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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hello sports fans, it's another great day at High School Sports Scene!

With girls' golf and boys tennis wrapped up, cross-country finals this weekend and smack dab in the middle of the football, volleyball and soccer championships, how could it be more exciting in our fall sports season?

Congrats to all our student athletes as you create memories that will last your entire life!

A few surprises in this year's football play-offs.

No Lowell???

Ithaca bounced out in the first round???

Who would ever have thunk it???

Well on with the playoffs and here is what I see playing out.....

Division 1: Cass Tech could possibly beat the Lions.

Division 2: Brother Rice makes a run.

Division 3: Muskegon is loaded again.....

Look for DeWitt to make a push on the opposite side of the bracket.

Division 4: It's the Eddie's turn.

Division 5: The winner of Swan Valley/Reed City over Portland.

Division 6: Write it down. Lumen Christi over TC St. Francis.

Division 7: P-W three-peats.

Division 8: Breckenridge wins its first-ever football title!

Endless possibilities, but dreams to be fulfilled!!!!

Enjoy the playoffs and check us out on Facebook or at High School Sports Scene.com.

See you at the games!!!



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SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON CROSS COUNTRY

St. Louis Girls Run To First League Cross Country Title Since 2012

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

A six-year title drought came to an end this year for the St. Louis girls cross-country team.

For the first time since 2012, the St. Louis girls won a league title as they captured the Tri Valley Conference West division title. The Sharks were also one of the top teams in the entire Tri Valley Conference as they placed second at the all-TVC meet.

Freshmen runners Libby Munderloh and Mikenna Borie both earned first-team, all-TVC honors. Munderloh placed second overall with a time of 18:50 while Borie placed fifth in 19:44. Senior Brooklyn Filipiak and freshman Sela Delgado earned second-team, all-TVC honors. Filipiak placed

14th in 21:01 while Sela placed 19th in 21:22. Sophomore Mikaila Borie earned second-team honors as she placed 25th in a time of 21:37.

St. Louis also won the small school division at the Alma Scottie Classic. Munderloh and Mikenna Borie finished one-two overall individually with times of 18:43 and 19:23 respectively. Filipiak placed ninth overall with a time of 20:28.

The St. Louis girls added the topper to the season by placing third at the Shepherd regional to earn a trip to the state finals.

Munderloh led the Sharks as she placed third in a time of 18:56. Mikenna Borie placed fourth in 19:24 followed by Mikaila Borie (14th 20:32), Delgado (25th 21:14) and junior Zoe Dickman (33rd 21:49).

The St. Louis girls cross country team advanced to the Division 3 state finals after winning the Tri-Valley West Division title for the first time since 2012.



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Ithaca Boys, Girls Qualify For State Cross Country Finals

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

For the first time in Ithaca history both the boys and the girls cross-country teams have qualified for the state cross-country finals in the same year.

Both the boys and the girls placed second at the Division 3 cross-country regional hosted by Ovid-Elsie at the Uncle John's Cider Mill.

"We're very thrilled that both the boys and the girls are

going to the state meet," said Ithaca girls coach Gene Lebron. "I thought our kids performed well."

The Ithaca girls were paced by freshman Lani Bloom who placed second overall as an individual with a time of 18:55. Sophomore Abi Whitford placed 11th with a time of 20:03 followed by freshman Rachael Sierakowski (25th 21:34), junior Samantha Vermeesch (26th 21:40) and junior Faith Bartnick (30th 21:51).

"We had a very young team last year and just missed out on qualifying for state," Lebron said. "You're always a little nervous when you have a young team, but they have shown they are capable of performing in the big meets during the season. The regional is a little different as it is the first real do or die meet where if you don't qualify your season is over. This year we added a couple of really good freshmen, so we were still very young. Having a freshman like Lani really helps."

The Ithaca boys were paced by senior Ransom Allen. Allen placed second individually with a time of 16:06. Sophomore Braxton Lamey placed 10th overall with a time of 16:57 followed by freshman Nolan Casey (24th 18:20), junior Keegan Handy (27th 18:24) and senior Jacob Brown (38th 18:48).



Both the Ithaca girls and boys cross country teams advanced to the D3 championship finals for the first time in school history. Both teams finished second in regionals. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photos)



Theirs Ranked Among Top Runners In Country

John Raffel Sports Scene

Jaden Theis junior season has been an impressive one for Lansing Catholic.

As a sophomore, Theis was sixth in the state in Division 2. But it's been an impressive season as a junior with Theis having taken five first places and one second in her first six



Lansing Catholic's Jaden Theis is considered one of the top runners in the country. (Submitted Photo)

racers. This includes a first-place effort in the Region 14 meet at Ovid Elsie in 17:49.2. Her personal best was a 17:07.39 in the DeWitt Cross Country Invitational.

Her only second place finish was still a fine time of 17:07.3 in the Michigan State Cross Country Invitational.

"Generally, her times are

30 seconds or faster than last year," Lansing Catholic coach Tim Simpson said. "She's really fast. Right now, she's ranked among the top 20 runners in the country."

"She's pretty tenacious so she gets out pretty good. She puts herself out the from the start and goes for it. The only time she got beat is by another girl ranked in the top 20 in the

nation as well. She's confident to go out and go for fastest times."

This is also a track all-stater and trains year-round.

"She's a super hard worker," Simpson said. "She's always doing something. If she's not running, she might do swimming or weightroom or stuff like that."

St. Johns XC Teams Qualify For State Meet

John Raffel Sports Scene

St. Johns cross country coach Bob Sackrider has enjoyed plenty of talent on the boys and girls teams this season.

Both teams qualified for the state meet.

The boys qualified for the Division 2 state meet on Nov. 3 at the Michigan International Speedway by taking third in the Ovid-Elsie regional. The girls placed second.

For the girls, Taryn Chapko was third (18:22.6), Lauren Lasceski



was ninth (19:19.7), Sarah Zehr 15th (20:20.3), Guadalupe Jimenez 16th (20:12.1) and Katelyn Voisinnet 19th (20:21).

Chapko took first places at the three CAAC Red Jamborees. Her personal record was set on Oct. 5 in the Apples to Apples Invitational with an 18:11.2. Chapko was an all-stater last season with an 18:34.2 for 11th place. Her time in 2016 at the finals was 19:06.5 but she took 10th.

Lasceski had her personal record at the regionals last week. Her best conference jamboree finish was second place. She was at

the state finals as a freshman and sophomore but didn't crack the top 100 either time.

For the boys at the regional meet, Jacob Dennis was fifth (16:35.10), Fernando Jimenez (16:56.6) 16th, Cody Rapelje 20th (17:09.5), Troy Cramer 22nd (18:12.9) and Griffin Armbrustmacher 23rd (17:16).

Dennis notched his personal record at the state meet. He's a sophomore and will make his first trip to the state meet.

It was also a PR for Jimenez, a junior, who will make his second trip to the finals.

