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CONTENTS

3		Portland St. Pat Earns Division 4 State Baseball Title
4		BASEBALL ROUND UP
5		Beal City Wins Another League Title
6		SOFTBALL ROUND UP
7		Clare Softball Team Wins Runner-Up State Trophy
8		Alma Softball Coach Likes His Prospects
9		MLS Softball Advances To Semifinals
10		GOLF STATE TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP
11		TENNIS STATE TOURNAMENT ROUND UP
12		BOYS D1 and D2 TRACK ROUND UP
13		BOYS D3 TRACK ROUND UP
14		BOYS D4 TRACK ROUND UP
15		GIRLS D1 and D2 TRACK ROUND UP
16		GIRLS D3 TRACK ROUND UP
17		GIRLS D4 TRACK ROUND UP
18		Fowler Track Girls Take Division 4 State Title
19		Chippewa Hills Girls Track Posts Another Championship Season
20		SOCCER ROUND UP

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

Summer is here in full force and with it the spring sports season is in the rear view mirror and what a spring season it has been!

The recently completed state tournaments this spring brought plenty of thrills and memories to area teams, athletes and fans.

On the baseball diamond, what a season put together by the Portland St. Patrick baseball team. The Shamrocks not only won the Division 4 state title but they also won 34 of the 35 games they played this season. What an accomplishment!

Baseball powerhouse Bay City Western also turned in a big season. Western reached the final four in Division 1 for the second consecutive season and pitching ace Luke Lacourse was named Mr. Baseball for the state of Michigan.

Mason also had a memorable season reaching the final four in Division 2.

In softball, Clare reached the championship game in Division 3 while Michigan Lutheran Seminary advanced to the final four in Division 4. Grand Ledge (Division 1) and Laingsburg (Division 3) also reached the quarterfinals.

In golf, several area teams qualified for the state finals while Shepherd senior reached the pinnacle as he won the Division 3 individual state championship.

In track and field, a pair of area track teams brought home the golf. The Chesaning boys captured the Division 3 team championship while the Fowler girls continued their dominance by winning the Division 4 state title.

The Pewamo-Westphalia boys also turned in a big season as they placed second in the state in Division 3.

On the soccer field, a pair of area soccer teams reached the semifinals. DeWitt made it to the final four in Division 2 while Saginaw Nouvel reached the semis in Division 4. Midland also turned in a big soccer season as the Chemicks reached the elite eight in Division 1 and finished the season with a 21-1 record.

With school out and beautiful, warm weather abounding, its time to hit the great outdoors and enjoy a beautiful Michigan summer!



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John Raffel
Sports Scene

Coach Bryan Scheurer couldn't be more proud of his Portland St. Patrick baseball team which won the Division 4 state title on June 14 at Michigan State University.

"These boys said they wanted to be 'different' this year. They asked for and embraced being coached hard," Scheurer said. "Their buy-in was remarkable. They brought the juice daily to practices and games. They are the definition of grit and a true 'We over Me' team.

“They will forever go down in history finishing undefeated in league and 34-1 overall as your 2025 state champions. It was and is an absolute honor and a privilege to be a part of this community, staff and team.”

The Shamrocks entered the semifinals with Scheurer having a 20-year record of 475-150.

In the regionals, St. Pat beat Dansville 5-0 and Sacred Heart 5-4. It was a 9-0 win over Glen

Lake in the quarterfinals.

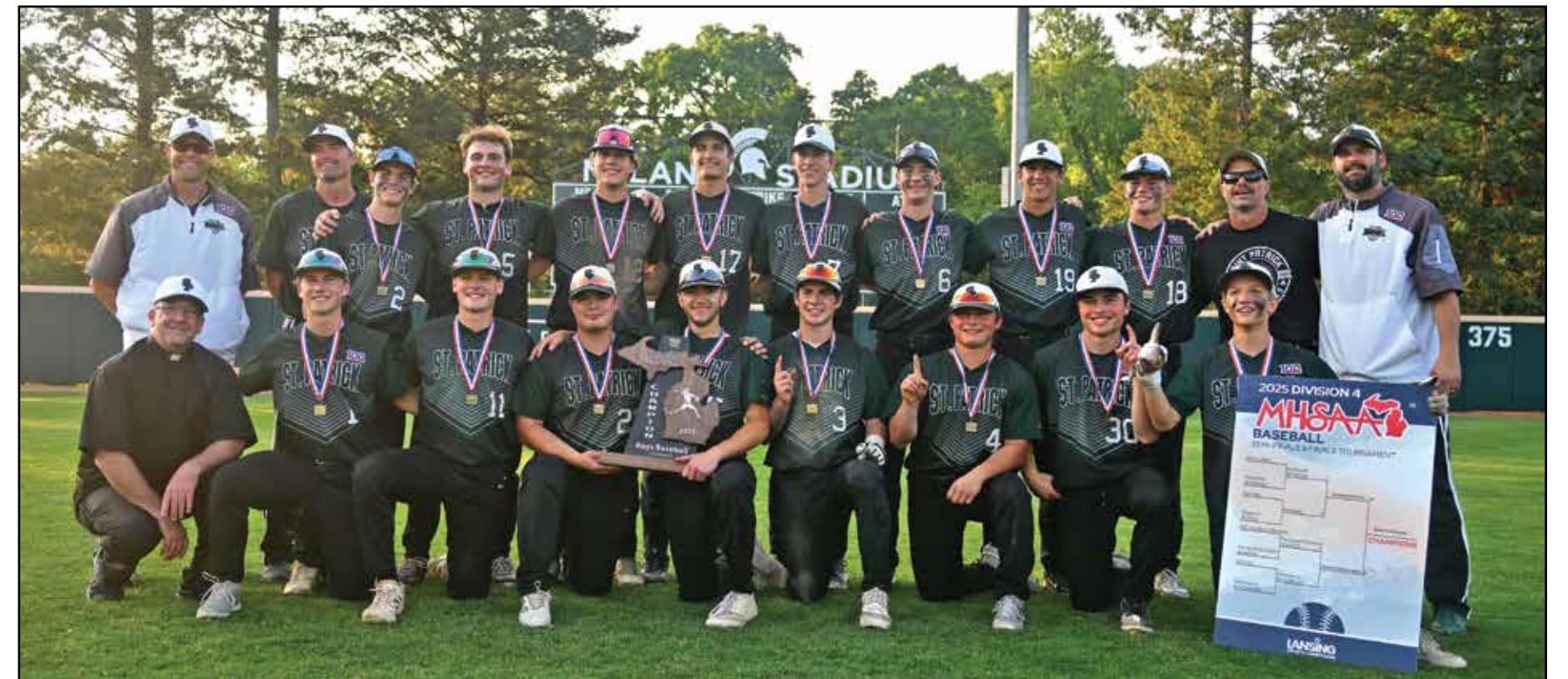
Patrick then defeated Upper Peninsula power Norway in the state semifinals.

In the semis, Brady Leonard had a huge game for St. Patrick as he allows runs on three hits walking one and striking out five. She three hits., scored two runs and had an RBI.

It was 10-0 in a five-inning game over Plymouth Christian Academy. Brayden Simon went all five innings and allowed no runs on one hit and two walks.

Jerryd Scheurer had two hits and scored three runs. Catcher Charlie Thelen had two hits, scored two runs and had two RBIs. Tyler Thelen had two hits and two RBIs.

"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 things. Our pitching has been terrific this season."




Portland St. Patrick baseball team holds its state title trophy.




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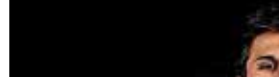
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Area Baseball Teams Chase State Title Glory On The Diamond

By David Cook
Sports Scene

The following is a recap of the MHSAA baseball state tournament and a look at how some of the top local teams fared in post-season action.

DIVISION 1

Hartland Claims D1 State Title

Hartland worked overtime to win the Division 1 baseball state championship as the Eagles outlasted Dakota 5-3 in nine innings in the championship game. Hartland reached the title game by turning back Grosse Pointe South 4-2 in the semifinals.

Bay City Western Reaches State Semifinal Game

Bay City Western capped a big season on the diamond by reaching the state semifinals where they dropped a 6-2 decision to Macomb Dakota. Western finished the season with a 35-7 overall record.

Western reached the semifinals by edging Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills 4-3 in the quarterfinal game. Western opened the tournament by outlasting Midland 6-2 to win the district title at Midland. The Warriors then defeated Traverse City West 1-0 in the regional semifinals. Jack Sequin tossed a one-hitter to get the win and struck out 11 West batters.

Western reached the final four in Division 1 with a 3-1 win against West Michigan powerhouse Hudsonville in the state quarterfinal game. It was the second consecutive year Western has reached the final four in Division 1.

A number of Western player earned post-season honors highlighted by pitcher Luke Lacourse who was named Mr. Baseball for the state of Michigan. Jack Sequin was named to the East/West High School all-star game and earned second-team, all-state honors along with Mikey Deluca.

Okemos Reaches Sweet 16 In Division 1

The Okemos baseball team turned in a strong season. Okemos reached the regional title game and finished the campaign with a 25-12 record.

Okemos captured a district championship when it held off Grand Ledge 6-4. The Wolves then defeated Battle Creek Lakeview 7-3 in the regional semifinals. The season came to an end for Okemos in the regional title game when it dropped a 2-1 thriller to eventual state champion Hartland.

DIVISION 2

Forest Hills Eastern Wins D2 State Crown

Ada Forest Hills Eastern won the Division 2 baseball state championship as it defeated Standish-Sterling 5-2 in the championship game. Eastern reached the title game after holding off Orchard Lake St. Mary's 5-4 in the semifinals. Standish-Sterling edged Mason 5-4 in the other semifinal contest.

Mason Ends Baseball Season In Final Four

The Mason baseball team wrapped up the season in a big way by earning a berth in the Division 2 final four.

Mason began its tournament run by defeating Charlotte 13-3 in the district title game. The Bulldogs then turned in a masterful pitching and defense performance at the regional. The Bulldogs defeated Parma Western 14-1 in the regional semifinals and then defeated Williamston 6-1 in the district championship game.

Mason clinched its ticket to the final four in dramatic fashion as it edged Chelsea 3-2 in 10 innings in the state quarterfinal game.

The Bulldogs, who ended the season with a 31-8 record, played another close contest in the state semifinal game where it was edged 5-4 by Standish-Sterling.

Several Mason players earned post-season recognition. Colton McCaleb and Kohl Tyrrell were both named to the all-region

team. The pair also earned all-district honors along with Maddox Armour, Joey Schild and Ryan Myers.

DIVISION 3

Traverse City St. Francis Claims Crown In D3

Traverse City St. Francis came away with the Division 3 baseball state championship as it defeated Marine City 5-4 in a thrilling title game. St. Francis also reached the title game in thrilling fashion as it edged Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett 4-3 in the semifinals. Marine City defeated Olivet 8-5 in the other semifinal game.

Lansing Catholic Reaches Elite 8 In Division 3

Lansing Catholic turned in a big tournament run as it made it to the elite eight in Division 3.

The Cougars began their tournament run by defeating Perry 11-0 in the district title game it hosted.

Lansing Catholic then added a regional title thanks to some solid pitching. The Cougars turned back Ovid-Elsie 11-1 in the regional semifinals and then outdueled Saginaw Swan Valley 2-0 in the regional championship game.

