

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

Wow!!! Is spring coming to an end already?

The spring sports season is coming to a rapid end with state championships being decided the first few weekends of June. As usual, our local athletes and teams have turned in some phenomenal spring season in all the different sports.

In baseball, the area has again been home to some outstanding players and teams. Area softball teams have also been busy turning in some big seasons. This spring has really been characterized by some simply outstanding pitching performances in both softball and baseball. The mid-Michigan area is just loaded with quality pitchers.

On the track, our area's young men and young ladies have been turning in some memorable performances. Area athletes and teams won plenty of titles at the regional level and at the state finals which we will be covering in our next issue along with a look at the regional highlights in this issue.

Area golfers and tennis players have also turned in some outstanding seasons this spring. Several teams and individuals will be continuing the golf season at the MHSAA state golf finals the second weekend in June and our next issue will recap how our local golfers fared.

On the soccer field, it has been an outstanding spring as area soccer teams have turned in some outstanding efforts.

With June in full swing, it's still not too late to catch some great baseball or softball action at the regional and state level. Get out and enjoy the great early-summer weather and the outstanding performances from our local athletes.

See you at the games!!!!



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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

DIVISION 1

The high school baseball state tournament gets into full swing during June with regional and state final action. Following is a look at some of the top teams this spring in baseball by division.

Top teams in the state: Bay City Western, Rochester Adams, Warren De La Salle, Hudsonville.

Top area teams: Bay City Western, Midland, Midland Dow, Grand Ledge, Okemos.

Scouting report: For connoisseurs of high school baseball, the Division 1 district at Midland will be the place to be. The district is home to one of the premier teams in the state in Bay City Western but winning a district title will be no easy feat with both Midland and Midland Dow lurking.

Bay City Western has been ranked either No. 1 or No. 2 in the state polls for much of the season. The Warriors feature one of the premier pitchers in the state in senior Luke Lacourse who will be taking his 93-miles per hour fastball to Michigan State University next season. Western has a deep pitching staff that also includes senior lefthander Brayden Simmon who is a Saginaw Valley

State recruit. Senior Jack Sequin is one of the pacesetters on offense where he is hitting close to .500 this season and is another quality arm on the hill. Sequin is also a Saginaw Valley recruit. Jack's younger brother, freshman Jimmy Sequin III ignites the offense from the leadoff spot where he is hitting over .350 with an on-base percentage in the mid-400s. Western is loaded with talented players including all-state infielder Mikey Deluca, junior pitchers Jaxon Jenkins and Andy Robbins, sophomore centerfielder Owen Dominowski, sophomore Brady Larue and sophomore third baseman Cal Plarske.

Ranked 11th in the state in Division 1, **Midland** has the talent and pitching to go head-to-head with Western in the district and make a deep tournament run of its own. The Chemics have a premier pitching ace of their own in Brett Faccio who will playing his college baseball at Yale University. Faccio led Midland to a win against Lacourse and Western earlier this season when Faccio twirled a complete game, two-hitter with 10 strikeouts. Jacoby Lind teams up with Faccio giving Midland a dynamic one-two pitching punch that matches well with any team in the state. The Chemics also have plenty of punch at the plate led by Cayden Nieto, Liam Heinz, Taber Edwards-Benner, Eli Kell, Brady Vannest and Noah Wall.

Midland Dow was ranked in the top ten in the state earlier this season and the Chargers will also be a tough out at the district tournament. Jake Szajenko jump-starts the offense from his leadoff spot and is one of the leaders of the pitching staff. Carter Harcek and Carter Greiman further bolster the pitching staff. At the plate, the Chargers also get plenty of production from senior shortstop Gibby Brown, Nate Schultz, Nolan Harris, Owen Hammond, Harcek and Greiman.

In the Lansing area, the winner of the East Lansing district is poised to make a strong run. **DeWitt, Grand Ledge and Okemos** have all enjoyed success this spring.

Okemos has totaled over 20 wins this spring led by a solid pitching staff that features Sebastian Blair and Jimmy Pignataro. At the plate, the Wolves are led by James Poletes along with Henry Schnelker, Gabe Hart, Keagan Noble and Blair.

Grand Ledge has also won over 20 games this season. The Comets have a solid group of hitters paced by Gavin Wegenke, Kyle Smith and Tory Nyquist. Easton Cochran is a talented player that is headed to Olivet College while infielder Jaydin McCammon will be playing college baseball at Lansing Community College.

DIVISION 2

Top teams in the state: Forest Hills Eastern, Standish-Sterling, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, New Boston Huron

Top area teams: Williamston, Mason, Portland, Freeland, Clare, Shepherd, Owosso.

Scouting report: Forest Hills Eastern and Standish-Sterling are at the top of the pack on the state level. Locally, the Alma district is one to watch where Swan Valley looks to be the favorite in a powerful district that includes Freeland, Shepherd and Bullock Creek.

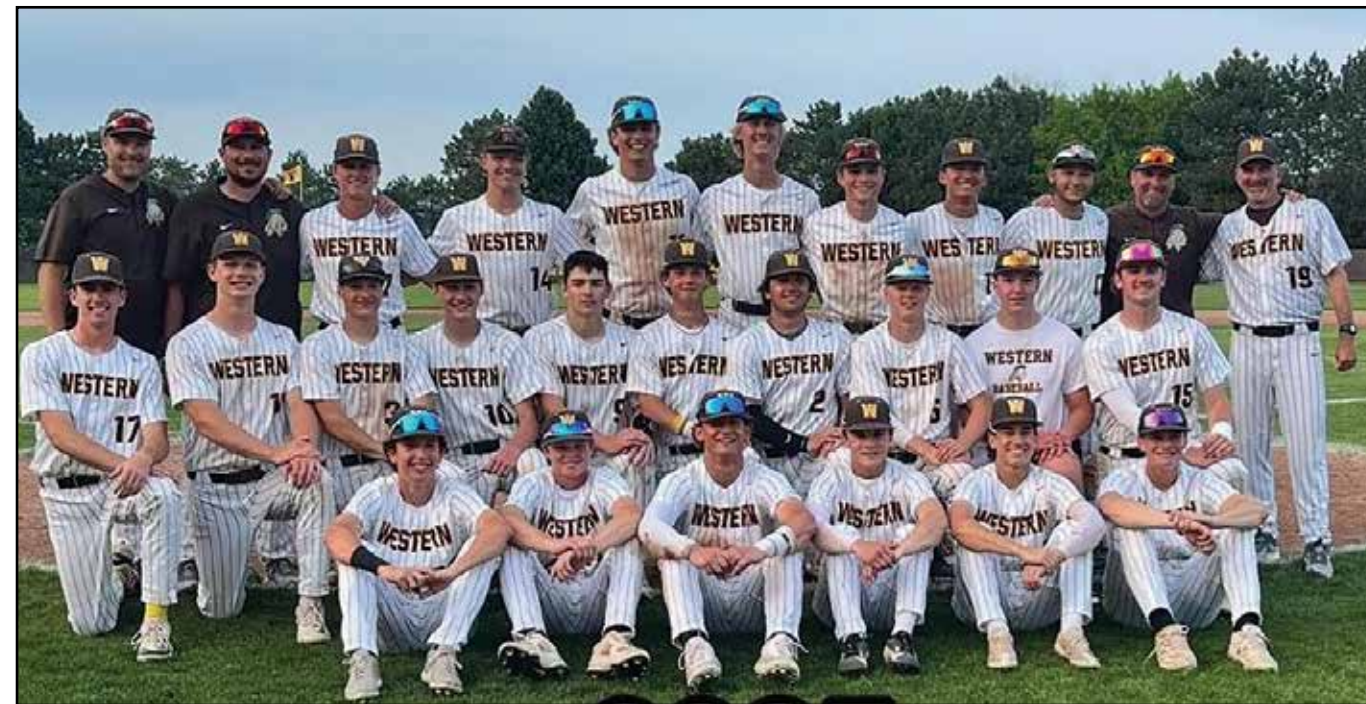
Swan Valley has won 20 games this season and is led by junior pitcher Jaxon Hartley who has turned in a big season. Hartley has picked up wins against some big-time competition this spring and is a strikeout machine. Hartley is also a standout at the plate as he is hitting close to .500. Colton Klein is another strong pitcher who has a power arm.

Shepherd has also won more than 20 games this spring. The Bluejays feature a deep and talented group of hitters including Sam King, Kaden Brown, Easton VanAlstine, Tristin Fisher, Brady Robinson and Bryce Smith. King and Brown also head up a strong pitching staff.

Freeland is another squad that has piled up over 20 wins. The Falcons have talent all across the diamond. Kaden Gerzseny is a talented catcher who provides punch at the plate. Senior infielder Connor Lasceski is a skilled defender who also ignites the offense. Jacob Clawson, Jake Metiva, Tucker Hileman and Karson Worth bring even more punch to the offense. On the mound, the Falcons have received strong efforts from sophomore Robby Mularz along with Carter McLaren, Worth and Lasceski.

The **Pioneers of Clare** have also compiled more than 20 wins this spring. Clare, however, faces a tough district hurdle as it plays in the Standish-Sterling district. Clare is led by pitching standout Jayden Arthur who is also a talented hitter. Blake Sion also provides more quality pitching and

Bay City Western has been one of the top teams in the state in Division 1 this season.



B4 you give up, stop and reach out!

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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is a standout hitter. Ryan Louch is one of the leaders of the offense along with Dane Alexander, Chase Randall, Parker Smith and Tustyn Yarger.

The Fowlerville district features a pair of strong squads in Williamston and Owosso.

Williamston is led on the mound by pitching ace Brett Palmer who is turning in a big season. At the plate, Miles Keener leads an offence that is also getting plenty of production from Grady Langdon and Jack Hart.