Both the St. Johns boys and girls cross country teams qualified for the Division 2 state finals this season. (Submitted Photo)

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AREA ATHLETE BRIEFS

Brec Alward Runs For Over 300 Yards To Lead Alma To Opening-Round Playoff Win

After turning in a solid regular season, the Alma football team added a playoff win to this year's resume.

Led by a potent offense that averaged 32 points per game, Alma compiled an 8-1 record this season. After closing the regular season with a 55-12 win against Big Rapids in week nine, Alma defeated Big Rapids 26-3 in the opening round of the Division 5 state playoffs.

Senior running back Brec Alward led the way for the Panthers as he rushed for 313 yards and scored three touchdowns. It was a season-high in rushing yards for Alward who rushed for 311 yards and scored five touchdowns in a win over Bullock Creek earlier this season.

Through 10 games Alward has rushed for 1,994 yards and scored 22 touchdowns this season.

Alma's defense turned in one of its best efforts of the season in the win. Other than a shutout against Freeland, the three points the Alma defense allowed was the second-lowest



points allowed in a game this season. Seniors Drew Humm and Isaiah Castillo paced the defense with 13 and 12 tackles apiece. Humm and Castillo lead the team in tackles with 89 and 86 respectively.

Defense At The Core Of Breckenridge Football Success This Season

Defense has been at the heart of the success of the Breckenridge football team this season. That defense was on display the first week of the state playoffs when the Huskies defeated Frankfort 58-0.

Breckenridge allowed just 33 points during the regular season and totaled seven shutouts as it compiled a perfect 9-0 record. Champions of the Mid-State Conference this season, the Huskies can also score points in bunches. Breckenridge averaged 33.9 points per game this season and the 58 points scored against Frankfort was the second-highest output this season.

Garrett Fitzgerald, Hunter Smith and Spencer Ramerez have been among the leaders for the defense this season. Offensively, quarterback Carter Staley, running back Hunter Collins and Lukas Ebright have been among the impact players.



Explosive Offense, Stingy Defense Results In Undefeated Regular Season For DeWitt

After winning the CAAC Blue title in its first season in the division, DeWitt upped its record to a perfect 10-0 as it opened the



playoffs with a 34-7 win against former CAAC Red rival St. Johns.

DeWitt opened the season in a big way with a 22-10 win against Grand Rapids Christian and has been on a roll since. The Panthers are putting up 42 points per game on offense while the defense is allowing 8.2 points per game. The Panther defense has been at its best in the big games with two of its three shutouts coming against 9-1 East Lansing and 7-3 Okemos.

Brandon Melton, Derek Hamp and Quenten Hall have been among the leaders on defense this season for the Panthers. Offensively, dual-threat quarterback Blake Gatfield provides the team with a dangerous passing game and is a threat running the option. Thaddeus Anwar, Andrew Debbri and Tyler Warren are part of a deep group of running backs the Panthers utilize.

The conference title was the 13th in a row for DeWitt and the Panthers recorded their 14th undefeated regular season in school history.

Photo by Tom Pearson

DeWitt Volleyball Team Turns In Perfect Record Enroute To Winning CAAC Blue

The DeWitt volleyball team wrapped up the conference season and continued to build momentum for the state tournament by defeating Waverly in the final league match of the season to finish league play with a 12-0 record.

DeWitt clinched the CAAC Blue division title the match before with a parent's night win against Holt.

The season has been one of numerous highlights for the Panthers. Ranked in the honorable mention in Division 1, DeWitt finished second at the St. Johns Invitational after dropping a three-set match to Lowell, ranked fourth in the state in Division 1.

DeWitt entered late October with a 28-9-1 overall



record. Senior Desiree Becker leads the way for DeWitt with a total of 308 kills. Senior Sydney Mills is close behind with 298 kills and senior Allison Haller with 171 kills. Becker leads DeWitt in blocks with 48 while junior Karen Collins has 43 blocks. Becker also has 71 serving aces this season. Junior setter Kaitlyn Bangs is a proven playmaker with 745 assists this season. Sophomore Grace Marshall is a defensive standout with 504 digs while Mills has added 222 digs and Bangs 211 digs.

DeWitt's Dig Pink game against East Lansing was also a big success. The DeWitt volleyball team raised over \$600 with the Dig Pink game.

AREA ATHLETE BRIEFS

Haslett Golfers Wrap Up Season With Trip To Division 3 State Finals

The Haslett girls golf team finished the season strong as it qualified for the Division 3 state golf finals.

Haslett, with three sophomores and one freshman in the lineup, clinched a berth to the state meet when it placed third at the Division 3 regional at the Owosso Country Club. Flint Powers won the regional title with a team score of 358 followed by Freeland with a 358 and Haslett with a 421.

Sophomore Olivia Stoll led the way for Haslett as she placed fourth individually with an 88. Freshman Prabhleen Pawar placed 12th overall with a 103 followed by sophomore Madeline Cleveland who placed 21st with a 113 and sophomore Kylie



Humble with a 117.

Stoll paced Haslett at the Division 3 state finals with rounds of 85 and 93 to finish with a 178 total. Pawar carded rounds of 100 and 102 to finish with a 202 at the finals that took place at Forest Akers East in East Lansing.

Hemlock Football Team Posts Most Wins In A Season Since 2012

The Hemlock football team turned in a solid season as it recorded the most wins since the 2012 season.

Hemlock finished the season with an 8-2 overall record after falling to Montrose in the first round of the Division 6 state playoffs.

Hemlock placed second in the Tri-Valley West division this season with a 6-1 conference record. The Huskies also fashioned a seven-game winning streak during the season, scoring 34 points or more in six of the seven wins during the streak.

Junior quarterback Brady Devereaux paced the Hemlock offense this season. A dual-threat, Devereaux rushed for 1,402 yards (8.6 avg.) and scored 26 touchdowns. Devereaux also completed 59% of his passes for 400 yards and four touchdowns. Senior running back Logan Peters rushed for 919 yards (6.5 avg.) and scored 12 touchdowns.

Defensively, Hemlock recorded two shutouts and held five teams to single-digits. Senior linebacker Connor Hahn totaled 66.5 tackles, seven tackles for loss and intercepted



two passes. Senior defensive back Joshua Kenney totaled 60 tackles and 5.5 tackles for loss while junior defensive back Aaryn Sylvester added 40 tackles and two interceptions.

Ithaca Football Team Wins Tri-Valley West Title For 10th Straight Season

For the first time since the 2008 season, the Ithaca football team was not playing football the second week of the state playoffs.

Injuries and a lack of depth caught up to the Yellowjackets in the first round of the playoffs as Ithaca dropped a 50-33 decision to Millington, ending Ithaca's season at 8-2 overall.

Ithaca opened the season with a loss to Pewamo-Westphalia and ended it with the opening-round playoff loss. In between, the Yellowjackets won eight games and the Tri-Valley West Division championship for a 10th consecutive season.

Injuries took its toll on Ithaca as sophomore quarterback Brady Hessbrook went down with a season-ending injury in week five. Hessbrook had completed 67% of his passes for 763 yards at the time of his injury.