DIVISION 4

Portland St. Patrick Wins Division 4 Baseball Title

Portland St. Patrick completed a dream season by winning the Division 4 baseball state championship. The Shamrocks left no doubt they were the cream of the crop in Division 4 as they defeated Plymouth Christian 10-0 in the championship game.

The win left St. Patrick with a 34-1 record for the season.



The Bay City Western baseball team reached the Division 1 state semifinals.

Portland St. Patrick pitching was picture perfect in the championship rounds. The Shamrocks defeated Maple City Glen Lake 9-0 in the state quarterfinals and then defeated Norway 7-0 in the semifinals.

St. Patrick's road to the elite eight was anything but easy. In the district championship game at Fulton-Middleton, the Shamrocks edged the hosts 12-11 in a slugfest. St. Patrick then defeated Dansville 5-0 in the regional semifinals before holding off highly-ranked Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart 5-4 in 12 innings in the regional title game.

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Reaches Regional Title Game

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart wrapped up a big season with a 31-7 record. The season came to an end for the Irish in dramatic fashion as they dropped a 5-4 decision to eventual state champion Portland St. Patrick in 12 innings in the regional title game.

Sacred Heart won the district it hosted as it defeated last year's Division 4 state champion Beal City 9-0 in the district title game. The Irish then moved on to the regional semifinals where they defeated Merrill 9-1.

Lutheran Seminary Has Successful Baseball Season

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Karl Schmugge has announced this will be his last season as baseball coach at Michigan Lutheran Seminary after 26 seasons, including seven on varsity.

Seminary was 15-15 overall and 4-6 in the TVC Blue.

The team met expectations, Schmugge said. Highlights included winning the St. Louis tournament and beating Breckenridge in predistricts.

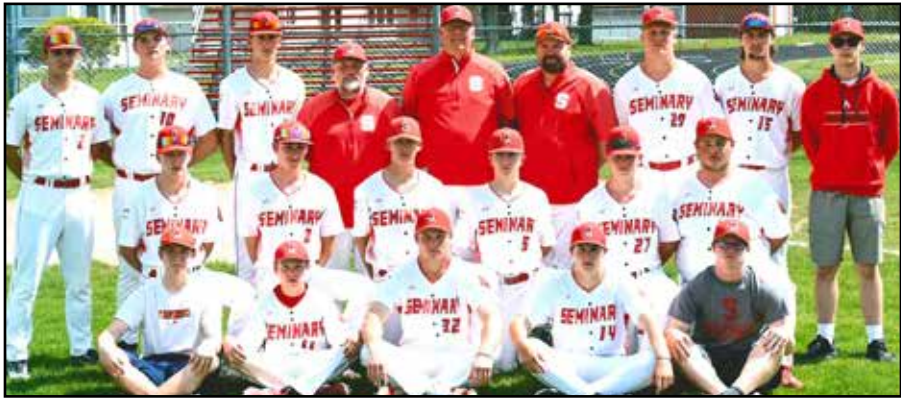
"We lost four games by one run. We also lost, due to injury, our starting shortstop and second-best pitcher at the end of the season," Schmugge said.

The top two players were as follows.

Will Salgat, Sr. (all-conference, all-district, all-region). CF, .430 avg, 25 RBI.

Noah Reif, Jr. (all-conference, all district), 1B, .376 avg, 16BB, 4 SO, 28 RBI 20 SB

Key grads will be Will Salgat, Caleb Martin, Ethan Wakefield, Owen Mason and Hayden Powers. Key returners are Noah



The 2025 Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary baseball team.

Reif, Simeon Kober, Eli Lewis and Zach Scharrer

"There is a great young core of players coming up, so MLS should be competitive

in the near future," Eric Scheuerlein will be taking over as the head varsity coach next year. I am stepping away from baseball as I continue with football and my AD duties."

Ithaca Baseball Looks Ahead

John Raffel
Sports Scene

After a very slow start and struggling through emotions, Ithaca's basketball team had a strong finish to the season under coach Tim Palmer, in his second season.

Ithaca was 15-17-2 overall and in the league was 5-5.

"We started out poorly 0-10-2 (0-4 in league). Lots of emotion,"

Palmer said. "Our top assistant coach (Joe McDaid) lost his wife in April (Deana was our athletic secretary for 20 years). Joe and Deana's sons are on the team (Gunner 10th grade and Justice 9th grade). We then went on to win 15-of our next 22 and went 5-1 in league play. We beat Hemlock (league champ and 7th ranked team in the state) 1-0 in 11 innings in Districts. In the District Final, we lost to Valley Lutheran 7-2.

Top Athletes:

Collin Thrush Senior OF/P.426 Avg..520 OBP 1.065OPS .545 SLG 43 Hits 9 doubles, 1 HR 26 RBI 15SBs; Pitching 58 IP 4W 4L 68Ks 2.414 ERA.

Ryley White Utility Senior; .346 AVG .448OBP .948 OPS .500 SLG 36 Hits 11 doubles, 1 triple, 1 Homerun 14RBI 39SBS. Pitching: 6 Wins 3 Losses 2 Saves 3.818ERA

Connor McMurphy IF Sophomore. .341 AVG .500OBP .909 OPS .409 SLG 30 Hits 4 doubles, 1 triple 15RBI 12SBS.

Carsen Shankel C Sophomore .314AVG .450OBP .869OPS .419SLG 27 Hits 7 doubles, 1 triple 26RBI

Ithaca has lost 3 seniors: White, Thrush and Colton Pratt (1B).

Key returners are Connor McMurphy, Carsen Shankel and Brady Paradise

Next year, we will be young again (only senior-Brady Paradise), but we will be bigger, stronger and more mentally tough. I expect us to be better next year," Palmer said.



Beal City Wins Another League Title

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Beal City coach Brad Antcliff directed his team to another Highland Conference championship season but the Aggies fell shy of some other goals.

Antcliff coached Beal to the last two state titles in Division 4. The Aggies also were runners up

in 2022. Steve Pickens coached the team to the 2018 state title. Antcliff's Aggies were runners-up in 2013 and 2014. But they also won it in 2009 and 2011.

This year the Aggies were 26-8 but lost 9-0 in the district finals to a strong Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart team.

Sophomore infielder Cuyler

Smith was on the All-State second team for BC.

"Some years you make it and some you don't," Antcliff said. "The kids work very hard. We into a very good pitcher. We lost to a better team this year. This group of kids has played a lot of good baseball. We won the conference for the 21st year in a row.

"It was a great group of kids. It was a fun time and a good ride."

But it's a program that reloads.

"We have eight kids playing summer ball and doing football and basketball stuff. We have an 8U, 10U, 12U travel team of Beal City kids and guys playing for the Drillers," Antcliff said. "It's rewarding and a lot of fun."



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IN YOUR HOUR OF DARKNESS LET US BE YOUR LIGHT

Area Softball Teams Make Impact In State Softball Tournament Action

By David Cook
Sports Scene

The following is a recap of the MHSAA softball state tournament and a look at how some of the top local teams fared in post-season action.

DIVISION 1

Saline Claims D1 State Title

Playing beyond the quarterfinal round for the first time in program history, the Saline softball team made it one for the record books as it defeated South Lyon 5-2 to win the first softball state championship in school history. Saline defeated long-time Division 1 softball powerhouse 5-4 in the semifinals to earn a spot in the title game. South Lyon edged Utica Ford 1-0 in the other semifinal contest.

Grand Ledge Reaches Quarterfinals In D1

The Grand Ledge softball team wrapped up a strong season by reaching the state quarterfinals in Division 1. The Comets, who finished the season with a 29-9 record, dropped a 9-1 decision to Hudsonville in the quarterfinals.

Grand Ledge reached the quarterfinals by winning district and regional titles. Grand Ledge won the district title by defeating Okemos 9-5 in the district title game.

The Comets then won a pair of games at the Holt regional. In the semifinals Grand Ledge defeated Traverse City Central 8-1. The Comets then clinched the regional title by edging Saginaw Heritage 4-3 in eight



The Clare softball team defeated Ravenna 2-1 in the Division state semifinals.

innings.

Saginaw Heritage Reaches Sweet 16 In Division 1

The Saginaw Heritage softball team turned in a solid season as it reached the sweet 16 round in Division 1.

Heritage captured a district championship when it held off Swartz Creek 3-1 to lift the district trophy. The Hawks then defeated Midland 11-3 in the regional semifinals. The season came to an end for Heritage in dramatic fashion in the regional title game when it dropped a 4-3 thriller in eight innings to Grand Ledge.

DIVISION 2

Richmond Wins D2 State Crown

Richmond won a softball state championship for the third time in program history when it defeated Paw Paw 3-0 in the Division 2 state championship game. Richmond reached the title game after blanking Escanaba 2-0 in the semifinals. Paw Paw edged Carlton-Airport 3-2 in the other semifinal contest.

Portland Reaches Regional Finals In D2 State Tournament

The Portland softball team wrapped up the season in the regional title game where it dropped a 6-1 decision to Coldwater.

Portland opened the state tournament by winning the Ionia district championship where it defeated Lakewood-Lake Odessa 5-4 in the district title game.

The Raiders moved on to the regional where it outlasted Williamston 5-4 in eight innings in the regional semifinals before falling to Coldwater in the regional title game.

Shepherd Softball Wins District Title

The Sheperd softball team capped a strong season by winning a district championship and finishing the season with a 227-13 overall record.

The Bluejays won the title at the Belding

district where they defeated Big Rapids 15-0 in the district championship game. Shepherd moved on to regional play at Alma where it fell to Escanaba 9-1 in the regional semifinals.

Williamston Reaches Regional Round In D2

The Williamston softball team ended the season competing in the regional round of the start tournament.

Williamston won a district title at the DeWitt district when it defeated St. Johns 7-1 in the championship game.

The Hornets moved on to regional play where it fell 5-4 in eight innings to Portland in the regional semifinal.

DIVISION 3

Grass Lake Claims Crown In D3 Thriller

Grass Lake came away with the Division 3 baseball state championship in thrilling fashion as it rallied in the seventh inning to defeat Clare 5-4 to win the state title. Grass Lake reached the title game by turning back Algonac 4-2 in the semifinals. Clare reached the finals by edging Ravenna 2-1 in a tense semifinal contest.

Clare Ends Season Playing For State Championship

The Clare softball team ended a memorable season by playing in the Division 3 state championship game. Clare rallied in the seventh inning but fell one run short as Grass Lake defeated the Pioneers 5-4. Clare ended the season with a 39-3 record.

Clare began a memorable state tournament run by defeating Farwell 18-3 in the district championship game. The Pioneers then added a regional trophy as they defeated Standish-Sterling 8-1 in the semifinals and Bullock Creek 5-3 in the regional title game.

In the elite eight, Clare defeated Gladstone 1-0 and then in the semifinals the Pioneers won another one-run game as they held off Ravenna 2-1.

Laingsburg Reaches Elite Eight In D3

The Laingsburg softball team capped a memorable season by reaching the elite eight in the Division 3 state tournament.

