

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

season strong with wins in their final three games to clinch a playoff spot. While the Trojans have a 4-5 record, a look inside the numbers points to a team that faced a loaded schedule. The five losses came against teams that went a combined 42-3 this season including losses against 9-0 Portage Central, Hudsonville and DeWitt. The Trojans also fell to 8-1 Davison and 7-2 Grand Ledge. The Trojans took on all comers and are ready for anyone they face in the playoffs. A young squad, East Lansing is led on offense by running back Baylor Schanski. East Lansing opens the playoffs at 7-2 White Lake Lakeland.

Lansing Everett: Lansing Everett is back in the playoffs for a third straight season. It has been an up and down season for the Vikings who started off with four straight wins before suffering three straight losses against 9-0 Grand Blanc, Grand Ledge and East Lansing. The Vikings then topped Holt before falling to DeWitt in week nine. Everett features one of the premier running backs in the state in Javari Funchess who is headed to Ferris State but has been battling through injuries late in the season. The Vikings open the playoffs with a tough road trip to 9-0 Portage Central in the first round.

Midland Dow: The Chargers of Midland Dow feature one of the most prolific offenses in the state. The Chargers are putting up

40.2 points per game and are led by standout quarterback Wynn Diegel and wide receiver Ben Marinik. The lone loss Dow suffered this season was a 63-39 loss against unbeaten Mt. Pleasant. Dow has posted wins against both Traverse City Central and Traverse City West, who are playoff teams, and defeated 6-3 Fenton 38-6. Dow opens the playoffs hosting 5-4 Waterford Mott with the winner playing the winner of East Lansing/White Lake Lakeland.

Top D2 Contenders: Portage Central (9-0), South Lyon (9-0), Gibraltar Carlson (9-0), Dexter (8-1), Midland Dow (8-1), Muskegon (6-3), Orchard Lake St. Mary's (6-2), Birmingham Brother Rice (5-4).

Preview: The chase for the title in Division 2 is definitely a wide-open contest. On the top half of the bracket, Portage Central is 9-0 but will face plenty of rugged hurdles. Traditional powers like Muskegon (6-3), Birmingham Brother Rice (5-4) and Orchard Lake St. Mary's (6-2) may not have glittering records but they have faced rugged schedules and have the talent to get to Ford Field. Midland Dow is also in the mix in the upper half of the bracket. In the lower half of the bracket, South Lyon and Gibraltar Carlson are both 9-0 and Dexter is 8-1 with the lone loss coming against Saline.

HSSS Division 2 State Final Prediction: *Muskegon 26, Dexter 21*



Division 3 Area Teams to Watch

Bay City Western: Western brings a 4-5 record into the playoffs with the losses coming against Midland and Midland Dow, both Traverse City schools and Mt. Pleasant. The Warriors opened the season with an impressive 34-0 win against Holly. Western possesses a solid offense that is putting up 27 points per game. Western opens the playoffs with a rematch against Mt. Pleasant. The first game between the two league rivals saw Mt. Pleasant claim a 28-17 win, which was one of Mt. Pleasant's closest games of the season.

Cedar Springs: The Red Hawks are in a district with two other River Cities Alliance league powerhouses in Kenowa Hills and Coopersville along with East Grand Rapids. Cedar's lone loss this season was a 49-35 defeat against Kenowa Hills and the Red Hawks would definitely like another shot at Kenowa. Cedar can score points in bunches as it is averaging 42.2 points per game. Cedar Springs opens the playoffs at East Grand Rapids in what should be an entertaining contest between traditional powers.

Dewitt: Dewitt was a big favorite to win it all last season before falling to eventual state champion Zeeland West in the semifinals. This year, in what looked like a rebuilding year, the Panthers have not missed a beat and have rolled to a 9-0 record thanks to another high-powered offs. While the Panthers averaged an eye popping 57.8 ppg last season, this year's edition has put up an impressive 49.7 ppg. Quarterback Trav Moore, a Central Michigan recruit, is one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the state having passed for over 600 yards and 10 touchdowns while running for 1,203 yards and 17 scores. Sophomore running back Channing Ridley has rushed for 787 yards and 11 scores. DeWitt is not just offense either as the defense has been solid all season, allowing 9.9 points per game. Only two teams, Mason and Galloway Westland (Ohio) have managed to reach double digits on the Panthers who play a total-team style of defense. DeWitt opens postseason play hosting Owosso and would face the winner of Linden/Mason with a win against Owosso.

Lowell: Lowell turned in a 7-2 regular season record for a second straight season. Playing in the rugged River Cities Alliance,

Lowell's two losses have come against league rivals Cedar Springs (35-28) and Kenowa Hills (49-35). Lowell also opened the season with an impressive 40-7 win at long-time rival East Grand Rapids who finished the season with a 7-2 mark. The Red Arrows are putting up 37.7 points per game on offense an allowing 19.1 points on defense. Lowell opens the playoff hosting 6-3 Coldwater with a win against the Cardinals securing a berth in the district finals against the winner of Middleville/Hastings.

Mason: In what shaped up to be a rebuilding year, Mason navigated a stacked schedule to post a 5-4 record. The Bulldogs put up 26.3 points per game this season while the defense allowed 18.6 points per game. Mason dropped a pair of tough struggles against DeWitt (44-37) and Haslett (21-14). The Bulldogs closed out the season with another impressive showing in a 21-17 loss against Division 4 superpower Harper Woods, one of the most talented teams in the state regardless of class. Mason is led on offense by quarterback Gerrit Koot and running back Troy Peters. Mason opens the playoffs hosting 6-3 Linden with the winner to face the winner of DeWitt/Owosso.

Mount Pleasant: The Oilers of Mount Pleasant have been one of the premier teams in Division 3 this season. The Oilers blend a potent offense that is putting up 35.1 points per game with a stingy defense that is allowing 12.9 points per game. The Oilers ran the table in the Saginaw Valley North and took care of business outside the conference. Mt. Pleasant opens the playoff hosting 4-5 Bay City Western. A win against Western would move the Oilers on to the district finals against the winner of Marquette and 9-0 Gaylord.

Owosso: Not counting the covid year when everyone made the playoffs, Owosso is in the postseason for the first time since 2012. While the Trojans turned in a winning 5-4 record last year, they missed the playoffs. This season, the Trojans went 6-3 and have generated plenty of football excitement in Owosso. Quarterback Liam Patrick is a talented runner and passer who has thrown for over 1,100 yards and 14 touchdowns through week eight while rushing for nearly 700 yards and 10 scores. The offensive line is anchored by Eastern Michigan recruit Carter

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Miculka (6-6, 270). Wide receiver Braden Reed is a big-time playmaker with 755 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns while Evan Hunter is another standout at receiver and a ball hawk with four interceptions through eight games on defense. A daunting challenge awaits Owosso in the first round as they face undefeated DeWitt on the road.

Top D3 Contenders: DeWitt (9-0), Mt. Pleasant (9-0), Gaylord (9-0), Niles (9-0), Adrian (8-1), Kenowa Hills (8-1), Cedar Springs (8-1), Detroit King (5-4).

Preview: DeWitt was a big favorite to win Division 3 last season but came up just short in the semifinals. This year the Panthers may be flying under a radar a bit but are capable of coming away this the trophy. Playing in the bottom half of the bracket, a semifinal matchup with Detroit Martin Luther King is a potential major hurdle. In the top half of the bracket, Mt. Pleasant and Gaylord are both 9-0 and in the same district. Kenowa Hills and Cedar Springs are a pair of 8-1 teams in the same district. Niles is 9-0 and has a potential matchup with Lowell looming in the regional. Division 3 is overall pretty wide open and even and should be entertaining to watch unfold. How about a Rob Zimmerman finals deluxe, DeWitt vs his old team, Cedar Springs?

HSSS Division 3 State Final Prediction: *DeWitt 35, Cedar Springs 30*

Division 4 Area Teams to Watch

Big Rapids: Big Rapids posted an 8-1 for a second consecutive year and secured their sixth straight postseason appearance. The lone loss Big Raids suffered was a 38-27 decision against Coopersville out of the rugged River Cities Alliance. Big Rapids features a

potent offense that is putting up 41.7 points per game while the defense is surrendering 8.7 points per game. The Cardinals opened the season with a solid 19-7 win against D4 playoff team Paw Paw. The Cardinals have a rugged playoff opener at 9-0 Ludington.

Freeland: Freeland is back for their 18th straight playoff appearance after finishing the regular season with a 7-2 record. The two blemishes on Freeland's record came against Swan Valley and Frankenmuth, a pair of 8-1 teams. Freeland has been potent on offense putting up 37.3 points per game while the defense is allowing 14.2 points per game. The Falcons are solid in the trenches led by Michigan State recruit Tristan Comer (6-6, 262). Freeland will be road warriors to open the playoffs as it travels across the bridge to face 8-1 Escanaba.

Haslett: The Vikings turned in a 7-2 mark during the regular season with the lone losses being a 21-3 setback against unbeaten D3 power DeWitt and a 20-14 league loss in a showdown with undefeated Williamston. Led by University of Kansas bound running back Kory Amachree, Haslett is putting up 24.1 points per game on offense. The Vikings also play solid defense allowing 12.4 points per game. Haslett defeated Mason 21-14 in an overtime thriller this season and also took out league rival Fowlerville 20-12. The Vikings are big-game tested and poised to make a postseason run. The Vikings open the playoffs hosting St. Johns with the winner facing the winner of Williamston/Lansing Sexton.

Lansing Sexton: The J-Dubbs are returning to the postseason for a third straight season after turning in a 6-3 regular-season record. Sexton can score points in bunches as it averaged 31.7 ppg. The J-Dubbs enter postseason play on a roll having won five

straight games after starting the season 1-3. Sexton opens the playoffs by traveling to 9-0 Williamston.

Portland: Portland cruised to a 9-0 regular-season record for the third straight season and are making their 11th straight playoff appearance. The Raiders reached the state semifinals last year before dropping a three-point decision to Niles. This season the Raiders are putting up 38.1 points per game while the defense is especially stingy, allowing just five points per game. The Raiders feature a powerful ground game led by Kayden Dickerson who rushed for over 900 yards in the first eight games of the season and Nolan Zbytowski who has close to 500 yards rushing. Defensively, only one team has reached double figures on the Portland defense and that was when Sexton scored 12 points. In non-league action, the Raiders have impressive wins over Detroit Country Day and Whitehall. The Raider's push for a return to Ford Field will begin with a tricky home game against a dangerous Grand Rapids South Christian team in round one. While the Sailors have a 4-5 record, the losses have come against unbeaten Grand Rapids Catholic Central and Grand Rapids West Catholic, once-beaten Unity Christian, 7-2 East Grand Rapids and 6-3 defending D4 champion Zeeland West.

St. Johns: St. Johns returns to the playoffs for a second straight season after turning in a 5-4 record. The Redwings opened the season with a 22-14 win against Hamilton and ended the season by knocking off 6-3 Division 3 Ypsilanti Lincoln 28-23. Two of the four losses came against 9-0 teams in DeWitt and Gaylord with the Gaylord loss being a 32-28 struggle. The Redwings also fell to Mason and Haslett and won a close contest with playoff-bound Fowlerville so St. Johns enters the postseason well tested. That experience will be valuable as the Redwings open the playoffs at Haslett.