Owosso is on track for over 20 wins this season. The Trojans have a core of quality arms in Jackson Valasek, Ryan Maier and Jack Sydow. Owosso can also put plenty of runs on the scoreboard. Carson Moore is hitting over .430 this spring while Eden Ackley is a big threat on the bases with 37 stolen bases. Cy Thompson is a power hitter while Austin Blaha, Liam Patrick and Maier offer even more punch at the plate.

The Waverly district is another highly-competitive district in the Lansing area. Host **Waverly** has close to 20 wins this spring and is a tough out. Charlotte has totaled over 20 wins this spring and has the talent to claim the trophy. **Mason** looks to be the favorite in the district. Ranked 11th in the state and having notched 25 wins, the Bulldogs feature an outstanding group of pitchers led by aces Colten McCaleb and Alex Engel. Mason can also score runs in bunches with an offense led by Maddox Armour who is hitting .420 and McCaleb who is hitting close to .400. Joey Schild, Wyatt Ball, Ryan Myers and Hayden Hendrickson add even more production to an offense that also relies on the base stealing skills of Armour, Ball and Myers.

The Ionia district is also shaping up as a highly-competitive battle. **Portland** is led by Barrett Brennan who is hitting over .400 as is Brody Moore. Evan Thelen and Paul Roberts are a pair of standout pitchers for the Raiders. St. Johns, Ionia and Lakewood-Lake Odessa also have that talent to come away with the district title.

DIVISION 3

Top teams in the state: Kalamazoo Christian, North Muskegon, Jackson Lumen Christi, Detroit Edison.

Top area teams: Hemlock, Chesaning, Lansing Catholic, Central Montcalm, Beaverton.

Scouting report: Teams from Southwest Michigan have won the last three Division 3 state titles and Kalamazoo Christian is looking to add to that streak. North Muskegon is a powerhouse from West Michigan while Lumen Christi and Detroit Edison have both reached the state finals once in the past three years.

With standout pitcher Chad Brown leading the way, **Hemlock** is poised to make a deep state tournament run. Brown, a Central Michigan University baseball recruit, possesses a 93 miles per hour fastball and is posting some impressive numbers this season. Brown is not the only college talent

on the Huskie roster this season. Senior shortstop Mitchell Radosa and senior outfielder Dawson Dean are both headed to Delta College next season. Radosa and Dean are both turning in big seasons in the field and at the plate for Hemlock. Sophomore first baseman Gavin Schmidt is also having a strong season as are Blake Willman and Landon Zastrow.

Chesaning has been one of the most successful Division 3 teams in the area the past few years and that success in continuing this spring. Chesaning is led by the senior trio of Brady Sager, Max Volk and Adam Woodcock. Sager is one of the most productive hitters in the state and is also a standout pitcher. Volk is also a standout on the mound and at the plate as is Woodcock who has shown some home run power this spring. Together the trio has helped Chesaning win four consecutive conference titles. The Indians are also getting solid contributions at the plate and on the mound

from Jacob Zyrowski, Eli Keck, Luke Barton and Hudson Persails.

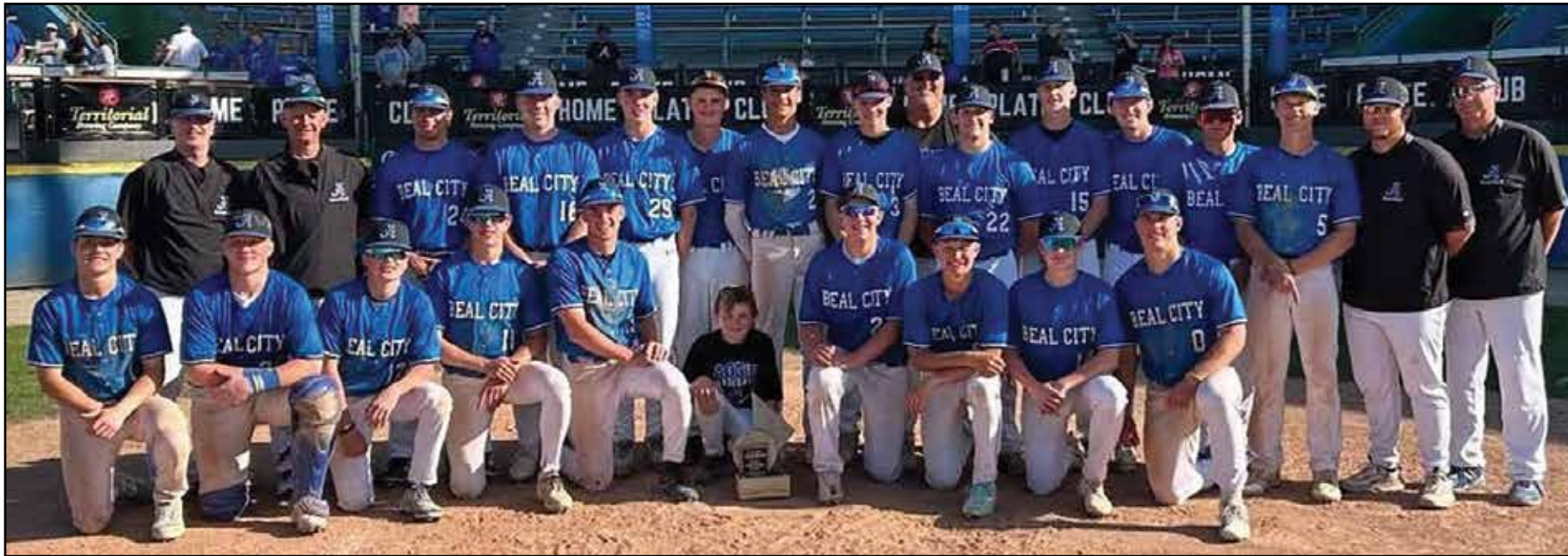
Lansing Catholic is ranked in the top ten in the state and the Cougars are primed for a big state tournament. Lansing Catholic can score runs in bunches led by the nucleus of Alex Fernandez, Jack Grill, Noah Jungwirth and Ethan Link who are all hitting over .400 this season. On the mound, the Cougars can count on pitching ace Drew Tolfree who has an ERA under 1.00.

Central Montcalm has totaled over 20 wins this season and is poised to do some damage in the state tournament. The Hornets are led by Emmett Lingeman and Cameron Bracey who provide the team with outstanding pitching and plenty of offense at the plate.

Both Beaverton and Millington have totaled over 20 wins this spring and have squads capable to winning district titles and contending for regional crowns.



Grand Ledge is one of the top teams in the Lansing area this season.



Beal City claimed the Division 4 state title last season.

DIVISION 4

Top teams in the state: Portland St. Patrick, Beal City, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, Plymouth Christian.

Top area teams: Portland St. Patrick, Beal City, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, Fulton-Middleton, Merrill.

Scouting report: When it comes to Division 4 baseball in the state of Michigan, the Mid-Michigan area has the market cornered. Beal City has won the past two Division 4 state championships and has appeared in the D4 state title game the past three years. This year, the Aggies are ranked third in the state rankings with Portland St. Patrick ranked number one and Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart ranked second. Fulton-Middleton is also ranked in the top ten at number seven.

Portland St. Patrick is on a mission to claim the title this season. The Shamrocks won 27 of their first 28 games this season with the lone loss coming against Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart. St. Patrick has a roster loaded with talent, especially on the mound. Senior pitcher/outfielder Brady Leonard has

fashioned a 9-0 record on the mound with a 0.18 ERA while at the plate he is hitting .429 with 29 RBI. Senior Brayden Simon, who will play college ball at Kellogg Community College, is 5-0 with a 0.23 ERA. Sophomore Jerryd Scheurer is 5-0 with a 0.29 ERA. The Shamrock pitchers also have the luxury of throwing to junior catcher Charlie Thelen who also has 29 RBI at the plate. Senior second baseman Nathan Fears is hitting .413 this season. Scheurer, who was all-state as a freshman, is the shortstop and it hitting .486. The sophomore class also includes first baseman Tyler Thelen and pitcher Sean Felon.

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart improved to 26-6 overall in late May and also gave head coach Earl Hartman his 900th career win earlier this season. The Irish are led by senior all-state shortstop Grady Pieratt. An Alma College baseball commit, Pieratt set the school record for career stolen bases when he stole his 146th career bag earlier this season. The Irish also feature some outstanding pitching led by senior Joe McDonald who will play college baseball at Hope College and junior

lefthander Brady Davis. Along with Pieratt, the offense is also led by seniors Joe Boge, Wyatt Browne and Ryan Wiggins and junior Noah Zeien.

The toughest D4 district in the state is hosted by Sacred Heart where the Irish and two-time defending state champion **Beal City** will battle it out. Despite graduating a wealth of talent from last year's team, Beal City has racked up 21 wins while playing a schedule peppered with quality D1 and D2 non-league opponents. As usual, Beal City boasts plenty of talented pitchers led by Cuyler Smith who has an 8-2 record and Blake Walcutt who has a 7-0 record. Eric Elias and Garrison Zuker also provide quality innings. The Aggies also have a deep and talented group of hitters. Eric Elias, Cole Tilmann, Ryan Bushong, Cooper Scarbrough and Owen McKenny are some of the hitters leading the away along with Smith, Walcutt and Zuker. With the combination of pitching and hitting and the challenging schedule they faced the Aggies have what it takes to win a third straight state title.

Fulton-Middleton won 26 of its first 32

games this season with four of the losses coming against Portland St. Patrick and Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart. The Pirates have a number of talented players led by Carson Litwiller who is hitting .410 with 3 home runs and 36 RBI. Parker Billings is hitting .500 with 13 doubles and 40 RBI. Parker Duflo is batting .464 with 33 RBI and 21 stolen bases while Bryson Sattler is hitting .360 with 24 RBI, 23 stolen bases and 11 doubles. On the mound, Litwiller and Sattler give the Pirates a solid one-two combination as Sattler is 7-1 with a 1.20 ERA and Litwiller is 7-1 with a 2.08 ERA.