The Wolfpack began their tournament

run by edging Lansing Catholic 5-4 for the district championship. Laingsburg then moved on to the regional at Leslie where it defeated Bronson 5-3 in the semifinals and then outlasted Jackson Lumen Christi 5-4 in 11 innings in the regional championship game.

Laingsburg then fell 10-9 to eventual state champion Grass Lake in the state quarterfinals. The Wolfpack ended the season with a 24-13 overall record.

St. Louis Caps Winning Season With District Title

The St. Louis softball team capped a winning season with a district championship trophy.

St. Louis won the title at the Hemlock district when it defeated the hosts 6-3 in the district title game.

The Sharks then advanced to the regional at Millington where they dropped a 1-0 pitcher's duel against Cass City in the semifinals. St. Louis ended the season with a 22-10 record.

DIVISION 4

Mendon Wins Division 4 Softball Title

Mendon won the Division 4 softball state championship in decisive fashion as it defeated Unionville-Sebewaing 11-1 in the championship game. Mendon advanced to the title game by defeating Hillman 4-2 in the semifinals. Unionville-Sebewaing defeated Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary 4-1 in the other semifinal contest.

MLS Reaches Final Four In Division 4

Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary turned in a huge season by reaching the final four in Division 4 softball.

MLS ended the season with a 32-11 record after dropping a 4-2 decision to Unionville-Sebewaing in the state semifinals.

The Cardinals opened the tournament by winning the St. Charles district where they defeated Reese 8-0 in the title game.

At the Vestaburg regional, MLS defeated Mio 7-3 in the semifinals and then outlasted Fowler 8-7 in the regional title game.

The Cardinals then won their state quarterfinal game with a 4-3 win against Holton.

Clare Softball Team Wins Runner-Up State Trophy

John Raffel
Sports Scene

A state championship was within Clare's grasp but the Pioneers fell short in a 5-4 loss to Grass Lake in the state title game on June 14 at Michigan State.



Clare ended with a 39-3 record and did achieve one goal the Pioneers had set way back in June 2024 when they lost in the semifinal game.

They wanted to come back to the semifinals and winches time which they did on Morgan Campbell's sixth-inning base bat in a 2-1 semifinal win over No. 4 ranked Ravenna.

Clare was ranked for most of the second half of the season at No. 1. In the district semifinal the Pioneers blanked No. 2 ranked Evart 5-0. In the quarterfinal at Cheboygan, they snuck past Gladstone from the UP 1-0.

In the title game, Clare took a 2-1 lead in the top of the seventh and final inning.

But Grass Lake rallied for four runs and a 5-2 lead going into the



Clare girls were Division 3 softball state runners-up.

bottom of the seventh. Clare came back for two runs but left the tying run on base in a heartbreaking 5-4 loss.

Clare out-hit Grass Lake 10-6 but four errors were costly for the Pioneers.

"I'm sad for the girls," Clare coach Shane Kelly said. "We've been close so many times. We got

down and we got up and we got down and we kept fighting."

Breez Yarger led the Pioneers with three hits.

"They have the heart of a champion," Kelly said. "They work hard and you saw that. They don't give up. Their backs were against the wall. We didn't have our best game today but it didn't matter.

They believe in each other and believe in themselves. They had some great swings. It's tough."

Clare had several all-staters: outfielder Addison McMillan, shortstop Tessa Kelly, second baseman Allisa Branden, pitcher Kyle Wyman and outfielder Maddison Jones were on the first team.

USA Finishes As Softball State Runner-Up

John Raffel
Sports Scene

It was quite a postseason for Unionville-Sebewaing Area (USA) schools, which was the softball Division 4 state runners-up.

The team finished the season as state runners-up with a 20-16 record and had lost seven in a row to end the regular season. But USA was 6-1 in the postseason before losing to Mendon 11-1 in the state title game.

Coach Marc Reinhardt's Patriots won the semifinal round 4-1 over

Michigan Lutheran Seminary of Saginaw.

Olivia Green threw a masterpiece for USA allowing one run on three hits, walking four and striking out 15.

Natalie Harder had two hits and one RBI plus one putout at her catcher's spot. Macy Prime, Kate Beale and Green all had a hit and RBI.

It was all Mendon in the title game as the Hornets ended the season at 35-2.

Green took the loss, allowing 11 runs on nine hits and walking four while striking out six.

Rowan Allen went all six innings, allowing one run on three hits.

"I thought Mendon played a heckuva game," Reinhardt said. "It thought their pitcher pitched a heckuva game. There were a few plays out there we didn't make that cost us a few runs. We've been dealing with that on and off during the season..

"We didn't score enough runs to win this game."



Unionville-Sebewaing was the Division 4 softball state runners-up.

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New Lothrop Wins 27 Softball Games

John Raffel Sports Scene

New Lothrop softball coach Tom Birchmeier was in his eighth season as head varsity softball coach and it was an amazing campaign.

New Lothrop was 27-12 overall and 14-2 for second place in MMAC and won their fifth consecutive district title.

“We graduated seven seniors for last years team that went to the quarterfinals. We knew we’d be young and inexperienced, but also returned two, four-year varsity starters and two, three-year starters,” Birchmeier said. “If we could get the young girls to buy in and make improvements throughout the year we thought we could be really good.

“I would say we exceeded outside expectations. If you asked most people that followsNL softball if they thought we’d be two base running errors for sharing a league title and winning a district title this year they would not have believed it. Internally with 4 returning

starter and a dominant pitcher and one of the best hitters in the area returning we knew we could compete against most teams.”

The team had two first team all-staters and two honorable mention all-staters.

“We lost to Lakeville early in the season 5-4 only giving up 2 earned runs, and not scoring on a past ball and another runner getting hit by a batted ball that would have scored another run. When you lose early to one of the best teams in the league it takes one of the goals off the table early, so we had to keep the girls motivated to win a district title,” Birchmeier said.

“We lost to Millington 5-4 in first game of regionals only giving up two earned runs. Millington ended up winning the regional and we thought if we could get by them we had a chance to get to MSU.”

Here were among the top players:

Senior: Victoria Henige catcher; 4 time all MMAC, 1st All-state catcher this year. This year Set the single season batting average

record at NL batting .613 and tied the season hits record with 76. She lead the team in BA .613, OBP .660, hits 76, doubles 23, triples 2, RBIs 40, PA and AB, 2nd on the team in walks with 19 and struck out only 8 times which was lowest on the team. Academic All state, 4 year A honor roll. Offensive MVP for NL this year.

Senior Ava Thorsby OF: 1st team all MMAC and 1st team All-state OF, lead the team in walks with 21, and SB with 26 only was caught stealing twice and OBP of 560, BA .440. Academic all-state and 4 year A honor roll.

Senior: Ashlyn Orr SS 3 time ALL-MMAC 1st team, one 2nd team all MMAC, honorable mention all-state SS this year. Moved from 1B to SS this year to fill a need and did a great job for us. 2nd on the team in BA with .481, Hits 50, doubles 15, RBIs of 34, AB and PA and 2nd least number of SO with 11. 3 sport athlete starting in Volleyball and basketball and received 11 out of 12 potential varsity letter in her 4 years of high school. Was also NL salutatorian and academic all-

state.

Junior Mallory Heroux pitcher: 3 year varsity starter 3 time all MMAC pitcher and honorable mention all-state this year. Went 24-8, pitched 158 innings, striking out 270, walking 47 with an ERA of 1.909 and WHIP of 1.059. She led the team in HR with 5. 4th on the team with a BA of .380 and RBIs of 33. Defensive MVP for NL this year. 3 year A honor roll.

Graduates: Ava Thorsby, Ashlyn Orr and Victoria Henige

Returners: JR Mallory Heroux, Alexandria Knieper, SO Makenna Gemalski, FR Gabriella Kitchen, Savannah Knieper, Addison Phillips

“Losing three seniors will be three big holes to fill but will return a number of girls who got a lot of varsity experience this year. Will also return one of the best pitchers in the area. The group of incoming Freshmen also look promising so I expect another successful year,” Birchmeier said. “I see no reason we won’t compete for league, district and regional titles next year.

“NL softball team will be lead by someone else next year as after



New Lothrop softball players put together a strong season.

eight seasons I have decided to retire. It is my hope NL will hire the right person to continue the tradition of winning that we have established over the last eight years.”



Alma Softball Coach Likes His Prospects

John Raffel Sports Scene

Jake Gulick is softball coach at Alma, having completed his three season with an 11-16 overall record an 2-12 league mark for sixth place.

“It was a tough year as far as getting games in and being able to play nonconference games. The team gained a lot of experience this year and has a lot of returning players,” Gulick said. “With the very tough

competition within the league and the weather making it hard to schedule a non-conference game, the team had to learn how to face challenges as a team.”

There was some good talent on the team.

“Sophomore Teagan Adams was extremely valuable as a catcher and hitter,” Gullick said. “Adams threw out 17 runners attempting to steal and had a .500 on base percentage. Sophomore Shelby Sparks did most of the pitching and was a strong batter with

a .397 batting average and a .453 on base percentage.

“Shaniya Simcox is the lone starter that graduated. Shaniya was a solid outfielder and a constant

threat when hitting. Shinaya will be greatly missed next season. The other eight starters will be returning, with a lot more experience. I expect that Maddie Myers will step up next year and provide leadership. Sparks, Adams, Sydney Allison, Clara

Liedke, Rees Mueller, and Emmalyn Wing will be returning next year and will all be key players.

“Next year we will be a very competitive team with many returning players.”

see more leadership in that position next season. Freshman Kinsley Conger was not able to play after sustaining a knee injury in the earlier basketball season. She would have been a key starting 3B/back up catcher.

Hemlock scored more runs as a team, beat Division 2 teams, made it to District Final vs. St. Louis.

Lillian Martinez broke three Hemlock Career Records: Career hits = 218 / Runs Scored = 203 / Stolen Bases = 183 / Sophomore Pitcher

Carley Noyes earned her 202nd strikeout.

Next year “looks good for junior/ senior leadership,” Martinez said. “They all experienced being on varsity since Freshman. Upcoming Freshman pitcher Sage LaVigne will add depth to the pitching rotation especially within the conference.

Welcoming back Sophomore Kinsley Conger to the hitting/3B/C rotation will for sure help the team be stronger.”

Evart Softball Ends At 30-5

John Raffel Sports Scene

Evart's softball team had hopes for another Division 3 championship but the Wildcats had to settle for a state record.

Evart was 30-5 overall and won its fifth straight conference championship in the Highland.

But the Wildcats, ranked No. 3 in the state, had the dubious distinction of being matched up with No. 1-ranked Clare in the district semifinals.



Evart's Quyncee Gray connects on a pitch against Clare in a Division 3 district semifinal game.

MLS Softball Advances To Semifinals

John Raffel Sports Scene

This is my Seth LeBair's 25th year of coaching and his 10th as the MLS varsity softball coach.

“We were 32-11 this season overall,” LeBair said. “Our league record was 5-3 and we tied for second. This was a great season for us. We set the record for most wins in a season. Prior to this season, it was 25, which we set two years ago. We knew that we had a good chance to have a good season. Our expectations were pretty high because we had a lot of girls returning and some key newcomers. It's easy to say that we should have a good season, but

the team needs to make that actually happen.