Top D4 Contenders: Harper Woods (9-0), Portland (9-0), Goodrich (9-0), Williamston (9-0), Ludington (9-0), Hudsonville Unity



Christian (8-1), Chelsea (8-1), Dearborn Divine Child (8-1).

Preview: Division 4 is stocked with solid teams up and down the bracket. In the upper half of the bracket, Ludington, Big Rapids and Unity Christian are part of a rugged regional while Portland is also looking like a regional favorite. The lower half of the bracket has unbeaten Williamston and Goodrich in a bracket that includes an 8-1 Chelsea team coached by savvy playoff veteran coach Noel Dean. In the other lower regional unbeaten Harper Woods has as much skill as any team in the state and has defeated D1 powerhouses while Aidan Hutchinson's alma mater Dearborn Divine Child has one of its strongest teams in year.

HSSS Division 4 State Final Prediction: *Harper Woods 40, Portland 20*

Division 5 Area Teams to Watch

Clare: Clare turned in a 6-3 record to secure their 10th straight playoff appearance. The Pioneers opened the season with three straight wins before dropping a pair of league struggles against Gladwin and Ogema Heights. Clare is putting up 36.4 points per game on offense. The Pioneers face a tough challenge in week one of the playoffs as they travel to Swan Valley to take on the 8-1 Vikings.

Frankenmuth: Since the 2000 season Frankenmuth has reached the final four each year with appearances in the state title game two out of the last three years. The Eagles have another team capable of a deep playoff run this season. The Eagles turned in an 8-1 record this season with the lone loss coming in

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week one against defending state champion Goodrich by a 17-14 score. Frankenmuth has a high-powered offense this season led by quarterback Lleyton Hoard passed for over 1,000 yards and rushed for over 600 more while accounting for 19 combined touchdowns. The Eagles are averaging 45.7 points per game while the defense is allowing just 11.6 points against. The Eagle's 15th straight postseason begins with a visit from 5-4 Yale on Friday.

Gladwin: 2022 state champions Gladwin are returning for their sixth straight postseason after turning in a 5-4 mark during the regular season. It was an up-and-down season for the Flying G's who dropped their first three games before rallying with a five-game winning streak and then bowing to Goodrich in week nine. Gladwin averages 33 points per game and can score points in bunches. The Flying G's could rack up some frequent flyer miles if they had a plane as they make the trip to the southwestern U.P. to face Kingsford in round one.

Howard City Tri-County: Tri-County capped the regular season with a 5-4 record and is making its sixth straight playoff appearance. The Vikings opened the season winning three straight games including a big 24-15 win against Ovid-Elsie in the opener. Tri-County had to navigate a rough schedule that included conference losses against Big Rapids and Reed City who are a combined 15-3 and a pair of losses to Kent City and Ludington who both finished 9-0. Tri-County boasts a strong offense that is putting up 30.8 points per game. Tri-County opens the playoffs by traveling to 5-4 Whitehall.

Saginaw Swan Valley: Swan Valley is in the playoffs for the 14th straight season after turning in an 8-1 regular season record. The Vikings long loss this season was a 21-14

struggle in week two against an 8-1 Frankenmuth team. Swan Valley rebounded from that loss to post impressive wins against Freeland (31-7) and Bay City John Glenn (28-7). Quarterback Keller Bedford has passed for over 1,100 yards through the first eight weeks of the season and pilots an offense that is putting up 40.1 points per game. Senior standout Jamison Pelt is a big-play receiver with over 600 receiving yards and nine touchdown catches through the first eight weeks. Pelt is also an impact player on defense for a squad allowing just 13.6 ppg. The Vikings host Clare in the first round and with a win play the winner of Howard City Tri-County and Whitehall.

Top D5 Contenders: Grand Rapids Catholic Central (9-0), Ann Arbor Richard (9-0), Frankenmuth (8-1), Grand Rapids West Catholic (8-1), Monroe Jefferson (8-1), Swan Valley (8-1), Pontiac Notre Dame (7-2).

Preview: Swan Valley is primed to make a run to the state semifinals in the top half of the bracket where a matchup with Grand Rapids Catholic Central or G.R. West Catholic could await. In the bottom of the bracket Frankenmuth and defending state champion Pontiac Notre Dame are on a collision course in the regionals for a rematch of last year's state title game. Ann Arbor Richard, Montrose Jefferson and Michigan Center (8-1) are wildcards on the bottom of the bracket.

HSSS Division 5 State Final Prediction: *Grand Rapids Catholic Central 28, Pontiac Notre Dame 26,*

Division 6
Area Teams to Watch
Belding: The Black Knights are poised to make a long run in Division 6 after moving

down from Division 5 where they fell to Frankenmuth in the district finals last season. After an opening-season loss to Reed City, Belding has ripped off eight straight wins. The Black Knights are averaging 37.9 points per game and closed out the regular season with a 28-7 win over 6-3 Muskegon Oakridge. Belding opens the playoffs hosting Ovid-Elsie in what should be an entertaining matchup.

Central Montcalm: The Hornets are in the playoffs for a third straight season after posting a 7-2 mark this season. The Hornets are putting up 34.4 points per game and have totaled over 100 points in their final two games of the regular season. Central Montcalm's two losses have come against Kent City and Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port who are a combined 16-2 this season. The Hornets open the playoffs hosting 7-2 Montague.

Durand: Durand is in the playoffs for the first time since 2020. The Railroaders put together a 7-2 regular-season record that was jump-started by a 28-22 overtime win against Gladstone in week one. After midseason losses to Montrose and Ovid-Elsie, the Railroaders were on the fast track with a five-game winning streak where they eclipsed the 30-point mark in all five games and scored 50 or more in four of the wins. The Railroaders open the playoffs by making a trip to Flint Hamady.

Montrose: Montrose has not missed the playoffs since 2009 and this year's team is one of the best over that span having turned in a 9-0 regular season. The Rams are potent on offense averaging 30.2 ppg. While the defense is allowing just 4.2 points per contest. The Rams opened the season posting three consecutive shutouts and have six total shut-outs for the entire season. Montrose has an interesting playoff opener in the young Flint New Standard Academy squad that possesses plenty of young talent and has fashioned an 8-1 record.

Ovid-Elsie: Ovid-Elsie matched last year's record by finishing the regular season with a 7-2 record to qualify for the playoffs for the fifth straight year. The Marauders have a productive offense that is putting up 38.8 points per game and that offense has been

hitting its stride by scoring 50-plus points in each of the last three games. The Marauders have been in every game they've played this season as they fell 24-15 to Howard City Tri-County in week one and dropped a 14-10 defensive struggle to Montrose in a Mid Michigan Athletic Conference showdown. The Marauders will need to be firing on all cylinders when they invade Belding in the first round of the playoffs.

Sanford-Meridian: After opening the season with a pair of losses, the Mustangs rallied to win the Jack Pine Conference II division championship. Sanford-Meridian finished the regular season with a 6-3 record. And is putting up 29.8 points per game on offense while the defense is allowing an average of 18.4 points. The Mustangs have to saddle up for a long road trip to Reed City to face the 7-2 Coyotes in the opening round of the playoffs.

Top D6 Contenders: Almont (9-0), Montrose (9-0), Kent City (9-0), Belding (8-1), Ida (7-2), Ecorse (7-2), Reed City (7-2), Jackson Lumen Christi (6-3), Traverse City St. Francis (6-2).

Preview: Undefeated Montrose and Kent City are looking strong in the top of the bracket but don't count out Reed City or Traverse City St. Francis. In the bottom half of the bracket Jackson Lumen Christi has a deceiving 6-3 record as they have a win against Pontiac Notre Dame Prep and lost to undefeated Grand Rapids Catholic Central from D5, 8-1 Dearborn Divine Child in D4 and Montini Catholic of Illinois, a defending state champion. Almont is also in the bottom of the bracket and is more than capable of getting back to Ford Field. Keep an eye out for Ida, Maybee primed for a deep tourney run.



at it for another regional. The lower half of the bracket has rival Lawton and Schoolcraft in one region while last year's D7 finalists Millington and Monroe St. Mary are joined by a solid Ottawa Lake Whiteford in another regional.

HSSS Division 7 State Final Prediction: *Pewamo-Westphalia 30, Schoolcraft 27*

Division 8
Area Teams to Watch

Beal City: The Division 8 defending state champion Aggies are back and possibly even stronger this season. Beal City turned in a perfect 9-0 regular-season record this fall. The Aggies were hitting on all cylinders on offense averaging 45.9 ppg. The defense was a brick wall allowing just 3.4 points per game. Beal City opened the season with a 15-2 win against D7 Ravenna and closed the regular season with a 39-8 win at Ithaca. The road to return to Ford Field begins at home against Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart.

Fowler: Fowler is back in the playoffs for a seventh straight season. The Eagles turned in a 6-3 record this season with the losses coming against the likes of undefeated teams like Pewamo-Westphalia along with McBain. Fowler is solid on offense averaging 35.6 points per game. That offense was hitting on all cylinders in a 48-28 win against D7 Ithaca. Fowler kicks off the playoffs with a difficult road trip to 6-3 New Lothrop.

Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart: The Irish are back in the playoffs in their first year back playing 11-man football after several years of

8-man football. The Irish finished the season with a 5-4 record and clinched a playoff berth with a thrilling 31-28 win against Lake City in week nine. Sacred Heart features a solid offense that is putting up 24.4 points per game. The Irish finished the season strong winning three out of their last four games. There was no luck of the Irish come selection Sunday as Sacred Heart must travel to Beal City to take on the defending state champs.

New Lothrop: The Hornets saw their long string of playoff appearances snapped last season but are back this year to begin a new streak. A young and improving team, the Hornets averaged 30.9 points per game on offense led by talented quarterback Karson Agnew. New Lothrop went 6-3 this season with losses coming against Durand, Montrose and Ovid-Elsie who all made the playoffs in Division 6.

Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary: Michigan Lutheran will make their fourth straight trip to the playoffs after finishing the regular season 6-3. The Cardinals have faced a rugged schedule with close losses against Ithaca, 42-40 in overtime, Valley Lutheran by 10 points and Nouvel 27-14. MLS also owns a 30-14 win over 6-3 D7 Cass City. MLS has a high-powered offense putting up 37.7 ppg. with quarterback Andrew Miller throwing for close to 800 yards and nine touchdowns. MLS opens the playoffs at Saginaw Nouel in what should be a close struggle.

Saginaw Nouvel: Nouvel posted a 7-2 record in the regular season. The Panthers have a high-octane offense putting up 35.3 points per game. Quarterback Ian Ziegelmann has



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HSSS Division 6 State Final Prediction: *Jackson Lumen Christi 24, Traverse City St. Francis 21*

Division 7
Area Teams to Watch

Harrison: Harrison is back in the playoffs for a second consecutive season after turning in a 7-2 record for the second straight year. The Hornets opened the season with a big win against Leroy-Pine River with losses coming against Sanford-Meridian and Gladwin. Harrison is averging 37.3 points per game. The Hornets open the playoffs hosting 3-6 Morley-Stanwood.

Ithaca: Ithaca is in the playoffs for the 17th straight season. The Yellowjackets were on a roll early in the season reeling off five straight wins before falling to Saginaw Valley Lutheran 23-22. The Yellowjackets then fell in the final two weeks of the season to Division 8 powers Fowler and Beal City. Ithaca is averaging 38 points per game on offense. Junior quarterback Gibson Rondy has passed for over 1,200 yards and eight touchdowns. Sophomore Greyson Merchant has rushed for over 400 yards and nine touchdowns. The Yellowjackets are young but have enough playmakers to make a run. A rematch at Valley Lutheran awaits in the first round of the playoffs.

