!



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

Beal City Completes Epic Playoff Run With Dominating Effort In D8 Title Game

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Beal City football team saved its best for last this season and that final performance earned the Aggies their third football state championship in program history.

The Aggies capped a thrilling playoff run with a 43-14 win against Riverview Gabriel Richard in the Division 8 state finals at Ford Field.

A punishing running game was key to the win in the finals as the Aggies ran the football 48 times for 315 yards. Drew Block led the way for Beal City as he ran the ball 20 times for 112 yards and two touchdowns. Owen McKenny added 88 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries while Garrison Zuker picked up 64 yards on seven carries.

The win capped an epic post-season run that saw Beal City defeat four, top-six ranked team enroute to the title. The key to the run was a focus on playing more physical on defense and in the ground game that began late in the regular season.

"I think it was probably six weeks ago I had to say something like 'we have to start playing physical football with bad intentions,'" said veteran Beal City coach Brad Gross. "These guys took it to heart and they starting hitting hard. That was no more true than up front."

Paving the way for the Beal City ground game was a line comprised of tackles Jace Faber and Caleb Lehnert, guards Drew Gross and Wyatt Wilson, center Parker Sienkiewicz and tight end Drake Gattrell.

Beal City's ground game became progressively more dominant as the game wore on in the final. After Gabriel Richard took an early 8-0 lead with a 53-yard scoring pass from Derek Lesko to Nick Sobush on the first drive of the game, the Aggies responded with a pair of first-quarter scoring drives.

After Drake Gattrell returned the ensuing

kickoff to midfield, Beal City mounted a seven-play, 50-yard scoring drive that was capped by a two-yard touchdown run by Drew Block. Owen McKenny ran in the two-point conversion to tie the score at 8-8.

The Beal City defense stepped up on the next Gabriel Richard possession when Block intercepted a Pioneer pass at the Aggie 13-yard line.

Beal City turned that turnover into points as the Aggies drove downfield 87 yards in nine plays. Block capped off the drive with a five-yard touchdown run and Kyle Martin kicked the point-after touchdown giving Beal City a 15-8 lead, a lead the Aggies would not surrender.

Beal City upped the lead to 22-8 midway through the second quarter. The Aggies scored via the passing game when quarterback Cuyler Smith hooked up with McKenny on an eight-yard touchdown pass. Martin tacked on the point after.

Beal City began to pull away early in the third quarter. That was when McKenny ran in for a touchdown from three-yards out. Martin added the extra point giving the Aggies a 29-8 lead.

Gabriel Richard got back on the scoreboard late in the third quarter when Sobush ran in for a touchdown from two-yards out cutting the deficit to 29-13.

Beal City closed out the game with a pair of touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Austin Small reeled off a 28-yard touchdown early in the final quarter to up the lead to 36-13 after the point after from Martin.

Neil Finnerty closed out the scoring with a five-yard touchdown run and Martin tacked on the point after for the final Beal City points of the game.

The state title was the third one for Beal City as the Aggies won state titles in 1994 and 2008. Gross, who is in his 10th season as head coach of Beal City, was a quarterback on the 1994 state title team. Gross was also a long-time assistant coach for the Aggies before taking over the head coaching reigns



Beal City defeated Riverview Gabriel Richard 43-14 in the Division 8 championship game.

and winning one as head coach at his alma mater was extra special.

"They all mean a lot," Gross said. "To be the head coach and get your first one, it's just awesome. I'm a Beal City guy, when I'm done coaching, it will be at Beal."

The Aggies earned the state title the hard way. After going 7-2 during the regular season and finishing second in the Highland Conference with a 6-1 record, Beal City opened the playoff with a 47-0 win against Frankford. The Aggies then won the district title with a 21-14 win over No. 4-ranked Maple City Glen Lake. In the regional title game Beal City came up with a big defensive effort to defeat No. 2-ranked Iron Mountain

14-7. The Aggies then faced number one-ranked Fowler in the semifinals. Again, the defense came up big as Beal City claimed a 17-16 win to head to the finals to play sixth-ranked Gabriel Richard.

"The last four games have been a run for us," Gross said. "It's real nice to get this one, very sweet."

Beal City received a total defensive effort to limit the Pioneers to 13 points. Drake Gattrell led the team in tackles with nine while Eric Elias and Drew Gross had eight tackles apiece. Garrison Zuker added seven tackles, Wyatt Wilson and Aaron Locke five tackles apiece and Drew Block four tackles.

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The B#4 Foundation honors the life and achievements of Brady Hessbrook, who tragically took his own life on January 27, 2023. The B#4 Foundation strives to promote mental health awareness and suicide prevention through education, outreach initiatives, advocacy, and community service.

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Defense Leads The Way As Millington Captures First-Ever State Title

David Cook Sports Scene

When it comes to winning, few teams in the state of Michigan have done it as consistently as the Millington Cardinals. Heading into this year, however, the Cardinals lacked just one thing on their impressive resume and that void was filled as Millington defeated Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central 24-0 in a battle of unbeaten in the Division 7 state championship game at Ford Field.

One of the winningest high school football teams in the state, Millington has reeled off 35 straight win seasons, just four behind the record of 39 held by Marysville. Millington's last non-winning season came in 1988. Millington has also qualified for the state playoffs every year since 2003 and have missed the playoffs only three times since 1991. The Cardinals also entered this season having reached the state semifinal round six times. Millington, however, has never reached the

title game, that was until this year as the Cardinals not only won their state semifinal game with a 35-28 win against North Muskegon but also brought home the first-ever state championship trophy in impressive fashion with the shutout of Monroe.

"It means the world to us," said third-year Millington coach Jason Germain. "We were 0-6 going into the semifinals, and we heard about that. These kids knew that. They fulfilled my dreams, and they fulfilled a lot of people in the community's dreams. If you couldn't tell, you'd think that was a Division 1 game out there with that many people in the crowd. It is truly, in small towns like Millington and Frankenmuth, that's what we cling to. We don't have a lot in our community, but we have our Friday nights and we have our football program. That's what it really, truly means. We told our guys, pain is temporary, championships are forever, and that's what they really bought into. And it's a true testament to our

community."

A strong running game and tough defense have been staples of the Millington program throughout the years and that recipe again brought success throughout the season and in the championship game. The Cardinals, who allowed an average of 7.2 points per game this season, blanked Monroe St. Mary's for their sixth shutout of the season. The Millington defense allowed just 131 total yards and seven first downs for the game.

On offense, Millington was paced by its ground game and senior running back Dallas Walsh who ran the ball 20 times for 121 yards and a touchdown. Landon Russell added 67 yards and a touchdown while senior quarterback Truk TerBrush kept the Monroe defense honest by completing seven-of-12 passes for 58 yards and a touchdown.

A scoreless game at the end of one quarter, Millington took charge of the contest with 10

second-quarter points. Walsh scored the first touchdown of the game when he took off on a 21-yard touchdown run. Lane Shoens tacked on the extra point giving the Cardinals a 7-0 lead. Later in the half Shoens connected on a 25-yard field goal to put the Cardinals up 10-0 heading into halftime.

Millington continued to control the game in the second half. In the third quarter the lead grew to 17-0 when Russell exploded for a 64-yard touchdown run. The Cardinals closed out in the scoring in the fourth quarter when Terbrush connected with Brevin Hendricks on a 13-yard touchdown pass. Shoens connected on both point-after touchdown kicks.



Millington captured its first-ever football state title with a 24-0 win against Monroe St. Mary.

Defensively, the Cardinals relied on a total-team effort. Walsh led the way with eight tackles while Logan Myers had seven tackles and two quarterback sacks. Hendricks added six tackles and two sacks while Cade Ward and Owen Kreger both finished with five tackles. Kreger also added an interception.

Coleman's Football Season Was Unique

John Raffel Sports Scene

Chad Klopff finished his 16th season as Coleman's football coach.

The Comets were 5-4 overall and 4-1 in the MSAC Blue and finished second.

"I'm very pleased with finishing the season with a winning record," Klopff said. "We gave ourselves a chance to play for a conference title this year as well. Our four losses came to playoff teams, so you cannot hang your head about that.

"We met one of our three goals for the season, but I do not think that we fell too far from expectations."

Coleman had a big week two victory over rival Vestaburg (62-34 at home) in the Tractor Trophy game, to keep the trophy for another season.

"We had a nice four-game win

streak weeks 4-7, which included victories on the road, wins at Breckenridge and Carson City-Crystal," Klopff said. "Our week seven victory over Merrill (36-28) was our most satisfying win of the season. Merrill had taken the lead with less than two minutes to go in the 4th quarter and we drove the length of the field to take the lead, then finished the game with an interception.

"Senior RB/LB and team captain Jared DeVrieze was injured during our scrimmage this season. This was a big challenge for the team, starting the season without one of our top players. Luckily, he was able to get back quicker than expected. Losing the conference championship at Montabella week eight and having our playoff chances at our fingertips the final two weeks, but coming up short were some disappointing moments."

There were several top athletes on the team.

"Senior Jared DeVrieze was our top player this season. He was a workhorse on offense at running back and slot receiver, and a warrior on defense at linebacker," Klopff said. "Senior Collin Stockero was our top receiver and top corner this year. He always seemed to come up with some extra yards after a catch when we needed it, and also led the team in interceptions.

"Junior Dakota Lattimer was a beast for us on the defensive and offensive lines this year again. Dakota is a tough match-up for the other team's offensive line. He is a true gritty football player. Senior Zachary MacPhee was our

center this year and everything went through Zach. He turned himself into a dominant blocker and a leader this season.

Junior Logan Glazier was our first year quarterback. This was his second year starting at corner. Logan grew up quickly and became a solid QB for us. His patience and composure helped our offense tremendously."

Klopff added: Junior Aden Aultman: Receiver, Tight End, OLB, Punter: "Aden was a nice big target for Logan in our pass game, but his blocking ability was a huge asset for our running game. As a punter he did a nice job of flipping the field for our defense.

"Senior Travis Murray: ILB, Fullback. Travis was a solid linebacker, but his blocking in our run game led to many successful carries. He had an ankle injury late

in the season which showed how important he was for us."