Junior quarterback Peyton Smith stepped in at quarterback and completed 60% of his passes for 821

yards and 11 touchdowns.

Junior running back Braydon Shaw led Ithaca in rushing this season with 814 yards and scored 17 touchdowns this year.

Defensively, senior Rexton Nowakowski led the Yellowjackets with 82 tackles while sophomore Derek Draher totaled 78 tackles. Sophomore Chance Risner led with five quarterback sacks and senior Derek Pendell intercepted four passes.



Stingy Defense Leads Mt. Pleasant To League Title, Undefeated Regular Season

Stingy defense and a balanced offense are the keys to success this season for the Mt. Pleasant football team.

Led by a defense that is allowing just 7.4 points per game, Mt. Pleasant put together a perfect 10-0 regular season that included winning the Saginaw Valley League Red Division.

The Oilers ran their winning streak to 10 when they opened the playoffs with a 35-6 win against Petoskey.

While the defense is locking down opposing offenses, the Mt. Pleasant offense is putting up 33.3 points per game. Quarterback Jackson Ostrowsky provides the Oilers with a productive passing game with Joe Ostrowsky and Tyler Huenemann leading the pass catchers. Running back Zach Mogg provides a running threat. Mogg rushed for 181 yards and scored three touchdowns in the Petoskey game.

The Mt. Pleasant defense is a gang-tackling group that is led by Norris Hunter, Willem Miret, Mogg, Jackson and Joe Ostrowsky, Josh Schell and Malachi Wilson



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AREA ATHLETE BRIEFS



Mt. Pleasant Turns In Winning Record In First Season Of 8-Person Football

If its first season of 8-person football is any indication, fans of Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart football will be in for exciting times.

Making its initial foray into the growing 8-person football classification, Sacred Heart turned in a 7-2 record in the regular and qualified for the playoffs where it dropped a 42-26 decision to Brethren.

The Irish averaged 37 points per game this season as they put together three and four-game winning streaks. Junior quarterback Ben Ruggles led the offense as he completed 62% of his passes for 1,589 yards and 26 touchdowns during the regular season. Seniors Patrick Ervin and Noah Krepostman combined for 84 pass receptions for 990 yards and 12 touchdowns. Senior Brendan Zeien added six touchdown catches. Ervin turned in a strong season overall as he totaled 1,715 all-purpose yards this season as a runner, pass receiver and kick returner.

On defense, Zeien led the Irish with 120 tackles during the regular season. Senior Trevor McGuirk added 88 tackles along with four quarterback sacks.

Quarterback Avery Moore Has New Lothrop Offense Piling Up The Points

With standout junior quarterback Avery Moore leading the offense, New Lothrop opened the playoffs with an impressive 55-12 win against Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker.

Moore, a dangerous dual-threat quarterback, completed 5-of-8 passes for 90 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for 256 yards on 11 carries (23.3 avg.) and scoring four touchdowns. Will Muron added 76 yards rushing (15.2 avg.) and scored one touchdown for the Hornets who are averaging 44.8 points per game.

University of Missouri recruit Aidan Harrison caught a 38-yard touchdown pass and added two tackles for loss on defense while Ron Taylor led the defense with four solo and six assisted tackles.

With the win, New Lothrop improved to 9-1 for the season. Winners of the Mid-Michigan Conference, New Lothrop's lone loss this season was a 35-14 loss to Traverse City St. Francis in a battle of unbeaten in week nine.



Soccer, St. Johns

The St. Johns soccer team notched a big highlight of the season when it defeated Grand Ledge 3-2 to win the CAAC Silver Cup championship. St. Johns defeated Port-

land 3-1 to reach the title match. St. Johns finished the season with a 9-8-2 overall record. The Redwings defeated Waverly 3-0 in the opening round of district play before falling to DeWitt 2-0 in the district finals.



Freeland Falls In Regional Finals

The Freeland soccer team wrapped up a strong season capped by reaching the final eight in the state in Division 3. The Falcons turned in a 21-6 record this season. Freeland won a district title for a second straight season with a 3-0 win against Swan Valley in the district finals. Freeland defeated Lake Fenton 5-1 in the regional semifinals before falling to Macomb Lutheran North 3-1 in the regional title match. Seniors Dylan Beeckman, AJ Duggan, Nick Hare, Keaton Knochel and Ryan Svornic led the way for the Falcons this season.



AREA ATHLETE BRIEFS

Portland Football Confident

The race for the football Division 5 state title could be a wild one, but Portland coach John Novara likes his team's chances.

The Raiders are a perfect 10-0, although it hasn't been easy. They have two quality wins over Ovid Elsie with an 18-0 verdict in the season opener and a 33-19 win in the first round of the playoffs. They've beaten two



other Division 5 powerhouses with Lansing Catholic (16-8) and Montague (27-20). Ironically, their closest game was a 16-14 win over a struggling 2-7 Ionia team.

The district title game put Lansing Catholic and Portland in a rematch.

In the win over Ovid-Elsie, "I thought we played well offensively. We played well defensively, too," Novara said. "We had some mistakes on our special teams with one return for a touchdown and two long returns that set up both their scores. We have to clean up things on special teams."

But after 20 games, so far so good.

"We've found a way to get quality win over quality teams," Novara said. "There's still a lot of room for improvement."

"It's going to be tough all the way through. At this point of the season you have to take care of the ball and play good defense."

Running back Jacob Veale has more than 1,000 yard rushing plus 18 touchdowns. Defensively, all-state wrestler and football linebacker Owen Guilford has been leading the Portland defense.



Freeland Football Team Posts 12th Straight Winning Season

The Freeland football team kept a pair of streaks going this season. For a 12th straight season, the Falcons posted a winning record and for the 11th straight season Freeland reached the playoffs.

Freeland picked up its seventh win of the season when it defeated Remus Chippewa Hills 16-6 in the first round of the Division 5 state playoffs. Winning close games was a trait of this year's Freeland team as the Falcons won four of the seven games they won this year by 10 points or less.

Defense is a big reason for Freeland's ability to win close games as the Falcons allowed 18.2 points per game. Senior Jack Townsend is a leader of the Falcon defense with 88 tackles and six sacks. Junior Trey Morgan totaled 75 tackles and senior Juan Guerra has 64 tackles. Junior defensive back Jaden DeBeau led the squad with five interceptions.

Carson City-Crystal Relies On Running Game To Turn In Winning Season

With a productive ground game leading the way, the Carson City-Crystal football team turned in its best season since 2013.

The Eagles turned in an 8-1 record during the regular season and ended the campaign with an 8-2 overall record after falling to Flint Beecher in the first round of the Division 7 state playoffs. The eight wins this season were the most since 2013 when Carson City-Crystal turned in a 10-1 overall mark.