Leslie: Leslie turned in a 5-4 record this season and is in the playoffs for the second straight season. The Black Hawks have no problems putting points on the scoreboard as they are averaging 36.6 points per game. Leslie features a potent passing game on offense as junior quarterback Joel Cranmore has passed for over 1,700 yards and 14 touchdowns. Braydin Johnson is the top receiving target and is also a playmaker on defense. Leslie opens the playoff making the trip to Monroe to face a 7-2 Monroe St. Mary's squad.

Millington: Millington is making its 21st straight postseason appearance this season and the first one where it enters the playoffs as a defending state champion. The Cardinals went 7-2 this season but the playoff experience will be invaluable. The Cardinals like to run the ball and they have plenty of balance and depth at running back. Millington is averaging 31.3 points per game while the defense is allowing 15.7 points. The Cardinals open the playoffs hosting Burton Bendle and a possible state title game rematch with Monroe St. Mary's looms in the regional final.

Morley-Stanwood: the Mohawks are in the playoffs with a 3-6 record meaning that their schedule has been a blockbuster. Morley dropped a pair of games to Division 6 foes Kent City and Central-Montcalm who went a combined 16-2 this season. The Mohawks averaged 20. Points per game this season and played some tight games including a two-point loss to D6 Harbor Springs and a three-point loss to Leroy-Pine River. Morley opens the playoffs at Harrison.

Pewamo-Westphalia: The postseason streak has hit 21 years in a row for the Pirates and this year's squad may be playing in the playoffs right up to the end of the month. Pewamo-Westphalia went 8-0 during the regular season, averaging a whopping 46.8 points per game while allowing just 3.1 points on defense. The Pirates play a swarming brand of defense while the offense is multi-dimensional around quarterback Ty Thelen who has passed for over 800 yards and 22 touchdowns and rushed for close to 600 yards and 12 more scores. The Pirates kick off the playoffs by hosting Ravenna.

Saginaw Valley Lutheran: Valley Lutheran is turning in a memorable year. The Chargers finished the season with a perfect 9-0 record and won the conference title highlighted by a dramatic 23-22 win against Ithaca and a 27-20 win against Nouvel Catholic. The Chargers are putting up 34.7 points per game on offense while the defense is allowing 10.1 ppg. The playoffs start a second season and Valley Lutheran will hook up with Ithaca again for an opening-round rematch that should be fun.

Saranac: Saranac is in the playoffs for a third straight year as it put together a 7-2 regular-season record. The lone two losses came against long-time conference powerhouses Pewamo-Westphalia and Fowler. Saranac is a well-balanced squad averaging 29.3 points per game while allowing 15.4 points per game on defense. The Red Hawks open the playoffs with a trip to the lakeshore to face a 6-3 North Muskegon squad.

Top D7 Contenders: Menominee (9-0), Saginaw Valley Lutheran (9-0), Pewamo-Westphalia (8-0), Charlevoix (8-1), Ottawa Lake Whiteford (8-1), Schoolcraft (7-2), Lawton (7-2), Monroe St Mary (7-2), Millington (7-2), Ithaca (6-3).

Preview: Division 7 will be no picnic as solid schools can be found throughout the state. In the top half of the bracket, Menominee and Charlevoix will battle it out for a regional title while undefeated teams Pewamo-Westphalia and Saginaw Valley Lutheran will go

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passed for over 1,000 yards and 13 touchdowns while running back Owen Vance has rushed for over 900 yards and scored 16 touchdowns. Nouvel is strong on defense allowing just 11.9 point per game. A rematch with MLS kicks off the opening-round of the playoffs.

Top D8 Contenders: Hudson (9-0), Harbor Beach (9-0), Beal City (9-0), Springport (9-0), Melvindale Academy of Business and Tech (9-0), Madison Heights Madison (8-1), Maple City Glen Lake (7-1), Fowler (6-3).

Preview: Division 8 is home to some powerhouses this season with some blockbuster games possible in the playoffs. A regional final between Beal City and Harbor Beach is must see. Harbor Beach has an impressive win against defending D7 champ Millington to its credit while Beal City went to Ithaca and claimed a big win against the traditional D7 power. Hudson is loaded and has been putting up some huge numbers but may have to navigate past some unbeaten teams in the other side of the bracket.

HSSS Division 8 State Final Prediction:
Harbor Beach 30, Hudson 28

8-Man Division 1 Area Teams to Watch

Bay City All Saints: All Saints is back in the playoffs after turning in a 7-2 record for a second straight season. The Cougars are putting up 39.6 points per game while the defense is allowing 7.9 ppg. After a week

five loss to Onekama, All Saints closed the season strong with four straight wins where it eclipsed the 60-point mark three times. All Saints does have a tough first-round hurdle to clear in an 8-1 Kingston team that can light up a scoreboard as well.

Blanchard Montabella: Blanchard Montabella turned in a memorable season as it went 8-1 and qualified for the playoffs for the second straight season. The Mustangs feature a high-powered offense that is putting up a whopping 49.1 points per game. Quarterback Gabriel Kauffman is a big part of the offense along with running backs Brady Kieff who has over 1,000 yards rushing and fellow running back Austin Jensen. Montabella is solid on defense allowing 14 points per game. The Mustangs open the playoffs hosting Breckenridge.

Breckenridge: The Huskies are back in the playoffs after missing out the past two seasons. Breckenridge turned in a 6-3 record to its credit while Beal City went to Ithaca and claimed a big win against the traditional D7 power. Hudson is loaded and has been putting up some huge numbers but may have to navigate past some unbeaten teams in the other side of the bracket.

Merrill: The Vandals are back in the playoffs after a one-year absence. After falling to D2 powerhouse Portland St. Patrick in the season opener, Merrill reeled off six straight wins before dropping a 36-26 decision to

Montabella in week eight. The Vandals feature a high-scoring offense that is putting up 38.4 points per game. Quarterback Robert Kral has passed for over 1,000 yards this season and has also rushed for over 1,000 yards. Merrill opens the playoffs by hosting 6-3 Central Lake.

Top 8-Man D1 Contenders: Norway (9-0), Indian River Inland Lakes (9-0), Martin (9-0), Blanchard Montabella (8-1), Kingston (8-1), Pickford (7-1).

Preview: The top half of the bracket has 9-0 teams Norway and Indian River Inland Lakes in the same regional. Both of those teams have been putting up huge numbers. The winner of that regional could get either Montabella or Merrill. Martin looks to be the team to beat in the lower part of the bracket with Kingston also capable of getting to the finals.

HSSS 8-Man Division 2 State Final Prediction: *Martin 40, Indian River Inland Lakes 34*

8-Man Division 2 Area Teams to Watch

Morrice: Morrice clinched their ninth straight playoff berth as they fashioned an 8-1 record this year with the lone loss being a 14-7 decision to top-ranked Portland St. Patrick. The Orioles have one of the most potent offenses in 8-man football as they are putting up 44.1 points per game. Quarterback Griffin Long has passed for over 1,100 yards and 13 scores this season. Long also ran the ball for over 7000 yards and 17 scores while running back Austin Gutting has close to 800 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns. Defensively, the Orioles are allowing 10.3 points per game. The Orioles open the playoffs with a tough trip to 8-1 Deckerville.

Portland St. Patrick: After going 8-1 last season, the Shamrocks came back for an encore and went 9-0 this season. St. Patrick is tops in Division 2 in playoff points and owns wins against D1 powers Montabella and Merrill and earned a 14-7 win against rival



Morrice. St. Patrick features a high-powered offense that is averaging 42.9 ppg. The offense is paced by quarterback Jerryd Scheurer and talented running backs Brady Leonard and Hudson King. The St. Patrick defense is also rock solid allowing just 8.6 points per game. St. Patrick begins their playoff by hosting Marion.

Top 8-Man D2 Contenders: Portland St. Patrick (9-0), North Dickinson (9-0), Mendon (9-0), Onekama (9-0), Morrice (8-1), Deckerville (8-1), Lake Linden-Hubbell (7-2), Powers North Central (7-2).

Preview: North Dickinson and Onekama are a pair of 9-0 teams in the top half of the bracket. Lake Linden-Hubbell and Powers North Central are both 7-2 but are capable of getting on a run. The lower half of the bracket has 9-0 teams Portland St. Patrick and Mendon in the same regional. The winner of that regional could very well face Deckerville or Morrice who both have 8-1 marks. The is plenty of intrigue in Division 2 this year.

HSSS 8-Man Division 2 State Final Prediction: *Morrice 28, Lake Linden-Hubbell 22*





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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE FOOTBALL STATS

PASSING YARDS

(Min. 600 yards)
Aidan Anderson, Ewart 2,282
Connor Greif, Saginaw Heritage 2,084
Landon Mattis, Burton Bendle 2,057
Jake Morrow, Grand Blanc 2,038
Joel Crammoe, Leslie 1,744
Madix Gorleski, Vassar 1,496
Liam Patrick, Owosso 1,459
Reese Critchlow, Olivet 1,387
Kaleb Nielson, Williamston 1,376
Keller Bedford, Swan Valley 1,318
Robert Dorsey, Lansing Waverly 1,315
Jaxson Dosh, Davison 1,315
Tyger Whitbeck, Perry 1,297
Gibson Rondy, Ithaca 1,212
Lleyton Hoard, Frankenmuth 1,156
Ian Ziegelmann, Saginaw Nouvel 1,085
Nick Terranova, Grand Ledge 1,057
Karson Agnew, New Lothrop 1,054
Keegan Gochenour, Eaton Rapids 1,029
Mason Henry, Caro 1,011
Ethan Melville, Holt 965
Blake Burke, Okemos 903
Ethan Colosky, Charlotte 886
Noah Sandeck, Stockbridge 866
Penn Seeley, Alma 830
Ty Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia 812
Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 770
Carter Abdul-Foreman, Lansing Sexton 672
Mason Eisenberger, Shepherd 635
Gerrit Koot, Mason 625
D'Marion Erlenbeck, Clio 610
Garrett Woodward, Millington 608
Blake Lane, Almont 606

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

(Min. 6 tds)
Jake Morrow, Grand Blanc 29
Connor Greif, Saginaw Heritage 25
Landon Mattis, Burton Bendle 24
Ty Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia 22
Kaleb Nielson, Williamston 21
Jaxson Dosh, Davison 18
Liam Patrick, Owosso 18
Aidan Anderson, Ewart 16
Keller Bedford, Swan Valley 16
Mason Henry, Caro 15
Joel Crammoe, Leslie 14
Reese Critchlow, Olivet 14
Lleyton Hoard, Frankenmuth 13
Ian Ziegelmann, Saginaw Nouvel 13
Karson Agnew, New Lothrop 12
Blake Lane, Almont 11
Noah Sandeck, Stockbridge 11
Tyger Whitbeck, Perry 11
Carter Abdul-Foreman, Lansing Sexton 10
D'Marion Erlenbeck, Clio 10
Trav Moore, DeWitt 10
Nick Terranova, Grand Ledge 10
Evan Colosky, Charlotte 9
Mason Eisenberger, Shepherd 9
Madix Gorleski, Vassar 9
Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 9
Garrett Woodward, Millington 9
Keegan Gochenour, Eaton Rapids 8
Gibson Rondy, Ithaca 8
Gerrit Koot, Mason 7
Conner Kurncz, St. Johns 7
Ethan Melville, Holt 7
Blake Burke, Okemos 6
Robert Dorsey, Lansing Waverly 6

RUSHING YARDS

(Min. 500 yds.)
Kyle Greiner, Hart 1,540
Javari Funches, Lansing Everett 1,526
D'Marion Erlenbeck, Clio 1,446
Traverse Moore, DeWitt 1,203
AJ Hawkins, Trenton 1,111
Brody Corneau, Almont 1,050
Keaton Pratt, Roscommon 1,014
Kory Amachree, Haslett 996
Kayden Dickerson, Portland 987
Penn Seeley, Alma 984
Owen Vance, Saginaw Nouvel 934
Easton VanAlstine, Shepherd 926
LaDon Hatcher, Holt 875
Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 868

Mid-Michigan coaches, statisticians, school administrators. Feel free to contact us with any updates or football statistics you have. Send any updates to greg102300@yahoo.com. HSSS will be updating the football stats page on a daily basis. Send us your stats if you have players among the leaders, we will post them.