Fowler is ranked 12th in the state. The Eagles are led by returning all-stater Sam Vanneste who is hitting .448 this season and is also providing the team with strong pitching.

Merrill has been playing solid baseball all spring. The Vandals are led by Braden Buckley who is a standout both on the mound and at the plate. Brendan Baker is another talented hitter and pitcher while Ethan Mattson and Collin Buckley have both added to the offensive punch this spring.



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St. Patrick Having Standout Baseball Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

This is Bryan Scheuer's 21st season as St Patrick's head varsity baseball coach. The program is 470-150 during that time, three state semifinal atTitle.

The team is 27-1 this year and 16-0 in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference (second consecutive league championship).

"We had big goals this year, compete for the league title, earn a diamond Classic Invite and compete for post season titles," Scheuer said. "We've set ourselves up to have the opportunity to do these thing. Our pitching has been terrific this season. We have four guys who have thrown in 7-plus outings with 22-plus innings who have ERA's of less than .300... They've struck out a total of 194 batters compared to only 35 walks given up in their combined 121 innings pitched.

"Brady Leonard (Jr) is 10-0 (45IP, 73k/19bb, .156 ERA), Brayden Simon (Sr - Kellogg CC Commit) is 5-0 (30IP, 57k/5bb, .233 ERA), Jerryd Scheurer (So) is 5-0 (24IP, 33k/4bb, .296 ERA, 1 SV) & Sean Fedewa (So) is 3-0 (22IP, 31k/7bb, .000 ERA, 1 SV)/A staple of our season is that we have given up 2 or less runs in 26 of our 28 games this season while playing one of our toughest schedules ever (13 games vs ranked opponents plus sweeps over strong D3 (PW) & D2 (Ionia) opponents)...

"Offensively, (Returning 1st Team All State, Sophomore SS/P Jerryd Scheurer leads the team in BA (.506), Hits (42), Runs (40), SB (38) & is 2nd in RBI (29) from the lead off spot...Brady Leonard is second on the team in hitting (.382) & SB (32).

Nathan Fears (Sr - Utility) is 3rd in BA at (.364)

Charlie Thelen (JR) (Returning 2nd Team All State Catcher) is

hitting .363, with 2 HR, 11 XB hits, 32 RBI, 33 Runs with 17 would be base stealers (17/35 ~ 49 percent) thrown out...

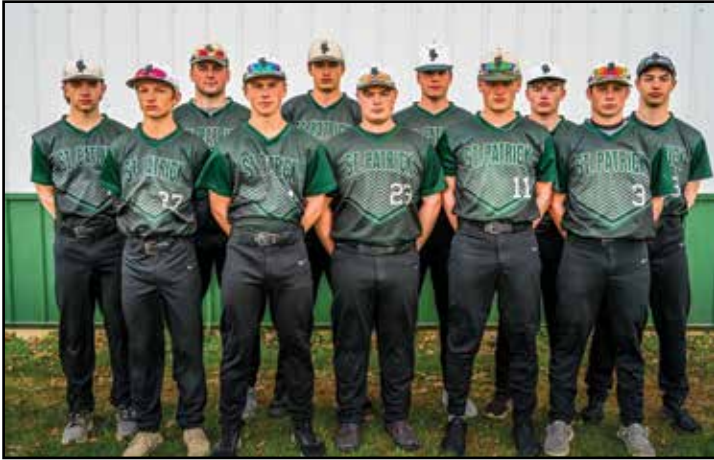
Logan Howe (So - 3b) is hitting ~.350 & leads the team in doubles (11)...

Other players are (Sr - 2b/P) - Brayden Simon, So - 1b Tyler Thelen, Sr - LF Simon White, Jr - RF TJ Chamberlain, So - OF/DH Ben White, in the lineup are siting in the range of (.270 to .340) in batting average...

Sr - OF - Grant Pline & Jr - OF & DR/PR specialist Hudson King (18/19 on SB's) round out our regular roster...

"I truly feel that Jerryd, Brady, Charlie & Brayden have legitimate chances of being named All-State this year," Bryan Scheuer said

- Departing Seniors: Brayden Simon (Pitching and Leadership), Nathan Fears (Defensive versatility and overall athleticism), Simon



The 2025 Portland St. Patrick baseball team: Top left to right... Simon White, Brayden Simon, Tyler Thelen, Charlie Thelen, TJ Chamberlain, Ben White... Bottom left to right... Nathan Fears, Hudson King, Grant Pline, Brady Leonard, Jerryd Scheurer

White (Energy, positivity, practice and game focus) and Grant Pline.

"Next year we return eight contributors and add four more who have shared time with the varsity this season... The immediate future remains bright," Scheuer said. "This year's team knew we had a traditionally strong program but they wanted to stand out as being "different." They've bought into "Bring the Juice" each

and every day and have craved/embraced being coached hard. Everything they've strived for is in front of them and I would love nothing more than to watch them earn the joy of reaching all of their goals. If it doesn't turn out that way, it won't be because they didn't prepare the right way and they can forever hold their head high, regardless of the end of season result, by the way they attacked the process all year."

Ithaca Finishes Season Strong

John Raffel Sports Scene

After a slow start to the season (0-10-2), the Ithaca baseball Yellowjackets won 13 of their last 20 and ended the season at 13-17 and 3-4 in league play.

The Yellowjackets earned their best win of the year on May 2nd when they beat

Saginaw Valley Lutheran 3-2 in 12 innings. In that game, Collin Thrush pitched 8 innings of 2 hit ball with 12 strikeouts and Ryley White pitched 4 innings of no hit ball with 7 strikeouts.

Collin Thrush leads the team with a .381 batting average. Ryley White leads the team with 27 stolen bases. Carsen Shankel leads the team with 15 RBIs. Thrush leads the

team in ERA at 2.12, White leads the team in wins with three and saves with one.

The Yellowjackets are young with five freshmen and six sophomores on their 15-man squad. The Jackets were prepping for district action when they took on a very tough Hemlock team and won 1-0 in 11 innings and then lost 7-3 to Valley Lutheran in the finals.



Hemlock Turns In Strong Season As One Of Top Teams In Area In Division 3

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Hemlock Huskies were one of the premier Division 1 teams in the area this season. Winners of the Tri Valley Conference Blue Division, the Huskies won 22 games during the regular season before falling to Ithaca 1-0 in 11 innings in the Division 3 district semifinal game at Saginaw Valley Lutheran.

Pitching was a strong point for the Huskies this season. Hemlock featured one of the premier pitchers in all of Mid-Michigan

in senior Chad Brown. A Central Michigan University recruit, Brown put together a 7-1 record and 0.24 ERA as of the middle of May. Brown also recorded 89 strikeouts in 37.2 innings pitched in the early portion of the schedule.

Sophomore Gavin Schmidt was also a standout starter for the Huskies. Schmidt posted a 6-0 record and had an ERA of 1.51 as of mid May. During is first 35.2 innings pitched Schmidt totaled 44 strikeouts.

At the plate, the Huskies were

led by Brown who had a .515 average through mid May and drove in 26 runs. Schmidt also hit .471 through mid May with one home run and 32 RBI.

Seniors Dawson Doan and Mitchel Radosa, a pair of Delta College recruits, also came up big at the plate. Doan opened the season with a .439 batting average with a home run and 32 runs scored while Radosa had a .461 batting average with three homes runs and 40 runs scored.

"Our team played very well this season," said Hemlock coach



Hemlock was one of the top teams in the area in Division 3 this spring turning in a 22-7 record.

Toby Larkin, who completed his seventh season as head coach of the Huskies. "The players had great chemistry and they pushed each other to be better every day"

Winning a league title was one of the highlights of the regular season for the Huskies. The

Huskies were also undefeated in conference play during the season.

"Winning conference was one of the main goals that we had established at the start of the season," Larkin said. "The program and players were hungry and motivated this year."

Shepherd Ends At 24-11

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a terrific season for coach Mitchell Weiss and his Shepherd based all team which finished 24-11 after losing in districts.

"We are right where we expected to be, winning more games than we did last year being a season older and having the experience we need to win close ball games that we were losing last year," Weiss said. "We started out really strong at 11-2-1. Hit sort of a midseason wall going 1-3 in the last four contests. We have 8 games this week and are looking to get back to a winning stretch."

"Pitching has been phenomenal. We had a 1.71 ERA before running into No 4 in D2 Standish Sterling. Now we are at a team ERA of 2.43.

Offensively we are doing what we need to do in most games. Get guys on base, take the extra 90 feet by any means necessary. We are also driving the ball into the gaps a little bit more in the past.

"Challenges so far have been a few injuries that we have been working through throughout the season. We have pitched 12 different players throughout the season because of the arm/back injuries that we have been facing."

Top players and comments their coach are as follows:

SO Kaden Yuncker- Our pitching has been coming from this guy right here. He has tossed 30 innings so far going 5-0 (Wins against #7 Spring Lake and

#2 Beal City). His ERA is 1.14, only

walking four and striking out 24 in those 30 innings. 70% Strike thrower that has a strong three pitch mix.

Brady Robinson- .326 AVG, .408 OBP, 14 Hits, 14 runs, 5 SO, 13 stolen bases.

Tristin Fisher-.333 AVG, .441 OBP, 14 hits, 4 2B, 9 RBIS, 13 runs, 11 stolen bases.

Easton VanAlstine- .345 AVG, 20 hits, 13 RBIS, 10 Runs, 9 stolen bases.

