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To publish your results on our free website [Highschoolsportsscene.com](http://Highschoolsportsscene.com) send your results after every event to [jraffel@gmail.com](mailto:jraffel@gmail.com)

### PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

It may seem like the middle of winter, but the end of the winter sports season for high school athletes is in sight.

The first state finals begin this Friday with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) team wrestling state finals in Kalamazoo. Streaks are looking to be extended as Detroit Catholic Central, (Division 1), Lowell (D2), Dundee (D3) and Hudson (D4) are all looking to extend their multi-year state title streaks.

In basketball, several Mid-Michigan teams are turning in big seasons with the boys state tournament set to tip off the last week of February. East Lansing leads the way ranked No. 1 in Division 1 followed by Rockford at No. 2 and Lansing Waverly at No. 7. Freeland is ranked ninth in D2, Pewamo-Westphalia is ranked third in D3, Fowler is fourth in D4 and Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart is seventh in D4.

The girls basketball tourney starts the following week. In Division 1 Rockford is ranked first Saginaw Heritage fourth and Midland sixth. In Division 2, Frankenmuth is fifth and Freeland is ninth. In Division 3, Pewamo-Westphalia is third and Evert fifth while in Division 4 Fowler is fourth and Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart is fifth.

Several area boys and girls bowling teams are also ranked with the regional bowling tournament set to begin and the state tournament following the next week. Mason is ranked in both boys and girls bowling as are the boys and girls teams at Portland and Gladwin. Also ranked are the Holt boys, Bay City Western boys and Frankenmuth boys along with the Bay City John Glenn girls, Charlotte girls and New Lothrop girls.

It's not too late to take in some great high school winter sports action with the tournaments set to begin.

See you at the games!



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## Ithaca Girls Make Substantial Progress

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Ithaca girls basketball coach Khris Nevins likes the progress her team has made this season.

This is her fifth year of coaching the varsity after four years with the junior varsity. The Yellow Jackets were 4-3 after their first seven game in the league.

"We are a young team, getting better every practice," Nevins said. "We are close to meeting expectations. Defense and rebounding (have been strengths). Each game the girls set defensive and offensive goals, several times we have met our goals and have only not met our rebounding goal once.

"We have lost some games we should have one because of turnovers, but the life lessons the girls are learning being put in tough positions playing good teams will benefit them in the future."

Junior Libby Maurer had a game with 31 points.

"Junior Libby Maurer is a great scorer and ball handler," Nevins said. "She is averaging 15.7 points a game, 3 rebounda, 3 assists and 4 steals a game.

Sophomore Alyssa Polish is big and strong. She is averaging 6.6 PPG, 8.1 RBG, and 3 SPG.

"Junior Delaney Smith's defense, she is a good sized wing who can defend anyone on the court. She has the ability to effectively slow



The 2024-25 Ithaca girls basketball team.

down the best teams scorer. Junior Sophia Stand has been a pleasant surprise for us, averaging 3.5 PPG, and 5 RBG.

Juniors Karly Marshall and McKenzie McClain's leadership, humor, and ability to help the younger girls gel with the upper

classman has been great.

"Three freshman Riley Skinner averaging 4.2 PPG and 7.1 RBG; Jazyln Pratt averaging 2.2 PPG and 2 APG; and Emma McCune averaging 2.8 PPG and the ability to pester the other team's point guard have been great. All three

girls have played quality minutes at the Varsity level as freshman."

Nevins said the team's goal is to finish year .500, limit turnovers, and move the ball offensively more.

"Being young has been a challenge, but it is great to know they will all be back in the future."

## Fulton Girls Continue Outstanding Season

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Brandon Trefil's girls basketball team has been having an outstanding season and are hoping it continues.

"We are 9-5 overall and 8-4 in conference play," Trefil said. "It has been an up and down year. We have won the games we are suppose to win and battled against the top of the league. We are making strides in the right direction. Our season expectations are

about what I expected. I think we have lost some games that we should have won, but it is a part of learning and growing as a team.

"We lost to Breckenridge early in the year, but we beat them in double overtime the second time around. We have to put four quarters together. We usually have one bad quarter that has hurt us against some of the top teams in the conference."

Top players, Trefil, have included: Kaya Canfield - 10 PPG, 7 RPG - leading

scorer, does all the little things for us and a leader.

Dayten Lambert - 8 PPG, 6 RPG - shoots the 3 well, can defend all five positions, and rebounds well.

Jaci Canfield - 9 PPG, 6 RPG, 3 APG, and 3 SPG - one of the hardest workers we have, always flying around the court, and can score at all three levels

"We want to finish in the top three in conference and win districts," Trefil said.



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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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# Clare Girls Hope To Keep Title Streak Going

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Tessa Kelly has played on three straight district championship teams at Clare, starting with the 2024 title winning basketball squad. Her softball team won a district in the spring and her volleyball team won the district this past fall.

She's hoping to keep the streak going in March with another district hoops title.

Key players are Kendra Fouts Senior

point guard, Tessa Kelly Senior Forward, Maddison Jones Senior Center, Sophia Buzzelli Sophomore Guard, and Amelia Rzyk Sophomore guard.