“The team advanced to the state semifinals, which we lost 4-1 to U.S.A. We won our first Regional trophy, defeating Fowler 8-7. We also came away with a quarterfinal victory 4-3 over Holton. We were hopeful that we would get back to the regionals and possibly win a game or two. Getting to the semifinals was a great achievement for the girls. Playing at MSU was awesome.

“We would have liked for the outcome of the semifinals to be different, but it was exciting. The girls also came through with some big

plays in the regional finals and the quarterfinals. Ally Coffey recorded her 1000th strikeout of her career. Ally, Charli Alcorn, and Kerin Gardner were all named first team all conference. Coffey and Gardner both made the all region team. Coffey was an all state selection at pitcher and Garnder was honorable mention all state as a utility player. Ally set numerous MLS records for her career.”

LeBair said during the season, the squad slowly made some changes to the lineup.

“I think we eventually found our strongest lineup with a few weeks left in the regular season,” he said. “Playing Ithaca and Hemlock four times in our conference helped to get us ready for our playoff run. We did go through some little slumps during the year but we had quite a few games that we still found a way to win. The girls really improved at dealing with adversity as

the year moved on.

“Senior Ally Coffey struck out 265 batters, pitched 161.1 innings, had an ERA of 1.69, and won 20 games. She hit .597 with 74 hits, 64 RBIs, 7 home runs, 8 triples, and 20 doubles. Freshman Kerin Gardner finished with 72 hits, scored 76 runs, stole 43 bases, had eight triples, and pitched close to 70 innings. Freshman Charli Alcorn batted .433, had 52 hits, 51 RBIs, three home runs, six triples, and scored 52 runs. Senior Addison Whitmer ended with a .352 batting average and came up with clutch hits during the playoffs.”

Looking ahead, “ We graduate seven girls,” LeBair said. “They all played a part the past few years. Ally was a four year starter and Emily Laupichler started for two and half years. At some point, all of these girls filled roles for the team. We will definitely miss them next year. We do have some girls returning with experience. Our two

freshmen (Kerin Gardner and Charli Alcorn) are going to be great players to build around. We also have junior Sydney Darling returning. There are also a handful of girls from the JV team who will be asked to step into varsity roles next year. A few of those girls would've been on our varsity in the past, but we had such a deep team this year.

“It will be hard for us to duplicate what we did this year. We will really have to figure out how our new girls can best help the team. As always, we rely on our girls being versatile. The makeup of our team will change a lot. We'll miss the seniors who are moving on but I think our younger girls are excited for the opportunities. The semifinal run definitely added attention to our softball program. I know that our returning girls will be hungry to try and do it again in the future.”

Frankenmuth Softball Team Wins 24 Games

John Raffel Sports Scene

Frankenmuth softball coach Todd Sprowl was elated with his team's 24-6 overall record and TVC Red championship with an 11-1 mark.

“The girls had a great season. We were young this year with only one senior

starter,” Sprowl said. “We exceeded my expectations for sure. With such a young team, and graduating three seniors last year, there were large shoes to fill. The come from behind wins against Garber 2 games in a row was pretty clutch. Having two of my second basemen break bones this season was tough.

“Chloe Compau, (junior pitcher)was

19-1 with one save this year,” Sprowl said. “She was firsst team All conference, all district, and all region, so far. Im guessing she will get all state honors also.”

As for key graduates and returners, “We will miss Izzy Bernthal. She is the best defensive third baseman I've ever seen,” Sprowl said. And she hit .427 this

year. Chloe Compau and Emma Sprowl are big returners for us as our No. 1 pitcher and catcher combo.

“I will have five seniors next year, so we will have a lot of experience. Looking forward to it. This was a very close team as the girls play for each other as much as for our school and town. We will never give up and finish every game we are in.”



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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS GOLF STATE TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP

David Cook Sports Scene

The final putts dropped on an exciting high school golf season. Following is a look at the boys golf state tournament and a recap of the performances from some of the area's top teams and golfers.

DIVISION 1

Detroit Catholic Central won the Division 1 team state golf championship for the third time in the past four years. The Shamrocks finished with a 587 team score as they shot a sizzling 283 on the first day and a 304 on the second day of the tournament that took place at Forest Akers West on the campus of Michigan State University. Rochester Adams finished seven strokes behind in second place with a 594 total while Brighton finished in third place with a 601.

Okemos senior Ian Masih won the individual state title by one stroke in a tight struggle with Detroit Catholic Central junior Jack Whitmore. Masih, who placed seventh at state last year as a junior, carded back-to-back rounds of 69 on both days for a 138 total. Campbell finished just one-stroke back at 139 as he shot rounds of 69 and 70. Warren De La Salle sophomore Julian Sinishtaj finished just behind in third place with a 140 total as he carded rounds of 69 and 71.

Davison Finishes In Top Ten In Division 1

The Davison golf team finished the season by placing seventh at the Division 1 state finals with a two-day total of 621. The Cardinals totaled 312 on day one and 309 on day two. Sophomore William Latchana led the way for as he placed in the top ten individually. Latchana posted a 146 total to finish 10th as an individual with scores of 70 and 76. Senior Joseph Merz placed 44th with a 158 total



while freshman Jay Morris totaled 162 and placed 64th.

Rockford Places 12th At State Finals

For the second straight season the Rockford golf team placed 12th at the Division 1 state finals. The Rams posted a two-day total of 635 which was five strokes better than last year's team score. Senior Kaiden Dressler led the way for the Rams as he placed 32nd overall with a 155 total. Sophomore Owen Wilson placed 39th with a 157 total while junior Jack Reum finished 61st with a 161 total. Sophomore Austin Helsel finished with a 168 total.

Midland Dow Golfers Compete At State Finals

The Midland Dow golf team placed 13th overall at the Division 1 state finals with a two-day total of 643. Sophomore David Han led the way for Dow as he placed in the top 20 individually. Han carded rounds of 72 and 79 to place 19th overall with a 151 total. Fellow sophomore Troy Che placed 36th with a 156 total. Sophomore Dylan Phillips placed 61st with a 161 for the Chargers who had no seniors in the lineup and have a bright future.

DIVISION 2

Grand Rapids Christian regained the state title at the Division 2 state golf championship at Bedford Valley Golf Course in Battle Creek. Grand Rapids Christian, which won the state title in 2023 and placed second to Orchard Lake St. Mary's last year, took first place this year with a two-day total of 584. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood placed second with a 593 total while Ada Forest Hills Eastern placed third with a 603. Individually, Plainwell junior Drew Rayman won medalist honors as he carded rounds of 71 and 72 for a 143 total. Sutton Schroeder of Greenville was the runner-up. Schroeder, a senior, posted rounds of 79 and 71 for a total of 150. Grand Rapids Catholic Central freshman Tommy Preston placed third with a 151 total.

Bay City Western Golfers Place 10th At State Finals

The Bay City Western golf team closed out the year in a big way with a 10th-place finish at the Division 2 state finals. Western posted scores of 318 and 316 to finish with a two-day total of 634. A trio of Western golfers finished within one stroke of each other to lead the way. Senior Logan Gehoski led the way as he placed 44th overall with a 158 total. Junior Drew Goik and senior Nash Leonard finished one-stroke back with rounds of 159. Freshman Chase Schmidt finished 59th with a 163 total.

St. Johns Golfers Return To State Meet

The St. Johns golf team returned to the state meet this season and finished in 16th place with a two-day total of 675. Junior Elijah Schultz led the way for the Redwings as he placed 37th overall with rounds of 78 and 79 for a 157 total. Senior Ty Wardin finished with a 170 total while junior Dylan Welton totaled 172 and senior James Davis

Shepherd senior Chris Crockett won the individual state championship at the Division 3 golf state finals.

finished at 176.

Freeland Golfers Compete At State Finals

The Freeland golf team capped the season by placing 18th at the Division 2 state finals with a team score of 679. The Falcons were paced at the state finals by junior Tristan Pohl who placed 33rd overall. Pohl carded rounds of 79 and 77 for a 156 total. Senior Brandon Moon finished with a 165 total while sophomore Drew Darrow came in with a 178 total.

DIVISION 3

It was a case of role reversals at the Division 3 state golf championship at The Meadows on the campus of Grand Valley State University. Jackson Lumen Christi, runner-up last year, took home the title this year with a 626 team total. The state title was the first for the Titans since 2017. Traverse City St. Francis, last year's state champions, placed second this season with a 639 total. Grand Rapids NorthPointe Christian finished in third place with a 645 total.

Shepherd Golfer Wins Medalist Honors, Bullock Creek And Clare Golfers Place In Top 10

Shepherd senior Christopher Crockett came away with the top prize at the Division 3 state finals as he won individual medalist honors. Crockett fired a round of 70 on the first day of the tournament and came back with a 75 on day two to finish with a two-day total of 145. **Bullock Creek** senior Colton Lower claimed runner-up honors. Lower carded rounds of 73 and 75 to finish three strokes behind with a 148 total. **Clare** sophomore Bryce Wiefierich also placed in the top ten. Wiefierich put together rounds of 75 and 78 to finish in sixth place with a 153 total.

Essexville-Garber Places In Top Ten For Second Straight Year

For the second straight year the Essexville-Garber golf team finished in the top ten at the Division 3 state finals. After placing ninth last year, the Dukes placed fourth this year with a team total of 652, 39 strokes better than last year's total. Junior Jonah Williams led the way for the Dukes as he finished in the top ten with a 154 total. Williams placed eighth with rounds of 82 and 72. Sophomore Aaron Theisen placed 36th with a 164 total while junior Devin Dueueke was 38th with a 165 and junior Lucas Schiefer totaled a 170. With all four due to return, the Dukes are looking forward to next season.

Chesaning Golfers Finish In Top Ten At State Finals

The Chesaning golf team wrapped up the season by placing in the top ten at the Division 3 state finals. Chesaning placed seventh overall with a team score of 662. Sophomore Luke Skaryd led the way for the Indians as he placed third individually. Skaryd carded rounds of 74 and 78 for a 152 total. Junior Justin Lange placed 25th overall with a 161 total. Senior Quinton Everett added a 175 and sophomore Will Pierce totaled a 176.

Millington Golfers Compete At State Finals

The Millington golf team capped the season by placing 12th at the Division 3 state finals with a 677 total. The Cardinals were paced at the state meet by senior Bryce Martin who finished 25th individually with a 161. Seniors Brad Coleman and Landon Germain both placed 45th with rounds of 167.

Lansing Catholic Wraps Up Season At State Finals

The Lansing Catholic golf team capped the season by placing 15th at the Division 3 state finals with a 694 total. The Cougars were paced at the state meet by senior Hayden Riley who finished 31st with a 163. Sophomore Jacob Payne placed 55th with a 170 while sophomore Carter Tribell finished with a 177.

Lakewood-Lake Odessa Golf Team Reaches State Finals

The Lakewood-Lake Odessa golf team wrapped up the season by qualifying for the Division 3 state finals. The Vikings placed 17th at the finals with a team score of 706. Senior Cole Thrun led the way for Lake Odessa as he totaled a 172. Fellow senior Kenny Dutkiewicz came in with a 175 while sophomore Vance O'Mara totaled a 177.