Sam King-Hitting- .300 AVG, .453 OBP, 15 hits, 4 2B, 1 HR, 12 RBI, 12 R.

Sam hits in the middle of our lineup and finds ways to be successful for himself and the team. He puts himself in good hitters counts even when he is seeing someone's best stuff.

Pitching- 26 IP 2-2 W-L, 29K, 11 ER/15



R, 2.96 ERA (.969 other than Standish). "Sam has been a dominant lefty for us who finds a way to miss bats when he is on the mound. Good command of both fastball and curveballs. He is willing and has success at pitching backwards when he needs to."

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The high school softball state tournament goes into full swing during June with regional and state final action. Following is a look at some of the top teams this spring in softball by division.

DIVISION 1

Top teams in the state: Farmington Hills Mercy, Saline, Hudsonville, Byron Center.

Top area teams: Lowell, Midland, Midland Dow, Mt. Pleasant, Holt, Grand Ledge.

Scouting report: The Saginaw Valley League is again loaded with some outstanding softball teams. Midland, Midland Dow and Mt. Pleasant have all been ranked in the honorable-mention in the state this season.

Midland Dow entered the final week of May with a 27-7 record. The Chargers have a potent offense that has scored in double figures in runs in 19 of 34 games this season. Dow has a deep and talented group of hitters led by Ella Stoney, third baseman Marley Hughes, catcher Selah Tonk, Cerae DeJongh,

Addie Hale, Karis Galus and shortstop Braelyn Shook. Raelly Qualls, Rachel Christensen and Kayla Johnson have also contributed to the Dow offense. In the circle, Dow has received strong pitching from DeJongh and Stoney.

Mt. Pleasant brought a 24-9 record into the final week of May. A young and improving team, the Oilers can also put plenty of runs on the scoreboard as they have reached doubles digits in runs in 19 games this season. The Oilers have a strong senior core led by shortstop Ava Petrino who will play in college at Centre College in Kentucky. Fellow seniors Taylor Recker, Chloe Parker and Haley McIntyre are also turning in solid seasons as is Finley Helm. Mt. Pleasant also has an outstanding group of younger players led by junior catcher Chloe Gillespie along with freshmen Morgan and Lexi Borodychuk, junior Kharman Loya and sophomore McKenna Bollman. Mt. Pleasant is also receiving strong pitching from Bollman and Parker.

Midland has 17 wins to its credit heading

into the final days of May. The Chemics are led in the pitching department by junior pitcher Sydney Rhoton along with Taylor Sequin. Midland also features a potent offense with a solid group of hitters leading the way. Addie Edwards, Reese Dominowski and Emily Wendt lead the way with Kailey Cassiday, Caroline Williams, Maggie Frazee, Alayna Prany, Lily Meyers, Rhoton and Sequin also contributing to the offense.

Lowell won 18 of its first 20 games this season. One of those losses came against defending Division 1 state champion Hudsonville. The Red Arrows have a high-powered offense that is clubbing home runs at a high pace this season. Senior Katie Hofman, a Hope College commit, set the school record for home runs this season. Senior Claire Mitchell set that home run record last season. The Red Arrow offense is also receiving plenty of support from Jordyn McClymont, Megan Lillie, juniors Amaya Jackson and Hannah Faylor and sophomore Allison Raisson. Lillie, a Grand Rapids Community College commit, is the ace of the Red Arrow pitching staff.

In the Lansing area, both Grand Ledge and Holt are turning in strong seasons.

Grand Ledge has totaled 24 wins this season. The Comets have reached doubles figures in runs 16 times this season. Adyson Fulton leads the offense as she is hitting .549 with four home runs and 24 Rbi. Jade Queen is also having a big season with a .487 average and 30 RBI while Kailey Nelson has seven home runs and 24 RBI. Kaysen Strohaber has added 30 RBI with Gianna Naccarato chipping in 23 RBI. Tomia Geter has four home runs and 25 RBI and is 11-1 as a pitcher with a 1.82 ERA. Shayla Kiser is also having a solid pitching season with a 10-3 record and a 3.16 ERA.

Holt opened the season winning 17 of its first 22 games. The Rams have received strong pitching from Kara Sandberg who is 11-4 with a 2.53 ERA and 149 strikeouts to her credit. At the plate, Marlie Rehm has driven in 29 runs while Eeva Luoma has 23 RBI. Olivia Root, Grace Atkinson and Paeton Vandlen have also been key contributors to the Ram offense this season.

DIVISION 2

Top teams in the state: Escanaba, Hudsonville Unity Christian, Gaylord, Dearborn Divine Child.

Top area teams: Frankenmuth, Eaton Rapids, Essexville-Garber, Shepherd, Swan Valley.

Scouting report: Outstanding softball teams in Division 2 can be found in all corners of the state. In Mid-Michigan, Frankenmuth is leading the way as the Eagles are ranked sixth in the state in Division 2. The Eagles are paced by Central Michigan University recruit Chloe Compau. A .500 hitter at the plate, Compau is also an ace pitcher who can lock down opposing offenses. Isabella Bernthal is also a standout pitcher and a big hitter in the lineup. Frankenmuth is also

Beal City is one of the top teams in Division 4.

getting big efforts from Sienna Bosco, Emma Sprowl, Bri Barker, Miranda Polley and Becca Adkins.

Shepherd has reached the 20-win mark this spring and is looking for a long tournament run. Sophomore shortstop Elise McDonald has been a standout at the plate hitting .537 this spring. Leela Engelhardt, Katie Robinson, Jordan Schafer, Morgan Bloniarczyk and Avery Veale have also contributed to the offense as has freshman standout Lillian Loonsfoot. The Bluejays are receiving solid pitching from freshman MeKahna Seeley and sophomores Lylah Curtiss and Veale.

Eaton Rapids won 19 of its first 27 games this season. The Greyhounds are led by Kalli Ordiway who is a leader at the plate and in the pitching circle. Ordiway is hitting .507 with three home runs and 35 RBI while she is 9-3 as a pitcher with a 2.71 ERA and 106 strikeouts. Ari Brooks is another standout pitcher with a 10-3 mark and a 2.67 ERA. The Eaton Rapids offense is also receiving big efforts from Mallory Smith who is hitting .494 with 31 RBI and 43 stolen bases, Abi Pratt who has 24 RBI and 18 stolen bases and Riley Cutler who has 24 RBI.

Swan Valley brings an 18-8 record into the last week of May. Mia Robinson heads up a strong pitching staff that includes Grace Kerby. The Vikings have a potent group of hitters that is led by Layla Shanks, Izzy Coffel, Alivia Guilbeaux, Violet Boehler and Hailey Koch.

Essexville-Garber is ranked among the honorable-mention in Division 2. Garber won the Bay County Softball Championship for the fifth straight season this spring. Seniors Grace Zwetzig, a Delta College commit, and J.J. Shooltz lead the way along with standout junior pitcher Kara Kotenko. The Dukes also feature a potent offense that is led by Ava Wagner, Ella Kokaly, Sadie Lapan, Claire Adamowski, Alyssa Bowker,

The Clare softball team has been ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 3 this season.

Meredith Krauseneck and Kotenko.

DIVISION 3

Top teams in the state: Clare, Evart, Gladstone, Ravenna.

Top area teams: Clare, Evart, Laingsburg, Millington, Ithaca, Lansing Catholic, New Lothrop, Perry, St. Louis.

Scouting report: After reaching the state semifinals last season, the **Clare** Pioneers are looking to take the next step this year and bring home the trophy in Division 3. Ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 3, the Pioneers have a solid blend of offense, defense and pitching. Clare brings a 32-1 record into the final week of May. The Pioneers dominated the conference going 22-0 with 19 merch-rule wins and outscoring league opponents by a combined 283-14. Clare has a solid one-two pitching combination with Madison Jones and Kiley Wyman. The offense is

paced by leadoff hitter Alissa Brandon who will be playing in college at Mid Michigan Community College. The Clare offense is loaded with talented hitters from top to bottom including Tessa Kelly, Addison McMillan, Morgan Campbell, Madison Jones, Savannah Buzzelli, Breez Yarger and Kiley Wyman.

Evart is the defending Division 3 state champions and also reached the state title game in 2022. Ranked third in the state this spring, Evart features one of the premier pitchers in the state in junior Kyras Gray who is also a standout at the plate. Gray fired a no-hitter this spring in a game which she also recorded a career-high 19 strikeouts. The Wildcats are deep in pithing with Klynn Thompson and Madisyn Cass also able to step up. Gray leads the way for an offense that includes Calli Duncan, Emily Miller, Kayla Winters, Dakota Lucha, Lexi


Morgan, Jordyn Beemer, Ally Duncan and Callie Smith.

Laingsburg is ranked fifth in the state and is paced by standout pitcher Addy Buchin who will be heading to Aquinas College. Buchin, who set the career strikeout record at Laingsburg this season, is also a standout at the plate with four home runs and 38 RBI. Peyton Stahr is another hitting standout who has a .481 average along with three home runs. Bella Latuszek has totaled 25 RBI while Harper Strouse has four home runs. Savvy Stirm and Juliette Latuszek have also been key contributors on offense.

It's been a big season for the **Ithaca** softball team. The Yellowjackets, who tied for the league title last season, won their first outright conference title since 1999 enroute to winning the TVC title with a perfect 16-0 record and running their overall record to



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The Shepherd softball team has turned in a big season this spring.

28-6. The state-ranked Yellowjackets are led by Ivy Davenport and Maeli Akin who are getting things done at the plate and in the pitching circle. Akin is hitting .447 with 34 RBI and four home runs while having an ERA of 2.39. Davenport is hitting .443 with 22 RBI and nine doubles. Davenport is 13-3 as a pitcher with a 2.44 ERA. Davenport also threw a one-hitter with 11 strikeouts as part of a doubleheader sweep of Evart. The Ithaca offense is also receiving big seasons from Emmalee Shankel who is hitting .412 with 15 RBI, Kennedi Ryan who is hitting .359 with 14 stolen bases and Emma Janes who is hitting .333.