Karson Tweh, St. Louis 851
Joe Smith, Williamston 798
Channing Ridley, DeWitt 787
Liam Patrick, Owosso 770
Jeremiah Coleman, Grand Blanc 765
Logan Myers, Millington 701
Noah Sandeck, Stockbridge 686
Brandon Hamlett, Stockbridge 674
Peyton Ingram, Flushing 670
Jovell Robinson, Saginaw United 667
Parker Saches, Trenton 632
Tyanthony Lewis, Davison 628
Blake Carr, Vassar 627
Fisher Stoney, Swan Valley 624
Jacob Garriss, Davison 620
Jaheem Lewis, Burton Bendle 619
Lleyton Hoard, Frankenmuth 619
Omari Lane, Lakeview 618
Matthew Bacholzky, Almont 610
Noah Rief, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 608
Hudson Myers, Millington 599
Landon Mattis, Burton Bendle 588
Jayden Kohn, Clio 579
Ty Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia 578
Lucas Warczinsky, Vestaburg 573
Deegan Carter, Reese 566
Drake Terwilliger, Millington 561
Merrick Brock, St. Louis 540
Carter Milton, Corunna 524

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS

(Min. 6 tds)
D'Marion Erlenbeck, Clio 21
Javari Funches, Lansing Everett 17
Trav Moore, DeWitt 17
Brody Corneau, Almont 16
Kyle Greiner, Hart 16
Owen Vance, Saginaw Nouvel 16
Jaxson Dosh, Davison 14
AJ Hawkins, Trenton 14
Kayden Dickerson, Portland 13
LaDon Hatcher, Holt 13
Joe Smith, Williamston 13
Jeremiah Coleman, Grand Blanc 12
Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 12
Anthony Baker, Grand Ledge 9
Ty Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia 12
Kory Amachree, Haslett 11
Brandon Hamlett, Stockbridge 11
Peyton Ingram, Flushing 11
Liam Patrick, Owosso 11
Channing Ridley, DeWitt 11
Penn Seeley, Alma 11
Blake Carr, Vassar 10
Keenan Cooper, Freeland 10
Easton VanAlstine, Shepherd 10
Anthony Baker, Grand Ledge 9
Tyanthony Lewis, Davison 9
Greyson Merchant, Ithaca 9
Matthew Bacholzky, Almont 8
Logan Myers, Millington 8
Drake Terwilliger, Millington 8
Merrick Brock, St. Louis 7
Lleyton Hoard, Frankenmuth 7
Carter Milton, Corunna 7
Gibson Rondy, Ithaca 7
Fisher Stoney, Swan Valley 7
Nolan Zbytowski, Portland 7
Karson Agnew, New Lothrop 6
Toby Bigford, Roscommon, 6
Deegan Carter, Reese 6
Caleb Frazier, Olivet 6
Omari Lane, Lakeview 6
Parker Lentner, Freeland 6
Noah Sandeck, Stockbridge 6

RECEIVING YARDS

(Min. 300 yds.)
Braydin Johnson, Leslie 989
Willie Ray, Ewart 980
Kane Romano, Saginaw Nouvel 882
Alex Rockafellow, Perry 882
Caleb Bingham, Burton Bendle 878
Kingston Wright, Saginaw Heritage 852
Jaheem Lewis, Burton Bendle 814
Jase Behmlander, Saginaw Heritage 801
Braden Reed, Owosso 755
Cortez Porter, Davison 668

Jacob Adkins, Perry 647
Jamison Pelt, Swan Valley 637
Caseton Sendry, Grand Blanc 635
Toby Bigford, Roscommon 571
Micah Kemp, Grand Blanc 543
Kade Morgan, Ewart 538
Parker Kingsbury, Saginaw Nouvel 505
Braeden Romero, Leslie 480
Connor McMurphy, Ithaca 459
Jayson Conant, Stockbridge 457
Willie Brown, Lansing Sexton 455
Lucas Warczinsky, Vestaburg 448
Evan Hunter, Owosso 447
Tommy Pratt, Williamston 442
Elijah Smith, Ithaca 436
Riley Guild, Ithaca 428
Law Daneek, Chesaning 426
Brayden McGuirt, Eaton Rapids 422
Aaron Wenzlick, New Lothrop 419
Sean Foley, Saginaw Nouvel 413
Jack Masters, Olivet 387
Josiah Stewart, Lansing Sexton 384
Gavin Kilgore, Vassar 343
Christian Paige, Frankenmuth 335
Cash Clark, Dansville 310
Kingston Nixon, Grand Ledge 301

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS

(Min. 4 tds)
Kingston Wright, Saginaw Heritage 12
Jaheem Lewis, Burton Bendle 11
Willie Ray, Ewart 11
Micah Kemp, Grand Blanc, 10
Braden Reed, Owosso 10
Caleb Bingham, Burton Bendle 9
Jamison Pelt, Swan Valley 9
Kam Reynolds, Swan Valley 9
Caseton Sendry, Grand Blanc 9
Braydin Johnson, Leslie 8
Trent Figgott, Pewamo-Westphalia 8
Jase Behmlander, Saginaw Heritage 7
Willie Brown, Lansing Sexton 7
Alex Rockafellow, Perry 7
Josiah Stewart, Lansing Sexton 7
Aaron Wenzlick, New Lothrop 7
Caleb Blythe, Pewamo-Westphalia 6
Jayson Conant, Stockbridge 6
Sean Foley, Saginaw Nouvel 6
Evan Hunter, Owosso 6
Tommy Pratt, Williamston 6
Connor McMurphy, Ithaca 5
Jacob Adkins, Perry 5
Noah Clevenger, Shepherd 4
Ryu Deal, Frankenmuth 4
Layden DeLong, Millington 4
Xavier Ford, Okemos 4
Jackson Fossitt, Leslie 4
Parker Friess, Williamston 4
Brayton Holmes, Charlotte 4
Gavin Kilgore, Vassar 4
Simeon Kober, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 4
Brayden McGuirt, Eaton Rapids 4
Braeden Romero, Leslie 4
Brady Williams, Grand Ledge 4

TACKLES

(Min. 60 tackles)
Robbie White, Clio 122
Landon Mattis, Burton Bendle 109
Owen Marcus, Clio 105
Alex McEwan, Perry 105
Ben Rizzo, Okemos 104
Johnny McConnell, Perry 104
Melchizedek Washington, Saginaw United 102
Broghan Bupp, Ithaca 100
Colten Karbel, Almont 97
Xander Brock, St. Louis 95
Luke Joslyn, Caro 93
Zander Wheatley, Freeland 90
Johnn Carlson, Saginaw Nouvel 88
Kane Romano, Dansville 88
Jacob Crawford, Ithaca 87
Nate Byers, Olivet 84
Christian Lopez, Saginaw Nouvel 84
Talon Newell, Owosso 84
Karson Tweh, St. Louis 84
Halen Boos, Hart 83
Cohen Ferquerson, Almont 82
Brayden Bundy, Davison 81
Miles Keener, Williamston 80
Noah Rief, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 78
Dawson Feldpausch, Olivet 77
Liam Patrick, Owosso 77
Dominic Cirinelli, Stockbridge 74



Sam King, Shepherd 72
Donny Hoyt, Eaton Rapids 71
Connor McMurphy, Ithaca 71
Ayden Seybert, Davison 71
Nathan Precise, Okemos 70
Mason Nosis, Perry 69
Reggie Mitchell, Burton Bendle 68
Colton Carey, Charlotte 67
Jamaris Graham, Okemos 67
Noah Beauregard, Stockbridge 65
Cash Clark, Dansville 63
Lucas Warczinsky, Vestaburg 63
Jack Davy, Charlotte 62
Chris Mayas, Dansville 62
Lane Moore, Charlotte 60

SACKS

(Min. 4 sacks)
Reggie Mitchell, Burton Bendle 14
Alex McEwan, Perry 12
Xander Brock, St. Louis 8.5
Allen Frank, Grand Blanc 7
Breion Baker, Burton Bendle 6
Logan Riley, Millington 6
Robbie White, Clio 6
Hawk Harding, Williamston 5
Amare Harrison, Saginaw United 5
Jamisen Nickolopoulos, Williamston 5
Carl Flinton, Holt 4
Kamariu Granberry, Swan Valley 4
Caleb Hill, Grand Blanc 4
Ryan Kennedy, Saginaw United 4
Jaheem Lewis, Burton Bendle 4
Gavin Martin, Frankenmuth 4
Chase Milostan, Millington 4

INTERCEPTIONS

(Min. 3 ints)
Kam Reynolds, Swan Valley 7
Jadon Bender, DeWitt 5
Brody Corneau, Almont 5
Aiden DeSano, Almont 5
Braydin Johnson, Leslie 5
Zach Schar, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 5
Michael Aimery, Holt 4
Lucas Brandell, DeWitt 4
D'Marion Erlenbeck, Clio 4
Wilson Huckaby, Freeland 4
Evan Hunter, Owosso 4
Jack Masters, Olivet 4
Landon Mattis, Burton Bendle 4
Greyson Merchant, Ithaca 4
Keaton Pratt, Roscommon 4
Tommy Pratt, Williamston 4
Brady Rowe, Portland 4
Ty Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia 4
Zander Wheatley, Freeland 4
Garrett Woodward, Millington 4
Steven Bush, Williamston 3
Kris Cerdia, Vassar 3
Cash Clark, Dansville 3
Isaiah Fundunburks, Lansing Everett 3
Riley Guild, Ithaca 3
Brady Hale, Frankenmuth 3
Brendan Magnusson, Ewart 3
Andrew Miller, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 3
Kade Morgan, Ewart 3
Conner Noffke, Eaton Rapids 3
Christian Paige, Frankenmuth 3
Jamison Pelt, Swan Valley 3
Braeden Romero, Leslie 3
Deacon Townsend, Portland 3



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Ithaca's Young Football Team Having A Winning Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Ithaca football coach Jordan Hessbrook is in his fifth season as coach and likes what his 2025 team has been able to achieve.

The Yellow Jackets were 6-3 during the regular season.

“This year has been a great opportunity for our young players to learn and grow through some adversity,” Hessbrook said. “We have met expectations in some ways, but

in other ways have had to make improvements. We have continued to work hard to learn and grow as the season has progressed.