DIVISION 4

It was a three-peat in Division 4 as the Clarkston Everest Collegiate golf team won its third consecutive state championship. Everest Collegiate finished with a two-day total of 631 to win the Division 4 state title at Katke Golf Course on the campus of Ferris State University. Grandville Calvin Christian finished 19 strokes behind with a 650 while Kalamazoo Hackett Prep placed third with a 651. Wyoming Tri-unity Christian senior Hezekiah Nobel won medalist honors as he totaled a 148 to win by seven strokes. Wyoming Potter's House Christian sophomore Isaiah Ponstine placed second with a 155 while Harbor Springs Harbor Light Christian senior Benjamin Hanes placed third with a 158.

Saginaw Nouvel Places In Top Ten At State

Saginaw Nouvel finished in the top ten at the state meet for a third year in a row. Nouvel placed sixth overall as it finished with a team score of 665. Senior Alex McCarthy led the way for Nouvel as he placed 13th overall with two rounds of 80 to finish with a 160 total. Senior Rodney lamurri placed 26th with a 166 total. Junior Ty lamurri finished in 33rd place with a 169 while junior Ian Ziegelmann finished in 36th place with a 170.

Lansing Christian Golfers Compete At State Finals

The Lansing Christian golf team wrapped up the season by placing 14th at the Division 4 state finals with a team total of 713. Sophomore Maddox Mosley led the way for the Pilgrims as he placed 47th overall with a 173 total. Senior Owen Resch finished with a 179 while freshman Ben Rottman was one stroke behind with a 180 and senior Jamie Lebrun finished with a 184.

Area Teams Volley For Titles In State Tennis Tournament

David Cook Sports Scene

The following is a recap of the girls tennis state tournament and a look at how some of the top local teams fared in post-season action.

DIVISION 1

Northville Claims D1 State Title

Northville won its first tennis state championship since 2018 as the Mustangs totaled 23 points to win the D1 state title. Utica Eisenhower placed second with 22 points while Novie placed third with 19 points.

Rockford Places In Top Ten At State Finals

The Rockford tennis team finished the season by placing sixth at the Division 1 state meet with a total of 15 points.

Rockford was led at the state meet by The No. 1 doubles team of senior Alayna Gee and senior Avery Marchlewski. The duo capped an unbeaten season by winning the state title at No. 1 singles.

The No. 4 doubles team of junior Carlie Wegener and sophomore Sadie Debski also turned in a solid performance as they reached the quarterfinals. The No. 2 doubles team of seniors Lydia Brown and Kayleigh Koster and the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Halle De Man and Sage Brownwell both reached the second round.

In singles action the Rams were led by a pair of players that reached the quarterfinals. Freshman Grace Ferry reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles while junior Sophie Burns advanced to the quarterfinals at No. 2 singles. Freshman Ella Fix reached the second round at No. 4 singles.

Rockford qualified for the state finals by placing second at the Holland West Ottawa regional.

Okemos Finishes Season At State Finals

The Okemos tennis team capped the season by placing 16th at the Division 1 state finals. Okemos players reached the quarterfinal round at a pair of flights. Senior Komal Patel reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles while the No. 1 doubles team of junior Joanna Deng and senior Christina Joseph also reached the quarterfinals.

Reaching the second round for Okemos were senior Grace Wang (No. 1 singles), sophomore Haneesha Padavala (No. 4 singles), the No. 3 doubles team of sophomores Chandu Ballem and Anaya Patel and the No. 2 doubles team of freshman Anisha Khoje and junior Nishika Subesh.

Okemos qualified for the state finals by taking second place at the Holt regional.

DIVISION 2

Birmingham Seaholm Wins D2 State Crown

Birmingham Seaholm, which finished in second place last season, came away with the Division 2 state championship this year as it

totaled 32 team points. The state title was the second in the past three years for Seaholm. Farmington Hills Mercy placed second 25 points while last year's D2 state champion, Forest Hills Northern, placed third with 23 points.

Midland Dow Caps Season In Top Five At State

The Midland Dow tennis team finished fourth in the state at the Division 2 state finals with a total of 18 points.

Dow was led at the finals by its doubles teams. All four of Chargers' doubles teams reached the semifinals round led by the No. 1 doubles team of junior Ayesha Middha and senior Noran Lacher. Also reaching the semifinals for Dow were the No. 2 doubles team of senior Tessa Wood and junior Sachi Togashi, the No. 3 doubles seniors Elisa Costeux and Alexa Leiti and the No. 4 doubles team of senior Lauren Yao and freshman Evie Samocki.

In singles action Dow was led by senior Dalton DeBoer who reached the semifinals at No. 1 singles. Junior Ruby Macheso reached the second round at No. 3 singles.

Mason Tennis Team Competes At State Meet

The Mason tennis team wrapped up the season by competing in the Division 2 state finals. The Bulldogs scored a total of nine team points and finished in 11th place overall.

In singles action, senior Megan Bozung led the way as she reached the quarterfinal round at No. 3 singles. Senior Gabby Hanover reached the second round at No. 1 singles while junior Kylee Smith reached the second round at No. 4 singles.

In doubles play, the Bulldogs were paced by the No. 2 doubles team of sophomores Carcyn Winkel and Juliette Smoker who reached the quarterfinal round. The No. 1 doubles team of seniors Keira Redman and Jennah Lattig reached the second round as did the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Isabel Hauser and Leah Kruger and the No. 4 doubles team of senior Ava Greenlee and freshman Elliana Skaggs.

East Lansing Caps Tennis Season At State Finals

The East Lansing tennis team capped the season by placing 14th at the Division 2 state finals with a total of eight team points.

East Lansing was led at the state finals by the No. 1 doubles team of sophomore Evie Laxton and freshman Ani Meghea and the No. 4 doubles team of junior Stella Alfredson and freshman Zoe VanDorn who both reached the quarterfinal round. Reaching the second round in doubles play for the Trojans were the No. 2 doubles teams of senior Elsa Elhenicky and sophomore Eleanna Kimbouris and the No. 3 doubles team of senior Elizabeth Gisholt and junior Grace Knake.

In singles play, junior Maia Meghea (No. 1 singles) and junior Sima Bezuglova (No. 4 singles) both reached the second round.

DIVISION 3

Detroit Country Day Repeats As D3 State Champion

Detroit Country Day captured the Division 3 state championship for the second consecutive year as it totaled 34 points. Birmingham Cranbrook Kingswood finished in second place with 32 points while Bloomfield Hills Marian took third place with 22 points. Country Day and Kingswood continued their dominance of Division 3 tennis on the state level as the two programs have produced the team state champion every year since 2009.

Haslett Wraps Up Season At State Finals

Haslett capped the tennis season by placing 13th at the Division 3 state finals with a total of five team points.

The Vikings were led at the state finals by junior Lauren Richey who reached the quarterfinal round at No. 4 singles. Junior Lexi Pridgeon reached the second round at No. 2 singles.

In doubles play, three of Haslett's doubles team advanced to the second round. Reaching the second round in doubles play for the Vikings were the No. 1 doubles team of senior Ella Boccaraossa and sophomore Adele Leister, the No. 3 doubles team of senior Kendall Armstrong and sophomore Addison Schroeder and the No. 4 doubles team of freshmen Loela Spadafore and Allison Krueger.

Haslett qualified for the state finals by winning the regional it hosted.

St. Johns Ends Season Competing At State Finals

The St. Johns tennis team wrapped up the season by competing at the Division 3 state finals where it finished in 16th place with a total of three team points.

A trio of St. Johns doubles teams advanced to the second round at the finals. Those squads were the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Brenda McCann and Ramiah Caroland, the No. 2 doubles team of junior Callie Morrison and senior Caroline Parsons and the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Summer Kanaski and Aubrey Beltran.

In singles action senior Kate Boettger reached the second round at No. 3 singles.

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

DIVISION 4

Ann Arbor Greenhills Extends Reign In D4 With Title

Ann Arbor Greenhills won the Division 4 state championship for the fourth straight year. Greenhills turned in a dominant performance at the finals as it won all but one flight in totaling 38 points. Pontiac Notre Dame placed second with 28 points while Traverse City St. Francis placed third with 20 points.

Hemlock Places In Top Ten At State

Hemlock capped the season with a top-ten finish at the Division 4 state finals. The Huskies totaled eight points to place tenth overall.

Hemlock was paced at the state finals by a pair of singles players who reached the quarterfinal round. Senior Anna Nurnberg reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles while sophomore Lindsey Tausch reached the quarterfinals at No. 4



The Saginaw Nouvel tennis team placed in the top ten at the Division 4 state finals.

singles. Reaching the second round in singles play for the Huskies were junior Victoria Hauffe (No. 2 singles) and senior Carly Siler (No. 1 singles).

Hemlock also had a pair of doubles teams reach the second round. The No. 1 doubles team of senior Claire Beck and junior Allie Watson and the No. 4 doubles team of senior Kennedy Krabill and sophomore Lani Wardin both advanced to the second round.

SAGINAW NOUVEL AMONG TOP TEN AT STATE MEET

The Saginaw Nouvel tennis team finished the season in the top ten at the Division 4 state finals. The Panthers totaled eight team points to finish in tenth place.

The Panthers were led at the state finals by senior Caroline Shaheen. A regional champion at No. 1 singles, Shaneen reached the quarterfinals at state.

A pair of doubles teams also reached the quarterfinal round. 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 reached the quarterfinals.

Reaching the second round for Nouvel was junior Jveen Murad at No. 3 singles and the No. 2 doubles team of freshman Maia Dill and sophomore Cece Barrera

Lansing Catholic Caps Season At State Finals

The Lansing Catholic tennis team closed out the tennis season by placing 17th with five team points at the Division 4 state finals.

The Cougars were led at the finals by freshman Addison Murphy who reached the quarterfinal round at No. 3 singles. Also in singles play, freshman Tessa Topham (No. 4 singles) and freshman Ava Jacobs (No. 2 singles) both reached the second round.

The Cougars also advanced all four of their doubles teams to the second round. Reaching the second round for Lansing Catholic were senior Grace Currie and Lily Rule (No. 1 doubles), sophomore Haven Topham and senior Lauren Escojido (No. 2 doubles), junior Layla Corbit and sophomore Zellie Raiche (No. 3 doubles) and junior Jayda Stowell and sophomore Vivian Shulick (No. 4 doubles).



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Belleville Boys Win Division 1 Track And Field State Title

David Cook Sports Scene

Following is a look at the Division 1 boys track and field state finals

BELLEVILLE TAKES FIRST

Belleville claimed the Division 1 boys state track and field title as it totaled 57 team points. Northville finished in second place with 35 points while Grand Haven was third with 31 points.

MIDLAND BOYS FINISH IN TOP TWENTY

The Midland boys track and field team placed 15th overall in Division 1 with a total of 16 points.

Senior thrower Maxwell Stoecker led the way for the Chemics. Stoecker placed second in the shot put with a put of 58-10.25 and also took second in the discus with a personal-record throw of 179-3.

GRAND LEDGE POSTS TOP-TWENTY FINISH

The Grand Ledge boys track team placed 18th overall at the Division 1 state finals with a total of 13 team points.

The Comets were led by senior Zechariah Jones who placed second in the high jump with a jump of 6-6. Senior Ty Ellis took fourth in the discus with a throw of 171-2.