Key graduates are Jared DeVrieze RB/LB, Zachary MacPhee Center, Collin Stockero WR/DB, Travis Murray FB/LB, Kolton Johnson DT, Colt Cole DT/LB

Key returners are Logan Glazier jr. QB/DB, Dakota Lattimer Jr. DL/OL, Aden Aultman Jr. WR/OLB, Adam Muddiman Jr. OL/DL, Dominic Lawrence So. RB/DB, Brayden Schrank Jr. WR/LB, Kendon Bock So. LB, Parker Klopff Fr. WR

What does next year look like? "Despite the players we lose to graduation, we still have a large group returning," Klopff said. "I feel that after this season they will be hungry to continue to feel the success we had this year. The schedule will continue to be tough as the MSAC is a very competitive conference, and we do not have many easy weeks."



Ithaca's Fine Football Season Ends In District Finals

John Raffel Sports Scene

Ithaca's football season ended a little soon than desired But it was still a heckuva season for the Yellow Jackets.

Hessbrook was in his fourth season as head coach. Ithaca was 5-0 and champs of the TVC Blue.

The Yellowjackets were 10-1, losing in the district finals to Pewamo-Westphalia.

"Our season ended in a tough way in the district championship, but our kids fought hard and competed," Hessbrook said.

There were quite a few athletes who earned honors.

First-Team All-League: Broden Peska

(DL), Kenny Daniels (OL), Jackson Conn (QB), Gibson Rondy (WR), Broghan Bupp (LB), Tanner Lamey (K), Nicholas Mikesell (DL), Aiden Smith (DL), Nathan Mikesell (RB), Lloyd Stoneman (OL), Ryley White (ATH), Elijah Smith (DB)

All-Region: Lloyd Stoneman (OL), Broden Peska (OL), Ryley White (WR), Gibson Rondy (WR), Nathan Mikesell (RB), Jackson Conn (QB), Nicholas Mikesell (DL), Broghan Bupp (LB), Elijah Smith (DB)

Graduates: Broden Peska (OL/DL), Jackson Conn (QB), Karter Araujo (DL), Lloyd Stoneman (OL/DL), Nathan Mikesell (RB/LB), Nicholas Mikesell (OL/DL), Ryley White (WR/DB)

Key Returners: Gibson Rondy (QB/

DB), Elijah Smith (WR/DB), Broghan Bupp (OL/DL), Aiden Smith (OL/DL), Kenny Daniels (OL/DL), Connor McMurphy (WR/DB), Riley Guild (WR/LB), Harper Merchant (RB/LB), Jacob Crawford (LB/HB), Tanner Lamey (K).

What does next year look like?

"We will lose a lot of seniors from this year's teams," Hessbrook said. "We will return a decent number of players who started for us this season as sophomores and juniors.

"While our season did not turn out the way that we wanted it to, I am proud of the work put in by our players and coaches and the way that they represented our program and community."



Ithaca's football team was 9-0 during the regular season and lost in the district finals.

Portland St. Patrick Football Posts Another Winning Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Patrick Russman has coached for 30 years at Portland State Patrick and 18 as head football coach.

This season, the St. Patrick 8-player team was 5-1 in the MSAC Red and 5-1 overall.

"We met many of our goals," Russian said. "We won a share of the conference title and qualified for the playoffs. We were Lansing State Journal team of the week for week 3 Brady Leonard was News Channel 6 Player of the week. The team accomplished many of our goals, but we did not

get to compete in the Final game this year which was our ultimate team athletic goal. I appreciate the journey the team took this year. I was very appreciative of all the growth we had as a team and look forward to what the kids do in the future."

Top highlights were regular season wins against Sacred Heart and Morrice. Disappointing moments included losses against Fulton in the regular season and Morrice in the post season and "were challenging moments that we will use to work to get better," Russian said

Standouts included: Grant Pline Sr. All-Conference OL, All Region OL

Brayden Simon Sr. All-Conference RB and DL, All Region Athlete.

Brady Leonard Jr. All-Conference Quarterback;

Landon Simpson Sr. All-Conference DB

Brody Beckhold Jr. All-Conference Kicker

Augustus Teachworth All-Conference TE/LB

Charlie Thelen All-Conference TE "Our four Seniors Brayden

Simon, Landon Simpson, Grant Pline and Gabe Wernette will all be missed," Russian said. "We are looking forward to working with our juniors and sophomores classes working hard to improve this off-season."

What does next year look like?

"We will have another challenging schedule that will help us improve as a team," Russian said. "The two losses were by a combined 10 points. We are proud of the ability to compete in every game and look

forward to finding ways to improve."





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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE FOOTBALL ROUND UP

Butch Harmon & David Cook Sports Scene

Division 1

Davison: The Cardinals suffered a surprising first round exit after losing to Oxford in a tight 21-14 defeat. Davison finishes the season 7-3 with a 40.4 ppg average on offense.

Grand Blanc: Grand Blanc defeated Lapeer 42-21 in the district semifinals and followed up their performance by beating Oxford 29-7 to secure their first district title since 2021. The Bobcats were defeated in a hard fought 21-14 match by Rochester Adams in the regionals. Grand Blanc ends the year 9-3 with a 32.3 ppg average on offense.

Grand Ledge: The Comets were eliminated in the district semifinals by Brighton 53-28. Grand Ledge finished the year 5-5.

Division 2

East Lansing: East Lansing got off to a strong start in the postseason with a 43-22 victory over Millford followed up by a thrilling 50-49 win over Dexter in the district finals. The Trojans then defeated Saginaw Heritage 49-27 for their second straight regional championship, but were eliminated in the state semifinals by Byron Center 41-14. East Lansing finishes 9-4 having scored 36 ppg on the year.

Flushing: The Raiders lost to Midland 34-7 in the district semifinals. Flushing ends with a 7-3 record, their best since 2018, thanks to solid complementary football that saw the Raiders average 33 ppg on offense while allowing just 15 ppg on defense.

Lansing Everett: Lansing Everett was eliminated in the district semifinals by Mattawan 27-21. The Vikings finish 6-4 on the season, their best record since 2014, having scored 29.2 ppg on offense.

Midland: The Chemics began the post-season with a 34-7 win over Flushing in the district semifinals, but were eliminated in the district finals by Saginaw Heritage 17-7. Midland finishes the year with a 9-2 record backed by a stout defense that allowed just 10.5 ppg this season.

Midland Dow: Midland Dow was eliminated in the district semifinals by district cham-

pions Saginaw Heritage 52-20. The Chargers finish the season with a 5-5 record.

Saginaw Heritage: The Hawks defeated Midland Dow 52-20 in the district semifinals and followed it up by avenging a regular season loss to Midland by beating the Chemics 17-7 for Heritage's second straight district title. They were eliminated however by East Lansing 49-27 in the regionals. The Hawks end the year 8-4 with a 30.3 ppg average on offense.

Division 3

Bay City John Glenn: John Glenn lost 61-21 to district champions Petoskey in the district semifinals. The Bobcats finish the year 5-5, their best since 2017, thanks to a high scoring offense that posted a 32.3 ppg average for the season.

Cedar Springs: The Red Hawks were eliminated in the district semifinals by Lowell 27-7. Cedar Springs finishes the season 7-3 having scored 29.6 ppg on offense.

DeWitt: DeWitt's offensive success continued into the playoffs with a 42-7 victory over St Johns and a 49-35 win over Lowell in the districts. The Panthers then defeated Petoskey 70-34 to secure a regional championship, but their magical season came to an end after losing to eventual D3 state champions Zeeland West 32-20. DeWitt ends the year 12-1 having scored a total of 702 points for a 54 ppg average, the second highest scoring team in state history.

Lowell: The Red Arrows won their first postseason game since 2020 after defeating Cedar Springs 27-7 in the district semifinals. They were eliminated in the district finals however by regional champions DeWitt 49-35. Lowell finishes the year 8-3, their best since 2016, due to a high scoring offense that averaged 37.7 ppg.

Mason: Mason's journey back to Ford Field got off to a hot start after the Bulldogs defeated Jackson 59-18 in the district semifinals and Linden 45-14 in the district finals. They continued their fine form by avenging a regular season loss to Walled Lake Western by eliminating the Warriors 22-17 for Mason's fourth straight regional championship. The Bulldogs fell just short though after losing to Detroit Martin Luther King 52-17 in the state semifinals. Mason ends 10-3 having

scored 34.6 ppg and limited opponents to 17.4 ppg.

Mount Pleasant: The Oilers started strong with a 36-22 victory over Cadillac in the district semifinals but were eliminated in the district finals 38-10 by Petoskey. Mount Pleasant ends the season 6-5 with a 25.1 ppg average on offense.

St. Johns: St Johns was eliminated in the district semifinals by DeWitt 42-7. The Redwings finish the season 6-4, their best since 2019, after scoring 27.9 ppg.

Division 4

Big Rapids: Big Rapids defeated Ludington 28-21 in the district semifinals, but lost to Whitehall 17-7 in the district finals. The Cardinals end the year 9-2 thanks to a stout defense that limited opponents to 14.5 ppg and an offense that scored 30.5 ppg.

Freeland: The Falcons defeated Lake Fenon in the district semifinals 51-21, but were eliminated in a hard-fought district final by eventual D4 state champions Goodrich 27-21. Freeland finishes the season 9-2 with a 43.3 ppg average on offense and 10.5 ppg allowed on defense.

Haslett: Haslett kicked off their postseason

with a 42-21 victory over Parma Western in the district semifinals and continued their success by defeating Chelsea 24-9 for second straight district title. The Vikings lost to Goodrich 42-13 in the regionals. Haslett ends the year 8-4 having scored an average of 32.2 ppg this season.

Ionia: The Bulldogs were eliminated in the district semifinals by Hastings 35-0. Ionia finishes the season 6-4, their best finish since 2013.

Lansing Sexton: Sexton lost 42-8 to district champions Portland in the district semifinals. The J-Dubbs finish the season 5-5.

Division 5

Belding: Belding defeated Saginaw Swan Valley 52-30 in the district semifinals before losing to eventual D5 runners up Frankenthum 37-7 in the district finals. The Black Knights finish the year 9-2 thanks to a defense that limited opponents to 15.6 ppg and an offense that scored a school record 42.9 ppg.

Clare: The Pioneers lost 21-13 to Ogemaw Heights in the district semifinals. Clare finishes the season 7-3 having scored 37.1 ppg and limiting opponents to 20 ppg on the



season.

Corunna: Corunna defeated Flint Hamady 35-8 in the district semifinals, but the Cavalier's quest for a return to Ford Field ended with a 56-7 loss to D5 state champions Pontiac Notre Dame in the district finals. Corunna ends with an 8-3 record having scored 30.6 ppg.

Gladwin: Gladwin defeated Kingsford in a tight 18-15 district semifinal match before beating Ogemaw Heights 28-19 to secure a district title. The Flying G's were then eliminated in the regionals by Frankenthum 35-0. Gladwin ends the year 8-4 having scored 29.4 ppg and limited opponents to 19.6 ppg on the season.