Carson City-Crystal averaged 33.1 points per game this season and a deep and talented corps of running backs keyed the offense. Senior running back Drew Stout led the way as he rushed for 1,348 and 15 touchdowns. The Eagle ground game also included senior Noah Lopez with 535 yards and three touchdowns, sophomore running back Kyler Stone with 535 yards and five touchdowns and junior Brian Yeakey with 334 yards and five touchdowns.

Defense was also a team strength for

Carson City-Crystal. The Eagles allowed 16.1 points per game. Senior Daniel Smith led the defense with 72 tackles and 70 assists along with nine tackles for loss and two sacks. Junior linebacker Nash Akin totaled 25 tackles and 40 assists along with six tackles for loss and two sacks. Senior linebacker Caleb Collins added 20 tackles and 25 assists along with four tackles for loss and an interception.



Offense Putting Up Lofty Numbers For Swan Valley Football Team

With an offense scoring points at a furious pace, the Swan Valley football team finished a perfect regular season and is setting its sight on a return to Ford Field.



Swan Valley turned in a perfect 9-0 regular season and captured the Tri-Valley Central division title in the process. The Vikings opened the playoff season with a 41-7 win against Howard City Tri-County in a Division 5 pre-district game.

Offense is Swan Valley's strong suit this season. After opening with a season-low 21 points in the season-opening win against once-beaten Cedar Springs, the Vikings have scored over 30 points in every game since and are averaging 41.5 points per game.

Senior quarterback Alex Fries paces the offense as he has completed 58% of his passes for 1,547 yards and 22 touchdowns. Senior wide receiver Terryon Liddell has caught 38 passes for 790 yards and 11 touchdowns while junior wideout Ethan Champney has caught 32 passes for 579 yards and eight touchdowns.

Swan Valley's ground game uses a committee approach. Senior running back Chase Mendoza has gained 543 (10.2 avg.) and scored eight touchdowns while senior Deondric Sanders has gained 404 yards (9.0 avg.) and scored six touchdowns.



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SPORTS SCENE'S **EYE ON TENNIS**

Midland Dow Tennis Puts Together Another Successful Post Season

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Terry Schwartzkopf has been Midland HH Dow tennis coach for 12 seasons and he'll remember the 2018 fall season for a long time.

Dow was 4-0 in league play and won the SVL tournament and was 12-4-3 overall.

The Chargers were fifth in the state Division 2 tournament.

Anish Middha was second at

No. 2 singles. Saketh Kamaraju was second at No. 3 singles.

"We have had strong teams in the past, including a second-place finish last year," Schwartzkopf said prior to the state tourney.

"However, we graduated seven out of a team of 12. Our reserves and former JV players really stepped up this season to put us where we are. We have a legitimate chance at a top five finish at states with a team that has limited

experience. I find this to be truly incredible and unforeseen. I was worrying last season about even making states, and these guys have proven me wrong. They have continued to step up and deliver when needed.

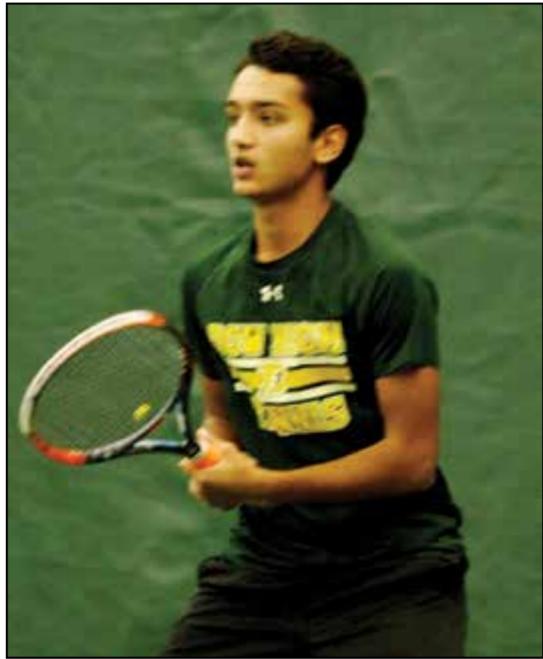
"Winning regional would be the obvious highlight so far. But we have had multiple mini successes all year. Tyler Conrad set the state record for most 6-0, 6-0 wins in a career. It's been really fun."

The regional effort was impressive.

"I would say this team knows it is about exactly that, team," Schwartzkopf said. "We win, lose, or draw together. Individual stats mean nothing in October. These guys look for ways to encourage, to lend energy, to fight for each other. They are uplifting regardless of the outcome. Our singles lead the way in terms of points, but they are the first to find out where their support is most needed and to cheer on their teammates. The strength is they play for something bigger than themselves.

"Considering that my No. 1 doubles consists of half of last year's No. 4 and one reserve, No. 2 doubles has one reserve on it and the rest of the doubles are last year's JV boys, I would say their growth has been astronomical.

Anish Middha and Saketh Kamaraju both helped Midland Dow to a fifth place finish in the recent Division 2 Tennis Finals held in Holland. (Butch Harmon, Sports Scene Photos)



As a team we are not as strong as last year, but that is an unfair comparison to make."

Conrad is 25-3 on the year and the No. 4 seed at states.

"He leaves the team this year but will finish as the all-time state leader in 0,0 wins and will be in the record books for singles season wins, career wins, consecutive wins, and tournament wins. His career record is 129-12."

Anish Middha was 26-1 on the year and is the 3 seed at the state tournament.

"He is only a junior, but has had an incredible career already at Dow," Schwartzkopf said. "His career record at this point stands at 93-17."

Saketh Kamaraju was 28-0 entering the state meet.

"Saketh has lost only one singles match in two years and last year was a finalist at 1 doubles," Schwartzkopf said. "He is the 2 seed at states and has a career record of 99-4. Saketh is a foundation of our success and someone we can always count on."



Okemos Rolls To Division 2 Championship

David Cook
Sports Scene

With a lineup peppered with freshmen, sophomores and juniors, the Okemos tennis team turned in a dominating performance as it won the Division 2 state tennis championship for the second year in a row.

Okemos players won six of eight flights and totaled 37 points to outlast Birmingham Groves and Birmingham Seaholm who tied for second with 23 points apiece.

Okemos won all four singles flights with standout freshman Ozan Colak leading the way. The No. 1 seed in the tournament, Colak claimed a 6-3, 6-1 win in the finals.

"Right now, I just can't get this smile off my face," Colak said. "It feels really good. I've had a lot of

injuries and to come out here and still play as well as I believe I can is huge for me. It's a huge confidence boost. It just feels great to be on a team that is so good."

At No. 2 singles, sophomore Joshua Portnoy claimed a 6-1, 6-1 win against Anish Middha of Midland. Okemos junior Benjamin Letzer claimed the title at No. 3 singles with sophomore Rohan Shah winning the crown at No. 4 singles.

"We're deep," said Okemos coach Chris Silker. "When you have a freshman that can come into the one-singles spot and pushes everyone down it creates a stronger and deeper lineup."

The depth extended into doubles play where Okemos won two of the four flights and placed runner-up at another.