"I am looking forward to the progress that all five of these girls will bring to the team this year. We will always bring it on the defensive end of the court and I am excited to see what we can do as a team on the offensive end," coach Shane Kelly said. "I am expecting my team to compete in every single game this year and push to get

better every week. Defense is what we hang our hat on and if we can play aggressive and fast, the sky is the limit for this team.

"Our strength with be our defense and pressure. We will try to play fast and everything we do is based on our defensive intensity. We will push to get better everyday; in saying that I mean faster, stronger more aggressive and more confident with each other. These will be focus points for us everyday and I know we can push each other to reach our goals."



Tessa Kelly is a senior forward for the Clare Pioneers

# Breckenridge Set For Strong Preseason Run

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Breckenridge girls basketball coach Phil Baldwin has been coach for eight season and likes his teams prospects going into the post season.

"We have had some good points and some points were we have struggled to find our identity," Baldwin said Overall, we have had a fun season full of different experiences. We are senior loaded this year so it is important to us to finish out our season not only strong but in a positive direction. I want the kids to remember the great experience they had as they finish up their careers.

"I think that our expectations have sometimes got us in trouble this season. The only expectation that we have is that we have a positive experience and I feel that we are working on that everyday. One of our Juniors had an unusual 17-point game and it came in a flurry. It really got the team hyped up and was fun to watch the girls rally in that moment.

"We played hard at Fulton but came up short in double overtime. That was definitely a disappointing game for us but in the end I think it has made us a stronger more focused team. I am excited to see where we end up

down the final stretch."

Breckenridge has had several outstanding players.

"Kayla Goward does it all on the court," Baldwin said. "Every night you can count on her to do a little bit of everything. She is the heart and soul of our team. She leads with her hard work and effort on the court. The team follows her lead.

"Maddie is a tough kid who has had to deal with some adversity this season losing our star senior from last year's team. She has had many teams try to run special defenses against her and made things different. Being only a

sophomore she hasn't experienced this much in her life time. We have tried to help guide her through these times and worked on improving her as a basketball player and her understand of how to rely on others to help her through the rough times. She has done a great job of dealing with it all and I think she will just continue to get better as she moves forward in her career."

Kayla is averaging 10 points 11 rebounds, 5 steals. Maddie 14 points 7 rebounds 7 steals.

"We want to continue to have a great experience and win as many games as possible. We would like to make noise in our district and go as far as possible," Baldwin said.

"This is a great team of girls that want to be the best they can be. I think they are motivated and locked in on what they want to accomplish to finish out the year. It's been fun to watch them develop in to the team they are at this point. I hope nothing but the best for this group."



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# St. Patrick's New Coach Impressed With Team

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It's been a memorable first season for coach Michelle Smith who had the unenviable task of replacing the retired and legendary Al Schrauben. The team is 10-5 overall and 9-4 in the league.

"Our goal at the beginning of the year was to stay in the top half of the competitive CMAC and we have done that," Smith said. "We are currently tied for third with league losses to only PW and Fowler. We are currently meeting the expectations we set for ourselves this season.

While we feel we have much more room for improvement, I am pleased with the way we have competed to this point.

"Some of the highlights to this point are winning tough contests with Laingsburg, Bath, and Lansing Christian. The 'disappointing' moment or learning moment was our 30 point loss to a talented PW team, when we held them to just 33 points in a 11 point loss earlier in the season."

The Shamrocks have had several, outstanding players.

Sophomore Gracely Rockey- "Grace can play any position on

the floor and is one of the leading scorers, rebounders, and ball stealers in the area," Smith said. "She averages about 15 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 steals per game. Just a sophomore, she is looked to as a leader on the team as she has been a starter on the varsity since the 8th grade.

Junior Mattie Honsowitz- "Mattie is a strong post player that averages 10 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 blocks per game. She provides a strong defensive presence down and really solidifies the interior for us," Smith said.

"Our goals are to finish league play strong and remain amongst the top few CMAC teams as well as to compete for a district title," Smith said.



The 2024-25 Portland St. Patrick girls basketball team.

# Bullock Creek Girls Eye Strong Postseason

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Mark Herron has had a solid first season of coaching Midland Bullock Creek's girls basketball team.

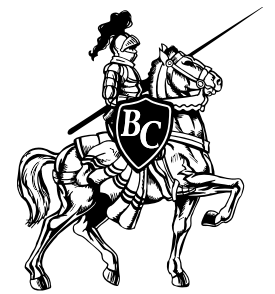
Bullock Creek has been around the .500 mark all season.

"I think we have met or maybe slightly exceeded expectations," Herron said. "We had a huge victory in our last game over Clare who is one of the better teams in the conference. They beat us by over 50 points at their place and we just beat them by 8 at ours.

"We had a tough patch right after Christmas with some injuries and a couple of bad losses but have come back strong. Delaney Violette leads us in scoring with 10.3 PPG. McKenzie Longtreth is second in scoring at 5.1 PPG. Dakota Swift leads in rebounds at 5.4. Charlie

Bass is second at 4.3. Jillian Dast and Olivia Fisher lead in assists at around 2 per game."