Howard City Tri-County: The Vikings lost 62-6 to Frankenthum in the district semifinals. Tri-County ends the season 5-5 having scored 31.3 ppg.

Saginaw Swan Valley: Swan Valley lost 52-30 to Belding in the district semifinals. The Vikings finish 6-4 on the year, scoring 35.1 ppg on offense.

Williamston: The Hornets were eliminated in the district semifinals by Pontiac Notre Dame 49-19. Williamston finishes the season 3-7.

Division 6

Central Montcalm: The Hornet's historic season came to an end in the district semifinals after losing a 35-34 heartbreaker to district champions Newaygo. Central Montcalm ends the season 9-2, their best since 1999. Their defense limited opponents to 14 ppg and their offense was the highest scoring in school history, posting a 41.7 ppg average.



Chesaning: Chesaning suffered a surprise early exit in the district semifinals after a 36-29 loss to eventual D6 runners up Lansing Catholic. The Indians finish the year 9-1 thanks to historic efforts on both sides of the ball. The offense's 41.3 ppg is the highest scoring since 1999 while the defense's 14.5 points allowed is the fewest since 2000.

Reed City: The Coyotes defeated Manistee 41-20 in the district semifinals before beating Standish-Sterling 41-32 for their third straight district title. They were eliminated in the regionals by Boyne City 34-21. Reed City ends the year 9-3, having scored 36 ppg on the season.

Ovid-Elsie: Ovid-Elsie made a statement in the district semifinals with a 44-21 win over favorites Almont before losing a heartbreaker in the district finals to Lansing Catholic 31-28. The Marauders finish the season 8-3 thanks to an offense that scored 39 ppg, their best since 2009.

Division 7

Bath: The Bees were eliminated in the district semifinals by Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett 41-14. Bath ends the season 5-5 having scored 24 ppg, their best since 2020.

Evert: The Wildcats were eliminated in the district semifinals by state semifinalists North Muskegon 56-7. Evert finishes the year 6-4, having scored 34.5 ppg on the season.

Harrison: Harrison lost 49-6 in the district semifinals to McBain. The Hornets end the season 7-3, their best since 2015, thanks to an offense that scored 26.4 ppg this season.

Ithaca: The Yellow-jackets won their district semifinal match against Saranac 42-7, but were eliminated in the district finals by fellow post-season regulars Pewamo-Westphalia 17-14. Ithaca finishes the year 10-1 having scored an average of 41 ppg. This year's defense held opponents to 9.6 ppg, the best since 2015.

Leslie: Leslie carried their regular season momentum into the postseason by beating Burton Atherton 49-7 in the district semifinals and Grosse Pointe Woods

University Liggett 23-21 to win their first district title since '08. The Black Hawks were eliminated in the regionals however by D7 runners up Monroe St. Mary 55-18. Leslie's 10-2 record and 38.1 ppg on offense make this year's team the best in school history since their state final run in 2008.

Montrose: Montrose was eliminated in the district semifinals by district champions Pewamo-Westphalia 42-12. The Rams finish the season 6-4.

Pewamo-Westphalia: The Pirates opened their postseason run with a 42-12 win over Montrose in the district semifinals and carried their momentum into the district finals where they edged out Ithaca 17-14 for their second straight district title. They were shutout in the regionals by eventual D7 state champions Millington 28-0. Pewamo-Westphalia ends the year 9-3 having scored 34.4 ppg and allowed only 12.5 ppg on the season.

Saginaw Valley Lutheran: Saginaw Valley Lutheran was eliminated in the district semifinals by Cass City 50-15. The Chargers finish the season 5-5.

Saranac: Saranac lost 42-7 in the district semifinals to Ithaca. The Red Hawks finish the year 6-4, their best finish since 2018, thanks to a high scoring offense that scored 36.4 ppg on the season.

Division 8

Fowler: Fowler continued their regular season success by defeating Reese 48-12 in the district semifinals and secured a district title by beating Michigan Lutheran Seminary 43-13. The Eagles then eliminated Harbor Beach 25-7 to win their first regional title since 2019. In the semifinals, Fowler lost a heartbreaking 17-16 game to D8 state champions Beal City. The Eagles end the year 12-1, having scored 39 ppg and limiting opponents to 9.9 ppg on the season.

Saginaw Michigan Lutheran: The Cardinals avenged a regular season loss by beating Saginaw Nouvel in a thrilling district semifinal matchup 21-20, but were eliminated in the district finals 43-13 by state semifinalists Fowler. Saginaw Michigan Lutheran ends with a 7-4 record, scoring 28.5 ppg and allowing 16.7 ppg on the year.



Saginaw Nouvel: Saginaw Nouvel was eliminated in a heartbreaking district semifinal match with Saginaw Michigan Lutheran 21-20. The Panthers finish the year 8-2 thanks to success on both sides of the ball, scoring 31.5 ppg and allowing just 15.5 ppg on the season.

8-Man Division 1

Bay City All Saints: All Saints were eliminated in the regional semifinals by eventual D1 state champions Deckerville 54-34. The Cougars end with a 7-3 record thanks to solid production on both sides of the ball, scoring 45 ppg and allowing only 15 ppg on the season.

Blanchard Montabella: Blanchard Montabella was eliminated in the regional semifinals by regional champs Indian River Inland Lakes 46-8. The Mustangs finish the season with a 6-4 record.

8-Man Division 2

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart: Sacred Heart defeated top seed Grand Rapids Sacred Heart 24-21 in a nail-biting regional semifinal matchup. However, they were eliminated in the regional finals by eventual D2 runners up Morrice 46-14. The Irish finish the year 7-4, posting 37.7 ppg on offense.

Portland St. Patrick: The Shamrocks were narrowly eliminated in the regional semifinals by Morrice 28-22 to end the season 8-2 overall. Portland St. Patrick fielded a prolific offense this season that scored 46.1 ppg.

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Lansing Catholic, Frankenmuth Fall Short In State Championship Games

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Lansing Catholic Unable To Slow Lumen Christi

Lansing Catholic saw a memorable playoff run come to an end in the Division 6 state championship game as it fell to a high-powered Jackson Lumen Christi squad 56-18.

Lansing Catholic ended the regular season with a 6-3 record but then embarked on a thrilling post-season run that didn't end until it reached Ford Field. The Cougars opened the run with a 36-29 win against undefeated and eighth-ranked in the state Chesaning. The Cougars kept the run going with huge 31-28 win over Ovid-Elsie in the district finals and then stopped Newaygo 49-36 to win the regional title. The Cougars

defeated Boyne City 34-22 to punch their ticket to the finals.

The Cougars, however, were unable to corral Lumen Christi and their standout running back Kadale Williams in the title game. Williams rushed for a state finals record 314 yards along with a record five touchdowns.

Lansing Catholic was led by senior quarterback Alex Fernandez who passed for 284 yards and two touchdowns and added 82 yards rushing and a score.

Frankenmuth Stopped By High-Scoring Notre Dame

For the third time in the past five years the Frankenmuth football team ended the season in the state title game.

The Eagles, who reached the state finals in



Frankenmuth dropped a 42-7 decision to Pontiac Notre Dame in the Division 5 state title game.

2020 and 2022, made it to the Division 5 title game this season where they dropped a 42-7 decision to Pontiac Notre Dame.

Frankenmuth, which brought a 13-0 record into the championship game, began its playoff journey with a 62-6 win against Howard City Tri-County. The Eagles then defeated Belding 37-6 to win the district title and stopped Gladwin 35-0 to win the regional title. Frankenmuth punched its ticket to the finals with a 42-35 win against

Grand Rapids Catholic Central in the semifinals.

Pontiac Notre Dame used the passing game to its advantage in the title game as quarterback Sam Stowe completed 15-of-21 passes for 293 yards and four touchdowns.

Frankenmuth was led by Cash Tedford who rushed for 86 yards while Eagle quarterback Leyton Hoard completed seven-of-nine passes for 53 yards and rushed for a touchdown.

Bullock Football Has Bright Future

John Raffel Sports Scene

Jeri Orr is looking forward to the future after completing this first season as Midland Bullock Creek football coach.

The team was 4-5 overall and 1-4 in the league

"As far as our expectations, we never want to be in the position of where we finished the 2024 season," Orr said. "Our expectations are to compete for the conference title each and every year as well as clinching a playoff spot. We have a great group of athletes as well as a great coaching staff. Being that we got together in late June, early July, we were really behind the 8 ball in terms of preparation. I'm proud of how the team competed throughout this season as well as their commitment to improve on a weekly basis.

"I think our highlight of the season was retaining the paddle

(Oar) for another year vs our rival Sanford Meridian. We respect the rivalry we respect Meridian however we never want them to have the Paddle. The most disappointing/challenging part of the season was knowing as a team and staff that out of the 5 losses there were at least 3 games that we let get away. However you definitely learn more about yourself when you lose games and there were things the kids definitely learned this season for us."

Top players were as follows:

Adley Keister(RB) Junior: "This is Adley's first year back since his freshman season," Orr said. "He ended the season with 1,068 rushing yards and 7 rushing touchdowns. Rushed for 267 yards in the season finale vs Swan Valley. Adley was selected as all Jack Pine conference second team offense."

Kuper Wiklanski (DL) senior:

"Kuper is easily the MVP of the defense," Orr said. "He does his job at 100 miles per hour and doesn't have a problem chasing a play down. Wrapped up the season with 102 tackles, 2 quarterback sacks and 1 interception. Kuper was selected to the all Jack Pine Conference second team defensive player."

Caden Lickfeldt (OL) senior: At 6-5, 330 pounds, Caden was a consistent leader on the Oline, Caden has continued to protect his side of the line although he's been nursing injuries for a portion of the season, he has still anchored this line that produced lots of yards," Orr said. "The future Northwood commit was selected to the Jack Pine Conference 2nd team offense."

CJ Tetloff (OL) Sophomore: "Very smart and skilled lineman with a very aggressive nature on the football field. Not afraid to matchup with anyone in

this league," Orr said. "CJ was also selected to the Jack Pine Conference second team offense." "Lincoln Tetloff (DL) sophomore, Brandon Porcaro (LB) senior, Jacob Pickle (OL) senior, Maison keister (K) senior. all received Jack pine conference honors and were important players within our program," Orr said.