MORE AREA STATE PLACERS:

CEDAR SPRINGS: Hudson Pant, sr. (6th, 54-3, shot put).

EAST LANSING: Caleb Ross, so. (7th, 49.15, 400 meters).

GREENVILLE: Preston VanOeffelen, jr. (6th, 1:55.30 800 meters); Trevor Boyer, sr. (7th, 14-6, pole vault); Daniel Scott, sr. (8th, 14-6, pole vault).

HOLT: Michael Aimery, jr. (6th, 22-0.25, long jump).



Zechariah Jones of Grand Ledge was one step away from the top of the podium as he took second in the long jump in Division 1.

ROCKFORD: Caden Karcher, sr. (3rd, 1:54.79, 800 meters).

SAGINAW HERITAGE: Nick Coleman, jr. (6th, 49.08, 400 meters); Grayson Byam, sr.

(4th, 55-4.75, shot put).

SAGINAW UNITED: Blake Jones, so. (5th, 6-6, high jump).

Parma Western Edges River Rouge To Win Division 2 Track And Field State Title

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Following is a look at the Division 2 boys track and field state finals

PARMA WESTERN TAKES FIRST

Parma Western claimed the Division 2 boys state track and field title as it totaled 44 team points. River Rouge finished in a close second place with 38 points while New Boston Huron was third with 30 points.

PORTLAND PLACES IN TOP 15 AT STATE

The Portland boys track and field team capped the season by finishing in 13th place at the D2 state finals with a total of 14 points.

Portland was led by a pair of relay teams that earned all-state honors. Leading the way was the 4x400 relay team of senior Chris Battley, senior Mason McGregor, junior Bradley Rowe and junior Nolan Zybowski who won the state title with a time of 3:20.72. The same foursome also placed fifth in the 4x200 relay with a time of 1:29.83.

EATON RAPIDS PLACES IN TOP TWENTY AT STATE

Eaton Rapids wrapped up the season by

taking fourth 16th place at the D2 state finals with a total of 12 points.

The Greyhounds were led at the finals by senior Carter Buckingham who placed third in both the 100-meter dash (10.82) and the 200-meter dash (21.95).

ALMA PLACES IN TOP TWENTY

The Alma boys placed 18th in the state in Division 2 with a total of 11 team points.

The Panthers were led by junior Thomas Larson who earned all-state honors in a pair of individual races. Larson placed fifth in the 1,600-meter run (4:20.70) and sixth in the 800 meters (1:56.75). Alma senior Christopher Churchill also placed eighth in the 100 hurdles (15.03).

The 4x800 relay team of senior Bodie Hess, junior Lucas Lebron, sophomore Ezekiel Baltierra and Lason also placed sixth (7:55.02).

SWAN VALLEY BOYS FINISH IN TWENTY

The Swan Valley boys track and field team capped the season by placing 20th at the D2 state finals with 16 points.

Viking junior Boston Streng-Beougher

led the way for the team as he placed fifth in the 200 meters and sixth in the 400 meters. Streng also teamed up with senior Cal Delisle, junior Ryder Stipanovich and sophomore Owen Hare on the 4x400 relay team that placed sixth with a time of 3:26.50.

MORE AREA STATE PLACERS:

CHARLOTTE: Braylon Holmes, soph. (2nd, long jump, 22-4.5).

CLARE: Logan Carstensen, sr. (4th, 14.55, 110 hurdles); Conan Weeks, jr. (4th, 300 hurdles, 39.68).

CORUNNA: Braden Hartsuff, soph. (6th, 110 hurdles, 14.81); Logan Herrick, jr. (5th, 300 hurdles, 40.25).

FREELAND: Zander Wheatley, jr. (2nd, 300 hurdles, 39.39).

GLADWIN: Donald Corlew III (5th, long jump, 21-10.5); Drake Ross, sr. (4th, pole vault, 14-1).

HOWARD CITY TRI-COUNTY: Xander Antor, jr. (6th, pole vault, 13-10).

LAKEWOOD-LAKE ODESSA: Donald Wells, sr. (5th, 400 meters, 49.95); 4x400 relay team of Troy Acker, Michael :26.80.

ST. JOHNS: Nolan Cullens, fr. (8th, 100



The Alma 4x800 relay team placed sixth in the state in Division 2.

meters, 11.05); Bryce Pratl, jr. (7th, 300 hurdles, 40.54).

SHEPHERD: Nolan Longuski (4th, 800 meters, 1:56.02); Remington Haworth, sr. (8th, 300 meters, 40.55); 4x800 relay team of Bryce Cahoon, Drew Davis, Ian McNeel and Nolan Longuski (8th, 8:02.34)

WILLIAMSTON: Tommm Pratt, jr. (3rd, long jump, 22-2.25); 4x200 relay team of Tommy Pratt, Drew Kersten, Steven Bush and Noah Pfeifle (6th, 1:29.96).

Chesaning Boys Capture Division 3 State Track And Field Crown

David Cook Sports Scene

Following is a look at the Division 3 boys track and field state finals

CHESANING BOYS WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Chesaning boys track and field team totaled 57 points to come home with Division 3 state track and field title. Pewamo-Westphalia placed second with 34 points while Reed City finished one-point behind in third place.

A pair of seniors led the way for the Indians as they earned all-state honors in two individual events. Senior hurdler Caleb Walker won the state title in the 110 hurdles with a time of 14.35. Walker then placed second in the 300 hurdles in 38.88.

Senior sprinter Zach Harlan placed second in the 200 meters with a time of 22.44 and placed third in the 100-meter dash in 11.09.

Also earning individual all-state honors were senior Truman Donek who took seventh in the 300 hurdles (40.83) and junior Bradon Burtch who placed sixth in the shot put (50-7).

Three Chesaning relay teams earned all-state highlighted by the 4x400 relay team of Cole Maier, Blake Hoerner, Harlan and Walker who won the state title in 3:25.20. The 4x200 relay of Walker, Jayden Howard, Danek and Harlan placed third (1:30.89) while the 4x800 relay of Law Danek, Hoerner, Jaxon Hemgesberg and Maier placed fifth (8:15.80).

PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA BOYS TAKE SECOND AT STATE

State champions last year, the Pewamo-Westphalia boys track and field team 34 points to come home in second place this year at the Division 3 state track and field title.

The Pirates were led by senior sprinter Trevor Smith who won the 200-meter dash in a time of 22.40 and placed second in the 100-meter dash in 10.88.

Senior Sam Muirhead also placed fifth in the 800 meters (1:59.53).

The Pirates also had a pair of relay teams earn all-state honors. The 4x800 relay of Wyatt Werner, John Kowatch, Sam Muirhead and Allan George took second in a time of 8:05.35 while the 4x200 relay of Alex Nurenberg, Trevor Smith, Rylee Arthur and Blake Thelen placed fifth (1:31.66).

OVID-ELSIE PLACES IN TOP TEN AT STATE

The Ovid-Elsie boys finished sixth in the state in Division 2 with a total of 28 team points.

Senior Tryce Tokar led the way for the Marauder as he won the pole vault competition as he cleared 15-0. Tokar also joined up with Wyatt Lover, Owen Long and Travis Milner to place second in the 4x200 relay in a time of 1:30.80

The Marauders also received all-state efforts from junior Brock Spitzley who took second in the discus (174-3) and sophomore

Travis Miler who placed seventh in the 400 meters (50.93).

LANSING CATHOLIC PLACES IN TOP TEN

The Lansing Catholic boys track and field team finished in ninth place with 20 points at the Division 3 state track and field finals.

The Cougars were led by junior hurdler Leland VanAlstine. VanAlstine placed second in the 110 hurdles with a tie of 14.53 and took third place in the 300 hurdles in 38.94.

Lansing Catholic also had a pair of relay teams earn all-state honors. The 4x200 relay of Jon Raphael, Ren Matias, VanAlstine and Braden Rabideau placed seventh while the 4x400 team of Blaise Demko, Raphael, Matias and Rabideau placed fifth in 3:29.98.

MORE AREA STATE PLACERS:

BATH: Luke Skidmore (2nd, pole vault, 14-

9). **BULLOCK CREEK:** Chris Tetloff, soph. (4th, 52-0, shot put).

ITHACA: Landon Styka, jr. (6th, 3,200 meters, 9:43.95); 4x800 relay of Miingen Bertrand, Landon Styka, Thad Whitmore and Jacob Mankey (3rd, 8:08.35).

LAINGSBURG: Mitchell George (7th, high jump, 6-3).

LAKEVIEW: Grant Wheaton (7th, 110 hurdles, 15.27).

PERRY: Brayden Connell, sr. (8th, 200 meters, 23.35); Chandler Webb, jr. (5th, pole vault, 14-3).

SAGINAW VALLEY LUTHERAN: Jack Strieter, jr. (8th, 400 meters, 51.60); 4x400 relay of Robby Samborn, Trent Schiavone, Wheatley Rodammer and Jack Strieter (8th, 3:30.88).

ST. LOUIS: Landon Pestrue (3rd, 1,600 meters, 4:22.63).



The Chesaning boys track team won the team state championship in Division 3.

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Southfield Christian Boys Bring Home Division 4 State Track And Field Championship

David Cook Sports Scene

Following is a look at the Division 4 boys track and field state finals

SOUTHFIELD CHRISTIAN TAKES TOP SPOT IN D4

Southfield Christian claimed the Division 4 boys state track and field title as it totaled 60 team points. Kalamazoo Hackett finished in second place with 59 points while Hillsdale Academy placed third with 50 points.

FWOLER TAKES FOURTH AT STATE FINALS

Fowler placed fourth at the Division 4 boys track and field state finals with a total of 44.5 points.

The Eagles were led by senior standout Brady Feldpausch who won the 110 hurdles for the second year in a row with a time of 14.19 and placed second in the 300 hurdles (39.79). Senior Nate Spicer finished second in the 400-meter dash (50.51) and took fifth in the 200 meters (22. 89). In the field events, junior Carter Fedewa placed second in the pole vault (12-0).

Fowler also had a pair of relay teams earn all-state honors. The 4x200 relay team of Ford Phillips, Colt Nobach, Feldpausch and Spicer placed third 1:31.21 while the 4x400 team of Feldpausch, Nobach, Phillips and Spicer took second with a time of 3:24.92.

MORRICE TAKES SIXTH AT STATE

Morrice placed sixth at the D4 state finals for the second consecutive year is it finished with a total of 23 team points. Junior Oliver Long led the way for the Orioles as he won the state title in the shot put for the second consecutive year with a put of 59-9.5. Senior Logan Smith placed in a pair of events. Smith won the state title in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.76. Smith also placed sixth in the 200-meter dash (22.97).

BRECKENRIDGE PLACES IN TOP TEN AT STATE

Breckenridge totaled 21 team points to finish in eighth place at the D4 state finals.

The Huskies were led by their throwers. Senior Zander Mapes won the state title in the discus with a throw of 157-3 and took third place in the shot put (50-1). Sophomore Andrew Clark placed fourth in the shot put with a put of 49-5.

MLS ATHLETES PLACE 12TH AT STATE MEET

The Michigan Lutheran Seminary track team finished the season by placing 12th at the Division 4 state track and field finals with a total of 11 team points.

Junior thrower provided the points for

the team as he placed second in the shot put with a put of 52-4.25 and took sixth in the discus (150-7).