Herron added: "We have 5 games left in the regular season and should have a strong chance to win 4 of them. We are peaking at the right time and have been playing really well defensively plus handling the ball better which has led to better offensive efficiency."



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# GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

## Butch Harmon & David Cook Sports Scene

### DIVISION 1

#### Midland Dow District

Teams: Bay City Western, Cadillac, Midland, Midland Dow, Mount Pleasant

Team to Beat: Midland

Top Contenders: Cadillac, Mount Pleasant

Summary: Midland has dominated this season in the SVC and has a chance to reach the Breslin this year. Fellow SVC standouts Mount Pleasant has the talent to compete with the Chemics while Cadillac has had a strong year in the Big North Conference and will prove a challenge.

#### Flint Carman-Ainsworth District

Teams: Bay City Central, Flint Carman-Ainsworth, Flushing, Saginaw Heritage,



Saginaw United

Team to Beat: Saginaw Heritage

Top Contenders: Flushing

Summary: Saginaw Heritage has put together an impressive season in spite of a challenging schedule and have the potential to make a deep run. Flushing has led the Flint Metro League and will be a tough out this postseason.

#### Muskegon District

Teams: Cedar Springs, Greenville, Muskegon, Muskegon Mona Shores, Muskegon Reeths-Puffer, Rockford

Team to Beat: Rockford

Top Contenders: Cedar Springs, Muskegon Mona Shores

Summary: Rockford is one of the favorites to win it all this year after another stellar season in the OK-Red. Cedar Springs has led the River Cities Alliance and will be the Rams' biggest challenger. Mona Shores has had a great year in the OK-Green and will be a contender.

#### DeWitt District

Teams: DeWitt, East Lansing, Grand Ledge, Lansing Eastern, Lansing Everett, Lansing Waverly

Team to Beat: DeWitt

Top Contenders: East Lansing

Summary: DeWitt has dominated this year and are one of the top contenders for the state title. East Lansing has also had a strong showing in the CAAC-Blue and will be looking to make a postseason statement.

#### Mason District

Teams: Holt, Jackson, Jackson Northwest, Mason, Okemos

Team to Beat: Holt

Frankenmuth is ranked seventh in the state in Division 1 and is looking to make a deep tournament run.

Top Contenders:

Summary: Holt has stayed neck and neck with DeWitt at the top of the CAAC-Blue this season and have had an impressive season against a challenging schedule. The Rams' talent and experience against tough competition could be a catalyst for a trip to the Breslin this year.

### DIVISION 2

#### Fremont District

Teams: Big Rapids, Fremont, Ludington, Newaygo, Reed City

Team to Beat: Big Rapids

Top Contenders: Fremont, Ludington, Newaygo

Summary: Big Rapids has put together an impressive season with big wins against tough non-conference opponents and have the potential to make a deep playoff run. Newaygo has been the Cardinals' biggest challenger in the CSAA-Red this season. Fremont and Ludington have set the pace in the West Michigan-Lakes and will both be tough outs for any opponent.

#### Gladwin District

Teams: Clare, Gladwin, Ogemaw Heights, Remus Chippewa Hills, Standish-Sterling

Team to Beat: Clare

Top Contenders: Standish-Sterling

Summary: Clare will be the favorites in the district after a strong year in the Jack Pine Conference. Conference rivals Standish-Sterling have had an impressive season of their own and will be looking for a breakthrough in their third meeting with the Pioneers.

#### Alma District

Teams: Alma, Freeland, Midland Bullock Creek, Saginaw Swan Valley, Sheperd

Team to Beat: Freeland

Top Contenders: Alma, Sheperd

Summary: Freeland will be the favorites in this difficult district as one of the top

teams in the TVC-Red and boast impressive non-conference wins. Alma has also impressed in the TVC and will be looking to breakthrough while Sheperd has dominated in the Jack Pine and will be looking to carry their momentum into the postseason.

#### Frankenmuth District

Teams: Bay City John Glenn, Bridgeport, Caro, Carrollton, Essexville Garber, Frankenmuth

Team to Beat: Frankenmuth

Top Contenders: Caro

Summary: Frankenmuth will be considered one of the favorites in division 2 after leading the TVC-Red and scoring big wins against other playoff contenders including Freeland and Flushing. Caro has had an impressive season as one of the top teams in the Big Thumb-White.

#### Corunna District

Teams: Birch Run, Clio, Corunna, Flint Hamady, Owosso

Team to Beat: Flint Hamady

Top Contenders: Corunna

Summary: Flint Hamady are strong favorites in the district and will be legitimate state title contenders after dominating opponents this year. Corunna has had an impressive season in the Flint Metro-Stars and will be the Cavaliers' biggest challenge.

#### Ionia District

Teams: Belding, Central Montcalm, Ionia, Portland, St Johns

Team to Beat: Portland

Top Contenders: Belding, St Johns

Summary: Portland has aspirations for a title run and with good reason as the Raiders have dominated the CAAC-White and notched big wins over Frankenmuth and Holt. Belding and St Johns have impressed in their respective conferences and have the ability to make a deep run of their own.

capable of surpassing them in the postseason.