As far as key losses in terms of graduates, "I think the whole senior class will be a key loss for us, however, if I have to pinpoint one athlete, it would be Caden Tate. Caden by far is one of our best athletes on the team, but due to lingering injuries throughout the season, he was very limited and what he could do. When he finally got healthy, I think

it was week nine against Swan Valley and he had a great game producing over 100 yards rushing but if I had to use a Mulligan I would bring all the senior kids

back especially a healthy Caden Tate.

"My outlook for next season. I think we will be very athletic offensively and defensively I think again, as I stressed before this past season our success will be predicated on our offensive and defensive lines. We will have some experience at those positions and with getting these kids in the weight room earlier in the winter going into the spring. I think we put ourselves in great position to compete and be very successful in 2025."



Ionia Became A Back-To-Back Playoff Qualifier

John Raffel Sports Scene

Chad Rhynard's fifth year as Ionia head football coach was a solid one.

The team made the playoffs and finished 6-4.

"Overall it was a successful year as we won the most games of any Ionia team in the last 11 years, and the first time we've qualified for the playoffs in back to back years in 18 years," Rhynard said.

"I would have liked us to play better against Hastings (in a 35-0 playoff loss, but overall we played a brutal schedule (6 of 9 teams made the playoffs) and were able to have success. Beating Belding was the first highlight. The second one was winning on the road against St. Johns when we were missing seven starters due to injury."

All Conference honors went to Henry Castle, Parker Seidelman, Wyatt Erridge, Jonathan Rico, Spencer Tooker, Tristian Ciganick, Landon Steffen

All-Conference Honorable Mention: Seth Woods, Kellan Ferguson, Wolton Sandborn, Braylon Granger

All-Region: Spencer Tooker, Henry Castle, Parker Seidelman

"Next year will look very different as six of the graduating seniors were three-year starters. Will be very young next year," Rhynard said.

Henry Castle Grade: 12

Position(s): TE/DL

Season stats (Rushing yards, receiving yards, touchdowns, tackles, etc.): 41 Tackles, 3 Sacks, 8 TFL. 8 Recs 124 yards

3 Time All-Conference. 2024 All-Region

"Henry is a two-year captain and was the guy we ran behind most of the year," Rhynard said. "He was a very physical player. Incredible toughness playing through injuries through most of the year.

Parker Seidelman

Grade: 12

Position(s): LB

Season stats (Rushing yards, receiving yards, touchdowns, tackles, etc.): 104 tackles, 3 Forced Fumbles, 4 Sacks

All-Conference and All-Region

"Parker was the best player on a very good defense this year," Rhynard said. "Seidelman became the first Ionia player in over 10 years

to make more than 100 tackles.

Spencer Tooker

Grade: 12

Position(s): WR/S

67 rush 294 yards 1 TD. 32 rec 461 yards 6 TDs, 34 Tackles 1 Int

Two Time All-Conference, Two Time All-Region

"One of the more versatile and dynamic players in the conference, Tooker played both sides of the ball almost every snap," Rhynard said. "He moved around throughout the season because of injuries to other players. Tooker was our biggest playmaking threat and the guy we went to when we needed a big play. Was also a fantastic defender especially against the run from his safety spot."

Wyatt Erridge

Grade: 12

Position(s): LB

79 Tackles, 3 Sacks, 1 Forced Fumble

Awards and accomplishments: All-

Conference

"When Parker didn't make the tackle there was a very good chance that Wyatt would. Wyatt had his best games of the year against our best competition, highlighted by a 14-tackle performance against Belding," Rhynard said

Jonathan Rico

Grade: 12

Position(s): OT

"Jonathan was our most consistent offensive lineman on the year. Jonathan had his best game of the year against St. Johns when we ran for over 150 yards behind him on the left side." Tristan Ciganick

Grade: 12

Position(s): WR/CB

27 rush 132 yards 2 TD, 12 rec 182 2 TDs, 38 tackles, 4 INT

All-Conference

"Tristan was our best corner when healthy and had multiple big interceptions for us this year. Offensively, Tristian was a nice complement to Spencer and had a knack for turning a short pass into a big play," Rhynard said.



Central Montcalm Football Posts Memorable Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Scott Cripe has had six years of coaching football at Central Montcalm and this was indeed a memorable one.

Central was 4-0 to finish as champs in the Central State Activities Association's White Division.

"We had a very good season overall one of the best in our schools' history," Cripe said. "We

met many of the goals this years' team set out to reach. It was the first nine-win season since 1999, and the most points scored in school history (459). Overall, you always desire perfection so there are always some things left on the table. This year's team was still very good and accomplished a lot.

"We had 9 all league players. Seniors included Anthony Schultz and Waylon Lingeman. Anthony had over 1100 yards rushing and 17 TD's and Waylon was our

best overall lineman and was a 4 year starter. All seniors will be missed; they all contributed to our success. We will have some juniors returning to next years team that were starters this

year. Including Jamison Johns WR/DB, Zayne Cooper WR/DB, Brayden Peak WR/DB, Emmett Lingeman QB/DE, McCoy Wernholm RB/LB, Colton Kahler OL/DL, and Trae Zerba TE/LB."

As for next year, "We have some valuable players returning and

some efforts of

freshmen and sophomores are encouraging as well. If they can have productive off-seasons and continue to improve we can accomplish good things next season as well," Cripe said. "Each player should leave feeling satisfied with their accomplishments this season and have some memories they take with them. Football is a difficult sport in and of itself so playing is commendable but becoming champions is really



special. Our players should take a lot of pride in that."

MLS Football Coach Has Special Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Karl Schmutge has been a Michigan Lutheran Seminary football coach for his 25th season, 16th as head coach.

The team finished at 7-4.

"We definitely feel as though we had some missed opportunities to do better," Schmutge said. "With the numerous injuries we had to starters and the sickness that

caused several to miss games, we did well."

Beating Saginaw Nouvel in the playoffs was a major highlight for MLS.

The challenges came in the form of injuries and illness.

Top athletes were the following:

• Logan Broekhuizen, OL and DE. 1st team all-conference on OL for the third year in a row, All-region for the second year. Hawkins Award finalist for the best senior football

player in Saginaw County. On defense, 90 tackles, 16 for loss with 5.5 sacks, 4 fumble recoveries.

• Ethan Wakefield at tight end. First team all-conference and all-region at TE. Best TE stats in the history of MLS football. 30 rec for 704 yds and 9 TDs. At DE, 52 tackles, 15 for loss, 5 sacks, 4 forced fumbles.

• Noah Reif at linebacker. 1st team all-conference and all-region. Led the team with 97 tackles, 6.5 for loss, 1 INT.

• Andrew Miller at safety. 1st team all-conference and all-region. 4 INTs and 7 pass break-ups.

"Logan and Ethan were also captains and great leaders. Both are also 4.0 students," Schmutge said.

Logan Broekhuizen, Ethan Wakefield, and Will Salgat are key graduates.

"We will have a good core returning, plus some good players coming up from a successful JV team, so we look to be very competitive," Schmutge said.



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2024 All-Area Division 1-4 Football Team

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB) Elliott Larner, DeWitt, sr.
Passed for over 2,200 yards and rushed for over 1,900 yards.

RB) Kory Amachree, Haslett, jr.
Arguably the best running back in the state in the junior class.

RB) Jace Clarizio, East Lansing, jr.
Premier running back in Michigan headed to Michigan State.

WR) Mason Chadwell, Lansing Everett, sr.
Big-play receiver headed to Saginaw Valley State.

WR) Abram Larner, DeWitt, sr.
Totalled 1,150 receiving yards and 20 touchdowns.

TE) Blake Linsley, Rockford, sr.
Big, athletic tight end getting D1 college looks.

OL) Jackson Calati, Cedar Springs, sr.
Earned first-team, all-state honors in Division 3.

OL) Ethan Kraatz, Saginaw Heritage, sr.
One of the premier offensive linemen in the entire state.

OL) Nolan Miller, Rockford, sr.
Earned first-team, all-state honors in Division 1.

OL) Greg Myles, Haslett, sr.
Punishing lineman headed to Michigan Tech next season.

OL) Zane Panchula, Rockford, sr.
Big, physical lineman headed to Bowling Green.



DeWitt quarterback Elliott Larner turned in a historic season as he passed for over 2,200 yards and 36 touchdowns and rushed for over 1,900 yards and scored 25 touchdowns.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL) Kade Friesen, Rockford, sr.
Athletic and tough lineman provided impact plays.

DL) Dequarios Jones, Lansing Sexton, sr.
Dominating talent along the defensive front.

DL) Max Stoecker, Midland, sr.
Named MVP of the Saginaw Valley League for his line play.

LB) Logan Doerr, Mason, sr.
Punishing tackler led the Bulldog defense.

LB) Brogan Parks, Mt. Pleasant, sr.
Was a force at middle linebacker for the Oilers.

LB) Hoyt Patrick, Owosso, sr.
Active linebacker totaled 137 tackles this season.

LB) Keegan Whelton, Freeland, sr.
Earned first-team, all-state honors in Division 4.

DB) Jadon Bender, DeWitt, jr.
Already drawing the attention of college scouts.

DB) Preston Bohnet, Grand Ledge, sr.
Standout both in the secondary and at wide receiver.

DB) D.J. Burns, Saginaw Heritage, sr.
One of the premier defensive backs in the state.

DB) Isaac Poot, Rockford, sr.
Provided big plays on both sides of the football.

SPECIAL-MENTION OFFENSE

Juston Aljarri, OL, East Lansing; Mujtba Al-Rabiah, OL, Lansing Everett; Christopher Battley, WR, Portland; Reid Blasius, OL, Charlotte; Carson Carswell, QB, Mason; Tristan Comer, OL, Freeland; Sam Corey, TE, Mason; Kayden Dickerson, RB, Portland; Casey Engle, RB, Lowell; Garrett Foster, ATH, Big Rapids; Cody Hengesbach, OL, Portland; Max Heyn, RB, Freeland; Jackson Hildebrand, OL, DeWitt; Wilson Huckleby, TE, Freeland; Case Johnson, RB, Greenville;

Dawson LaPlante, OL, Rockford; Tyler Methner, OL, Mt. Pleasant; Carter Miculka, OL, Owosso; Traverse Moore, RB, DeWitt; Luke Nolen, OL, DeWitt; Dominic Novara, QB, Portland; Vincent Rose, PK, DeWitt; Andrew Rumsey, OL, DeWitt; Zach Rye, TE, Owosso; Spencer Schoenborn, RB, Cedar Springs; Brandon Schomisch, RB, St. Johns; Jacob Schorffhaar, TE, DeWitt; Caiden Schuberg, OL, Big Rapids; Spencer Tooker, WR, Ionia; Matten Zimmer, TE, Midland Dow.