The No. 1 doubles team of seniors Zal Chinoy and Daniel Gorelik and the No. 2 doubles squad of sophomores Druv Talluri and Shrey Patel both claimed state championships.

Placing second in the state for Okemos was the No. 3 doubles team of Siddharth Nagisetty and Aditya Kandula. The Okemos No. 4 doubles team of Abhi Shukul and Diego Casagrande reached the semifinals.

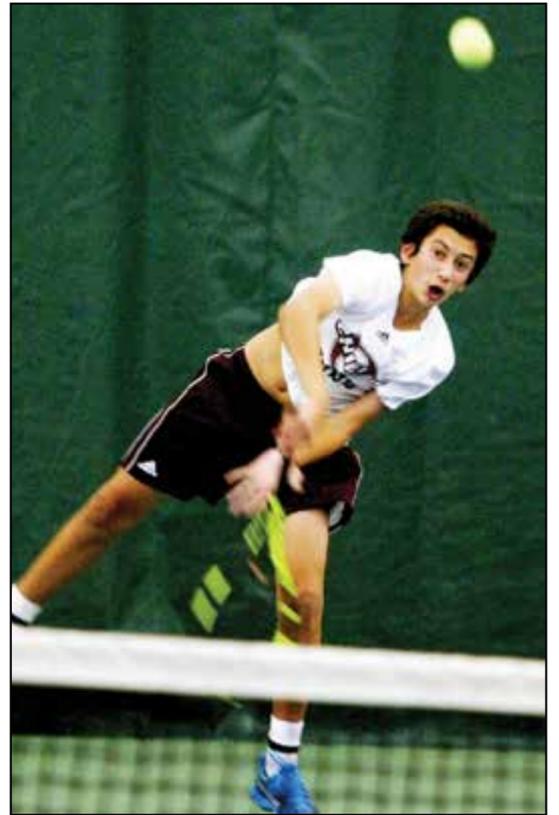
Midland Dow finishes 5th

Midland Dow placed fifth overall in Division 2 with 17 points. A pair of Chargers reached the finals in singles play. Anish Middha placed second at No. 2 singles and Saketh Kamaraju took second at No. 3 singles. Reaching the semifinals in singles play for Dow were Tyler Conrad at No. 1 singles and Caleb Qiu at No. 4 singles. In doubles play, the No. 2 doubles team of Peter Redman and David Lin reached the quarterfinal round.

DIVISION 3

Mason totaled five team points to place 12th at the Division 3 state finals. In singles play, the Bulldogs were led by Patrick O'Connor who reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles. In doubles play, the No. 3 team of Justice Mataya and Colin Koot reached the quarterfinals.

Haslett placed 13th in Division 3 with four points. Henry Zayko led the way for the Vikings as he reached the quarterfinal round at No. 1 singles. At No. 4 singles



Anish Raja also reached the quarterfinal round.

DIVISION 4

Lansing Catholic Central totaled six points and placed 14th overall at the Division 4 state finals. The

No. 1 doubles team of Parrish Robert and Jack Wolfe led the way for the Cougars as they reached the quarterfinals.



The Okemos boys tennis team turned in a dominating performance during the recent Division 2 state tennis finals winning the championship for a second year in a row. Okemos players won six of eight flights and totaled 37 points to outlast Birmingham Groves and Birmingham Seaholm who tied for second with 23. (Butch Harmon, High School Sports Scene Photos)

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SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON SOCCER

Haslett Turns In Landmark Season In Winning District Soccer Championship

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

After years of trying, the Haslett boys soccer team finally knocked down the door to the district title throne room and came away with the district trophy.

The Vikings capped a memorable season by winning the DeWitt district to earn their first district championship in 19 years.

To win the district title, Haslett needed to get past long-time district nemesis East Lansing and DeWitt.

"Well, when you have East Lansing in your district, we broke their streak of seven districts in a row and before that DeWitt won a few consecutively," first-year Haslett head coach Ramiro Salazar said. "When you have those two marquee programs in your district it makes it difficult, so it makes it that much sweeter when you finally win one and you have to go through both teams to do it."

Haslett defeated East Lansing 1-0 in overtime in the district semifinals and clinched the district title with a 1-0 win against DeWitt in the finals.

"East Lansing was the monkey on our back," Salazar said. "We couldn't beat them. We played them twice this year. We lost 3-1 early in the season and played them in the finals of the Golf Cup and they beat us 1-0 on a late free kick. Going into the district semifinal when we played them the tension was very high. It was a night game, under the lights, a big crowd, when we finally knocked them off it was like a huge weight was lifted off our shoulders. Unfortunately, it wasn't the district final so we had to go and play our arch-rival DeWitt on their home field and we finally knocked them off as well to finally win that district title that eluded us for so long."

Led by the senior class of Ali Abudayeh, Samuel Blake, Griffin Doran, Henrik Holland, Antonio Salazar, Paul Schmidt

and Charles Tuley, Haslett finished the season with a 15-7-1 overall record after dropping a 4-1 decision in the regional final to Haslett. Along with reaching the CAAC Gold Cup finals, Haslett also won it division for the fourth straight season.

"It's been a pretty successful season," Salazar said. "I knew coming in, being the former junior varsity coach, that we had a lot of talent coming back. I thought that if we put the pieces in the right places we could quite a bit."

Haslett overcame a slow start to the season to finish strong.

"I felt so good for the seniors," Salazar said. "The seniors and their families, it was



Haslett senior Paul Schmidt (9) gains control of the ball during the Division 2 regional final against Forest Hills Northern. (Butch Harmon, High School Sports Scene Photo)

just a great ride. It was fantastic. This team has accomplished so much in such a short amount of time. They'll always have a special place in my heart as I move forward as a coach at Haslett."



Gladwin Soccer Player Sets Scoring Record

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Senior Justin Raymond was a scoring machine for Gladwin this season and set a new single season scoring record with 58 goals in 25 games. The previous record was 48.

Gladwin's Justin Raymond set the school scoring record this season with 58 goals. (Submitted Photos)

His coach, Jerome Smalley, said Raymond's single game high was five. He did not score in only four games.

Raymond had 31 goals during the 2017 season.

"I thought he had a good shot at breaking the record," Smalley

said. "Last year's team had a bunch of scorers. He was the second leading scorer last year and I had four kids score 25 goals. Three of them graduated. He was center-midfielder last year and I moved him to forward. I knew he had a chance. I was hopeful he would break it."

"I told him last year I was going to move him up."

Raymond is naturally right-footed but was actually was as good of a kicker from his left foot,

Smalley said.

"His placement (of the ball) was really strong," Smalley said. "He's very talented he took all of our penalty kicks. I think he was 8-for-8."

Raymond played one year on JV and three of varsity and ironically didn't score much as a freshman and sophomores.

"He got better every year," Smalley said. "As a sophomore, he contributed and only had six goals."

Alma Boys Cross Country Team Heading To State Finals

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

Thanks to a third-place finish at the Division 2 regional at Delta College, the Alma boys cross-country team earned a trip to the Division 2 state finals.