#### Holton District

Teams: Blanchard Montabella, Holton, Kent City, Lakeview, Morley Stanwood, Ravenna

Team to Beat: Kent City

Top Contenders: Morley Stanwood

Summary: Kent City has been the top team in the CSAA-White for most of the season and will be slim favorites in the district. Morley Stanwood has hung in with the Eagles all season long and have proven to be a challenge to beat.

#### Pewamo-Westphalia District

Teams: Delton Kellog, Grand Rapids NorthPointe Chistian, Pewamo-Westphalia, Saranac, Vermontville Maple Valley

Team to Beat: Pewamo-Westphalia

Top Contenders:

Summary: Pewamo-Westphalia are the clearcut favorites in the district and are a contender for the D3 title this year. The Pirates have dominated from start to finish this year with wins over multiple playoff contenders including East Lansing, Flint Powers, and Fowler.

#### Montrose District

Teams: Chesaning, Hemlock, Ithaca, Montrose, St Charles, St Louis

Team to Beat: Hemlock

Top Contenders: St Charles, St Louis

Summary: Hemlock has the potential to make a deep playoff run based on the Huskies dominance in the TVC-Blue and competitive games against several D1 playoff contenders. St Charles finished near the top of the Mid-State Activities conference while St Louis has had a good year in the Jack

Pine 2 and have been competitive in all their games.

#### Laingsburg District

Teams: Bath, Laingsburg, New Lothrop, Ovid-Elsie, Perry

Team to Beat: Ovid-Elsie

Top Contenders: Laingsburg, New Lothrop

Summary: Ovid-Elsie and New Lothrop have been going back and forth at the top of the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference all season long and both teams will have their eye on a deep playoff run. Laingsburg has had a good year in the CMAC and could play the spoiler.

### DIVISION 4

#### Marion District

Teams: Baldwin, Big Rapids Crossroads Academy, Coleman, Marion, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart

Team to Beat: Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart

Top Contenders: Big Rapids Crossroads Academy

Summary: Sacred Heart ran through a tough schedule with little difficulty, notching wins against Beaverton, St Charles, and Fulton. Expect the Irish to go far this postseason. Big Rapids Crossroads has had just as impressive of a season and are one of the top teams in the West Michigan 'D' League.

#### Merrill District

Teams: Bay City All Saints, Merrill, Midland Cavalry Baptist, Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central

Team to Beat: Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary

Top Contenders: Merrill

Summary: Michigan Lutheran has



Fowler is ranked fourth in the state in Division 4 and is primed for a long state tournament run.

been near the top of the TVC-Blue all season and are the favorites in the district. Merrill is in the top half of the Mid-State Activities Conference and has a shot at a district crown.

#### Fowler District

Teams: Ashley, Breckenridge, Fowler, Fulton, Vestaburg

Team to Beat: Fowler

Top Contenders: Fulton

Summary: Fowler is one of the contenders for the D4 title this year after a great season in the competitive CMAC. Fulton has been one of the top teams in the strong Mid-

State Activities Conference this season and will be tough to beat.

#### Potterville District

Teams: Bellevue, Lansing Christian, Morrice, Portland St Patrick, Potterville, Webberville

Team to Beat: Portland St Patrick

Top Contenders: Lansing Christian

Summary: CMAC rivals Portland St Patrick and Lansing Christian will be the top contenders in the district. Little separates these two teams, but the Shamrocks have the edge in head-to-head this season. Expect a deep postseason run from whichever team emerges from the district.

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# BOYS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

## Butch Harmon & David Cook Sports Scene

### DIVISION 1 Cadillac District

Teams: Bay City Western, Cadillac, Midland, Midland Dow, Mount Pleasant  
Team to Beat: Cadillac

Top Contenders: Midland Dow, Mount Pleasant

Summary: Cadillac has set the pace in the Big North conference and have racked up several quality wins to make them the favorites in this district. Midland Dow and Mount Pleasant both posted good seasons in the SVC and will be the Vikings' biggest challengers.

### Carman-Ainsworth District

Teams: Bay City Central, Flint Carman-Ainsworth, Flushing, Saginaw Heritage, Saginaw United

Team to Beat: Saginaw United

Top Contenders: Flint Carman-Ainsworth, Saginaw Heritage

Summary: Saginaw United has led the SVC all season and will be considered the favorite in the district. Carman-Ainsworth and Heritage have had quality seasons themselves in the top half of the SVC and should not be counted out.

### Reeths-Puffer District

Teams: Cedar Springs, Greenville, Muskegon, Muskegon Mona Shores Muskegon Reeths-Puffer, Rockford

Team to Beat: Muskegon and Rockford

Top Contenders: Greenville

Summary: State title implications loom large in this district with powerhouses Muskegon and Rockford standing in each other's path to the Breslin. Although a dark horse, Greenville has had a historic season and could cause a shock if the Rams and Big Reds fail to respect them.



### East Lansing District

Teams: DeWitt, East Lansing, Grand Ledge, Lansing Eastern, Lansing Waverly

Team to Beat: East Lansing

Top Contenders: Lansing Waverly

Summary: State powerhouse East Lansing are favorites not only in the district, but also the state after another stellar season with wins over some of the best in the state. Waverly has had just as impressive of a season and have already proven that they can compete with the Trojans this year.