“Recently, we were able to come back from a 30-7 deficit and beat a talented Saginaw Nouvel in the

final minute of the game. We have been challenged with injuries to several players this year, but have had opportunities for other guys to step up and increase their reps. We have lost two games that presented opportunities for us to win.”



Ithaca finished 6-3 during the regular season.

Fulton Football Having Successful Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Zach Baker likes what he's seen from his Fulton football team this season in 8-man football.

Fulton was eight weeks was 4-4 and hoping for a playoff spot.

“It's been a great season,” Baker said. “We're very competitive which is great to see. I believe we play in one of the toughest 8-Man leagues

(MSAC Red) in the State. Guys have taken their bumps along the way, but we are hoping that through the adversity we will continue to improve and finish the season off strong, and pursue a playoff bid.

We have not exceeded expectations as of yet. We feel that at Fulton the standard is making a bid for State Playoffs, and hearing your name called on Selection Sunday. As of right now we aren't there yet.

“We have seen tremendous growth in our

leadership on and off the field. We had to replace a lot of leadership from last season's team. It has taken some time to find our way with this group, but they are figuring things out about themselves and each other.”

Top players have been:

Zach Litwiller, QB, Jr. 63 rushing attempts, 317 yards, 4tds. 70/118 passing attempts, 1,139 yards 16TDs, 9 ints.

Bryson Sattler, Wr, Sr. 75 rushing attempts, 518 yards, 7tds.

Connor Cunningham 25 receptions for 380 yards and 4tds.

Bryson Sattler 22 receptions for 390 yards and 5 TDs.



Fowler Eyes Another Huge Finish

John Raffel Sports Scene

John Spicer has been coaching another Fowler football team whose main highlight was a huge nonleague win over Ithaca 48-28.

Fowler was 5-1 in the league and 6-3 overall.

“We have improved each week and the kids

have worked hard,” Spicer said. The kids have worked extremely hard meeting expectations of the program. We've had multiple kids step up throughout the year. We have had to battle multiple injuries and been forced to move some kids around.”

For Fowler Trevor Spicer at linebacker has

been the leader on the defensive side of the ball.

“He has also stepped in at QB and raised our level of play on the offensive side. Our Oline has been a big key for us (Joe Epkey, Quinten Esch, Jack O'Hare, Ethan Humphrey, Ben Thelen). And Levi Travis has stepped up at the skill positions.”



Fowler players get ready for their next game.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE 8-MAN FOOTBALL STATS

PASSING YARDS
(Min. 400 yards)
Gavin Corbat, Breckenridge 1,836
Logan Glazier, Coleman 1,227
Griffin Long, Morrice 1,168
Robert Kral, Merrill 1,152
Grady Welch, Peck 1,029
Gabe Kauffman, Montabella 913
Tanner James, Kingston 902
Zain Qahwash, Bellevue 777
Blake Strouse, Carson City-Crystal 774
Haylen Buell, Merrill 748
Charlie Cornford, St. Charles 694
Gavin Riske, Concord 606
Isaah Kirvan, Carson City-Crystal 583
Jerryd Scheurer, Portland St. Patrick 495

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS
(Min. 5 tds)
Gavin Corbat, Breckenridge 20
Tanner James, Kingston 20
Robert Kral, Merrill 14
Griffin Long, Morrice 13
Grady Welch, Peck 13
Gabriel Kauffman, Montabella 12
Haylen Buell, Martin 10
Logan Glazier, Coleman 9
Zain Qahwash, Bellevue 9
Jerryd Scheurer, Portland St. Patrick 9
Charlie Cornford, St. Charles 7
Gavin Riske, Concord 7
Blake Strouse, Carson City-Crystal 6
Isaah Kirvan, Carson City-Crystal 5

RUSHING YARDS
(Min. 400 yds.)
Robert Kral, Merrill 1,204
Brady Kieff, Montabella 1,152
Haylen Buell, Martin 1,054
Tyrus Davidson, Mayville 1,050
Nick Cummings, Kingston 939
Seth Toris, Martin 891
Camrin Watson, Peck 864
Austin Gutting, Morrice 778
Griffin Long, Morrice 757
Cody Swanson, Bellevue 754
Brady Leonard, Portland St. Patrick 723
Hudson King, Portland St. Patrick 700
Noah Staff, Carson City-Crystal 668
Dominic Lawrence, Coleman 665
Austin Jensen, Montabella 663
Sam Schneider, Capac 615
Gavin Corbat, Breckenridge 602
Andrew Morales, Potterville 568
Carter Suhr, Breckenridge 527
Jaxson Garchow, Merrill 501
Shane Miller, Mayville 483
Charlie Cornford, St. Charles 476
Ethan Greene, Montabella 474
Nick Rayl, Kingston 401

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS
(Min. 3 tds)
Peyton Harrington, Kingston 17
Trey Most, Breckenridge 11
Thomas West, Peck 8
Wyatt Dunlap, Bellevue 7
Weson Elkins, Martin 6
Jan Pohlman, Peck 6

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS
(Min. 4 tds)
Tyrus Davidson, Mayville 19
Griffin Long, Morrice 17
Austin Gutting, Morrice 15
Robert Kral, Merrill 14
Nick Cummings, Kingston 13
Brady Kieff, Montabella 13
Austin Jensen, Montabella 10
Tanner James, Kingston 9
Andrew Morales, Potterville 9
Sam Schneider, Capac 9
Seth Toris, Martin 9
Camrin Watson, Peck 9
Jaxson Garchow, Merrill 8
Gabe Kauffman, Montabella 8
Ethan Greene, Montabella 7
Dominic Lawrence, Coleman 7
Cody Swanson, Bellevue 7
Bryer Watson, Martin 7
Charlie Cornford, St. Charles 6
Nick Rayl, Kingston 6
Harry Ayotte, Merrill 5
Zaiden Buell, Martin 4
Gavin Corbat, Breckenridge 4
Weson Elkins, Martin 4
Will Long, Merrill 4
Shane Miller, Mayville 4
Trey Most, Breckenridge 4
Carter Suhr, Breckenridge 4

RECEIVING YARDS
(Min. 300 yds.)
Trey Most, Breckenridge 1,013
Thomas West, Peck 832
Peyton Harrington, Kingston 589
Austin Jensen, Montabella 587
Wyatt Dunlap, Bellevue 429
Andrew Fernandez, Carson City-Crystal 424
Hunter Wiley, Merrill 401
Weson Elkins, Martin 389
Will Long, Merrill 344
Dominic Lawrence, Coleman 334
Oliver Long, Morrice 331
Brayden Schrank, Coleman 321
Isaah Kirvan, Carson City-Crystal 313
Gordon Braley, St. Charles 306
Bryer Watson, Martin 301
Aiden Aultman, Coleman 300

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS
(Min. 3 tds)
Peyton Harrington, Kingston 17
Trey Most, Breckenridge 11
Thomas West, Peck 8
Wyatt Dunlap, Bellevue 7
Weson Elkins, Martin 6
Jan Pohlman, Peck 6

Noah Carlson, Montabella 6
Austin Jensen, Montabella 5
Dominic Lawrence, Coleman 4
Oliver Long, Merrill 4
Will Long, Merrill 4
Skylar Sentell, Mayville 4
Bryer Watson, Martin 4
Hunter Wiley, Merrill 4
Gordon Braley, St. Charles 3
Andrew Fernandez, Carson City-Crystal 3
Jaxson Garchow, Merrill 3
Easton Hafner, St. Charles 3
Tristan Ringle, Merrill 3
Noah Staff, Carson City-Crystal 3

TACKLES
(Min. 50 tackles)
Harry Ayotte, Merrill 141
Braxton Clapp, Breckenridge 106
Mason Bogart, Montabella 105
Robert Kral, Merrill 96
Isaah Kirvan, Carson City-Crystal 91
Lincoln Ordway, Merrill 89
Will Long, Merrill 84
Brayden Schrank, Coleman 82
Jake Kubik, St. Charles 80
Noah Staff, Carson City-Crystal 80
Trey Most, Breckenridge 77
Brayden Wright, Coleman 76
Cody Omo, Montabella 71
Skylar Sentell, Mayville 69
Griffin Long, Morrice 65
Austin Gutting, Morrice 63
Robert Brown, Mayville 61
Jaxson Garchow, Merrill 61
TJ Rood, Montabella 60
Isaac Suk, Martin 60
Zach Hahn, Carson City-Crystal 59
Gordon Braley, St. Charles 58
Ben White, Portland St. Patrick 58
Blake Hollern, Potterville 57
Haylen Buell, Martin 56
Isaac Bush, Breckenridge 56
Andrew Morales, Potterville 56
Tanner James, Kingston 55
Dominic Lawrence, Coleman 55
Augustus Teachworth, Portland St. Patrick 55
Bryton Strohl, Montabella 53
Austin Jensen, Montabella 50
Aiden Mosser, Portland St. Patrick 50
Ryder Zoellner, St. Charles 50

RECEIVING YARDS
(Min. 300 yds.)
Trey Most, Breckenridge 1,013
Thomas West, Peck 832
Peyton Harrington, Kingston 589
Austin Jensen, Montabella 587
Wyatt Dunlap, Bellevue 429
Andrew Fernandez, Carson City-Crystal 424
Hunter Wiley, Merrill 401
Weson Elkins, Martin 389
Will Long, Merrill 344
Dominic Lawrence, Coleman 334
Oliver Long, Morrice 331
Brayden Schrank, Coleman 321
Isaah Kirvan, Carson City-Crystal 313
Gordon Braley, St. Charles 306
Bryer Watson, Martin 301
Aiden Aultman, Coleman 300

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS
(Min. 3 tds)
Peyton Harrington, Kingston 17
Trey Most, Breckenridge 11
Thomas West, Peck 8
Wyatt Dunlap, Bellevue 7
Weson Elkins, Martin 6
Jan Pohlman, Peck 6



Blaze Snyder, Breckenridge 4
Noah Carlson, Montabella 3
Peyton Schuring Harris, Martin 3
Gavin Simmons, Montabella 3

INTERCEPTIONS
(Min. 2 ints)
Brady Leonard, Portland St. Patrick 7
Jerryd Scheurer, Portland St. Patrick 7
Logan Glazier, Coleman 6
Griffin Long, Morrice 6
Nick Cummings, Kingston 5
Robert Kral, Merrill 5
Noah Carlson, Montabella 4
Greg Groze, Potterville 4
Isaah Kirvan, Carson City-Crystal 4
Elijah Alvarado, St. Charles 3
Hartley Branch, Martin 3
Haylen Buell, Martin 3
Isaiah Woloszyn, Potterville 3
Cody Swanson, Bellevue 3
Aidan Alfaro, Peck 2
Charlie Cornford, St. Charles 2
Rocco Costa, Peck 2
Austin Gutting, Morrice 2
Easton Hafner, St. Charles 2
Zach Hahn, Carson City-Crystal 2
Tanner James, Kingston 2
Austin Jensen, Montabella 2
Dominic Lawrence, Coleman 2
Tristan Neely, Kingston 2
TJ Rood, Montabella 2
Wyatt Valentine, Morrice 2



Greenville Golfers Celebrate Huge Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Sam Gallup completed his fourth season as Greenville girls coach and it was a good one.