SPECIAL-MENTION DEFENSE

Luke Ahern, DB, Rockford; Deamoore Andrews, LB, Lansing Sexton; Zach Buschlen, P, Midland; Henry Castle, DL, Ionia; Cooper Chambers, LB, DeWitt; Zach Curtis, DL, Haslett; Dawson Dabler, LB, Haslett; Nizjai Davidson, Lansing Everett; Landon Davis, DL, Saginaw Heritage; Dontrell Dennis, DB, Haslett; Gavin Dusseau, DL, DeWitt; Luke Egan, DB, Cedar Springs; Ethan Fowler, DL, Freeland; Will Garcia, DB, Mt. Pleasant; Darryle Geter, DB, East Lansing; Hayden

Hendrickson, DB, Mason; Garrett Hilborn, LB, Bay City John Glenn; Andrew Nehf, DL, DeWitt; Marek Oleneak, LB, Owosso; Troy Peters, DB, Mason; Van Reed, DL, Charlotte; Parker Seidelman, LB, Ionia; Wyatt Skeira, DB, Big Rapids; Josiah Steward, ATH, Lansing Sexton; Kharon Turnley, DL, Lansing Everett; AJ Webber, LB, Portland; Charlie Windsor, LB, DeWitt; Miller Wing, DB, DeWitt; Evan Woodruff, DL, Midland.

2024 All-Area Division 5-8 Football Team

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB) Alex Fernandez, Lansing Catholic, sr.
Passed for nearly 2,900 yards and rushed for 1,000 yards this year.

RB) Clayton Fruchey, Ovid-Elsie, sr.
First-team, all-state in D6 helped lead team to playoff run.

RB) Codey Manley, Belding, sr.
Rushed for over 1,100 yards enroute to first-team, all-state in D5.

WR) Donald Corlew III, Gladwin, sr.
Caught 62 passes for 987 yards and 14 touchdowns this season.

WR) Braden Rabideau, Lansing Catholic, sr.
Division 6 all-stater totaled 957 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns.

TE) Ethan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, sr.
First-team, all-state tight end in D8 provided impact plays.

OL) Jake Bowen, Ovid-Elsie, sr.
First-team, all-state lineman in D6 help pave way for strong ground game.

OL) Logan Broekhuizen, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, jr.
Athletic lineman earned first-team, all-state honors in Division 8.

OL) Alex Halfman, Fowler, sr.
First-team, all-state in D8 helped Eagles reach state semifinals.

OL) Waylan Lingeman, Central-Montcalm, sr.
Big, punishing lineman led the way for a strong offense.

OL) Lloyd Stoneman, Ithaca, sr.
Anchored Ithaca offensive line and earned first-team, all-state honors.



Lansing Catholic quarterback Alex Fernandez turned in a monster season passing for over 2,900 yards and 31 passing touchdowns while rushing for 1,000 yards and 18 touchdowns. Fernandez also totaled 82 tackles on defense.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL) M.J. Dailey, Montrose, jr.
Earned first-team, all-state in Division 8 after big junior season.

DL) Alan Mrva, Corunna, sr.
Impact player was first-team, all-state in Division 5.

DL) Derrick Simmons, Frankenmuth, sr.
One of the premier linemen in the state. Headed to Michigan State.

LB) Hunter Conrad, Belding, sr.
Rangy linebacker led a stout Belding defense this season.

LB) Brayden Florian, Chesaning, sr.
Major impact player at both running back and linebacker.

LB) Miles Keener, Williamston, jr.
Tackling machine earned first-team, all-state honors in Division 5.

LB) Preston Willert, Gladwin, jr.
Earned all-state honors for the second straight season.

DB) Owen McKenny, Beal City, sr.
First-team, all-stater helped bring state title to Beal City.

DB) Reese Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, sr.
Talented defender earned Division 7 all-state honors.

DB) Hagan Wascher, Frankenmuth, sr.
Earned first-team, all-state honors in Division 5.

ATH) Ryan Louch, Clare, sr.
Versatile athlete named all-state in Division 5.

SPECIAL-MENTION OFFENSE

Aidan Anderson, QB, Ewart; Jayden Arthur, QB, Clare; Jack Bailey, OL, Pewamo-Westphalia; Evan Cody, OL, Corunna; Joe Coles, WR, Belding; Jackson Conn, QB, Ithaca; Kaden Cowdrey, QB, Corunna; Henry Grove, OL, Hemlock; Jacob Halfman, QB, Fowler; Jacob Halicek, TE, Clare; Micah Halstead, OL, Howard City Tri-County; Hunter Hawley, OL, Birch Run; Lucas Johnson, WR, Ewart; Kobi Ke, RB, Frankenmuth; Parker Kingsbury, WR, Saginaw Nouvel; Colton Klein, QB, Swan Valley; Christian Lopez, OL, Saginaw Nouvel; Hunter McGuire, QB, Chippewa Hills; Kaleb McKay, OL, Ewart; Nathan Mikesell, RB, Ithaca; Jamison Pelt, WR, Swan Valley; Gage Perkins, WR, Chippewa

Hills; Broden Peska, OL, Ithaca; Tommy Pratt, WR, Williamston; Josh Pritzlaff, OL, Lansing Catholic; Luke Purves, OL, Frankenmuth; Bryce Reed, RB, Howard City Tri-County; Gibson Roney, WR, Ithaca; Seth Schlicht, OL, Chesaning; Anthony Schultz, RB, Central-Montcalm; Antonio Smith, OL, Belding; Hayden Smith, OL, Pewamo-Westphalia; Chase Stephens, RB, Saranac; Braylon Thelen, RB, Pewamo-Westphalia; Ty Thelen, QB, Pewamo-Westphalia; Connor Thompson, OL, Montrose; Noah Vanderlinde, WR, Ewart; Max Volk, QB, Chesaning; Ryley White, WR, Ithaca; Ian Ziegelmann, QB, Saginaw Nouvel.

SPECIAL-MENTION DEFENSE

Aidan Anderson, QB, Ewart; Jayden Arthur, QB, Clare; Jack Bailey, OL, Pewamo-Westphalia; Evan Cody, OL, Corunna; Joe Coles, WR, Belding; Jackson Conn, QB, Ithaca; Kaden Cowdrey, QB, Corunna; Henry Grove, OL, Hemlock; Jacob Halfman, QB, Fowler; Jacob Halicek, TE, Clare; Micah Halstead, OL, Howard City Tri-County; Hunter Hawley, OL, Birch Run; Lucas Johnson, WR, Ewart; Kobi Ke, RB, Frankenmuth; Parker Kingsbury, WR, Saginaw Nouvel; Colton Klein, QB, Swan Valley; Christian Lopez, OL, Saginaw Nouvel; Hunter McGuire, QB, Chippewa Hills; Kaleb McKay, OL, Ewart; Nathan Mikesell, RB, Ithaca; Jamison Pelt, WR, Swan Valley; Gage Perkins, WR, Chippewa

Hills; Broden Peska, OL, Ithaca; Tommy Pratt, WR, Williamston; Josh Pritzlaff, OL, Lansing Catholic; Luke Purves, OL, Frankenmuth; Bryce Reed, RB, Howard City Tri-County; Gibson Roney, WR, Ithaca; Seth Schlicht, OL, Chesaning; Anthony Schultz, RB, Central-Montcalm; Antonio Smith, OL, Belding; Hayden Smith, OL, Pewamo-Westphalia; Chase Stephens, RB, Saranac; Braylon Thelen, RB, Pewamo-Westphalia; Ty Thelen, QB, Pewamo-Westphalia; Connor Thompson, OL, Montrose; Noah Vanderlinde, WR, Ewart; Max Volk, QB, Chesaning; Ryley White, WR, Ithaca; Ian Ziegelmann, QB, Saginaw Nouvel.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE FOOTBALL STATS

PASSING YARDS

Alex Fernandez, Lansing Catholic 2,898
 Joel Cranmore, Leslie 2,682
 Aidan Anderson, Ewart 2,662
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 2,584
 Elliott Lerner, DeWitt 2,244
 Wynn Diegel, Midland Dow 2,003
 Garrett Buzzard, Bay City Glenn 1,988
 Jaxson Dosh, Davison 1,907
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 1,886
 Jayden Arthur, Clare 1,843
 Maxwell Volk, Chesaning 1,590
 Tyger Whitbeck, Perry 1,501
 Truk TerBush, Millington 1,478
 Hunter McGuire, Chippewa Hills 1,319
 Christian Powers, Charlotte 1,312
 Mayson Burgett, Dansville 1,266
 Cuyler Smith, Beal City 1,177
 Kaleb Nielson, Williamston 1,118
 Jordan Allen, Saginaw United 1,101
 Landon Love, Beaverton 1,050
 Zac Rogozinski, Stockbridge 1,022
 Liam Patrick, Owosso 957
 Jay Kreisler, Bath 916
 Ethan Pett, Essexville-Garber 862
 Jake Metiva, Freeland 854
 Blake Burke, Okemos 724
 Shawn Skocelas, Houghton Lake 724
 Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 700

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

Elliott Lerner, DeWitt 36
 Joel Cranmore, Leslie 35
 Alex Fernandez, Lansing Catholic 31
 Aidan Anderson, Ewart 29
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 28
 Jayden Arthur, Clare 25
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 25
 Jaxson Dosh, Davison 23
 Truk TerBush, Millington 22
 Maxwell Volk, Chesaning 22
 Liam Patrick, Owosso 20
 Garrett Buzzard, Bay City Glenn 17
 Christian Powers, Charlotte 15
 Hunter McGuire, Chippewa Hills 14
 Zac Rogozinski, Stockbridge 14
 Kaleb Nielson, Williamston 13
 Cuyler Smith, Beal City 13
 Jordan Allen, Saginaw United 12
 Wynn Diegel, Midland Dow 12
 Jay Kreisler, Bath 11
 Landon Love, Beaverton 11
 Jake Metiva, Freeland 11
 Shawn Skocelas, Houghton Lake 10
 Mayson Burgett, Dansville 8
 Tyger Whitbeck, Perry 8