### Holt District

Teams: Holt, Jackson, Jackson Northwest, Lansing Everett, Mason, Okemos

Team to Beat: Okemos

Top Contenders: Mason

Summary: Okemos has held their own in the difficult CAAC Blue and has proven throughout the season that they can compete with the best in the state which makes them the favorites. Mason continues to string win after win this season and will pose a strong challenge for the Wolves.

### DIVISION 2 Standish-Sterling District

Teams: Clare, Gladwin, Ogemaw Heights, Remus Chippewa Hills, Standish-Sterling

Team to Beat: Standish-Sterling

Top Contenders: Gladwin

Summary: Standish-Sterling have led the way in the Jack Pine Conference this season and will be favorites to win the district. Gladwin has been close on the heels of the Panthers throughout the year and have the talent to win when it counts most.

### Saginaw Swan Valley District

Teams: Alma, Freeland, Midland Bullock Creek, Saginaw Swan Valley, Sheperd

Team to Beat: Freeland

Top Contenders:

Summary: Freeland is having a great year in the TVC-Red and are the clearcut favorites in the district. A tough schedule with plenty

East Lansing is ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 1 and has sights on a state title.

of D1 and D2 contenders should prepare the Falcons for a potential run to the Breslin.

### Frankenmuth District

Teams: Bay City John Glenn, Bridgeport, Caro, Carrollton, Essexville Garber, Frankenmuth

Team to Beat: Bay City John Glenn

Top Contenders: Frankenmuth

Summary: John Glenn has proven to be a state title contender with wins over several fellow D2 contenders and have stayed neck and neck with Freeland atop the TVC-Red. Frankenmuth has had an impressive season of their own and their series split with the Bobcats in the regular season make them a serious challenger in the postseason.

### Birch Run District

Teams: Birch Run, Clio, Corunna, Flint Hamady, Mt Morris, Owosso

Team to Beat: Flint Hamady

Top Contenders: Mt Morris

Summary: Flint Hamady is among the top teams in the Genesee Area Conference while Mt Morris has been competitive throughout in a loaded Mid-Michigan Activities Conference.

### Portland District

Teams: Belding, Central Montcalm, Ionia, Portland, St Johns

Team to Beat: Portland

Top Contenders: Ionia

Summary: Portland will be favorites in the district after a strong season at the top of the CAAC-White alongside Lansing Sexton. Ionia has posted an impressive season and are in the top half of the CAAC-White.

### Lake Odessa Lakewood District

Teams: Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Lake Odessa Lakewood, Lansing Catholic, Lansing Sexton, Olivet

Team to Beat: Lansing Sexton

Top Contenders: Charlotte

Summary: Lansing Sexton has had a strong season this year and are a clear favorite in the district. A tough schedule with games

against D1 title contenders including East Lansing, Okemos, and Waverly should give the J-Dubbs the experience needed to make a deep postseason run.

### Fowlerville District

Teams: Durand, Fowlerville, Haslett, Lake Fenton, Linden, Williamston

Team to Beat: Haslett

Top Contenders: Durand, Lake Fenton, Linden

Summary: This is the most wide-open district this year with four teams with legitimate chances to advance. Haslett's tough schedule makes them slim favorites, but all three contenders have been near the top of competitive conferences this season.

### DIVISION 3 Beaverton District

Teams: Bay City All Saints, Beal City, Beaverton, Farwell, Pinconning, Sanford Meridian

Team to Beat: Pinconning

Top Contenders: Beal City

Summary: Pinconning has had a dominant season in the Jack Pine 2 Conference that saw them pull ahead early. Beal City has also had a strong season in a highly competitive Highland Conference and that competition could prove useful in making a postseason run.

### Houghton Lake District

Teams: Ewart, Harrison, Houghton Lake, Lake City, Manton, McBain

Team to Beat: McBain

Top Contenders: Ewart

Summary: McBain have led the Highland Conference with a strong showing throughout the season

and have the talent to make a deep run in the postseason. Ewart has also proven to be one of the top teams in the Highland and will be looking to make a statement.

### Lakeview District

Teams: Blanchard Montabella, Holton, Kent City, Lakeview, Morley Stanwood, Ravenna

Team to Beat: Blanchard Montabella

Top Contenders: Kent City, Morley Stanwood

Summary: Blanchard Montabella have been in the top half of a difficult Mid-State Activities Conference which makes them as slight favorites in the district. Kent City and Morley Stanwood have led the CSAA-White and both are capable of taking home the district title.

### Vermontville Maple Valley District

Teams: Carson City-Crystal, Pewamo-Westphalia, Potterville, Saranac, Vermontville Maple Valley

Team to Beat: Pewamo-Westphalia

Top Contenders:

Summary: Pewamo-Westphalia are heavy favorites to win not only the district, but also the state title. The Pirates have dominated this season and have competed against some of the best teams in the state, their crown jewel being a 56-39 humbling of D1 contender Grand Blanc.