Senior Justin Faching led the way for Alma as he placed ninth individually with a time of 16:44. Freshman Blaze Abell placed 15th overall with a time of 16:57 followed by junior Carlos Espinoza (18th 17:14), sophomore Andrew Shafley (31st 17:57) and junior Ethan Bowker (35th 18:09).

The Alma boys also placed second at the Tri-Valley Conference overall meet. Justin Faching led the way for Alma as he placed fourth in 17:01. Espinoza placed eighth in 17:33 followed by Abell (16th 18:01) and sophomore Ryan Faching (30th 18:33).

ALMA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Alma senior Cornelia Gotaas earned a berth to the Division 2 state cross-country finals after she placed 14th at the regional meet with a time of 20:07. The Alma girls

placed fifth overall as a team. Sophomore Victoria Gotaas placed 21st in 20:57 followed by sophomore Angelina Lanham (32nd 21:46), junior Julia Gotaas (42nd 22:25) and junior Aliyah Castillo (47th 22:46).

Both Cornelia and Victoria Gotaas earned second-team, all-conference honors at the TVC overall meet. Cornelia Gotaas placed 17th while Victoria Gotaas placed 20th.

ALMA VOLLEYBALL

The Alma volleyball team reached the quarterfinals of the Gold Bracket at the Spirit of St. Louis Invitational. Alma fell to Freeland 25-17, 25-10 in the quarterfinal.

Alma went 2-1 in pool play with wins against Hemlock (20-25, 25-18 and 16-14) and Laingsburg (25-23, 25-19 and 16-14).

ALMA BOYS SOCCER

The Alma boys soccer team wrapped up the season with a 13-5-2 overall record. Alma closed out the campaign with a 3-2 loss to Swan Valley in the opening round of the district tournament.



Alma's Brec Alward rushed for 313 yards in the Panthers opening round playoff victory over Big Rapids. Bottom: The Alma volleyball team finished its season Oct. 29 losing in the first round of districts. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photos)



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SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON FOOTBALL



Many local teams opened up the 2018 football playoffs Oct. 26 and there were a lot of surprises locally including Ithaca losing to Millington in the opening round 50-33. The loss was the Yellowjackets earliest exit from the playoffs in nearly a decade. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photos)

Area Teams Turn In Several Impressive Efforts To Kick Off State Playoffs

Butch Harmon Sports Scene OKEMOS

In the playoffs for the first time since 2014, Okemos provided its fans with another thrill as it defeated previously-unbeaten Jackson 31-22. The win was Okemos' first playoff victory since 2011 as the Chiefs improved to 7-3 for the season. Quarterback Mason Kaczmarek snuck in from a yard out for the go-ahead touchdown and John Luca Migaldi added a 28-yard field goal to secure the win for Okemos. Running back Derek Sims rushed for 115 yards and opened the scoring for the Chiefs with a touchdown run.

MIDLAND DOW

Dow won its playoff opener in thrilling fashion by edging Flushing 34-31 in overtime. Zack Koon kicked a 25-yard field to tie the game and added a 32-yard field goal in overtime for the game winner. Dow quarterback Shane Astrike, who has passed for 2,217 yards this season, led the offense as he passed for 321 yards and four touchdowns. Wide receiver Chase Perry caught seven passes for 170 yards and a touchdown as Dow improved to 6-4 for the season.

MIDLAND

The Chemics improved to 7-3 for the season with a 50-28 win against Swartz Creek in the opening-round of the playoffs. Quarterback Al Money completed 8-of-10 passes for 109 yards and a touchdown. Running back Christian Gordon, who has rushed for 1,079 yards and 15 touchdowns this year, added 100 yards rushing and scored three touchdowns in the win. Wide receiver Tommy Johnstone caught seven

passes for 86 yards and a touchdown.

DIVISION 3 EAST LANSING

The Trojans improved to 9-1 for the season after holding off Haslett 33-30 in an opening-round playoff thriller. Running back Kobe Hayward paced the offense with 176 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Senior quarterback Joe Benbraham completed 15-of-17 passes for 129 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore wide receiver Andre Anthony caught eight passes for 74 yards and a touchdown. Junior linebacker Jamar Mills paced the defense with 15 tackles, three assists and one tackle for loss.

HASLETT

The Vikings won eight games for the second season in a row before falling to East Lansing 33-30 in the opening round of the playoffs. Quarterback Mitchell Mowid passed for 156 yards and one touchdown while wide receiver Hyrum Tibbitts caught seven passes for 83 yards and a touchdown. Running back Ben Brittain ran the ball for 125 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

ST. JOHNS

The Redwings reached the playoffs for the first time since 2015. St. Johns ended the season with a 5-5 overall record after dropping a 34-7 decision to DeWitt. Sophomore running back Brock Miller rushed for 122 yards while fellow sophomore Jaym Medlock ran for 55 yards, caught a pair of passes for 20 yards and scored a touchdown. Senior linebacker Cole Thomas led the defense with five tackles, three assists, one quarterback sack and one tackle for loss.

DIVISION 4 WILLIAMSTON

After finishing the regular season with a 7-2 record, Williamston added a playoff victory to its resume with a 35-28 win against Goodrich. Quarterback Austin Stiffler paced the offense as he completed 10-of-18 passes for 136 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 149 yards and two scores. Running back Evan Field added 85 yards rushing and scored a touchdown. Wide receivers Peter Daniels and Case Conley combined for six receptions for 111 yards and a touchdown.

DIVISION 5 CLARE

With an offense that has scored 40 or more points in all but one games this season, Clare improved its record to 9-1 for the season when it defeated previously unbeaten Manistee 42-28 in the opening round of the Division 5 playoffs. Clare quarterback Kaden Kelly passed for 148 yards and a touchdown and ran for two scores to lead the offense. Running back Brenden Sersaw rushed for 131 yards and scored three touchdowns while sophomore linebacker Jon Bouchey totaled four tackles and 10 assists to anchor the defense.

LANSING CATHOLIC CENTRAL

In the playoffs for a 10th straight season, the Cougars opened the post-season with a 22-21 win against Olivet. Versatile quarterback Josh Kramer keyed the offense as he passed for 125 yards and two touchdowns while rushing for 80 yards and a touchdown. For the season Kramer has completed 69% of his passes for 1,408 yards and 13 touchdowns while rushing for 486 yards and 12 touchdowns.

OVID-ELSIE

The Marauders wrapped up the season with a 6-4 overall record after dropping a 33-19 decision to Portland in the opening round of the playoffs. Shayne Loynes provided O-E fans with a thrill as he returned a kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown in the game. Logan Del Bosque and Devin Kora both added rushing touchdowns for the Marauders who placed second in the new Mid-Michigan Conference this season.

CHIPPEWA HILLS

The Warriors wrapped up the season with a 5-5 overall record after dropping a 16-6 decision to Freeland in the opening round of the playoffs. Quarterback Dylan Sharp paced the offense as he threw for 202 yards and a touchdown. Sharp hooked up with Koran Riley on a 65-yard touchdown pass for Chippewa Hills' score.