RUSHING YARDS

Elliott Lerner, DeWitt 1,915
 Tevon Walsh, Millington 1,525
 Hoyt Patrick, Owosso 1,348
 Brayden Florian, Chesaning 1,343
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 1,334
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 1,267
 Nolan Rowley, Bath 1,236
 Kory Amachree, Haslett 1,102
 Codey Manley, Belding 1,101
 AJ Hill, Davison 1,099
 Adley Keister, Bullock Creek 1,068
 Landon Hatcher, Holt 1,032
 Trav Moore, DeWitt 1,014
 Alex Fernandez, Lansing Catholic 1,000
 Chase Stephens, Saranac 877
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 864
 Abram Lerner, DeWitt 863
 Max Heyn, Freeland 840
 Dominick Knezek, Essexville-Garber 829
 Owen McKenny, Beal City 825
 Landon Russell, Millington 802
 Drew Block, Beal City 800

Joe Smith, Williamston 796
 Garrett Hilborn, Bay City Glenn 762
 Aidan Anderson, Ewart 745
 Liam Patrick, Owosso 733
 Aiden Vanbonn, Clare 716
 Brayden Petre, Freeland 710
 Brandon Hamlett, Stockbridge 651
 William Salgot, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 638
 Jameson Zimmer, Midland Dow 630
 L.J. Gallihugh, Midland 612

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS

Elliott Lerner, DeWitt 25
 Jackson Conn, Ithaca 20
 Hoyt Patrick, Owosso 19
 Kory Amachree, Haslett 18
 Alex Fernandez, Lansing Catholic 18
 Trav Moore, DeWitt 18
 Tevon Walsh, Millington 18
 Codey Manley, Belding 16
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 15
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 15
 Aiden Anderson, Ewart 14
 Max Heyn, Freeland 14
 Nolan Rowley, Bath 13
 Drew Block, Beal City 12
 Landon Hatcher, Holt 12
 Brayden Florian, Chesaning 11
 Garrett Hilborn, Bay City Glenn 11
 AJ Hill, Davison 11
 Landon Russell, Millington 11
 Owen McKenny, Beal City 10
 Brayden Petre, Freeland 10
 Noah Rief, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 10
 Jameson Zimmer, Midland Dow 10
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 9
 Abram Lerner, DeWitt 9
 L.J. Gallihugh, Midland 8
 William Salgot, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 8
 Noah Sandeck, Stockbridge 8
 Joe Smith, Williamston 8
 Truk TerBush, Millington 8
 Aiden Vanbonn, Clare 8
 Maxwell Volk, Chesaning 8
 Jayden Colby, Leslie 7
 Kaiden Holmes, Charlotte 7
 Adley Keister, Bullock Creek 7
 Colton Klein, Swan Valley 7
 Jayden Arthur, Clare 6
 Boston Beaughar, Swan Valley 6
 Gavin Morse, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 6
 Liam Patrick, Owosso 6

RECEIVING YARDS

Jamison Pelt, Swan Valley 1,381
 Jayden Colby, Leslie 1,265
 Abram Lerner, DeWitt 1,150
 Xavier Luea, Lansing Catholic 1,048
 Trace Corlew, Gladwin 987
 Benjamin Rabideau, Lansing Catholic 957
 Lucas Johnson, Ewart 945
 Noah Vanderlinde, Ewart 772
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 769
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 652
 Ethan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 646
 Braydin Johnson, Leslie 631
 Dryson Derscheid, Ewart 625
 Tyler Bailey, Houghton Lake 615
 Wesley Hughes, Davison 615
 Jacob Halicek, Clare 611
 Quinton Burgett, Dansville 605
 Ryan Louch, Clare 604
 Brayton Naves, Davison 585
 Jacob Adkins, Perry 567
 Bradley Boyk, Bay City Glenn 552
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 551
 Brady Sager, Chesaning 527
 Dionquavis Hardy, Saginaw United 517
 Cal Delisle, Swan Valley 501
 Ben Marinek, Midland Dow 497

Gibson Rondy, Ithaca 494
 Brock Rochow, Stockbridge 489
 Jadon Bender, DeWitt 472
 Wilson Huceby, Freeland 467
 Brayden Connell, Perry 463
 Zach Rye, Owosso 463
 Hatten Zimmer, Midland Dow 441
 Tommy Pratt, Williamston 423
 Adam Woodcock, Chesaning 414
 Hunter VanSickler, Williamston 412
 Colton Carey, Charlotte 409

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS

Jamison Pelt, Swan Valley 22
 Abram Lerner, DeWitt 20
 Trace Corlew, Gladwin 14
 Jayden Colby, Leslie 12
 Jacob Halicek, Clare 12
 Lucas Johnson, Ewart 11
 Xavier Luea, Lansing Catholic 10
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 10
 Gage Perkins, Chippewa Hills 10
 Benjamin Rabideau, Lansing Catholic 10
 Noah Vanderlinde, Ewart 10
 Nolan Rowley, Bath 10
 Brady Sager, Chesaning 9
 Ethan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 9
 Quinton Burgett, Dansville 7
 Kaiden Holmes, Charlotte 7
 Wilson Huceby, Freeland 7
 Wesley Hughes, Davison 7
 Braydin Johnson, Leslie 7
 Braylen Navis, Davison 7
 Tommy Pratt, Williamston 7
 Tyler Bailey, Houghton Lake 6
 Jadon Bender, DeWitt 6
 Jaxson Dosh, Davison 6
 Gibson Rondy, Ithaca 6
 Adam Woodcock, Chesaning 6
 Cal Delisle, Swan Valley 5
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 5
 Ryan Louch, Clare 5
 Brock Rochow, Stockbridge 5

TACKLES

Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 139
 Hoyt Patrick, Owosso 137
 Carter Moore, Charlotte 112
 Miles Keener, Williamston 103
 Kuper Wikanski, Bullock Creek 102
 Benjamin Rabideau, Lansing Catholic 98
 Preston Willert, Gladwin 98
 Charlie Winsor, DeWitt 98
 Noah Reif, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 97
 Chris Sims, Lansing Catholic 97
 Kane Graham, Houghton Lake 95
 Garrett Hilborn, Bay City Glenn 94
 Brady Burns, Perry 93
 Justin Rodriguez, St. Louis 93
 Cooper Chambers, DeWitt 92
 Valentino Solano, Bay City Glenn 92
 Logan Broekhuizen, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 90
 Ryan Louch, Clare 88
 Aiden Van bonn, Clare 88
 Timmy Bersinger, Charlotte 87
 Van Reed, Charlotte 86
 Broghan Bupp, Ithaca 84
 Landon Germain, Millington 84
 Tevin Walsh, Millington 84
 Carson Moore, Owosso 83
 Alex Fernandez, Lansing Catholic 82
 Cal Frasier, Chesaning 82
 Colter Mahibir, Midland 82
 Jack Pestrue, Essexville-Garber 81
 Joey Bouchy, Clare 80
 Matthew Lechner, Gladwin 77
 Zach Buschlen, Midland 75
 Ethan Fowler, Freeland 74
 Keegan Whelton, Freeland 74
 Melchizadek Washington, Saginaw United 72
 Brayden Bundy, Davison 70
 Kane Romano, Dansville 70

SACKS

Alex Mcewan, Perry 13
 Tristan Comer, Freeland 8



Braydon Wendling, Chesaning 8
 Brevin Hendricks, Millington 7
 Landon Qualls, Chesaning 7
 Matthew Lechner, Gladwin 6
 Logan Myers, Millington 6
 Logan Broekhuizen, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 5.5
 Garrett Hilborn, Bay City John Glenn 5.5
 Van Reed, Charlotte 5
 Ethan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 5
 Austin Blaha, Owosso 4
 Zach Buschlen, Midland 4
 Warren Cain, Davison 4
 Tanner Craft, Leslie 4
 Quinton Everett, Chesaning 4
 Trenton Farkas, St. Louis 4
 Ethan Fowler, Freeland 4
 Cal Frasier, Chesaning 4
 Marcus Joshua, Bay City John Glenn 4
 Nathan Mikesell, Ithaca 4
 Karson Tweh, St. Louis 4

INTERCEPTIONS

Truk TerBush, Millington 8
 Kam Reynolds, Swan Valley 7
 Brock Rochow, Stockbridge 7
 Elijah Smith, Ithaca 7
 Benjamin Rabideau, Lansing Catholic 6
 Max Brandt, Midland Dow 5
 Tray Haido, Davison 5
 Abram Lerner, DeWitt 5
 Braydin Johnson, Leslie 4
 Cortez Porter, Davison 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
 Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 4
 Jacob Phillips, Leslie 3
 Cortez Porter, Davison 3
 Tommy Pratt, Williamston 3
 Torrior Stevenson, Saginaw United 3

Lansing Catholic Finishes First In D3 at MIS

John Raffel Sports Scene

Lansing Catholic prevailed in what was a three-team, horse race for first place in the Division 3 girls cross country race at Michigan International Speedway near Brooklyn on Nov. 2.

Lansing Catholic had a score of 136 to finish ahead of Pewamo-Westphalia at 147 and Central Montcalm at 157.

Finishers for Lansing Catholic, in the team race, were Josie Bishop 14th (19:01.8), Grace Wonch (19:21.0) 19th, Frances Melina in 28th (19:43.6), Isabel Currie 37th (20:05.3) Avery Miller 38th (20:10.5), Lindsey Ludwig 62nd (20:47.4) and Kaitlin Ludwig 76th (21:03.1).

The runners finished individually with nonteam qualifiers included in 20th, 32nd, 42nd, 58th, 60th, 97, 118th.

Pewamo-Westphalia was led by Whitney Werner (18:17.3) who was eighth for individuals in the team race. Also for P-W, Alyssa Kramer was 11th (18:39.3), Adelyn Thelen 26th (18:39.3), Abbie Schneider 39th (19:38.0), Lilly Rooks 63rd (20:47.7), Charlotte Simon 66th (20:50.6) and Delaney Smith 87th (21:17.4).

The runners finished individually with nonteam qualifiers included in 11th, 14th, 40th, 61st, 99th, 103th and 136th.

Central Montcalm was led by medalist Kyah Hoffman, first (18:10.3), Ashley Choponis



Lansing Catholic girls finished first in Division 3 state cross country this season.

(19:29.2) in 22nd, Grace Coston 15th (19:02.6), Andrea Rolston (20:36.20) in 53rd, Braelyn Bunting

83rd (21:14.2), Ruth Jurden 139th (22:28.4) and Logan Trygstad 161st (23:10.5)

The runners finished individually, with nonteam qualifiers in first seventh, 21st, 84th, 130th, 206th and 228th.

P/W Second At MHSAA Cross Country Finals

Jeff Steers Sports Scene

The Pewamo-Westphalia High School girls' cross country team finished second at the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 3 cross country finals.