### St Charles District

Teams: Chesaning, Hemlock, Ithaca, Montrose, St Charles

Team to Beat: Ithaca

Top Contenders: Chesaning

Summary: Ithaca has posted

a strong record despite a difficult schedule and have led the TVC-Blue for a majority of the season making them favorites in the district. Chesaning have been dominating after a slow first month and are just as capable of making a postseason run.

### New Lothrop District

Teams: Bath, Byron, Laingsburg, New Lothrop, Ovid-Elsie, Perry

Team to Beat: Ovid-Elsie

Top Contenders: Laingsburg, Perry

Summary: Ovid-Elsie has been in the highly competitive Mid-Michigan Activities Conference title race all season and that experience gives them an edge in the district. Laingsburg and Perry both overcame slow starts and have played tough schedules that makes them ready to put up stiff competition.

### DIVISION 4 Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary District

Teams: Coleman, Merrill, Midland Cavalry Baptist, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart, Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central

Team to Beat: Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart

Top Contenders: Coleman, Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central

Summary: Sacred Heart are one of the favorites to win it all this year thanks to a dominant performance in the Mid-State Activities Conference and a tough non-conference schedule. Coleman and Saginaw Nouvel have also been competitive in their respective conferences.

### Vestaburg District

Teams: Ashley, Breckenridge,



Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart is ranked ninth in the state in Division 4.

Fowler, Fulton, Portland St Patrick, Vestaburg

Team to Beat: Fowler

Top Contenders: Fulton, Portland St Patrick, Vestaburg

Summary: Fowler has had a strong season overshadowed only by conference rivals Pewamo-Westphalia and will be one of the favorites to win it all at the Breslin. Fulton, Portland St Patrick, and Vestaburg are all strong teams that have played competitive basketball all season long.

### Lansing Christian District

Teams: Ann Arbor Rudolf Steiner, Brighton Livingston Christian, Lansing Christian, Morrice, Webberville, Whitmore Lake

Team to Beat: Whitmore Lake

Top Contenders: Brighton Livingston Christian, Webberville

Summary: Whitmore Lake are one of the top teams in the MIAC-Red. Webberville and Brighton Livingston have also had strong seasons and will be contenders.

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# Alma Boys Set For Postseason

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Alma boys basketball coach Chris Brown has seen his team hover around the .500 mark as it gets ready for the 2025 postseason.

"We have had a tough time in our league which is very strong and competitive," Brown said. "Outside of the TVC-Red we have played much better. Our three wins over local rivals Mount Pleasant, Shepherd and Ithaca were all tough fought victories and something we can hang our hat on at the end of the season.

"In the league we expected to be better at this point, but as we move forward the goal is to answer versus the teams we struggled against the first time around. So far we have done that. Our goal was to win all of our games versus schools

located on the US 127 corridor and we accomplished that against Clare, Mt. Pleasant, Shepherd, and Ithaca."

The Panthers had a major win over Mount Pleasant.

"It was the first time Alma had beaten the Oilers since 2002, albeit the two teams did not play each other from 2012-2022," Brown said. "Sam Gadde hit a three as time expired to win by one in overtime. Along with that was a tough fought rivalry win against a physical and veteran Ithaca team on the road. The three point victory was back and forth the entire night until Brennen Palmer hit a go ahead three while trailing by one with just under a minute remaining.

"A five game losing streak, including losing a buzzer beater to Bridgeport, in January was tough

to navigate, but our kids stuck with the plan and brought great attitudes and work ethic each day, and continued to represent our program in a first class manner."

Top athletes: Owen Seeley, Senior Forward: 15.8 ppg, 8.1 rebpp

"Owen is our most experienced player with three years on varsity," Brown said. "He has also been the most consistent player. He has had multiple games scoring in the upper 20's. His high is 27. His high in rebounds is 14. He has had 5 double-doubles. His game and leadership has hit a new level since February has begun and we are hoping that carries us to our best play in the final month."

Sam Gadde, Senior, Point Forward: 10.6 ppg, 5.9 rebpp, 3.4 astpg, 0.9 blkpg

"Sam is another very experienced player," Brown said. "He is our best shooter and a stat

filler in many areas. He has recently transitioned to the point forward position in order to free up some other shooters with better looks. He has had game highs of 27 points and 11 rebounds. He has had 2 double-doubles. His high in assists is 8. He is a steady and even keel player who understands the game and acts as a coach on the floor. He too has played at a new level once the calendar turned to February."

Koby Shunk, Junior, Guard: 10.5 ppg, 5.9 rebpp, 1.3 stlpg

"Koby is one of our top perimeter defenders and a strong shooting guard who is capable of scoring at all three levels," Brown said. He is also a very strong rebounder. His high in points is 20. His top rebounding game is 13. He



The 2024-25 Alma Boys Basketball team

has had 3 double-doubles. Koby generally guards the best perimeter player on the opposing team. He leads us in steals."

"We want to continue to improve daily, compete versus everyone on our schedule and play our best basketball."

# Beal City's Boys Season Has Been Superb

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It's been an impressive season so far for Beal City's boys basketball team.