The Jackets had a league record 33-15, third Overall and non-league 59-33

“We had a strong team coming into this season so none of our success was surprising,” Gallup said. “It was a great honor for us to reach the state finals, we know how hard it is to make that tournament. We had two tournament

victories but performing well in regionals and playing well at states was definitely the highlight of our season.

I want to highlight senior team captain Olivia Reese who was all-Conference again this year as well as two tournament victories and a top five finish in regionals and 32nd place finish at the State Finals

“Junior Kamryn Kass also stepped up for us in big moments this year having a sub 90 round at the State finals and being a consistent 40s golfer for most of the season which was a big improvement

from last season. She finished in the top 50 at states.”

Greenville is losing three key seniors this year with Olivia Reese, Olivia Russell, and Rachelle Sherwood. Key returners are Kamryn Kass and Skylar Vermeulen

“Our team battled hard in a very difficult conference where three teams qualified for the State Finals,” Gallup said. “I am very proud of how we carried ourselves throughout the season with everyone making consistent improvements all season.”

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE GIRLS GOLF ROUND UP

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE GIRLS GOLF ROUND UP

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

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

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

DIVISION 1

Northville won the D1 state title for the second year in a row and the sixth time in the past eight years. Northville finished with a two-day total of 643 to win the title by 29 strokes. Macomb Dakota placed second with a 672 total while Okemos was third with 674.

Plymouth senior Annie Flavin captured individual medalist honors with rounds of 71 and 77 to finish with a 148 total. Marissa Monteith of Macomb Dakota was second with a 152 while Okemos

freshman Saisha Patil was third with a 153 at the two-day tournament.

Okemos Places In Top Three At State

A year after placing fifth at the Division 1 state finals, the young Okemos golf team stormed back to the D1 finals and placed third overall. The Wolves, who finished with a two-day total of 711 last year, shaved 37 strokes off that score to past a 674 total this season.

The one-two combination of freshman Saisha Patil and sophomore Anika Srivastava led the way for Okemos. In her first appearance at the state meet Patil placed third overall as an individual with rounds of 76 and 77 for a 153 total, just five strokes out of first place.

Srivastava, who placed 19th at the state finals last year as a freshman with a 170 total, whittled 15 strokes off that number to post a 155 this year. Srivastava shot

rounds of 78 and 77 enroute to placing fifth individually.

Junior Emma O'Shea also improved substantially over her score from last season. O'Shea placed 48th this year with rounds of 88 and 91 for a 179 total, 18 strokes better than her sophomore score.

Junior Anisha Pabbathi, sophomore Zoey McArdle and freshman Ishika Shah also contributed for Okemos at the finals.

Okemos qualified for the state meet by placing second at the Hartland regional. Patil led the way at the regional as she claimed medalist honors with a 70. Srivastava placed 10th with an 84 while McArdle was 19th with a 92, Pabbathi placed 22nd with a 94 and O'Shea was 27th with a 96.

Grand Blanc Golfers Place In Top 10 At State Finals

Grand Blanc wrapped up the season by placing seventh at the Division 1 state finals. The Bobcats finished with a two-day team total of 703, one stroke behind sixth-place Portage Central.

Grand Blanc was led at the state meet by senior Emily Mack who placed 30th with a 171 total. Junior Maria Baier placed 33rd with a 172 while senior Sidney Hartman placed 40th with a 176.

Grand Blanc qualified for the state meet by winning the regional title at Hartland. The Bobcats finished with a team score of 336, four strokes ahead of Okemos.

Junior Maria Baier led the team as she placed fifth overall with a 79. Senior Sidney Hartman finished one place behind with an 83 while senior Emily Mack took eighth place with an 85.

Holt Golfer Shines At State

Holt sophomore Racheeni Her returned to the state finals for a second straight year

and topped her freshman-year effort along the way.

Her, who placed 18th as a freshman last year with a 169 total, recorded a 12th -place finish this season. Her shot rounds of 78 and 83 to finish with a 161 total.

Her qualified for the state finals as an individual by placing second at the Hartland regional where she fired a 78.

Midland Dow Golfers Compete At State

Midland Dow earned a trip to the state finals with the third-place finish at the regional at Hartland with a team score of 361, two strokes ahead of fourth-place Hartland.

Senior Sophia Lee led the way at the regional as she placed second individually with a 73. Sophomore Evie Samocki placed 10th with an 86 followed by senior Cerae Dejongh who placed 22nd with a 94 and junior Avery who finished 54th with a 108.

Dow was paced at the final by Lee who closed out her high school career by placing 16th as an individual with rounds of 77 and 86 for a 163 total. Lee also finished in the top 20 at state last year as an individual.

Rockford Golfers Qualify For State Finals

The Rockford golf team qualified for the state finals by placing third at the Muskegon regional. The Rams were paced at the regional by senior Grace Bearley who placed 10th overall with an 86. Senior Lana Moore and junior Jaelyn Maki both finished in 18th place with rounds of 91. Junior Teagan Venckus placed 23rd with a 97.

Rockford finished in 12th place as a team at the state finals. The Rams were led at the finals by senior Lana Moore who placed

21st individually with a 165 total. Senior Grace Bearley placed 40th with a 176.

DIVISION 2

Dexter snapped Farmington Hills Mercy's three-year title reign at the Division 2 state golf finals that took place at Bedford Valley Gold Course near Battle Creek. Dexter, which placed second last year, carded rounds of 330 and 313 to finish with a 643 total. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, which was ranked number one entering the tournament, placed second with a 659 total while neighboring rivals Lowell and Forest Hills Central tied for third place with totals of 684.

Individually, Muskegon Reeths-Puffer junior Sophia McCollum won medalist honors with a 148. Cranbrook Kingswood sophomore Sixtine Charnelet placed second with a 152 while last year's medalist, Dexter senior Avery Manning, took third with a 154 while leading her team to the team crown.

Lowell Golfers Repeat In Top Three

For the second consecutive season the Lowell girls golf team placed third at the Division 2 state golf finals. This year the Red Arrows shared the third-place finish with neighboring Forest Hills Central as the two long-time rivals both carded a 684 total for the two-day event. The 684 total was also four strokes lower than last year's mark.



Lowell was led at the finals by junior Kaila Richards who finished eighth as an individual with a 158 (81-77). Senior Elyse Veldman placed 12th individually with a 162 (79-83). Senior Andrea Plantz placed 34th (91-88) while senior Ava McCormick was 44th (94-91).

Lowell earned a trip to the state meet by placing second at the Coldwater regional with a 348. Veldman paced the Red Arrows at the regional as she took second overall with a 79. Richards placed fifth individually with an 83 while senior Avery Krieger placed 12th with a 91 and Plantz took 20th with a 95.

Mason Golfers Finish In Top Ten At State Finals

For the second year in a row the Mason golf team wrapped up the season by placing in the top ten at the Division 2 state finals. The Bulldogs, who took 10th last season, finished ninth this year with rounds of 377 and 369 for a 746 total, the same mark as last season.

Sophomore Ruby Peete led the way for Mason as she placed 19th individually with a 171 (84-87). Senior Tylar Southwell placed 27th with a 175 (89-86).

Mason qualified for the state meet by placing second at the East Lansing regional that was won by Dexter. Southwell led the Bulldogs as she placed fourth with an 85. Petee placed eighth individually with an 89 while junior Jocelyn Straub and sophomore Brooklyn Savoie both placed 15th with rounds of 94.

Owosso Golfers Compete At State Finals

The Owosso golf team ended the season by placing 11th at the Division 2 state finals with a 753 team score.

The Trojans were led at state by standout freshman Samantha Ross who placed eighth as an individual with a pair of 79s for a 158 total. Senior Alexis Harris placed 50th overall with a 186 (99-87).

Owosso qualified for the state meet by winning the championship at the Petoskey regional. Owosso totaled a 368 team total, one-stroke lower than second-place Alpena. Ross led the way for the Trojans at the regional as she placed fourth individually with an 86. Harris placed fifth



with an 88 while senior Marley Ayers was seventh with a 91.

Greenville Golf Team Qualifies For State Meet

The Yellowjackets wrapped up the season by taking 12th at the Division 2 state finals.

Greenville was led at the state meet by senior Olivia Reese who placed 32nd individually with a 178 (86-82). Junior Kamryn Kass placed 44th with a 185 (97-88).

Greenville earned a trip to the state meet by placing third at the Muskegon regional. The Yellowjackets were paced at the regional by Olivia Reese who placed fourth with an 87. Senior Olivia Russell placed 14th with a 93 while junior Skylar Vermeulen was 22nd with a 98.

Area Individuals Compete At State Finals

A quartet of area golfers competed at the state finals on an individual basis.

Leading the group of individual qualifiers was **Midland** senior Lauren Deckrow. Deckrow, who placed 28th at last year's state finals when Midland reached the finals as a team, placed 34th this year with a 179 (90-89). Deckrow qualified for the state meet by shooting a 92 at the Petoskey regional where she placed sixth as an individual.

East Lansing senior Kinley Kiefer placed 50th with a 186 (90-96). Kiefer

qualified for state as she shot an 85 at the regional where she finished fourth individually.

St. Johns had a pair of golfers qualify as individuals. Sophomore Delaney Nelson placed 58th with a 189 while senior Emma Miller was 84th. Nelson punched her ticket to the state meet with an 85 at regionals while Miller shot a 90 at the regional.

DIVISION 3

Grand Rapids Catholic Central golfers achieved the three-peat as they captured a third consecutive Division 3 state championship at the state meet held at Forest Akers West in East Lansing. The Cougars finished with a two-day total of 682 to outdistance Grand Rapids Christian by 29 strokes while Detroit Country Day placed third with a 731.

The individual medalist honors went to another repeat champion as Grand Rapids Christian senior Lillian O'Grady repeated as individual state champion with rounds of 72 and 71 for a 143 total. A familiar face finished in second place as O'Grady's younger sister, freshman Eleanor, carded 78s on both days to finish second with a 156 total. Grand Rapids Catholic Central senior Kelsey Preston placed third with a 159.

Big Rapids Golfers Place In Top Ten At D3 State Finals

The Big Rapids golf team returned to the Division 3 state finals for a second straight season. The Cardinals, who placed



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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE GIRLS GOLF ROUND UP

11th last season, moved up to seventh this year and finished with a team score of 772.

Senior Kate Posey paced Big Rapids as she finished 19th individually with two rounds of 90 for a 180 total. Senior Hannah Leyder placed 37th with a 194 total, senior Aby Doering placed 42nd and senior Layla Tucci placed 45th.

Big Rapids advanced to the state meet by winning the team championship at the Fremont regional by 29 strokes with a 346. Posey led the team at the regional as she captured individual medalist honors with a 75. Leyder placed fourth with an 84 while sophomore Emily Waltz was seventh with a 92 and Tucci placed 13th.

Frankenmuth Among Top Ten At State Tourney

The Frankenmuth golf team competed in the Division 3 state finals for a second consecutive year and this year the Eagles recorded a top-ten finish. The Eagles, who placed 16th last year, finished eighth overall this season as they shaved 39 strokes off last year's score to finish with a 785 team total.

Junior Maxie Schmidt led the way for the Eagles as she placed 28th with a 187. Senior Alysén Peterson placed 31st with a 190 while junior Ainsley Roberts was 39th with a 196.