St. Louis won its third consecutive league title as it won the Jack Pine Conference title in its first year in the league. The Sharks have a standout pitcher in sophomore Paige Luneack leading the way. At the plate, Tekoha Henry leads a high-scoring offense that includes Morgan Leonard, Ellie Katt, Brynn Saxton, Halle Hoyt and Kenadie Henry.

Perry is ranked among the honorable-mention in the state and is led by one of

the premier pitchers in Mid-Michigan. Sara Austin has a perfect 20-0 record with a 0.80 ERA and 277 strikeouts this season. Austin is also a dangerous hitter with four home runs and 29 RBI this season. Teagan Hallock is another big bat for the Ramblers with four home runs and 20 stolen bases while Alivia Davis has 34 RBI. Bella Hamel and Madison Ralston are also key contributors on offense.

Lansing Catholic is also an honorable-mention team in D3. The Cougars are paced by Avery Dunneback who is hitting .582 with 24 RBI. Sydney Convey has added 24 RBI. Zoey Gruber is having a big season with 25 RBI and as a pitcher she is 11-4 with a 3.32 ERA and 108 strikeouts.

DIVISION 4

Top teams in the state: Unionville-Sebewaing, Beal City, Mendon, Bellaire.

Top area teams: Beal City, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, Fowler, Dansville.

Scouting report: Like it is in baseball, powerhouses Beal City and Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart are in the same district. The

winner of the Blanchard-Montabella district is in strong position to make a run at the state title.

Beal City is ranked second in the state and has a 30-8 record. The Aggies have a pair of standout pitchers in Macy Johnston who has a 3.16 ERA and Lauren Gross who has a 2.77 ERA. Beal City has a power-packed batting lineup led by Emily Taylor is having a big season with a .508 batting average along with 11 home runs, 39 RBI and 38 runs scored with Dakota Dodak hitting at a .476 clip with 21 RBI and 15 stolen bases. Gross who is hitting .482 with three home runs and 19 RBI. Johnston is hitting .406 with eight doubles and 21 RBI. Aryanna Brown is hitting .456 with four home runs and 27 RBI while Madason Fisher is hitting .407 with three home runs and 26 RBI, Emma Block is hitting .396 with six home runs and 18 RBI and Macy McKenney is hitting .347.

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart is ranked sixth in the state in Division 4 and has a 26-7 record. The Irish are led by senior shortstop Ellery Garver who is a Wayne State University recruit and senior first baseman Kallie Smith

who is an Alma College recruit. Juniors Savannah Jones and Mairia Wheaton lead the pitching staff and are also solid hitters at the plate. Sacred Heart is a deep and talented squad that is also receiving big contributions from Brooke Neff, Jenna Morrison, Isabel Rookard, Logan Novak, Maddie Anderson, Elise Latham and Brooklyn Taylor.

Fowler is ranked 10th in the state in Division 4. The Eagles are led by pitcher Selena Stump who is 12-1 with a 2.16 ERA. Stump has also driven in 23 runs at the plate. Saige Miller is one of the top hitters in the area. Along with hitting .588, Miller has 33 RBI, 21 stolen bases and seven home runs. Paisley Hansen has 28 RBI while Addison Spicer has 27 RBI. Molly Schlak and Natalie Smith are also key contributors.

Dansville won 21 of its first 30 games this season. Laci Neal is among the team leaders for the Aggies with a .570 batting average with six home runs and 25 RBI. Ryker Graf has six home runs and 35 RBI and a 2.49 ERA as a pitcher. Maddi Carter has collected 32 RBI and has a 1.56 ERA as a pitcher.

Greenville Softball Team Posts Winning Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Greenville coach Laura Vellanti had a solid second season with a 15-9 record.

“We have been doing very well defensively this season, which has been our long term goal. Our pitching overall has been doing very well this season. We have some very strong hitters this year as well,” Vellanti said. “We have had some young players really add to the team this year. I am very happy with the team chemistry as well.

“We have had a couple of challenges this season with not being able to bounce back when we get down in the game, but the next day they persevere and bounce back quickly.”

Top players with comments from the coach have included:

Sophomore, Alexa Hyler tied the MHSAA record in our game against

Central Montcalm for most triples in a game. Which is 4. Alexa was named athlete of the week for the Daily News.

Her batting average as of 24 games played is .544 She has a total of two home runs this season, nine triples, and 33 RBIs. She plays center field for the Yellow Jackets.

Emily Rice, a senior pitcher, who also plays 2nd base, and 3rd base is a very valuable leader of this team. This past weekend 5/10 at the Ionia Invitational, she pitched 15 innings in a row leading the yellow jackets to a championship. In the second game against St. Johns she had 14 strikeouts, 3 walks, 1 run, and 0 Earned. In 22 games played Emily has a batting average of .419 including 8 doubles and 1 home run.

Junior catcher, Aubrie Uebele. Aubrie has caught 23 of the 24 games thus far this season. She is a leader and a great athlete for the yellow jackets. Her batting average is



.512, with 27 RBI's and has 35 runs for the yellow jackets.

The 2025 Greenville softball team.

Sophomore Drew Galey, Short Stop. Drew is batting average with .444 with 36 hits, 27 RBI's and 13 stolen bases. She is a strong force for us at short stop and continues to grow more and more.

Clare Softball Eyes State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

A year ago, Clare's softball team lost in the state semifinals for Division 3 from that moment on the Pioneers vowed to return and win state crown.

Clare's softball team was ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 3 and is coming off a 33-2 regular

season. The Pioneers beat defending state champ Evart 5-0 in the district semifinals May 31.

The team in late May had a weekly batting average of .456, scored 105 runs and gave up 11 runs.

Clare beat Pinconning 12-2 and 9-2 then beat Harrison 16-1 and 18-0 then beat Meridian 15-0

and 11-0.

Clare played in the Reed City tournament and defeated Greenville 17-3 and beat Holton in the finals 7-3.

For the week, Breeze Yarger lead the way batting .692 and Tessa Kelly batted .542 with three home runs and 15 RBIs. Allisa Brandon batted .522 with 12 RBIs.

Maddison Jones batted .444 with three home runs and 11 RBIs.

Addison McMillian over this stretch batted .556 and Morgan Campbell hit .542 as well.

“The girls are playing really well and having a lot of fun doing it,” coach Shane Kelly said. “They have been practicing hard and want to get better every day.”

Clare's Shane Kelly is coach of the No. 1 ranked softball team in Division 3.



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Area Tennis Teams Turn In Strong Efforts At Regional Tournaments

David Cook Sports Scene

Following is a look at area tennis teams during post-season action at the regional level.

DIVISION 1

Rockford Takes Second At Regional

The Rockford tennis team placed second behind West Ottawa at the West Ottawa regional with a total of 27 points. Rockford was led at the regional by a trio of doubles teams that won regional titles. The No. 1 doubles team of senior Alayna Gee and senior Avery Marchlewski improved to 23-0 for the season by winning the regional title. The No. 4 doubles team of junior Carlie Wegener and sophomore Sadie Debski improved to 21-2 as they won a title.

In singles action, freshman Grace Ferry won an individual regional at No. 3 singles. Senior Maya Clark (No. 1 singles), junior Sophie Burns (No. 2 singles) and freshman Ella Fix (No. 3 singles) all placed second.

Okemos Finishes Second At Holt Regional

Okemos totaled 19 points to take second at the Holt regional. The Wolves were led at

the regional by the No. 1 doubles team of junior Joanna Deng and senior Christina Joseph who won the regional. Placing runner-up in doubles were the No. 3 doubles team of sophomores Chandu Ballem and Anaya Patel and the No. 4 doubles team of sophomore Sujana Chitibomma and freshman Abnie Etikyala. Senior Komal Patel (No. 3 singles) and sophomore Haneesha Padavala (No. 4 singles) both place second.

DIVISION 2

Midland Dow Turns In Big Regional Effort

Midland Dow totaled 31 points on its way to winning the regional tournament it hosted. Dow players swept all four of the singles flites and claimed three of the four doubles titles.

In singles action, senior Dalton DeBoer won the title at No. 1 singles. sophomore Nishi Narayan claimed the title at No. 2 singles while junior Ruby Macheso took the title at No. 3 singles and senior Anya Narayan won the title at No. 4 singles.

In doubles action, the team of junior Ayesha Middha and senior Noran Lacher claimed the title. Senior Tessa Wood and junior Sachi Togashi claimed the title at No. 2 doubles while senior Lauren Yao

and freshman Evie Samocki won the No. 4 doubles title. Taking second No. 3 doubles was the team of freshman Adelyn Wolford and Juana Gutierrez.

East Lansing Wins Regional Title At Mason

The East Lansing tennis team took the title at the Mason regional with a total of 22 points. The Trojans were led at the regional by a pair of doubles teams that claimed titles. Winning the No. 1 doubles title was the team of sophomore Evie Laxton and freshman Ani Meghea while taking the No. 4 doubles title was the team of junior Stella Alfredson and freshman Zoe VanDorn. Placing second in doubles play were the teams of senior Elsa Elhenicky and sophomore Eleanna Kimbouris at No. 2 doubles and the No. 3 doubles team of senior Elizabeth Gisholt.

In singles play, senior Sabrina Gresens placed second at No. 3 singles. Reaching the semifinal round were junior Maia Meghea at No. 1 singles and junior Sima Bezuglova at No. 4 singles.