The Aggies are 14-5 and they've had an 11-2 record in the Highland Conference. They are the only team which has defeated mighty McBain in the league.

Top players have included: Austin Small 20.2 ppg, 2.7 assists/game, 2.2 steals/game; 2.4 rebounds/game;

Drake Gatrell, 14ppg, 4.8 rebounds/game, 3 assists/game, 2.4 steals/game. Garrison Zuker, 7.2 ppg 6.1 rebounds/game.

"The largest success to our team has been our team defense," coach Cam Latrell said. "The boys have really bought in to playing together, defending hard and finding the best shot on every possession."

In recent action, the Beal varsity boys basketball team defeated a really good Pine River team by the score of 69 to 43.

The scoring was led by Austin Small with 23, Drake Gatrell 16 Garrison Zuker 14 and Owen Mckenny 10. The varsity boys basketball team defeated Roscommon by the score of 78-44. The scoring was led by Austin Small with 25, Drake Gatrell 19 and Garrison Zuker 18.

The varsity boys basketball team used great defense to defeat McBain NMC by the score of 88 to 53. The scoring was led by Austin small with 35, Drake Gatrell 16 and Cole Tilmann 11.



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# Ewart Girls A Contending Team This Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Ewart expected to have another championship girls basketball team this season.

It's proven to be the case again.

First-year coach Shaun Grays Wildcats were 16-2 after their first 18 games and vying for conference and postseason titles.

"We graduated three girls who have started the last three years with Brooklyn Decker, Emma

Dyer and Alyson Theunick," Gray said. "We also lost another starter from last year's team, Kayanne Tied. "Add in losing another senior Faith Hamilton and we lost a lot of experience. We lost a lot of our production from last years squad, however I think we have some girls who are ready to step up and fill the shoes, left by the girls in front of them."

All-state candidate Kyrah Gray passed the 1,000-point total as a junior this season.

"She did everything for Ewart last year," her father and coach, Shaun Gray said. "She's expected to do more this year, especially early on in the season while her teammates are learning their roles Making better decisions white ball to get her teammates easier shots is one of the things she's been working on.

"Keira Elder a junior will be a starter in Ewart's backcourt this year Her defense and ball handling will be one of the biggest keys on this team. If she scores the way we

think she can, we'll be a tough team com the end of the season. Junior Mattisen Tiedt plays both inside and outside. Her scoring and rebounding are vital to Ewart having a good season.

"Keira and Mattisen both had small roles on varitylast year as sophomores and I expect both of them to be big factors for our program. Kaitlyn Joyce, a senior, will provide defense and rebounding with her length and she's one of our better on ball defenders. Joey Baumgardner, also a senior, provides an all-around game that if she puts it all together and limits her mental mistakes, she



Kyrah Gray (center) and Emily Miller (15) have been two key players for Ewart.

could become an all-conference players."

# New Lothrop Girls Have High Hopes

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Jim Perry and his New Lothrop girls varsity basketball team has hopes for a strong season.

New Lothrop has a 13-2 record and in the league is 11-1 and tied for first with Ovid-Elsie.

"We had a goal to win the league this year and we are currently tied

in first place. We need to finish strong to ensure at least of the league title," Perry said.

"Aside from OE, who we split with during the season, we have beaten all of our other league opponents by 20+ points.

"We lost in overtime to OE in our 2nd matchup and that was disappointing. Hoping we learn

from that game as we could see them again in districts. Our team suffered an injury to important player on our team and we have been adjusting to playing without her. Others have stepped up in her absence and we are hopeful to have her back before the season is over but it is to be determined."

Sophomore Katelyn Wendling is leading the in scoring with over

16 ppg. "She can score inside or out and is a tenacious defender as well," Perry said.

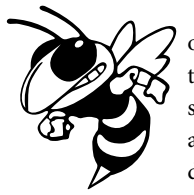
"Junior Kelsey Kohlmann is our second leading scorer and can score in a variety of ways. She gets to the free throw line quite a bit and shoots a high percentage.

Senior Ashlyn Orr is having a tremendous senior year. She plays

primarily in the post and has put up multiple double-doubles this season in points and rebounds.

"Senior Laina Yates is our point guard and gets this team going. She is shooting it well from deep and also plays great on ball defense. We hope to win at least a share of the league

title and win some championships in the postseason."



# New Ithaca Cheer Coach Enjoys Strong Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Ashtyn Coughlin has had a fun season in her first year as Ithaca varsity cheer coach.

"The team's season so far has been great, they have improved scores almost every competition. We have met and exceeded a lot of expectations. The girls work super hard and set goals every week and most of the time the exceed them," Coughlin said, adding as high moment was when the team finally

broke 600 points at a competition.

"We had injuries as the very beginning of the season, causing us to have to redo rounds a week before our first competition."

Key performers have been: Emmalee Shankle (senior): "She came back and better from an injury and is not afraid to try anything new and is very focused and wants what's best for the team, she is also a fantastic leader."