MORE AREA STATE PLACERS:

BEAL CITY: Aaron Locke, soph. (5th, 800 meters, 1:58.79).

DANSVILLE: Theodore Davis, sr. (7th, 1,600 meters, 4:27.56; 7th, 3,200 meters, 9:46.26).

LANSING CHRISTAIN: Noah Adcock, jr. (8th, 100 meters, 11.22).

POTTERVILLE: Ezariah Taylor, sr. (8th, 200 meters, 23.40); Isaiah O'Neil, soph. (7th, high jump, 6-0).

WEBBERVILLE: Matthew Howerly, jr. (7th, long jump20-8.75), Daxten Feguer, jr. (6th, high jump, 6-1).



The Fowler boys track team placed fourth in the state in Division 4.

Oak Park Girls Run Away With Division 1 State Track And Field Title

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Following is a look at the Division 1 girl track and field state finals

OAK PARK CAPTURES STATE TITLE

Oak Park claimed the Division 1 girls state track and field title as it totaled 86 team points. Detroit Renaissance finished in second place with 47 points while Holland West Ottawa was third with 46 points.

ROCKFORD PLACES IN TOP FIVE AT FINALS

The Rockford girls track and field team placed fifth overall as a team at the Division 1 finals with a total of 31 team points.

The Rams were led by senior Greta Caprathe. Caprathe won the high jump with a jump of 5-6 and took fifth in the long jump with a leap of 17-10.75.

Junior Olivia Hosford placed in a pair of field events as she took sixth in the discus (133-7) and eighth in the shot put (38-9.25).

Also in the field events senior Layla Visser

was third in the high jump (5-4) and junior Maiya Corrigan was seventh in the pole vault (12-3).

A pair of Rockford relay teams also placed in the top eight. The 4x100 relay team of sophomore Macy Vandenhout, Caprathe, Corrigan and sophomore Lillian Green placed seventh (57.10) while the 4x400 team of sophomore Audrey Zollman, senior Lola Davey, freshman Sadie Plain and MacIntosh placed eighth.

MacIntosh also placed seventh in the 400 meters (57.10).

SAGINAW HERITAGE GIRLS PLACE IN TOP TEN

Saginaw Heritage placed sixth as a team at the D1 state finals with a total of 27 team points.

The Hawks were led by a pair of standout sprinters. Sophomore Willow Mason placed third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.87 seconds and took second in the 200 meters with a time of 23.93. Senior Jordyn Young took seventh place in the 200-meter dash in 24.44 and placed sixth in the 100 meters with a time of 12.01.

Heritage also had a big effort in the relays as the 4x200 team of sophomore Kaya Arnold, Young, sophomore Kayla Shepard and Mason placed second with a time of 1:39.67.

MIDLAND DOW FINISHES IN TOP TWENTY

The Midland Dow girls track and field team placed 14th overall at the state finals with a total of 16 team points.

Dow was led by senior distance standout Victoria Garces. Garces won the 1,600-meter run in a time of 4:48.74 and placed third in the 3,200-meter run with a time of 10:23.13.

MORE AREA STATE PLACERS:

DEWITT: 4x800 relay team of Kayla Williams, Ayla Holben, Mia Williams and Bella Schneeberger (7th, 9:21.86).

GRAND LEDGE: Elyse Sanders, jr. (4th, high jump, 5-4); Katie Blue, jr. (5th pole vault, 12-9).

HOLT: 4x400 relay team of Deasia Norman, Malayna Thompson, Olivia Gadsen and Lauren Walker (6th, 3:57.38).

LOWELL: Isabel German, sr. (1st, 13-0,



The Rockford girls track team received strong efforts from Greta Caprathe and Layla Visser.

pole vault).

MASON: Tori Lator, sr. (2nd, high jump, 5-5).

MIDLAND: Abigail Shealy, sr. (4th, 41-8.75, shot put).

OKEMOS: Rachel Smith, fr. (6th, 3,200 meters, 10:32.01).

Sturgis Girls Capture Division 2 State Track And Field Title

David Cook Sports Scene

Following is a look at the Division 2 girl track and field state finals

STURGIS WINS STATE TITLE

Sturgis claimed the Division 2 girls state track and field title as it totaled 54.2 team points. Goodrich finished in second place with 39 points while Swan Valley was third with 38 points.

SWAN VALLEY TAKES THIRD AT STATE

Swan Valley placed third as a team at the D2 state finals with a total of 38 team points. Senior standout Sydney Kuhn led the way for Swan Valley as she won a pair of individual state championships. Kuhn captured the 400-meter dash in a time of 54.7 and won the 300 hurdles in a time of 44.21. Kuhn

also placed second in the 200-meter dash (24.13). Kuhn was also a member of the state championship 4x400 relay team. The team of Kuhn, junior Grace Spear, sophomore Aubrey Hare and sophomore Mackenzie Morgan took first in a time of 4:00.66.

MORE AREA STATE PLACERS:

BAY CITY JOHN GLENN: Annabelle Werner, soph. (7th, pole vault, 10-3).

BIG RAPIDS: Nalaya Fricke, soph. (4th, 400 meters, 57.48).

CHARLOTTE: Baylee Moore, jr. (8th, 300 hurdles, 47.26).

EATON RAPIDS: Marra Collins, jr. (2nd, pole vault, 11-3).

FRANKENMUTH: Natalie Foltz, jr. (3rd, 800 meters, 2:15.70; Rosemary Brenner, sr. (8th, high jump, 5-1); 4x800 relay team of Lucy Conzelmann, Elise Barden, Gabby Cleveland

and Foltz (7th, 9:39.93).

FREELAND: Clara Kaczor, soph. (8th, 1,600 meters, 5:11.89); Payton Maxey, fr. (5th, shot put, 41-0); 4x400 relay team of McKenna Koehler, Addie Seemann, Kaczor and Karie Keefer (8th, 4:08.55); 4x800 relay team of Kaczor, Seemann, Koehler and Keefer (5th, 9:38.68).

GLADWIN: Ava Gary, sr. (3rd, 100 hurdles, 14.88; 7th, 300 hurdles, 47.06); Mackenzie Price, jr. (4th, discus, 129-3); Callie Mead, sr. (8th, high jump, 5-1).

HASLETT: Christina Dixon (2nd, 400 meters, 56.47).

IONIA: Mimi Wegener, sr. (6th, pole vault, 10-9).

LANSING SEXTON: Cayla Bouyer, soph. (5th, 100 meters, 12.2).

OWOSSO: Gabrielle Hufnagel (2nd, 300 hurdles, 45.28).



The Swan Valley girls track team won the state title in the 4x400 relay.

SHEPHERD: Gracie Warner (7th, pole vault, 10-3).

WILLIAMSTON: Isla Lawton, soph. (4th pole vault, 11-0).

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Fowler Track Girls Take Division 4 State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Ir was Neil Hufnagel's second year as Fowler track and field goal and he was ecstatic with the results which included a Division 4 state title.

Fowler had a CMAC dual meet Record of 9-0 for first and second in the CMAC Championship Meet to be CMAC Co-Champs with Pewamo-Westphalia.

Fowler was D4 Regional Champs at its first ever home regional meet held at Fowler High School's Spicer Field. Scored 193.33 pts ahead of second-place Breckenridge with 95.5, and 3rd place Beal City with 53.33.

"Between the regional meet and the EQ meets, we qualified 11 athletes to the state meet in 16 of 17 events.

D4 State Champs (back to back) scoring 70 points ahead of second-place Frankfort with 43 point Scored in 11 different events, recording 13 places and had 8 girls earn all-state honors," Hufnagel said.

"We had a wonderful season built around our team motto: "More Than a Race", inspired by our assistant coach Britney Weber's fight against Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma that she was diagnosed with over the winter.

As a team, we always challenge ourselves to use our gifts to the best of our ability, running with a grateful heart and a smile on our face. That took on special meaning this year, as we sought to use those gifts to support and encourage Coach Brit in her fight, as she inspired our team with her positive spirit, continuing to coach even as she underwent treatments. We were thrilled to win a state title with Coach Brit at our side, and look even

more forward to celebrating her win over cancer."

Hufnagel added:

"Competitively, the story of our season was the development of our team depth that enabled our repeat state title. Our team depth allowed us to free up some of our top level performers to compete in individual events where they could earn team points, while our younger athletes filled in the relays which were also able to place near the top in themboth the conference and state meets.

"We met all of our team competition goals this year as we won our league title, won the regional title and contended for the state title, even coming out on top. As importantly, we saw tremendous growth and improvement over the course of the year from the entire team, including a strong group of underclassmen, many of whom didn't compete at the state meet simply due to the talent of their older teammates. We celebrated a continual parade of PRs over the course of the year as we grew the strength of our team with each individual improvement."

There were many top highlights for the team.

"Team highlights included invitational wins at the Bath Jon Nugent Invite, the Ovid-Elsie Fosh/ Soph Invite, a CMAC Title and the Regional and State Championships mentioned earlier. We also had several great performances at the Lansing Area Honor Roll Meet setting school records in both the 4x100m Relay (Michaela Spitzley, Paige Thelen, Ella Hufnagel, Katie Spicer) with a 2nd place time of 50.04, and in the 4x200m Relay (Michaela Spitzley, Nadia

Schafer, Ella Hufnagel, Katie Spicer) with a 4th place time of 1:45.35," Hufnagel said.

"We had the welcome challenge of having a very short preseason for several athletes due to their competing in and winning the D4 Girls Basketball State Title. We gave them a week off to rest mentally and physically before getting back to work on a great track season. The nearly 4 weeks of lost training seemed to be a good tradeoff for the confidence, winning attitude, and leadership they brought to our team."

Ella Hufnagel (Senior) was voted MVP by her teammates this season.

"The tremendous depth of our sprint group allowed us to put Ella in individual events where she could earn team points with top level finishes even as her teammates continued to do the same in the relays without her," coach Hugnagel said. "She won 4 individual events (100, 200, 400, LJ) at the CMAC Championships, was 1st in the long jump, high jump, 4x400 and second in the 400 at the Regional Meet, and had 4 top 4 finishes at the state meet including 3rd in the 100 with a 12.44 PR, 3rd in the 400 with a 59.89, 4th in the 200 with a PR in the prelims of 25.84, and 1st in the Long Jump with a school record 18'2.25". She also ran on the school record setting 4x100 and 4x200 relays at the Lansing Area Honor Roll Meet"

Katie Spicer (Senior) came off of an early season injury to lead thesprint group and anchor our record setting sprint relay teams. She was 2nd in the 100 at the Region and CMAC Meet and 6 th in the State Meet with a 12.61. She was 2nd in the 200 at both the CMAC Meet and theRegional. She anchored our 4x100 and 4x200 spring relay teams which finished in the top 2 in the CMAC, Region and State, and broke both school records at the Lansing Area Honor Roll Meet with a 50.04 in the 4x100 and a 1:45.35 in the 4x200.

"Kelcie Pung (Senior) had a tremendous season as our distance standout," Hufnagel said. "She won the 800 and was 2nd in the 1600 in the CMAC Meet, won the 3200 and was 2nd in the 1600 and 4x800 in the Regional, was 3rd in the 800 in the

Lansing Area Honor Roll with a personal best 2:21.43, and in the State Meet ran a personal best of 5:20.46 in the 1600 before going on to finish 5th in the 800.