Frankenmuth qualified for the state meet by placing second at the Alma



regional with a team score of 376. 402. Roberts led the team at the regional as she placed seventh individually with a 91. Schmidt placed 10th with a 92 while Peterson placed 17th and junior Charlyze Jones placed 23rd.

Freeland Golfers Earn Trip To State Meet

Freeland wrapped up the golf season by placing 11th at the D3 state finals with a team score of 809.

The Falcons were led at the state finals by junior Alexis Heinz who placed 36th overall with a score of 192. Senior Reese Conlee 42nd overall with a 198 total. Senior Gia Johnson placed 58th while senior Natalie Trudo placed 60th.

Freeland earned a trip to the state finals by winning the championship at the Alma regional at Pine River Country Club where the Falcons shot a 358. Heinz won individual medalist honors at the regional as she shot an 83. Conlee placed second with an 86 while Johnson was 10th with a 92. Senior Grace Belongia placed 21st.

Charlotte Golfers Compete At State Meet

Charlotte capped the golf season by placing 14th at the Division 3 state finals with a team score of 835.

Junior Peyton Howarth led the way for the Orioles as she placed 24th with a 185 total. Howarth placed 44th last season at the state finals when she qualified as an individual. Junior Claire McClean finished 58th for the Orioles.

Charlotte qualified for state by placing third at the regional that it hosted. Howarth led the way at the regional as she captured medalist honors with a sizzling 77. Freshman Maggie Gingras placed seventh individually with a 91 while senior Addison Antcliff placed 24th and McClean 32nd.

Chippewa Hills Golfers End Season At State Meet

The Chippewa Hills golf team wrapped up the season

by placing 17th at the Division 3 state finals where they finished with a team score of 857.

The Warriors were led at the finals by senior Rileigh Abel who placed 49th overall. Senior Erin Riesenber placed 63rd while sophomore Hannah Simon placed 69th.

Chippewa Hills qualified for the state meet by placing third at the Fremont regional with a 412. Abel led the way at the regional as she placed seventh with a 92. Simon placed 14th with a 96 while Riesenber was 15th with a 98.

Four Area Individuals Compete At State Golf Finals

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

Ionia junior Lila Redder was the top-finisher among the area's individual players as she finished ninth overall with round of 85 and 84 for a 169 total. Redder earned a trip to the state finals by winning the regional championship at the West Olive regional where she carded an 82.

Belding sophomore Hayley Conrad finished inside the top 20 as she placed 15th with rounds of 86 and 92 (178). Conrad qualified for the state finals by placing fifth individually at the Fremont regional where she shot a 91.

Swan Valley senior Shiloh Charboneau capped her career by placing 69th. Charboneau qualified for the state finals by placing fourth at the Alma regional with an 88

Williamston senior Paige Radebach ended her high school career by placing 77th overall. Radebach qualified for the state meet by placing third at the Charlotte regional with an 83.

DIVISION 4

After taking second place last year, the Grand Rapids NorthPointe Christian golf team took the next step this season and captured first place at the Division 4 state championship with a team score of 745 at Katke Golf Course in Big Rapids. Lansing



Catholic finished one stroke behind in second place with a score of 746 while Elk Rapids took third place with a 753.

Napoleon senior Anna McCubbins captured the individual medalist title as she carded rounds of 79 and 76 for a 155 total. Bath freshman Addilyn Duflo finished five strokes behind with a 160 while Byron sophomore Adalen Brown took third with a 165.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE GIRLS GOLF ROUND UP

Lansing Catholic Golfers Take Second At State

The Lansing Catholic golf team ran their string of top-five finishes at the Division 4 state finals to six in a row as the Cougars took second place in Division 4. The Cougars, who placed fourth last season, finished just a stroke out of first place with rounds of 376 and 370 to finish with a 746 team total.

Senior Addi Rule led the way for Lansing Catholic as she placed sixth overall with a 173 total as she carded rounds of 90 and 83. Freshman Eryn O'Connell placed 12th with a 185 total followed by sophomore Anna Robinson who placed 19th with a 192. Senior Elisabeth Ruddell was 44th.

Lansing Catholic earned a trip to the state meet after winning the team title at the East Jackson regional with a team score of 381. Robinson led the way at the regional as she placed third with an 89



while O'Connell took fifth with a 96 with Rule and Ruddell both carding rounds of 98 to place sixth overall.

Bath Golfers Finish In Top Ten At State Meet

The Bath golf team placed in the top ten at the state meet for the third consecutive season. The Bees finished sixth at this year's Division 4 state finals with a team total of 782, a 50-stroke improvement from last year's team total.

Freshman Addilyn Duflo lead the way for Bath as she placed second overall individually. Duflo carded rounds of 77 and 83 for a 160 total. Junior Sophia Perales placed 36th individually with a 198 while freshman Hattie Lalonde placed 42nd and sophomore Mya Vietzke placed 81st.

Bath qualified for state by placing third at the East Jackson regional with a 401. Duflo led the way at the regional as she claimed medalist honors with a sizzling round of 78. Vietzke placed 13th, Lalonde took 14th and Perales placed 16th for the Bees.

Millington Golfers Compete At State Meet

The Millington golfers wrapped up the season at the Division 4 state finals where they placed 14th. The Cardinals were led by senior Morgan Matusik who placed 36th and sophomore Logan Matusik who placed 40th overall.

Millington qualified for state by winning the team title at the Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart regional with a 420 team score. Morgan Matusik led the way as she placed second overall with a 92 while Logan Matusik was third with a 95. Senior Karlie

Sherman placed 28th while junior Zella Hascall was 29th.

Breckenridge Golf Team Earns Trip To State Finals

The Breckenridge golf team ended the season on an upswing by qualifying for the Division 4 state finals and placing 17th overall. Breckenridge was led at the finals by senior Ally Schmitz who placed 67th overall as an individual and sophomore Lydia Slavik who placed 69th.

Breckenridge punched its ticket to the state finals with a third-place finish at the Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart regional with a team score of 440. Slavik led the Huskies at the regional as she placed fourth individually with a 99. Schmitz placed 14th with a 107. Presley Butcher, Brinley Humm and Brooklyn all tied for 29th for the Huskies.

Area Individuals Compete At State Golf Finals

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

Byron sophomore Adalen Brown turned in a big tournament as she placed second overall as an individual. Brown carded rounds of 80 and 85 for a 165 total. Brown qualified for state last year as an individual and placed 25th at last year's tournament.

Brown qualified for the state finals after placing second at the Saline regional where she shot an 84.

Fowler junior Noelle Krepps capped her season by placing seventh individually as she carded rounds of 82 and 95 for a 177 total. Krepps earned a trip to the state finals as an individual after winning the championship at the Kent City regional with an 89.



Hemlock freshman Maylin Buckley capped off her first season of high school golf by placing 17th at the state finals. Buckley carded rounds of 95 and 94 for a 189 total. Buckley qualified for the state meet by placing fourth at the Mt. Pleasant regional with a 99.

Saginaw Nouvel junior Gabi Thiel placed 27th at the finals as she posted rounds of 98 and 97 for a 195 total. Thiel earned a trip to the state finals as she was the individual regional champion at Mt. Pleasant where she fired an 89.

Farwell senior Anna Van Buskirk placed 51st overall as she carded a pair of 103 rounds for a 206 total. Van Buskirk earned a trip to the state finals as she placed third at the Houghton Lake regional with a round of 90.

Ithaca senior Libby Maurer wrapped up her high school career with a trip to the state finals where she placed 72nd overall. Maurer earned a spot in the state finals as she shot a 99 and placed fourth overall at the Mt. Pleasant regional.

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE BOYS TENNIS ROUND UP

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

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

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

DIVISION 1

A new champion was crowned in Division 1 finals as Troy snapped the three-year title reign of Bloomfield Hills. Troy won the state title with 32 points while Bloomfield Hills placed second with 22 points followed by Novi and Detroit Catholic Central who finished in a tie for third place with 17 points apiece.

Rockford Tennis Team Finishes Season Strong

The Rockford tennis team capped the season by placing seventh at the Division 1 finals with a total of 10 points.

The Rams were led at the finals by the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Quinn Geshel and Sam Martin who reached the semifinal round. The No. 2 doubles team of senior Joseph Miesiack and sophomore Jayden Fudge reached the quarterfinals. In singles play, senior Elijah Johnson (1s) and junior Alex Moore (2s) both reached the quarterfinals.

Okemos Tennis Team Places In Top Ten At State

The Okemos tennis team finished the season placing ninth at the Division 1 state finals with a total of eight team points. Okemos was led at the state meet in

singles play by Kai Minamisono who reached the championship match at No. 3 singles. In doubles play, the No. 1 doubles team of senior Addy Sarda and sophomore Ayan Arora reached the quarterfinal round.

DIVISION 2

Birmingham Seaholm, which finished second at last year's Division 2 state finals, came away with this year's state championship. Seaholm totaled 31 points to win the title followed by Byron Center with 26 points and Midland Dow with 22 points.

Dow Tennis Team Finishes In Top Five At State

The Midland Dow tennis team wrapped up the season by placing third in Division 2 with 22 points.

In singles play, senior Siddarth Venkatesan (3s) and sophomore (4s) both advanced to the semifinals. At No. 1 singles junior Chase Martin reached the quarterfinals.

In doubles play, Dow was led by the No. 4 doubles team of sophomore Vettel Xu and junior Ethan Clark who won a state championship. Dow's No. 1 doubles team of senior Matthew McGaugh and junior Nathan Song reached the championship match. The No. 2 doubles team of seniors Ian Kohl and Jack Elwell reached the quarterfinal round while the No. 3 doubles team of sophomore Sullivan Ladd and junior Jashwanth Thamminana reached



the semifinal round.

Midland Tennis Team Reaches State Finals

The Midland tennis team ended the season by qualifying for the Division 2 state finals where they finished in a tie for 12th place.

Midland was led at the finals by a pair of doubles teams that reached the quarterfinals. Reaching the quarterfinals at No. 3 doubles was the team of senior Bennett Smith and sophomore Reave Smith while the No. 4 doubles team of senior Andrew Witt and sophomore Tucker Spaulding also advanced to the

quarterfinals.

DIVISION 3

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood won the Division 3 state championship for the second time in three years as it held off Detroit Country Day by a single point. Cranbrook-Kingswood finished with 34 points while Country Day totaled 33 points. Holland Christian was third with 26 points.

Haslett Netters Place In Top Ten At State Meet

The Haslett tennis team finished the season by placing seventh at the Division 3

state finals with eight team points.

The Vikings were led at the state meet by sophomore Anish Komiresetty who reached the semifinals at No. 1 singles. Komiresetty advanced to the quarterfinals at No. 2 singles as a freshman at last year's finals.

Junior Jackson Clark reached the quarterfinals at No. 2 singles while sophomore Gautier Dorlencourt reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles.

In doubles play Haslett's No. 2 doubles team of seniors Thomas Mondro and Brahm Myrom reached the quarterfinals.

Big Rapids Tennis Competes At State

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

The Cardinals were led at state by senior Carson Coles who reached the semifinals at No. 1 singles.

In doubles play the Big Rapids No. 1 doubles team of seniors Brayden Pischel junior Noah Sweppenheiser reached the quarterfinals. The No. 2 doubles team of senior Isaac Wilhelm and junior Ryce Lacourse also reached the quarterfinals.

DeWitt Tennis Team Wraps Up Season At State Finals

The DeWitt tennis team qualified for the state finals and finished in 15th place at the state meet with four points.