Mason Takes Second At Regional It Hosted

Playing on its home courts, the Mason tennis team placed second and advanced to

the state tournament as it totaled 21 team points. Mason was paced at the regional by a pair of doubles teams that won titles. The No. 2 doubles team of sophomores Carcyn Winkel and Juliette Smoker claimed a title as did the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Isabel Hauser and Leah Kruger. Placing second in doubles action for the Bulldogs were the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Keira Redman and Jennah Lattig and the No. 4 doubles team of senior Ava Greenlee and freshman Elliana Skaggs.

DIVISION 3

Haslett Wins Regional Title On Home Courts

The Haslett tennis team captured the championship at the regional tournament it hosted on its own courts. The Vikings totaled 26 points to win the title while St. Johns placed second with 21 points.

Haslett was led by its singles lineup which won all four flites. Sophomore Gabrielle Asher claimed the title at No. 1 singles while junior Lexi Pridgeon won the title at No. 2 singles, sophomore Kaia Anastor claimed the crown at No. 3 singles and junior Lauren Richey won at No. 4 singles.

In doubles play, Haslett's No. 4 doubles team of freshmen Loela Spadafore and Allison Krueger claimed a title. Placing second for the Vikings were the No. 1 doubles team of senior Ella Boccarossa and sophomore Adele Leister and the No. 2 doubles team of sophomore Layla Kerschen and junior Reese Van De Riet.

St. Johns Takes Second Place At Regional

The St. Johns tennis team earned a trip to the Division 3 state finals by placing second at the Haslett regional with 21 points.

The Redwings were led at the regional by a pair of doubles teams that won titles. Seniors Brenda McCann and Ramiah

The Mason tennis team qualified for the state finals in Division 2.

Caroland teams up to win the title at No. 1 doubles while junior Callie Morrison and senior Caroline Parsons won the title at No. 2 doubles. Taking runner-up honors in doubles was the No. 4 team of seniors Emma Burnham and Bree Fleisher.

In singles play St. Johns was led by senior Paityn Chant who placed second at No. 1 singles. Also in singles play junior Emersyn Sturgis reached the semifinals at No. 2 singles, senior Kate Boettger reached the semis at No. 3 singles and senior Courtney Ouderkirk reached the semifinals at No. 4 singles.

DIVISION 4

Hemlock Wins Regional Championship

Ranked 10th in the state in Division 4, the Hemlock tennis team totaled 24 points to win the regional championship at Saginaw Nouvel to move on to the state finals.

Hemlock was led at the regional by its singles players who won three of the four flites. Junior Victoria Hauffe won the title at No. 2 singles while senior Anna Nurnberg took the title at No. 3 singles and sophomore Lindsey Tausch won the crown at No. 4 singles. Senior Carly Siler placed second at No. 1 singles.

Hemlock also claimed a pair of titles in the doubles competition. Winning doubles titles were the No. 1 team of senior Claire Beck and junior Allie Watson and the No. 3 doubles team of senior Alatheia McMillan and sophomore Olivia Ann Chasnis. The No. 4 doubles team of senior Kennedy Krabill and sophomore Lani Wardin reached the semifinals.

Lansing Catholic Claims Regional On Home Courts

The Lansing Catholic tennis team defended its home courts enroute to winning a regional title with a total of 19 points.

The Cougars had a pair of singles players



Hemlock won a regional championship in Division 4 this season.

win regional titles. Freshman Addison Murphy won the title at No. 3 singles while freshman Tessa Topham won the title at No. 4 singles. senior Abby Frank took second at No. 1 singles while freshman Ava Jacobs reached the semifinals at No. 2 singles.

The Cougars also crowned a pair of champions in doubles play. Junior Layla Corbit and sophomore Zellie Raiche won the title at No. 3 doubles while junior Jayda Stowell and sophomore Vivian Shulick won the crown at No. 4 doubles. Finishing second in doubles action were the No. 1 team of

senior Grace Currie and Lily Rule and the No. 2 doubles team of sophomore Haven Topham and senior Lauren Escojido.

Saginaw Nouvel Takes Second At Regional

The Saginaw Nouvel tennis team earned a trip to the Division 4 state finals by placing second at the regional it hosted with a total of 21 points.

The Panthers were led at the regional by senior Caroline Shaheen who won the

championship at No. 1 singles. Junior Jveen Murad was runner-up at No. 3 singles while senior Elizabeth Garner was second at No. 4 singles. Junior Mary Beyers reached the semifinals at No. 2 singles.

In doubles play the No. 3 doubles team of junior Macey Hausbeck and sophomore Gabi Thiel and the No. 4 doubles team of junior Natalie Shaheen and sophomore Charlie Hausbeck both placed second while the No. 2 doubles team of freshman Maia Dill and sophomore Cece Barrera reached the semifinals.



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Area Boys Track Teams Compete For Regional Championships

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Following is a look at some of the top performances by area teams at the boys track regional meets.

DIVISION 1

Grand Ledge Wins Regional Championship

The Grand Ledge boys track team totaled 115 team points to win the title at the Mason regional.

The Comets were led at the regional by Zechariah Jones. Jones won the 110 hurdles in a time of 14.95. Jones also won the high jump competition with a jump of 6-4 and placed second in the 300 hurdles. Sophomore Levi Yeah placed third in the 200-meter dash.

In the relay events, the 4x100 sprint relay team of Jones, Anthony Baker, Keegan Williams and Griffin Hamilton placed third.

Grand Ledge also scored plenty of points in the field events. Along with Jones winning the high jump, senior Ty Ellis won the shot put with a put of 53-0. Senior Max Bernard placed third in the shot put while junior Jackson Shaltry placed fourth. Ellis also took second in the discus.

Midland Boys Win Title At Traverse City

The Midland boys made the trek north to Traverse City and came back with the regional title as they totaled 123 points.

Senior Maxwell Stoeker was a double winner for the Chemics as he won the shot put with a put of 60-8 and took the discus with a throw of 175-7. Junior Gabe Newkirk placed second in the discus.

Midland also had a trio of athletes win individual races. Sophomore LJ Gallihugh won the 200-meter dash in 22.33 and also placed second in the 100 meters. Sophomore Cameron Cochran won the 1,600-meter run in a time of 4:29.67 and took second in the 800 meters. Junior Matthew Berg captured the title in the 110 hurdles with a time of 15.32. Junior Andrew Worsley also placed third in the 3,200-meter run.

The Chemics also claimed a relay title as the 4x800 team of senior Spencer Porritt, junior Logan Bellinger, Worsley and Cochran came in first.

Alma Boys Place Second At Cadillac

The Alma boys track team placed second at the Division 2 regional at Cadillac with 81 points.

Junior Thomas Larson led the way for the Panthers as he claimed a pair of regional titles. Larson won the 1,600-meter run in a time of 4:23.25 and captured the 3,200 meters in a time of 9:43.66. Larson also placed third in the 800 meters.

Sophomore Ezekiel Baltierra placed third in the 1,600 meters and took fourth in the 800 meters. Senior Christopher Churchill placed third in the 110 hurdles.

The Panthers also claimed a regional title in a relay event as the 4x800 team of senior Brodie Heiss, junior Luca Lebron, Ezekiel Baltierra and Elijah Baltierra came away with the win. The 4x400 relay team of Lason, Ezekiel Baltierra, Heiss and senior Alexander Reyes placed third.

Valley Lutheran Win Regional Title In D3

The Saginaw Valley Lutheran boys claimed the regional title at Vassar as they totaled 102 team points.

The relay events were key to the win as a pair of relay teams won titles. The team of junior Andrew Kunisch, sophomore Hayden Stout, sophomore Robby Samborn and junior Jack Strieter won the 4x200 title while the team of Samborn, junior Trent Schiavone, senior Wheatley Rodammer and Strieter captured the title in the 4x400.

Valley Lutheran also scored major points in the 400-meter dash. Jack Strieter won the race in a time of 51.21 while Wheatley Rodammer took second and Robby Samborn placed third. Strieter also placed second in the 200 meters. Junior Jayden Fox placed second in the 3,200-meter run while Trent Schiavone took second in the 800 meters.

In the field events freshman Nathanie Eden took second in the high jump.

Chesaning Wins D3 Regional At Bath

The Chesaning boys totaled 134 points to bring home the title from the Division 3

regional at Bath.

Chesaning was paced at the regional by senior hurdler Caleb Walker. Walker won the 110 hurdles in 14.57 and captured the 300 hurdles in 39.70. Senior Eric Barancik also claimed a title as he won the high jump with a jump of 6-4.

Senior sprinter Zach Harlan placed second in both the 100 and 200 meters while junior Blake Hoerner took second in the 400 meters.

In the relays, the 4x800 team of sophomore Law Danek, Blake Hoerner, sophomore Jaxon Hemgesberg and junior Cole Maier placed second.

In the field events, the shot put trio of senior Seth Schlicht, senior Braydon Florian and junior Braden Burtch placed third, fourth and fifth respectively. Schlicht also placed third in the discus. In the long jump junior Landon Qualls placed second and senior Truman Danek took third.

Fowler Runs Away With Regional Title

The Fowler boys track team ran away with the title at the Division 4 regional it hosted by posting 179.5 points.

The Eagles were in gear on the track as they won all four relays. The team of junior Colt Nobach, junior Levi Travis, freshman Dalton Thelen and sophomore Carson Hyland won the 4x100 relay while senior Ford Phillips, senior Ben Kohagen, Brady Feldpausch and senior Nate Spicer won the 4x200. The team of Feldpausch, Nobach, Phillips and Spicer won the 4x400 while junior Quentin Smith, junior Carter Fedewa, Phillips and senior Nolan Simon won the 4x800.

Individually, Nate Spicer won both the 200 meters (23.45) and the 400 meters (52.01). Brady Feldpausch won both the 110 hurdles (15.44) and the 300 hurdles (40.75). Ford Phillips also placed second in the 400 meters.