PW finished with 147 points

on a dry and comfortable day at Michigan International Speedway.

Lansing Catholic won the event with 136 points on the 5K course at MIS.

Whitney Werner finished 11th overall in the individual competition for PW with a time of 18 minutes, 17.3 seconds.

Teammate Alyssa Kramer was 14th overall in 18:39.

Both runners earned all-state honors by finishing in the top 30 in their respective division races.

Stanton Central Montcalm was third in the team competition as Kyah Hoffman won the D-3 championship with a time of 17:31.

Teammate Ashley Choponis was seventh overall (18:05) and Grace Coston placed 21st (19:02) for SCM.

Ithaca finished fifth as a team with 226 points as Khloe Lehnst earned all-state honors with a 28th place finish in 19:07 for the freshman.



Members of the Pewamo-Westphalia girls' cross country team line up to receive their runner-up trophy during the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 3 state cross country finals at Michigan International Speedway on Nov. 2.

Kyah Hoffman of Stanton Central Montcalm won the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 3 state cross country finals at Michigan International Speedway.

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CROSS COUNTRY ALL-STATE FINISHERS



The top 30 individual runners in each race earned all-state honors.

DIVISION 1 BOYS

17. Noah Schuette, Rockford, 15:38.5; 27. Ian Morgan, Okemos, 15:44.2.

DIVISION 1 GIRLS

1. Victoria Garcdes, Midland Dow, 16:37.1; 7-Daisy Cox, Rockford, 17:41.3; 8-Emila Garces, Midland Dow; 10-Rachel Smith, Okemos, 17:46.7; 26. Aviana Skinner, Grand Ledge, 18:14.

DIVISION 2 BOYS

1-TJ Hansen, Freeland, 14:57.3; 14-Thomas Larson, Alma, 15:28.9.; 26-Dylan Lydic, Haslett, 15:45.7; 30-Ezekial Baltierra, Alma, 15:48.8

DIVISION 2 GIRLS

1-Ava Schafer, St. Johns, 17:20.7; 6-Clara Kaczor, Freeland, 18:18.7; 9-Natalie Foltz, Frankenmuth, 18:22.1.; 23-Mia Williams, DeWitt, 18:38.8; 25-Kayla Williams, 18:44.1.

DIVISION 3 BOYS

3-Gage Hoffman, Central Montcalm, 15:36.8; 6-Landen Styka, Ithaca, 15:48.3; 7-Milingen Bertrand, 15:49.0; 17-Landen Pestruie, St. Louis, 15:59.0; 28-Owen Oppewa, Bath, 16:15.2.

DIVISION 3 GIRLS

1-Kyah Hoffman, Stanton Central Montcalm, 17:31.8; 7-Ashley Choponis, Stanton Central Montcalm, 18:09.2; 10-Kamryn Salladay, 18:16.2; 11-Whitney Werner, Pewamo-Westphalia, 18:17.3; 14-Alyssa Kramer, Pewamo-Westphalia, 18:39.3; 20-Josie Bishop, 19:01.8; 21-Grace Costen, Central Montcalm, 19:02.6; 28-Khloe Lehnst, Ithaca, 19:07.09

DIVISION 4 BOYS

26-Wesley Chaffee, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart, 16:39.6.

DIVISION 4 GIRLS

4-Abigail Davis, Vestaburg, 18:26.4; 17-Danica Aldrich, Breckenridge, 19:40; 25-Kelcie Pung, Fowler, 19:53.6; 30Adrienne Mitchell, Lansing Christian, 20:00.3



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MLS Volleyball Coach Happy With Rebuilding Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Michigan Lutheran Seminary coach Allen Ash was happy with how his team did at tournaments this season.

"We did better than I expected considering so many were not returning players," Ash said. "We took second place in Vassar's tournament, and made it into the Gold bracket at Millington's tournament.

After all the momentum from our great tournament play, we had some illnesses that held us back from continuing our success. We

also had many close matches that we couldn't quite finish with a win."

There were many outstanding athletes for MLS.

Bella DeLong- a senior, "took charge of our front line, had 100 kills and 20 blocks for the season," Ash said.

Sam Priem- a senior captain, outside hitter and "played all around, 86 kills, 41 aces, 299 digs, and was conference honorable mention.

Sophia Vondra- one of MLS' senior setters, 46 aces, 43 kills as a setter, 259 assists.

Addison Whitmer, the other



The 2024 Michigan Lutheran Seminary team.

senior setter and nightside hitter, 80 kills and 205 assists, conference sportsmanship award.

These four girls are all graduating athletes.

Key returners will be juniors

Kennedy Koehler and Hanna Manthei.

What does next year look like?

"Next year will be exciting with some possible sophomores making the varsity team and my

current players getting stronger and faster," Ash said. "They were great girls that played together well and supported one another on and off the court, a great Christian example."

Clare Sophomore Sparks Cross Country Team

John Raffel Sports Scene

Sophia Buzzelli has established herself as being among Clare's most versatile athletes. She's in various sports and had a strong sports season for Clare as a freshman.

She had a terrific autumn with the cross country team which finished 14th in the state.

Buzzelli was her team's top runner at the state cross country finals on Nov.

2, placing 53rd in 19 minutes, 56.3 seconds. Her personal record came on Oct. 2 with she was second at the Jack Pine Conference jamboree in 19:11.2.

"Cross country is such a rewarding sport. If you put the work in, it shows," Buzelli said. "When it comes down to it, it's all based on your training and how strong you are mentally.

"I love that when I work hard, it shows on race day. I also love that cross country has such a positive atmosphere.

This sport attracts the people that are willing to work hard. Cross allows me to surround myself with genuinely good people, and I am so thankful for that.

Clare was second in the regional.

"To me this year, our team is more than a team," Buzzelli said after the regional. "These girls are my sisters. This team works so hard every practice."

Buzzelli is currently a sophomore guard on Clare's girls basketball team.



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Fowler Volleyball Shines Again

John Raffel Sports Scene

Patty Feldpausch has had many successful volleyball seasons in her 16 years as coach. This was another one.

Fowler was 30-11-1 and 8 of its 11 losses were to ranked teams

The other three were to D1 and D2 teams

"We have a tough schedule that prepares us for the postseason," Feldpausch said. "Fowler was 14-1 in the CMAC winning the conference tourney and the league title. Winning the CMAC title was one of our goals. Making a postseason run was another. We hoped to make it to the week of States, but we fell short. We made it into the Gold bracket at the following tourneys: Leland, Eaton Rapids, St. Johns, and winning the CMAC tourney and taking the league outright was fantastic."

There were many top athletes:

Rachel Wirth-Libero. "She is a junior and did an excellent job for us. She led out team in digs with 449, and a serve receive rating of 2.06 out of 3, which included 253 perfect passes. She

also had 51 aces, served 94% and had 97 assists. She received 1st Team All Conference and All-Region honors," Feldpausch said.

Paige Thelen-OH. "She is a junior and was a powerful hitter and greatly improved on her tips and roll shots. She led our team with 374 kills and had 39 aces. Paige received 1st Team All Conference and All-Region honors," Feldpausch said.

"Losing seniors with great leadership is always difficult. Anna Andros, Chloe Feldpausch, Paisley Hansen and Ella Hufnagel will be greatly missed."

Key returners include Rachel Wirth, Paige Thelen, Neelah O'Rourke, Selena Stump, Skylar Fowler, Josie Simon and Addison Spicer.

"We are returning 10 juniors with a lot of talent," Feldpausch said. "We hope for a repeat of success and go farther in the postseason. Our team received Team Academic All-State, with a team GPA of 3.921. I am very proud of these young ladies and their accomplishments, both as students and athletes."



The 2024 Fowler volleyball team.

Greenville Volleyballers Post Strong Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Kaylee Fracker finished her fourth season as Greenville volleyball coach with the Yellow Jackets competing in the River City Alliance and finished with an overall record of 20-17-5

"This team had a very good overall season," Fracker said. "We were all excited

going into this new conference and did not know what to expect. We took some teams to all five sets and kept pushing through each point. Some highlights were breaking an eight-year streak of overall record as well as at least 20 wins. Our challenges this season were consistency.

"We had some super high highs and some rough lows, but each day they started over and never carried in the past to the present.

Every player on my team is a huge asset and I am not sure I could narrow it to a couple girls."

Greenville graduated four players.

"It will truly be exciting to see who continues to step up as well and when tryouts come back around who is going to fight for that starting spot or varsity spot in general. Every year is a new year and no one's spot is guaranteed," Fracker said.



Pewawmo-Westphalia Enjoys Championship Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was another productive season for Pewawmo-Westphalia's volleyball team which won district and regional titles before losing in the quarterfinals.

The Pirates finished at 29-13-2 under coach Jon Thelen. They were led by junior Annie Platte, a second team All-Stater, and junior attacker Nikki Fedora. The team consisted of nine juniors and four seniors.

The Pirates defeated Potterville in the district finals 22-25, 25-14, 25-11, 25-21; Muskegon Western Michigan Christian 17-25, 25-19, 25-17, 25-20 in the region semifinals; and Morley Stanwood 25-18, 25-11, 25-23 in the regional finals.

They lost to Kalamazoo Christian 25-20,

25-23, 25-16 in the quarterfinals.

Seniors were Natalie Thelen, Makayla McRae, Ana Piggott and Maddie Thelen.

"We work hard in practice on consistency on coming out strong," coach Jon Thelen said after the regionals. "Most of the season we were coming-out strong and losing first sets. Tonight we came out ready to play. (Hitting) was really good. We were taking care of the ball well. We always continue to grow but we really brought it tonight when we needed it."

"We graduated a lot of players from the team last year. I feel the depth of our program is good. We had a whole new cast of characters but hope to do it again."

We played really good and got aggressive at the end, Fedora said at the regionals. "I learned a lot from the season."



Pewawmo-Westphalia grabs the regional title trophy.

Belding Volleyball Led By Outstanding Seniors

John Raffel Sports Scene

Kelly Groenenboom served as Belding volleyball coach for her second season and enjoyed some memorable moments.

"The team met our expectations of working hard every day, improving throughout the season and finding wins as we went along," Groenenboom said.

"We won six of our last 10 games," Groenenboom said, adding a highlight was winning our first round in districts. We beat Central Montcalm in 3, plus beating Hopkins in conference play for the first time in a few years.

"We played a very tough schedule this season and kept our motivation high and trusting the process was difficult at times."