DeWitt was led at the state finals by senior Drake Stipcak who reached the quarterfinal round at No. 3 singles and the No. 1 doubles team of senior Rowan Page and junior Jack Williams who also reached the quarterfinals.

DIVISION 4

Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett came away with the state championship



at the Division 3 state tournament with a total of 31 points. Jackson Lumen Christi finished in second place with 21 points while Berrien Springs and Maple City Glen Lake tied for third with 19 points apiece.

Williamston Turns In Strong Showing In D4

The Williamston tennis team ended the year by placing in seventh place at the Division 4 state finals with a total of 11 team points.

The Hornets were paced at the finals by their doubles teams led by the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Tyler Blankenship and Gabe Robke who reached the semifinal round. Reaching the

quarterfinals for the Hornets were the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Luke Harkema and Kaden Steinke.

In singles action junior Gavin Beck advanced to the semifinal round at No. 3 singles.

Lansing Catholic Finishes In Top Ten At State Meet

The Lansing Catholic tennis team capped the season by placing eighth at the Division 4 state finals with 10 points.

The Cougars were led at state by sophomore standout Noah West who won the state title at No. 1 singles. Last year as a freshman West reached the quarterfinal round at No. 1 singles. West outlasted

Stephen Gollapalli in three sets (6-3, 3-6, 6-3) in the title match.

Cougar junior Jacob Payne reached the semifinal round at No. 4 singles.

Lansing Christian Netters Compete At State Finals

The Lansing Christian tennis team finished the season by placing 15th with seven points at the Division 4 state finals.

The Pilgrims were led at the state meet by junior Stephen Gollapalli who reached the championship match at No. 1 singles. Last year as a sophomore Gollapalli reached the semifinals at No. 1 singles.

Pilgrim junior Brennan Sendow reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles.

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Alma Tennis Team Has Successful Rebuilding Program

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a successful rebuilding season for Alma's boys tennis program, which is looking forward to having a strong rebuilding program in the very near future.

Todd Brasher is in his third season as Alma's head coach.

"We ended the season at 2-9-1 and 1-3-1 in the TVC. We lost our two best players from last season, so we knew this was going to be a rebuilding year for us," Brasher said. "Our top

six players were all competitive this season for us. They really pushed each other in practice and gave their all in every match. We have an incredibly competitive league, so it's hard to judge expectations by wins and losses.

"We had seven players earn honorable mention all-league this year, a testament to their improvement as the year progressed. We had four matches canceled this season that couldn't be rescheduled. If we would have played those matches, we would have earned at least two more victories. In a sport that is so weather-dependent,

it's just something you have to deal with." Brasher had some good talent on his team.

Junior Caleb Palmer improved tremendously from last year," he said. "He had the best record on the team at 6-8 and won some key matches for us down the stretch.

"We will lose Zakary Schloff (No. 1 singles) and Shayne Zimmerman (No. 1 doubles) to graduation, but we return eight juniors next season. I will be relying on their experience to lead the way for the program."

Alma's Landon Huntoon gets ready to serve the ball during the season.

DeWitt Tennis Caps Off Strong Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Mike Hitchcock has had a strong DeWitt boys tennis this season—he has coached for 15 years. The team was 4-1 in the league and 16-9 overall.

"Our team has really competed well this season. We have played some of the best teams in the state. It has helped us improve every week of the season," Hitchcock said.

Highlights have included finishing second in the league, having a winning record, winning two tournaments and finishing runner up in 2 others, and qualifying for the State Finals.

"We have played 16 teams that are in the State Finals this season in their respective divisions. That is a very challenging schedule, but our team played well throughout the season," Hitchcock said. "Santino Jacobson played 1 Singles for our team. He had to play the best player day in and day out. He is one of the hardest workers if not the hardest worker on the team.

"Andrew Artuso played 2 Singles as a freshman this season. He played well and has a lot of ability. Andrew is a really good player and has improved throughout the season. He won the league title at 2 Singles. CAAC All Conference. Drake Stipcak played 3 Singles this season. This is his first year of



The 2025 DeWitt boys tennis team.

playing singles. He finished runner up at Leagues and Regionals this season. CAAC Blue All Conference.

"Will Grant played 4 Singles for the second year. He finished runner up at Leagues and Regionals this season. CAAC

Blue All Conference. Rowan Page and Jack Williams played 1 Doubles. They were Mention for CAAC Blue and we runner up at Regionals. Ethan Gardner and Owen Sermak played 2 Doubles. They were CAAC Blue Honorable Mention and won the Regional

Title. "Josh Lutz and Brock Thaler played 3 Doubles. They were CAAC Blue Honorable Mention. Owen Musser and Luke Walter played 4 Doubles. They finished runner up for Leagues. They were CAAC Blue All Conference."

Hemlock Tennis Coach Happy With Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

It's been a very productive season for four-year Hemlock varsity boys tennis coach Kirstin Halton.

"We had a great season with many individual wins across all 8 flights. I am very proud of how all of the team played this season," Halton said. "No. 1 singles and 2 singles placed third at the

TVC district conference. We received 4 points at regionals which is 3 more than the previous year. Tying 4-4 against Midland Bullock Creek was also a big win for us.

"We had a few tough matches

this year, but overall played very well with a fairly young team."

Top performers have been:

- Nick chasnis- 1 singles, co-captain/ Had a 9-10 season record, the best 1 singles record Hemlock has had since I became coach. Some impressive wins were beating Midland Bullock Creek in a 3rd set tie breaker. Winning the tiebreaker 10-6. Also winning against Garber, a tough school who brings excellent competition every year. He took 3rd place in the TVC conference tournament.

- Sam Dunton and Aidan Trinklien- 1 doubles team. "Had an 11-10 season record, the best 1 doubles record Hemlock has had since I became coach," Halton

said. "Some impressive wins were beating John Glenn twice, once in a conference match and once in the TVC tournament. They won in three sets against John Glenn in the conference match and won in 2 sets at the TVC tournament. They clutched our only win against Clio, winning in 2 straight sets. They won against Midland, Bullock Creek in a third set tiebreaker, winning the tiebreaker 13-11. They also scored our only win against Ovid-Elsie, winning in 3 sets."

"We have one senior graduating, Nick Chasnis. He will be greatly missed. He brought our team many wins over the year and is an overall role model for younger players," Halton said.



Hemlock's 2025 tennis team.

Key returners will be sophomores Cooper Gensch, Sam Dunton, Aidan Trinklein, and Isaiah Steinert. All four started as freshmen and have greatly improved and will continue to be tremendous assets to our team,"

Halton said. "We had a very young team this year, having 8 sophomores and two freshmen. I was very impressed with our performance and am excited to see how our team continues to grow and improve."

Hemlock Volleyball Coach Has Successful Return

John Raffel Sports Scene

Maggie Muter-Devericks has had a fun return as Hemlock volleyball coach.

"I was previously at Hemlock as the head varsity volleyball coach from 2014-2018," Muter-Devericks said. "So far this season, we are at 17-13-4. This team continues to put in the work to get better and better each day. So far, they are meeting my expectations. When a new coach comes into a program, there is a learning curve for everyone. This team has really been embraced the culture and expectations of the program.

"Top highlights of the season so far has been making it to the Gold Bracket in 3 out of 4 of our tournaments this season,"

Muter-Devericks said. "It has been awesome to see this team really spread out the offense to reduce the load on just a few players. I love seeing how everyone is confident to attack, even from the back row. The team has played a tough schedule this season and yet they continue to learn and get better every game."

This year, the team is made up of 2 freshman, 3 sophomores, 5 juniors, and 3 seniors.

"Out of that only three are returners; with having our freshman and sophomores this season as starters."

Top players have been:

- Freshman Sage LaVigne: "Sage is a middle blocker within the program and has really come alive in the last few weeks," Muter-

Devericks said. "Sage is second on the team in kills with 139 at this time and has 40 solo blocks."

- Freshman Ava Stroud: "Ava is our libero this season. Ava is speedy and always seems to be there. She is leading us this season with over 240 digs this season so far. Ava is leading the team in digs with 297 currently. She has 51 assists and 16 aces," Muter-Devericks said.

- Sophomore Layne Robinson: "Layne is one of our starting returners from last season. She is leading our team in both kills (160) and blocks (60) so far. Layne has a high volleyball IQ and has the ability to place the ball in all the right places," Muter-Devericks said
- Junior Laci Harry: "Laci has primarily led the floor as our setter this season however she has also



Hemlock's 2025 volleyball team.

stepped up and started hitting as well. She is leading our team in aces (33) this season and serve percentage this season. Laci has one of our highest serve attempts with only 3 service error total for the season," Muter-Devericks said.

- Junior Riley Church: "Riley is a beast as a player and steps up wherever she is needed. She has 122 kills and 44 blocks on the season so far," Muter-Devericks said.

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Lainsburg Volleyballers Enjoying Winning Success

John Raffel Sports Scene
Mickey Fox is volleyball coach for the second year at Laingsburg High School and has had a unique season.

As of late October the team is 12-11-2 and 5-3 in the league. "Right now our varsity team has had to deal with some adversity in changes in the lineup every game and being able to be flexible with changes each night. That being said, we have been somewhat meeting our expectations so far, but we have some pretty big goals for the postseason, so we will see how we can achieve those," Fox said. "We have a really solid group of athletes that want to compete



The 2025 Laingsburg volleyball team.

and have worked really hard to accomplish their goals. "Starting our season with a 3-0 sweep at Bath was a huge highlight for us. We lost to them twice last season, and so defeating them in an extremely loud gym in our first conference game of the season, was

really awesome. Some games we have struggled to bring a consistent energy across the board, which has resulted in losing games or sets that we have felt like we should have won." Laingsburg has been enjoying a lot of talent.

"Lia Soeltner has been our libero this season," Fox said. "She is currently leading our team with 394 digs. Kendall Michels has led our team in assists with 304, as well as 108 kills, and 42 aces. Harper Strouse has led our offensive attack with 123 kills, and

39 blocks. "All three have been super effective leaders on and off the court. They are extremely competitive, and have been a very solid core group for us."

Fowler Volleyball Looking At A Long Playoff Run

John Raffel Sports Scene
Fowler volleyball coach Patty Feldpausch likes her team's prospects for the postseason, and for good reason. She's been coach for 17 years in Fowler. Her team's overall record is 25-7-2 and CMAC mark is 9-0. 25-7-2 League Record 9-0 "We have 9 returning seniors, and we keep working to improve every time we

play," Feldpausch said. "Post-season is just weeks away and it's time to raise our level of play. We have attended competitive tournaments, facing many D1-D3 and ranked D4 teams, and we won the Flushing tournament. Top athletes for Fowler have been -Neelah O'Rourke hit a milestone a few weeks ago, reaching 2000 career assists as a Fowler Eagle! Rachel Wirth reached 1000 career digs last week, and Paige Thelen just hit 1000 career kills this past weekend.

—Neelah O'Rourke has 631 assists this season, averaging 7.4/set and 41 aces, ave .5/set. -Rachel Wirth has 402 digs this season, averaging 4.5/set. She is serving 93 percent with 44 aces, ave. 0.5/set and passing a 2.1 on a 3.0 scale. -Paige Thelen has 323 kills this season, averaging 3.7 set. -Josie Simon has 36 aces this season, averaging 0.4/set. She is leading the team with 36 blocks.





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