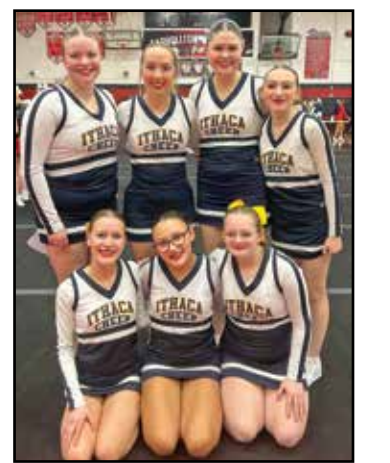
Nevaeh Gilbert (freshman): "The only Freshman on the varsity team,

she has grown so much and her confidence is so much better than at the beginning.

Selah Zavala (junior): "Selah brings a lot of joy to our team with her goofy personality. She is our main base for every single stunt and she pushes through no matter how tired or sore she is. She is a very strong individual and continues to grow everyday."

Coughlin added: "Our goals for the rest of the season are to continue growing as a team and raising our scores each week.

With this being the first varsity competitive cheer team since 2019, this team has been nothing but amazing. I have three girls who have never done competitive before and the other four have not done it since middle school. The entire team has made me so proud and has made my first year coaching this sport so amazing. They work so hard and have pushed through anything that has been thrown at them. I am excited to see how the rest of the season goes."



The 2024-25 Ithaca competitive cheer team.

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# Future Is Bright For Meridian Wrestling

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Jeremy Sampson is the coach at Sanford Meridian Early College High School and has one of the top up coming programs in the state.

It's his fifth season as coach. The team was 21-13 and 6-4 in the Jack Pine.

"We've gotten better all season, we have a solid base and continue to work hard. I'd say we are happy, but not satisfied. We have both met and slightly exceeded my expectations. Our kids have bought into our program philosophy and work exceptionally hard."

Highlights of the season, Sampson said, included "John Durfee winning the JPC and an

individual district championship. Winning team districts for the second consecutive season. Turning around a 1-4 start to the season and compiling a 21-13 record heading into team regionals. Plenty of challenges, but no real disappointments. We look at it a bit differently, we have challenges and opportunities to improve."

John Durfee reached his 100th win this season and is 42-7 on the year. "He's all heart, continues to work and improve and isn't satisfied with where he is at," Sampson. "Karson Yancer (144) was second at Districts, Mio Champion. Karson never gets off a wrestling mat. He is 40-9 on the season and has made some huge steps from his freshman year. He is

always ready to go and never stops.

"Austin Bourassa 175, 35-5 on the year. Austin is a team leader and a strong/positive influence on our young team. He was 2nd at Districts and 1st at Mio, he hasn't placed lower than 4th at any tournament this season. He continues to impress with his tenacity. Alex Sampson 106, 31-13 on the season. 1st at Mio, 4th at Districts. Alex is experiencing his best season as a wrestler to date. He has the ability to weather the storm and finishes matches in the 3rd period.

"This team has made huge strides from the beginning of the season and will continue to improve into next season. The future is bright."



The 2024-25 Sanford Meridian wrestling team.



# Chippewa Hills Makes It 21 Straight Districts

## John Raffel Sports Scene

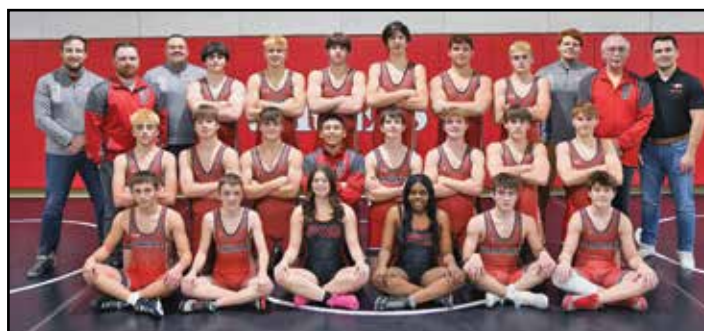
The streak continues for the Chippewa Hills wrestling team which defeated Clare 48-31 in the district finals to win their 21st straight district crown.

The Warriors lost to Hart in the regional semifinals, but gaining a district title for the 21st straight year was an impressive accomplishment.

"It was a total team win. I am

very proud of how all of our wrestlers performed and played a part in this win..it was a total team win. I am very proud of how all of our wrestlers performed and played a part in this win," coach Tyler Vogel said. Warrior winners in the title match were Austin Humphrey (165) with a pin in 46 seconds over Dane Kruskamp, Liam Franklin (190) with a pin in 44 seconds over Cooper Weissand; Dallas Glaser (215) with a pin in

2:57 over Calvin Clark, Natalie Gibson (106) with a pin in 53 seconds over Jayden Jordan, Teddy MacGregor (120) with a forfeit win; and Hunter Dalrymple (138) with a pin in 1:14. Top records were 34-5 for Jon Koepf, 40-6 for Jacob Edwards, 23-18 for Liam Franklin, 25-2 for Natalie Gibson, 17-2 for Austin Humphrey, 26-16 for Austin Humphrey, 26-16 for Ray Irwin, 21-15 for Austin Scnuberg and 25-19 for Isaac Toogood.



Caption for photoThe Chippewa Hills wrestlers celebrated their 21st straight district title this season.



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