"Maria Wieber (Junior) picked up right where she left of last year after being a surprise placer at the state meet in the 300 Hurdles. In the 100mHurdles she was 2nd in the CMAC, 1st in the Region, and 6th in the State running a PR of 16.24 in the prelims. In the 300 Hurdles she was 2nd in the CMAC, 1st in the Region, 7th in the Honor Roll with a 47.6 PR, and 7th in the State. She also ran regularly on our relays including our 4x400 that was 1st in the CMAC and Region, 3rd in the Honor Roll with a season best 4:08.29, and 4th at the State Meet. She also ran on our 2nd place 4x200 Relay at the State Meet making her all-state in 4 events.

Michaela Spitzley (Junior) emerged as a great individual performer in the short sprints and shot put while continuing to be our lead offrunner in the sprint relays. She had a 33'7.75 PR in the shot put, finishing 3rd in the CMAC, and 4thin the Region. She finished 3rd in the CMAC behind her teammates. Her biggest contributions came as our lead off runner in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays both of which set school records at the Honor Roll Meet. Her 4x100 teams were 1stcin the CMAC and Regional and 2nd in the State Meet. Her 4x200 teams were 1st in the Regional and 2nd in the CMAC and State Meet."

In the Pole Vault, "Nadia was consistently over 10 meet near the end of the year finishing 1st in the CMAC, 1st in the Region with a PR of 10'1.5", 4th in the Honor Roll Meet and 2nd in the State Meet," Hufnagel said.

"Leah Thelen (Freshman) led a very talented group of freshmen and finished the year with all-conference, all-region and all-state performances. She had a 5'2" PR in the high jump this year finishing 2nd in the CMAC and 3rd in the Region. In the 100 hurdles she was 3rd in the CMAC, 2nd in the Region, and 7th in the State Meet running a 16.11 PR in the prelims. In the 300 hurdles, she was 5th in the CMAC and 4th in the Region. She finished the year running on the 4x400 relay that was 1st in the CMAC and 4th at the State Meet."

"She led off the 4x800 relay that was 2nd in the CMAC and 1st in the Region and the 4x400 that was 1st in the CMAC and Region, 3rdin the Honor Roll and 4th in the State Meet," Hufnagel said. "She ran on our school record setting 4x100 relay that was 1 st in the CMAC and Region, 3rd in the Honor Roll Meet and 2nd at the State Meet."



Ella Hufnagel's 18'2.25" state winning and school record jump. (Photo Kristin Phillips)

Hufnagel said Nadia Schafer (Sophomore) had a breakout season competing in a wide variety of events until settling into the sprint relays and pole vault. She ran on the 4x100 team that was 2nd in the state. She ran on the 4x200 that was 2nd in the CMAC, 1st in the Region, 4th in the Honor Roll setting the school record, and was 2nd in the State Meet. She consistently ran the 4x400 as it finished 1st in the CMAC and Region, 3rd in the Honor Roll and anchored our 4th place team at the State Meet.

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2025 Fowler Girls Track Team.

Chippewa Hills Girls Track Posts Another Championship Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

The Chippewa Hills track girls did it again.

For the 22nd straight season, the Warriors won a league title. They also won the MITCA state championship meet for Division 3 in Clare

Here's among the Warriors' top performers with comments provided by coach Zach Hatfield.

Natalie Gibson 12th

First team all conference, All region, all state, academic all-state. "Excelled in sprints and in pole vault. Impressive career at CH over 4 years."

Hannah Abbott 12th

First team all conference, All region, all state, academic all-state. "One of the best hurdlers in school history improved every year and worked hard to do so.

Quinn Hatfield 11th

First team all conference, All region, academic



Natalie Gibson was strong for Chippewa Hills in many events including the pole vault.

Bullock Creek Track Squad Celebrates Unique Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Aaron Barth coached a Bullock Creek High school track and field team which enjoyed an amazing season.

Barth has been coach 22 years and had a team record of 6-3 and was fourth out of 12 teams among the Jack Pine's small and large divisions.

"This was by far my most enjoyable season in all my years of coaching. We had 26 girls on the roster, 23 earned varsity letters, and all 26 scored points for us throughout the season. The concept of "team" showed," Barth said. "Year one in the Jack Pine Conference was what I expected a buzz saw. Gladwin, Clare, and Shepherd are so tough and historically great teams. Each poses different challenges. We are a young team, only 5 seniors. Hopefully with another year under them we can break into the top three."

This season Bullock Creeck broke three school records:

- Pole Vault- Sofia Skym (10th grade) 9-9.
- 4 x100 M Relay- 51.16 - Madison Vican (11th), Alexis Bradshaw- Hillabrand (10th) , Lexie Levriere (9th), & Alexis Wagner (10th)
- 4 x 200 M Relay- 1:48.77 (Old record 1978)- Madison Vican (11th), Alexis Bradshaw-Hillabrand (10th), Lexie Levriere (9th), & Alexis Wagner (10th)

Another accomplishment I was very proud of was that we qualified our largest group of athletes to the Division 3 State Meet at Kent City: Skym in the pole vault, Wagner in the 200 meters, 4x100, 4x200, and 4 x400 (Brooklynn Johnson (9th), Alexis Bradshaw- Hillabrand, Josie Cabala (10th), and Madison Vican.

"Our relay success almost didn't happen," Barth said. "Just prior to spring break, Alexis Wagner was doing a hurdle drill. She took a hard fall, breaking her arm. Initially we figured all relay plans were done. After medical professionals evaluations, treatment, and x-rays, Wagner was cleared for all running events, except hurdles and

limited time in blocks. So the coaches came up with an attack plan- reshuffle the relays. Vican without hesitation gave up her relay anchor spot and moved to the starter.

"Wagner slid to the anchor, Hillabrand-Bradshaw was a speedy boost in the two spot, and we had our freshman, LeViere run the curve. All in all it worked out well after some initial anxiety. The mindset that the "Team" comes first was followed and our results were spectacular."

Looking ahead, "hopefully with another year of maturity, athletics and training our girls will exceed the results from this past season," I know we will be picking up a few sprinters from the middle school that will have an instant impact. I will have a great problem choosing between 8-to-10 fast girls to fill our sprints and relay spots,"



4x1 and 4x2 relays consist of, from left, Vican, Bradshaw-Hillabrand, LeViere and Wagner.

Myah Ayling 10th

First team all conference, All region, all state, academic all-state. "Impressively improved sprinter that ran in sprint relays and in the 100-200. One of the best in the area. Always working to improve."

Kam McArthur 10th

First team all conference, All region. "Big improvements from freshman year because of her hard work and dedication. Will continue to improve and impress in many events."

Frankie Fall 9th

First team all conference, All region. "Impressive in the field events. One of the best high jumpers and long jumpers in the area. Really started putting things together at the end of the season when competition ramps up."

Austin Dubois 9th

HM all conference, All region. "Very versatile athlete that helped the team in sprint relays and hurdles. Will continue to improve and has a very bright future ahead of her because of her hard work and competitiveness."

Clara Vollmar 11th

Honorable mention all conference, All region, all state. "All state pole vaulter who also is a talented sprinter and member of sprint relays. Great teammate and hard worker that will continue to contribute in many ways."

Become a School Coach or Game Official

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Area Soccer Teams Turn In Memorable Playoff Runs

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The following is a recap of the MHSAA soccer state tournament and a look at how some of the top local teams fared in post-season action.

West Michigan Teams Brings Home State Titles

It was a clean sweep by West Michigan teams in the MHSAA soccer state tournaments as three teams from the Grand Rapids area and one team from Kalamazoo combined to win all four state titles.

In **Division 1**, **Byron Center** won its first state title in program history as it defeated previously unbeaten Saline 1-0 in the finals.

In **Division 2**, long-time soccer powerhouse **Hudsonville Unity Christian** defeated New Boston Huron 7-0 for the title. The state title was the 13th in program history for Unity Christian and the first-ever title in Division 2.

In **Division 3**, **Grand Rapids Catholic Central** won its first-ever state title in program history as it turned back Warren Regina 2-0.

In **Division 4**, **Kalamazoo Christian** won its sixth state title in program history with a 4-1 win against Grosse Pointe University Liggett. The title was the second in three years for Christian.

Midland Finishes In Elite Eight In D1

The Midland soccer team finished a memorable season by reaching the elite eight in Division 1.

The Chemics began their post-season run by defeating rival Midland Dow 1-0 to win the district title. The title was the third consecutive district title for the Chemics.

Midland then moved on to the regional where it defeated Mattawan 5-2 in the semifinals. The season then came to an end in dramatic fashion as Midland fell 3-2 in overtime to eventual Division 1 state champion Byron Center.

Midland ended the season with a 21-1 overall record. The Chemics were undefeated Saginaw Valley League champions. For the season, the team posted 14 shutouts. Midland allowed just 11 goals on season (0.5 per game average). Midland also possessed a



potent offense as it totaled 103 goals for the season (4.7 goals per game).

DeWitt Soccer Reaches Final Four In Division 2

The DeWitt soccer team capped the season by reaching the final four in the Division 2 state tournament.

DeWitt began its state tournament run by defeating Mason 1-0 in the district championship game. The Panthers earned a regional title the hard way with a pair of overtime shootout victories. DeWitt defeated Goodrich 1-0 in the regional semifinals and then edged Orchard Lake St. Mary's 2-1 in the regional championship match.

DeWitt finished the season with a 14-3-6 record after dropping a 1-0 decision to New Boston Huron in the Division 2 state

semifinals.

DeWitt also won the CAAC Gold Cup title this season as it defeated Grand Ledge 2-0 in the Gold Cup title match.

Saginaw Nouvel Reaches D2 State Semifinals

The Saginaw Nouvel soccer team ended the season with a 16-6-1 record after dropping a 2-0 decision to eventual Division 4 state champion Kalamazoo Christian in the D4 state semifinals.

Nouvel began its state tournament run with a 3-2 win against Saginaw Valley Lutheran in the district finals. Nouvel then captured a regional championship as it defeated Leland 4-0 in the regional semifinals and Midland Calvary Baptist 7-0 in the regional title match.

Laingsburg Soccer Is A Regional Finalist

John Raffel Sports Scene

John Hill was head soccer coach at Laingsburg his first season and enjoyed success with a 9-1 record in the CMAC and 15-7 overall. The team won conference and district champions and were Region 5 finalist

"The girls were excellent all season," Hill said. "We fought for everything and competed in every game. It was a testament to their hard work and effort. We met expectations for the season. At the first team meeting, we wanted to compete for the CMAC championship and we won it. We wanted to compete for the

District title, and we won that. We wanted

to compete for Regionals and we did just that."

Highlights were "winning the conference, scoring in the last 45 seconds to win district, starting up to six freshmen at times during games. They rose to the challenge and competed."

A down moment was injuries to some players and "losing the Regional final. We were in it up to the end."

"We will return 17 of 22 players," Hill



said. "With some new additions we will be competing again.

Hard working, competitive, and fantastic team culture were the reasons we were successful. This is now the identity of this team."

The 2025 Laingsburg girls varsity soccer team.

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