There were several top athletes for Belding:

Alison Rockburn, senior, setter, Right Side; 73 aces, 159 kills; 296 digs, 308 assists, 23 blocks. First team all conference (2024, 2023), 1,000 career digs, Individual Academic All-State, Team Captain (2024,

2023).

"Alison contributes in all areas on the volleyball court," Groenenboom said. "She does a great job leading the offense while she is setting and finds ways to score points on the attacking side as well. Alison is a strong defender and extremely scrappy. Alison has been a four-year varsity starter and has left her mark on our volleyball program."

Kailey Meyers, sophomore, libero, 30 aces, 411 digs, 59 assists. Awards and accomplishments: All-conference honorable mention.

"Kailey was a first-year varsity player this season. She stepped into the libero role and played it extremely well. Kailey is as tough as they come as well as extremely fast on the court," Groenenboom said. "Kailey did a great job anchoring our back court this season."

Emma Rehkopf, senior outside hitter; 23 aces, 136 kills, 83 digs, 21 blocks; All-conference honorable mention

"Emma is a solid attacker and our go-to

hitter on the court. She has a great arm swing with a high contact point and can work around any blockers," Groenenboom said. "Emma stepped up big for us this season and never shies away from the moment. She is a strong emotional leader for our team and often serves as a catalyst to build momentum."

Ellianna Williams, outside hitter. 92 percent serving accuracy, 54 aces, 92 kills, 229 digs.

"Eillianna switched from libero to an outside/DS position this year. We really needed to utilize her ability to attack the ball and often times she would attack out of the back row," Groenenboom. "She became an intricate part of our offense this year while also contributing immensely to our defensive efforts."

Belding has high hopes for next year.

"Losing six seniors will be very tough," Groenenboom said. "They all brought incredible things to our program. We are returning 5 starters and look to be strong defensively next season."



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Area Tennis Teams And Players Come Up With Strong Efforts At State Meet

David Cook Sports Scene

The boys tennis season was a memorable one for area players and teams and was wrapped up at the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) state tournament.

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 Elsandany 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



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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Landen Gross also reached the quarterfinal round.

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.

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.

Portland Tennis Team Finishes Season At State

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

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.

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.

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.

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

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

It was a memorable season of girls golf this past fall as area golfers and golf teams turned in some outstanding seasons capped by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) girls golf state tournaments.

DIVISION 1

Northville came away with the title in Division 1 with a two-day total of 646 to win the title by 46 strokes. 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.

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. Li, who placed in the top ten individually during all four years of her high school career, led Okemos as she won individual medalist honors with rounds of 73 for a 146 total. Freshman Anika Srivastava placed 19th individually while sophomore Emma O'Shea placed 71st and freshman Zoey McArdle placed 74th. Li captured individual medalist honors at the



regional with a 64.

Grand Ledge Golfers Place In Top 10 At State Finals

The Grand Ledge golf team finished in 10th place with a total of 737. Grand Ledge was paced by senior Isabel Kelly who finished in sixth place with a 161 total. Senior Meghan Zann placed 56th followed by junior Erin McGinnis who placed 58th and senior Aubrie Parish who placed 69th.

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 with a 164 total. Holt freshman Racheeni Her placed 18th individually with a 169 total.

DIVISION 2

Farmington Hills Mercy finished with a 677 total for the two-day tournament to win the Division 2 state title for the third straight year. Dexter junior Avery Manning won individual medalist honors with a 141.

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 improved to a third place this year with a total of 688. Senior Elle Sluss led the way for the Red Arrows as she placed 11th overall with a 164 while senior Leah Krieger was 24th, junior Elyse Veldman placed 25th and sophomore Kaila Richards placed 38th.

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 a 746 total. Senior Kortney Osborn led the way as she placed 32nd overall with a 178 total. Junior Tylar Southwell placed 35th overall, senior Gabby Hanover placed 48th and freshman Ruby Peete placed 73rd.

Midland Golfers Finish In Top 15 At State Meet

The Midland girls golf team placed 14th this year with a total of 787.

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

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

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. St. Johns senior Sunni Devereaux placed 68th individually with rounds of 96 and 101 for a 197 total.

DIVISION 3

Grand Rapids Catholic Central repeated as the Division 3 state champions at the state meet with a 652 team score. Detroit Country Day placed second (717) while Williamston placed third (722). Grand Rapids Christian junior Lillian O'Grady won the individual state title with a 145 total. Freeland senior Averie Pumford placed second (154).

Williamston Takes Third Place At State Meet

For the second straight season, the Williamston golf team placed in the top five at the finals. Williamston placed third at this year's tourney after taking second place last season. The Hornets finished with a team score of 722.

Sophomore Paige Radebach led the way for the Hornets as she placed fourth individually. Radebach, who placed 14th last year, finished with a 162. Senior Nicole Schafer capped her high school career in a big way as she placed 14th with a 168. Senior Athena Hart placed 46th while sophomore Sophia Schafer finished 67th.

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 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 and sophomore Alexis Heinz who placed 38th.

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 with a team score of 763. Junior Kate Posey led the way for Big Rapids as she placed 18th individually. Junior Lala Tucci placed 54th, Abby Doering finished 60th and Hannah Leyder placed 69th.

Frankenmuth Takes Part In D3 State Finals

The Frankenmuth golf team capped the season by placing 16th with a 824 total.

Sophomore Maxie Schmidt led the way for the Eagles as she placed 56th. Junior Alysén Peterson placed 76th.

Haslett Golfers End Season At State Meet

The Haslett golf team wrapped up the season by placing 17th at the Division 3 state finals with a team score of 854. Senior Molly Fortier led the way for the Vikings as she placed 60th individually while juniors Reagan Campbell and Sehna Yoo both finished in a tie for 64th place.

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 ninth individually with a 165 total. Charlotte sophomore Peyton Howarth placed 44th individually while Allison Brandon of Clare also competed at the state finals as an individual.

DIVISION 4

After taking second place last year, the Kalamazoo Christian golf team captured first place at the Division 4 state championship with a team score of 732.

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 year with a 750 total. Senior Julia Sambaer led Lansing Catholic as she placed ninth overall with a 178. Senior Brynn Anderson placed 10th, junior Addi Rule was 13th while junior Elisabeth Ruddell was 43rd.

Bath Golfers Finish In Top Ten At State Meet

The Bath golf team finished ninth in Division 4 with a team total of 832. Senior Anna Schaibly led the Bees as she finished sixth individually this season with a 163. Freshman Mya Vietzke placed 75th individually while senior Lilly Dilday placed 81st and sophomore Sophia Perales was 92nd.

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Golfers Compete At State Meet

The Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart team wrapped up the season with a 18th-place finish at the Division 4 state finals. Sophomore Polly Taylor led the way for the Irish as she placed 76th individually.

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, Byron freshman Adalen Brown placed 25th, senior Lakyn Zimmerman of Ithaca placed 46th, Farwell junior Jacey Stover placed 56th and senior Murphy Linehan of Saginaw Valley Lutheran placed 65th.

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DIVISION 1

Third team

Abraham Fischer, Okemos, forward, sr.
Dugan Black, Rockford, forward, sr.

Honorable mention

Furaha Djumbe, Holt, forward, sr.
Leon Johnson, Okemos, forward, sr.
Griffin White, Okemos, goalkeeper, sr.

DIVISION 2

First team

Blendi Jahiri, Mason, midfield, sr.
Alex Palmer, Mason, defender, sr.
Brock Straub, Mason, midfielder, jr.
Elijah Vue, DeWitt, midfielder, sr.

Second team

Carson Frayre, DeWitt, forward, sr.
Mikey Krysiak, Mason, goalkeeper, jr.
Collin Winters, Mason, midfielder, sr.
Owen Zelski, DeWitt, defender, jr.

Third team

Cam French, DeWitt, midfielder, sr.
Ian Stearns, Cedar Springs, forward, jr.

Honorable mention

Pierce Acles, Mt. Pleasant, midfielder, jr.
Maddox Armour, Mason, defender, sr.
Drew Bailey, Bay City John Glenn, goalkeeper, sr.

Asher Clark, Bay City John Glenn, forward, jr.
Zach Holden, DeWitt, midfielder, sr.
Ben Homolka, Lowell, forward, soph.
Landen Kogelman, Bay City John Glenn, midfielder, sr.
Brandon Nay, Mason, midfielder, jr.
Carson Soltis, DeWitt, defender, soph.

DIVISION 3

First team

Ian Conway, Williamston, forward, sr.
Brayden Truman, Alma, forward, jr.

Second team

Drew Holevac, Eaton Rapids, midfielder, sr.
Noah Pfeifle, Williamston, defender, sr.
Shelton Schuesler, Williamston, midfielder, sr.

Third team

Keegan Crowe, Alma, defender, sr.
Miles Paetz, Frankenmuth, midfielder, sr.
Erick Sanchez, Williamston, midfielder, jr.
Garrett Stenzel, Williamston, goalkeeper, sr.
Ryder Stipanovich, Swan Valley, forward, jr.

Honorable mention

Carter Buckingham, Eaton Rapids, defender, sr.
Santiago Contreras, Lansing Catholic, midfielder, jr.
Zachary Harlan, Chesaning, forward, sr.
Jackson Hemker, Alma, midfielder, jr.
Brandon Huntington, Eaton Rapids, midfielder, sr.

Collin Kazmerski, Belding, forward, sr.
Cale Pederson, Williamston, forward, sr.
Quinn Scott, Williamston, midfielder, sr.
Andre VanElls, Laingsburg, midfielder, sr.
Noah Vega, Alma, goalkeeper, sr.
Ashton Wilson, Alma, midfield, sr.
Joe Zubal, Eaton Rapids, midfielder, soph.

DIVISION 4

First team

Owen Resch, Lansing Christian, forward, sr.

Second team

Payton Allaire, Lansing Christian, defender, sr.
Brady Carmichael, Lansing Christian, goalkeeper, jr.
Cullen MacKay, Lansing Christian, midfield, jr.
Tristan Medeiros, Bath, forward, sr.
Sam Plamondon, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, midfielder, jr.

Third team

Carson Block, Lansing Christian, midfield, so.

Honorable mention

Alex Binioris, Lansing Christian, forward, jr.
Camden Kaul, Saginaw Nouvel, forward, sr.
Anthony Pawlowski, Dansville, forward, sr.
Oliver Raphael, Bath, defender, jr.
Isaac Rupprecht, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, defender, jr.
Trent Schiavone, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, forward, jr.
Charlie VanBeek, Midland Calvary Baptist, midfield, jr.



A host of area soccer players earned all-state honors for their outstanding play this season.



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