In field events, Ben Kohagen won the long jump with a leap of 20-6.75 while junior Levi Travis won the high jump with a jump of 5-11. Carter Fedewa also placed second in the pole vault.

The Chesaning boys track team won both a conference and a regional title this year.



Area Girls Track Teams Compete For Regional Championships

David Cook Sports Scene

Following is a look at some of the top performances by area teams at the girls track regional meets.

DIVISION 1

Okemos Girls Wins Regional Championship

The Okemos girls track team totaled 104.5 team points to win the title at the Mason regional.

The Wolves were led at the regional by sophomore Natalia Hawks who had some big efforts in both the track and field events. In field events, Hawks won a regional title as she captured the long jump competition with a leap of 17-1. On the track, Hawks won the 100-meter dash in a time of 12.54 and placed third in the 200-meter dash.

Freshman Rachel Smith also turned in some standout efforts on the track. Smith won regional titles in both the 1,600-meter run (5:03.81) and the 3,200-meter run (11:04.99).

Okemos hurdlers also claimed regional championships. Junior Rowan Smith won the 100 hurdles in a time of 15.63 while freshman Olivia Brown won the 300 hurdles in a time of 47.12.

Senior Violet Greborunis placed third in the long jump.

Chippewa Hills Girls Take Second At Own Regional

The Chippewa Hills girls totaled 97.5 points to placed second as a team at the Division 3 regional they hosted. Traverse City St. Francis won the reginal title with 109.25 points.

The Warriors received a pair of big efforts in the pole vault competition where junior Clara Vollmar won the title by clearing 10-6 while senior Natalie Gibson placed third.

Chippewa Hills also excelled in the relays with a trio of teams taking second place led by the 4x200 relay team of senior Hannah Abbott, sophomore Mya Ayling, sophomore Kamryn McArther and freshman Peyton Nellis. Also placing second were the 4x400

team of freshman Austin DuBois, Gibson, junior Quinn Hatfield and Nellis and the 4x800 team of sophomore Macy Cornell, Hatfield, Nellis and freshman Dory Simon.

Individually, senior Hannah Abbott placed second in both the 100 and 300 hurdles. Freshman Dory Simon also placed third in the 3,200-meter run and fifth in the 1,600 meters. Gibson placed third in the 400-meter dash, Hatfield placed third in the 800, Cornell took fourth in the 800 and Nellis placed fifth in the 400.

New Lothrop Girls Win Vassar Regional

The New Lothrop girls won the title at the Division 3 regional at Vassar as they totaled 111 points.

The Hornets were paced by sophomore Katelyn Wendling who turned in several big performances. Wendling won regional titles in both the 200-meter dash (26.81) and the 400-meter dash (59.06). Wendling also placed second in the 100-meter dash and the high jump.

New Lothrop also had a pair of relay teams take second place. The 4x200 relay team of freshman Zoie Buterakos, senior Laina Yates, junior Ashley Krupp and sophomore Cassie Green placed second as did the 4x800 team of senior Lexy Andrew, senior Olivia Gillett, senior Ally Andrew and freshman Ava Wenzlick.

Pewamo-Westphalia Captured D3 Regional At Bath

The Pewamo-Westphalia girls track team won the title at the Division 3 regional at Bath with a total of 137 team points.

The Pirates were led by some solid efforts in the field events. In the shot put, junior Jenna Spitzley placed second while senior Claire Jandernoa took third. Spitzley also placed

second in the discus. Junior Mara Smith placed second in the high jump competition while freshman Sidney Thelen took second in the long jump.

On the track, sophomore Alyssa Kramer placed second in the 3,200-meter run while junior Faith Stump took second in the 300 hurdles. In the relays, the 4x200 team of Faith Stump, freshman Julia Paxton, junior Elly Bengel and freshman Monica Brown placed second.

Fowler Totals 193 Team Points In Regional Win

The Fowler girls track team scored nearly 200 teams points as it won the regional title in the Division 4 regional it hosted by totaling 193.3 points.

The Eagles put on a dominant performance on the track highlighted by their relay team. Fowler runners won all four of the relay events. Taking first place in the 4x100 relay was the team of junior Michaela Spitzley, junior Paige Thelen, freshman Mya Rademacher and senior Katie Spicer. Winning the 4x200 relay was the team of freshman Eva Thelen, junior Maria Wieber, Rademacher and Spicer. The team of junior Paige Thelen, Wieber, sophomore Nadia Schafer and senior Ella Hufnagel captured the 4x400 relay while the team of Paige Thelen, senior Madelyn Sillman, freshman Zoe Fabing and senior Kelcie Pung won the 4x800 relay.

Individually, the Eagles captured a trio of regional titles. Maria Wieber won two of the individual titles as she won both hurdle

races winning the 100 hurdles in 16.78 and taking first place in the 300 hurdles in 49.61. Kelcie Pung also captured the title in the 3,200-meter run with a time of 12:19.96. Pung also placed second in the 1,600-meter run while Zoe Fabing placed third in the 1,600 meters. Senior sprinter Katie Spicer finished second in both the 100 and 200-meter dashes. Also in the hurdles, freshman Leah Thelen placed second in the 100 hurdles and junior Paige Thelen took second in the 300 hurdles.

Senior Ella Hufnagel turned in a big regional effort. Hufnagel won the high jump with a jump of 5-0 and won the long jump with a leap of 16-3.5. Hufnagel also placed second in the 400-meter run. Fowler athletes finished one-two in the pole vault. Sophomore Nadia Schafer won the pole vault as she cleared 10-1.5 while junior Olivia Thelen placed second. Leah Thelen also placed third in the high jump.

Breckenridge Takes Second At Fowler Regional

The Breckenridge girls placed second as a team at the Fowler regional with a total of 94.5 points.

Breckenridge had a trio of relay teams place second. The 4x100 relay team of junior Raegyn Mayer, senior Kayla Gowerd, junior Kylo Riedel and junior BayLeigh Clapp took second as did the 4x200 relay team of Riedel, Mayer, Goward and sophomore Da'Sia Denwiddie. Also taking second was the 4x800 team of freshman Maizy Matthews, senior Avery Westall, junior Ally Schmitz and senior Danica Aldrich.

BayLeigh Clapp took second in the long jump and third in the 100-meter run. Danica Aldrich placed second in the 3,200-meter run, Raegyn Mayer placed fourth in the 100 meters, Da'Sia Denwiddie was fourth in the 400 meters and Ally Schmitz was fourth in the 800-meter run.





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Merrill Track Teams See Improvement From Young Athletes With Future Looking Bright

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Youth was the theme for the season for both the Merrill boys and girls track and field teams and that youth showed plenty of improvement and promise as the season played out.

“Our track teams have had a lot of success this season despite being comprised of mainly freshman and sophomores,” said Merrill coach Christian Wiley. “We only had two seniors on the team and no juniors.”

Despite the lack of experience, the Vandals displayed plenty of success as the season went on.

“I have been impressed with how much improvement we have seen each week of the season,” Wiley said. “We have had at least six personal records in every meet this season with a high of 16 happening in one meet alone.”

What bodes especially well for the Merrill track program is the progress that was made by members of the freshman class.

“We have exceeded our expectations,” Wiley said. “We have some of the top freshman in several events in the conference this year and expect big things from them in the future.”

One of the top highlights for the team this season came at the Ovid-Elsie Relays where all six of Merrill's relay teams hit personal records for the season.

On the women's team, the Vandals have been led by the 4x100 relay team of Alexis Monk, Nevaeh Post, Elayna Mattson and Dilyn Colpean and the 4x200 relay team of Dilyn Colpean, Nevaeh Post, Elayna Mattson and Sophie Pappas along with the 4x400 team of Dilyn Colpean, Elayna Mattson, Madilyn Hickey and Sophie Pappas.

On the men's team, the 4x100 team of Chayton Walker, Nolan Walker, Jacob Mattila and Xaiden Konopa, the 4x200 team of Chayton Walker, Nolan Walker, Hunter Wiley and Xaiden Konopa and the 4x400 team of Hunter Wiley, Nolan Walker, Chayton Walker and Walker Coty have led the way.

The Vandals have also received strong efforts in field events from Joe Odell and Davie Sweet in both the shot put and discus.



The Merrill track and field team received solid efforts from its relay teams throughout the season.

St. Johns Boys Track And Field Showing Plenty Of Promise With Young Athletes

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The boys track and field season was one about improvement for the St. Johns boys track team. With a host of freshmen, sophomores and juniors on the squad, the Redwings displayed plenty of improvement and promise for the seasons to come.

“As a young track and field team, we showed some great potential and resilience throughout the season,” said St. Johns coach Nicole McCastle. “While we met some expectations, the experience gained this year sets us up well for continued growth and success in the future.”

The Redwings turned in solid efforts throughout the season and displayed plenty of growth from beginning to end.

“Our team has shown some dedication, teamwork and some consistent improvement,” McCastle said. “The team has shown some solid effort and growth across events.”

Some of the best efforts by the Redwings came at the Under the Lights Invitational at Fowler and in the Midland Relays.

Individually, several athletes stood out during the season.

“Bryce Pratl has been a huge asset to our team this season,”

McCastle said. “He has excelled in the 400 meters, the 110 and 300 hurdles and the long jump. When needed, he was also a part of the 4x400 relay team. Reagan Ward is another athlete that has contributed to the team. He set new personal records in the 800 meters, 1,600 meters and the 3200 meters. Nolan Cullens, a freshman, earned a spot at the state meet in the 100-meter dash with an impressive time of 10.84 at Under the Lights Invite in Fowler and in the 200-meter dash with another impressive time of 22.40 at the Grand Rapids Elite Challenge.”