DIVISION 6 BEAVERTON

In the playoffs for the third season in a row and fourth time in school history, the Beavers

defeated Maple City Glen Lake 42-14 in the first round. Senior quarterback Logan Gerow led the offense as he passed for 150 yards and four touchdowns while rushing for 85 yards and a score. Kyle Cassidy has a big all-around game for the Beavers. Cassidy rushed for 93 yards and a touchdown and caught four passes for 52 yards and a score. On defense, Cassidy totaled 11 solo tackles along with three tackles for loss, two quarterback sacks and one interception.

MONTROSE

After finishing the regular season with a 7-2 record, Montrose opened the state playoffs with a 54-0 win against Hemlock. Sophomore quarterback Bobby Skinner passed for 143 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 74 yards and three scores. Running back Devante Bedford added 103 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

DIVISION 8 SAGINAW MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

The Cardinals capped the season with a 7-3 overall record. Seminary dropped a 30-28 decision to Ubly in the first round of the playoffs. Quarterback Max Nordlie passed for 251 yards and three touchdowns while running for 103 yards and a score. Wide receiver Ben SchAAF caught five passes for 102 yards and a score.

SAGINAW NOUVEL

Nouvel wrapped up the season with a 6-4 overall record. The Panthers fell to Harbor Beach 26-6 in the first round of the Division 8 playoffs.

MERRILL

The Vandals qualified for the playoffs for the third time in the past four years this season. Merrill ended the season with a 6-4 overall record after falling to Johannesburg-Lewiston 15-8 in the first round.

8-PLAYER DIVISION 1 MORRICE

The Orioles improved to 10-0 for the season when they opened the 8-player state playoffs with a 57-0 win against Genesee. Quarterback Hunter Nowak has led the Morrice offense this season with 1,301 yards rushing and 22 touchdowns while passing for seven scores. Austin Edington has added 650 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns.

8-PLAYER DIVISION 2 PORTLAND ST. PAT

St. Patrick improved to 6-4 for the season when it opened playoff action with a 33-6 win against Peck. Quarterback Connor Cross passed for 194 yards and four touchdowns while rushing for 77 yards and a score. Running back Ned Smith added 89 yards rushing while Zach Spitzley caught passes for 103 yards and three scores.



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HSSS Looks Into Future With Breakdown Of State Playoffs

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

DIVISION 1

Detroit Cass Tech is the team to beat in Division 1. With their lone close game being a 21-20 win against Lakewood (Ohio) St. Edward, the Technicians are looking to match the record set by their 2016 squad that went a perfect 14-0. Major hurdles must still be cleared including a potential regional title game showdown with

unbeaten Chippewa Valley and a potential clash of unbeaten with Belleville in the state semifinals.

HSSS predicted state final: Detroit Cass Tech 30, Clarkston 13

DIVISION 2

Defending D2 state champions Warren DeLaSalle have a solid chance to return to the finals provided it can navigate past Oak Park in the district finals. The top of the bracket features Muskegon Mona Shores,

however, injuries have hit the Sailors and Jenison has the type of squad that can knock Mona Shores out of the playoffs.

HSSS predicted state final: Warren DeLaSalle 27, Mona Shores 20

DIVISION 3

Muskegon is the heavy favorite in Division 3 but the Big Red can be toppled as East Grand Rapids gave them a scare in the first round. Grand Rapids Christian has the defense and athleticism to give them a scare in the district title game. DeWitt and Detroit King look to be on a collision course in

the bottom of the bracket. **HSSS predicted state final: Muskegon 34, DeWitt 21**

DIVISION 4

Defending state champion Grand Rapids Catholic Central is on a mission to win its third straight D4 state title. Catholic's lone loss was a 17-7 loss to Saline in week two. Catholic Central defeated Edwardsburg in last year's state final and the Eddies, who are even stronger than last year, could face Catholic in the state semifinals this year. The opposite side of the bracket is wide open with Detroit Country Day, Milan and Williamston looking strong.

HSSS predicted state final: Edwardsburg 34, Detroit Country Day 13

DIVISION 5

A new champion will be crowned in Division 5 as five-time defending state champion Grand Rapids West Catholic was bounced in the first round. The top half of the bracket is loaded with teams like Swan Valley, Reed City, Kalamazoo Hackett and Muskegon Oakridge. The bottom half of the bracket feature Portland, Lansing Catholic Central and Almont. Division 5 is a totally wide-open division with several outstanding teams.

HSSS predicted state final: Saginaw Swan Valley 28, Portland 20

DIVISION 6

Last year, Traverse City St. Francis fell to Ithaca in the state semifinals. The Gladiators are an even stronger team this year and appear to be on a collision course with Jackson Lumen Christi. Lumen Christi has won back-to-back D6 state titles

and may be even stronger this year. **HSSS predicted state final: Jackson Lumen Christi 28, Traverse City St. Francis 26**

DIVISION 7

Pewamo-Westphalia is the two-time defending state champions. The Pirate offense has already scored more points than last year's team and is averaging 51.3 points per game. The playoff trail is a rocky one this year with a rematch of last year's state final with Saugatuck coming up in the district finals and a potential matchup with New Lothrop in the regional finals.

HSSS predicted state final: Pewamo-Westphalia 37, Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central 13

DIVISION 8

A potential regional title showdown between Ishpeming and Breckenridge should produce a team the top half of the bracket. Defending D8 state champion Ottawa Lake Whiteford looks to storm out of the bottom half of the bracket although a talented Reading team may be standing in the way. Whiteford's offense is just as explosive as last year and the defense may be even better. **HSSS predicted state final: Ottawa Lake Whiteford 40, Ishpeming 13**



8-PLAYER DIVISION 1

Pickford fell to Crystal Falls Forest Park by two points in last year's state semifinals. The Panthers are even stronger this year and are on a mission. On the other side of the bracket, Morrice has posted seven shutouts this season and can score points in bunches. **HSSS predicted state final: Morrice 30, Pickford 20**

8-PLAYER DIVISION 2

Onkama plays solid defense and has faced a rugged schedule. Posen is also tested tough this year. Portland St. Patrick is also a tough out come playoff time. **HSSS predicted state final: Onkama 34, Posen 20**

Fulton Junior Shines At Linebacker, Guard

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was quite a season for Colin Stahl, junior middle linebacker/outside guard from Fulton High School.

But Fulton fans won't soon forget his performance during a two-overtime win vs. Bath. In that game, Stahl had 11 tackles and one sack from his middle linebacker position, and was a huge blocker from his guard position to open up the winning drives during overtime.

"Up until this year he's played running back," Fulton Coach Paul Hungerford said. "Due to the numbers situation and the needs of our team, he unselfishly

committed to playing offensive guard for us instead of carrying the football. In the middle linebacker spot, he's been the staple of our defense as far as being able to do anything successful we've done defensively. He's a huge contributor and leader for us there. He's averaging about eight tackles a game.