St. Johns wrapped up the season by placing ninth at the Division 2 regional at Frankenmuth.

Pratl led the way at the regional as he won the 300 hurdles in a time of 40.02. Pratl also placed third in the 100 hurdles and sixth in the long jump with a leap of 20-2.5.

In the throws, junior Cole VanEtten turned in a pair of personal records as he placed eighth in the discus with a toss of 132-8 and tenth in the shot put with a put of 41-4.25. Fellow junior Jackson Armstrong turned in a personal record in the discus as he placed seventh with a toss of 132-11.

Reagan Ward placed fifth in the 1,600-meter run and junior Carson Schneider was 10th in the 800 meters. In the relays, the 4x400 team of senior Gianni Tortorella, Schneider, junior Christian Simmons and Ward placed eight.



The St. Johns boys track team displayed improvement throughout the season with several young athletes stepping up.

Greenville Track Girls Complete Solid Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Greenville girls track and field coach Cari Scholtens was in her sixth year and led her team to a 4-2 record in the River Cities Alliance and 7-2 overall.

“Our girls have had an amazing season with one girl (freshman Ciara Russell) Early Qualifying for State and three Girls earning all-conference Honors (Freshman Sophie Clevenger - 1st Shot Put, Junior Gracelin Martin - 1st 1600, Senior Melanie Wallis - Overall Points)

“The team is a great mix of kids and we've had pretty resounding success,” Scholtens said. “Coming in third in our conference is a great finish for us. The best we've had since I've been a head coach. Our two conference losses were by a combined total of 11 points. Shows how hotly contested our new conference is, and just how “in the hunt” we are... stings in the meantime.”

Top athletes this season with comments from Scholtens;

Gracelin Martin - Junior - Conference

Champion 1600 - Gracelin is a team captain and one of the hardest working youngkc women I have ever met. She is a distance specialist and competitive to the max.

Ciara Russell - Freshman - Early Qualifier for the State Meet - High Jumper and Relay specialist. The kid is just plain athletic! Can't wait to watch her grow as a trackster.

Melanie Wallis - Senior - All Conference on Points - Melanie Wallis is a team captain and incredibly dedicated! She is our Hurdle Specialist and also dabbles in High Jump. A GREAT athlete and one whom will be sorely missed after graduation.

Sophie Clevenger - Freshman - Conference Champion Shot Put - Sophie is a great kid and a great athlete. She was interested in running and as she is nursing an injury, we decided to try shot put to take it easy...it was a good decision.

Makenna de Forest - Senior - Mid-Distance Specialist - Always good for a few points in conference competition.



Greenville girls track athlete enjoy award-winning moment.

CC-Crystal Girls Track Has Strong Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Patrick JA McCarty was excited with progress made by the girls varsity track and field coach.

“Despite our girls team being small (14) we have been doing great,” McCarty said. “The girls have put in a lot of hard work and it has shown with many personal records (PRs) and season records (SRs). The girls team has been performing great with many PRs and SRs throughout the season.”


“The girls team has both met and exceeded my expectations as their coach. They make me proud to be their coach everyday on the track and off. They where recently awarded the top combined GPA team at Carson.”

There have been ups and downs.

“The challenges for the girls have been some track related injuries throughout the season and the small team numbers,” McCarty said. “All the girls are top athletes to me on and off the track. My hopes for the rest of the season were that we continue to get PRs and SRs and stay healthy.”




The 2025 Carson City-Crystal girls track and field team



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Defense A Big Key To Improvement For Ionia Girls Soccer Team

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Ionia girls soccer team put the emphasis on playing strong defense this season and the improvement on the defensive side of the field led to a successful season for the Bulldogs.

Ionia turned in a .500 record both in the conference and overall this season.

"We've been competitive in almost every game this year," said Ionia coach Ben Wolford. "Our defense is the foundation of our team and we consistently rely on them. I have been pleased with our progress and performance of our season."

The Ionia defense led the way to six shutout victories this season. One of the biggest wins was a 1-0 win in a penalty kick shootout against

rival Lakewood-Lake Odessa in the first round of the conference cup tournament.

"We knew defense was going to be our foundation and they have not disappointed," Wolford said.

The Bulldogs also showed a knack for bouncing back from disappointments this season.

"We were defeated by Comstock Park in the championship of an Ionia soccer invite tournament in a penalty-kick shootout," Wolford said. "We used that as fuel, winning three out of the following four games after that. We used that as fuel when we entered the next phase of tournament play, which was our conference tournament, where we beat Lakewood in a second penalty-kick shootout of the season."

The Bulldogs have been led by a talented core of players this season.

Tessa Massengale was a four-year, all-conference player who scored four goals and had two assists as a defender.

"Tessa was a huge reason for our defensive success," Wolford said.

Junior defender Katie Leonard also had a big season.

"Katie will be a two-year, all-conference first-team player heading into her senior season," Wolford said. "She is one of the key pieces of our defensive strength and is one of the big reasons for our six shutouts."

Senior Isabelle Vasquez was a starting center back who graduated as a three-time, all-conference player. Vasquez was a key factor for the



Strong play on the defensive end of the field helped the Ionia soccer team to a successful season.

Ionia defense.

Freshman Ava Benedict led Ionia in scoring with nine goals and an assist this season.

Kaylynn Doty was the Ionia goalkeeper who posted six shutouts and recorded 147 saves as of the middle of May.

"Kaylynn made huge plays game after game this season," Wolford said.

Ionia was led by a small but talented senior class.

"We graduate three seniors this year who have meant the world to our program," Wolford said. "They have 11 years of combined varsity experience between the three of them and have provided incredible growth of our program over the last four years."

Hemlock Has Productive Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Taylor Schumann was the new Hemlock girls soccer coach for a team that was 9-8-1 overall and 4-3 in the TVC.

"We knew going into the season that the schedule would challenge us. We've handled things well despite injuries at key positions throughout the season. We set goals at the beginning of the season and have fell

short on a few of them, with others still ahead of us to finish out the season. The team is eager to get those "checked off" in the coming weeks.

"We held a very good Frankenmuth team to 1 goal in a 1-0 loss where we narrowly missed tying the game off the post. We have also been able to convert on a high percentage of our corner kicks which has been a point of emphasis for us. There are a few games that when we look back on them at the end of the

season, we will surely want back. We know we left some points on the table in a few games and have worked to improve on those results."

Top players were:

Izzy Curry (Senior Midfielder) (Delta College commit)- "As a senior captain, Izzy has been the key that opens up our attack. Her play has been acknowledged with All State honors each of the past 2 years. In just 9 games played this season, she

has 10 goals and 9 assists, leading the team in both categories."

Izzy Krueger (Senior Striker) (Indiana Wesleyan University commit for track and field)- "Izzy possess a certain type of leadership that resonates with our younger players. Izzy received All State honors for her 2024 season where she played a key role in Hemlock's second consecutive district title. She has racked up 7 goals and 2 assists while helping control our offensive game plan."

Lexie Rump (Senior defender)- "2024 All Conference and All-District honors. Lexie manages the

field from the back line and is often the voice of our team. She reads the game exceptionally well and holds herself to a high standard. Her quick and tough-nosed defending has proven to be impactful in our 6 shutouts this season.

Taryn Pratt (Sophomore Goalkeeper)- "Taryn stepped into a goal that was protected by All State Goalkeeper Avery Ross for the past 4 years, and has exceeded all expectations that anyone could have had. With 6 shutouts and a .902 save percentage, Taryn has single handedly held us in some tight games."

St. John's Soccer Enjoys Winning Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Ryan Nevins coached a St. Johns team that finished the girls soccer season at 10-7-3.

The season ended in the district semifinals.

"After losing a lot of key seniors last season, we knew there would be a big learning curve this season," Nevins said. "I still felt that we had the potential for a very good team, but there would be a lot to figure out in terms of formations and positions. As expected, it took about half the

season, then in the middle of one of our losses, things seemed to click. Since then, we've been playing some very good soccer.

"We've played some top CAAC teams very close, and were able to finally get a win against one of them in the first round of the CAAC silver cup against Holt. I am very happy at the growth this team has made, and I feel like we are playing great going into postseason play. We had some results early in the season that were below expectations, but currently, we are playing at a level much higher than expected."

Top players and coach's comments were as follows:

Madi Hendy- 1 Goal, 6 Assists- "Madi is one of the best CBs in the CAAC, if not the state. She anchors our back line, and is a key leader on our team. She is skilled technically, and has very high work rate."

Abby DeRosia- 4 Goals- "Abby is an elite athlete that can play at any position on the field. Her speed and aggressiveness allows her to be a lockdown defender and ball winner. Her work ethic is unmatched."

Aivree Baldwin- 2 Goals, 1 Assist- "Aivree is a strong, all-around

player. She has great technical skills, composure on the ball, defense, and work rate."

Sydney Moon- 8 Goals, 2 Assists- "Sydney is our go-to scoring threat. She's very strong and athletic, and has a work rate to go with it. She has a nose for the goal, and is peaking at the end of the season."

Teagan Benjamin- 4 Goals, 3 Assists- "Teagan is our offensive anchor. She has the best technical skill set on our team. She is very composed on the ball, has great vision, and makes great decisions with the ball. Our offense is most effective when

playing through her."

Morgan Jubeck- 1 Goal, 4 Assists- "Morgan is the vocal and emotional leader on our team. She keeps things positive, cheers her teammates on, and pumps the team up. On the field, she is one of our strongest players technically, and is a great decision maker. She's composed on the ball and has great vision. Her experience allows her to help direct younger teammates on the field."

Ava Pulling- 3 Goals- "Ava is an unbelievable athlete with a strong skill set. She is a lock-down defender that we rely on heavily when playing teams with speed on the wings. Ava can move forward and is very effective as a striker or winger as well."

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