"Colin does a nice job of controlling the field. He's our best defensive player. He has an unselfish attitude and has been leading by example. That's been a positive point for us this year."

It's been Stahl's first varsity season.

"He came up at the end of last year for the one playoff game," Hungerford said.

"He helped us on some special teams. He made the transition well. He's a very athletic kid. He's a football minded kid. He's not afraid to put work in. He's quiet verbally. But his ability to lead by example and unselfishness has been a great role model for our kids."

Stahl also plays basketball and runs track as a sprinter.

"He really loves football," Hungerford said. "He loves the contact and the work that goes into playing football. I'm looking forward to seeing his growth between his junior and senior year."

Fulton ended its season at 3-6 but set the stage for a playoff run next year.



Fulton's Colin Stahl was a force on both sides of the ball for the Pirates this season. (Submitted Photo)

Mount Pleasant's Moog Plays Key Role In Team's Perfect Regular Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

It didn't take junior Zach Mogg long to make a significant impact on coach Jason McIntyre's Mount Pleasant football program this season.

Mogg was only in his first season but made a key contribution.

"Zach has had a tremendous year, stepping up and taking over full time after our returning starter from last year suffered a season-ending injury," McIntyre said;

Mogg had 136 carries for 875 yards and 11 touchdown after eight games.

"Zach is an extremely hard worker who will do whatever is asked of him," McIntyre said. "He has worked very hard to understand every detail of his preparation each week. Zach has been one of the most dedicated and hardest workers in our off-season program and this is certainly why he has been able to play such an important role for us this season."

Mount Pleasant had a perfect 9-0 season and was 7-0 in Saginaw Valley

Blue. It was the first 9-0 season since 2011.

"The most memorable moment of Zach's season this year has to be the Midland game in which he had 218 yards and had very impressive stiff arm run along our sideline which provided a great deal of motivation for our team," McIntyre said. "Everyone on our team knows we can count on Zach to do whatever is necessary to help the team win each week. Zach also usually starts at our outside linebacker position as well."

Mogg also runs track and field for Mount Pleasant.



Mt. Pleasant's Zach Moog rushed for nearly a 1,000 yards during the regular season for the Oilers. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photo).

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Devereaux Excelled Behind Center For Hemlock

John Raffel Sports Scene

Junior quarterback Brady Devereaux made the most of his opportunities for Hemlock's football team this season.

Devereaux led the Hemlock's rushing attack in week 6, gaining 221 yards on 16 carries with five touchdowns in a 56-0 win over Pinconning. He also completed 3 of 5 passes for 58 yards, including a touchdown pass to Peyton Tenant. Devereaux wasn't the starting quarterback to start season.

Hemlock had an 8-1 regular season with its only loss being Ithaca. But in the playoffs. Hemlock lost its first game, 54-0 to Montrose.

Devereaux was just below 1,300 yards rushing after eight games with 24 touchdowns on the ground. He threw

Hemlock's Brady Devereaux was just below 1,300 yards rushing after eight games with 24 touchdowns on the ground. He threw for 400 yards with four TD passes. All four scores went to receiver Peyton Tenant. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photo)

for 400 yards with three TD passes.

"What's most unique about the Brady Devereaux story is he was the backup quarterback coming into the season," Coach Adam Clark said. "We lost a senior starting quarterback in our first game against Vassar. Brady came in halftime and didn't relinquish the job.

"Brady Devereaux was on a state qualifying track team last year. He was in the 4x2, the long jump. We really hadn't seen that type of explosiveness out of him on the football field yet. He was at that stage of thinking things through. Sometimes thinking football players are slow football players. He came along very well. We couldn't be more pleased with the success he's had so far."

Devereaux is 6-3, 195, and his size has

been an asset, Clark noted.

"He is not only extremely fast but he's become a very physical runner," Clark said. "He's running behind a very large Class C line. We're really big up front.

"His vision is developing. What makes him so successful running the ball is how physical he's willing to create his own space. If the offensive line gives him a crease, he's going to hit. If there isn't a crease there, Brad is creating his own creases and carrying blockers and tacklers for a few yards.

Devereaux also had three interceptions as a cornerback.

"He's a very good defender and very physical on the run game," Clark said. "He's a tough kid to pass on. When you have the length he does, space closes quick."

Heath Finishes Season Strong For Merrill

John Raffel Sports Scene

As a temporary quarterback of sorts this season. Merrill's Logan Heath got the job done.

Heath filled in at quarterback and led the Vandals to a 33-32 win over Montabella during the regular season. Heath ran for 62 yards, including a 6-yard TD. Heath also completed 8 of 20 passes for 237 yards, including a pair of touchdowns.

The Vandals made the playoffs and lost in the first round to Johannesburg-Lewiston to finish at 6-4.

"He (Logan) has only been

at quarterback for two games (after week 8)," said Merrill coach Christian Wiley. "In two games, he was 28-of-58 for 549 yards and seven touchdowns. He started at receiver and split back and had 33 rushes for 233 yards and three touchdowns and five catches for 39 yards."

Heath started the Vandals district game at quarterback.

"Logan had been getting all the reps and has been doing well. So we decided to keep Logan at the quarterback position," Wiley said. "He's been quarterback in the past. We had him pulled up as a freshman on varsity. He played cornerback for us on defense. He had six

interceptions as a freshman on varsity. He has five already. He has 11 career interceptions on varsity.

"As a passer he kind of has that moxy. He has no fear. He's not afraid to pull the trigger and throw the ball. He's an accurate passer with a strong arm. He's an outstanding baseball player for us and plays catcher. He has a cannon for an arm. It makes for a nice transition into the quarterback spot."

Heath, as a runner, "has a longer, lanky stride, but he's pretty fast when he gets going," Wiley said. "He follows his blocks very well."

Merrill is among the few Class D schools still playing 11-player football.

Logan Heath filled in nicely at quarterback towards the end of the season for the Vandals. (Ryan Heath, High School Sports Scene Photo)



Liddell: A Two-Way Threat For Swan Valley Helping Lead Vikings To Top Ranking In D5

John Raffel Sports Scene

It's been quite a season for Terryon Liddell with Swan Valley's top-ranked football team.

He's been an excellent two-way player for coach Kevin Gavenda's team.

"Defensively it's pretty much what we expected coming off an all-state performance from last year," Gavenda said late in the regular season. "He has four interceptions, one for a touchdown. People pretty much typically don't throw his way because he's that good. Offensively is where he's made his biggest strides. He's come a

long way. He has 34 catches for 705 yards and 10 touchdowns in eight games. That's only playing half the game.

"His hands have gotten better. He sets up the DBs well to get open and gives our quarterbacks plenty of room to throw. When he's attracting the DB, he knows he's setting him up and getting in and out and hiding his breaks. He gets open extremely well."

Because of other threats Swan Valley has on offense, double-teaming players like Liddell is usually not a feasible option Gavenda indicated.

"You can pick your poison," Gavenda said. "A couple of teams have put their best player

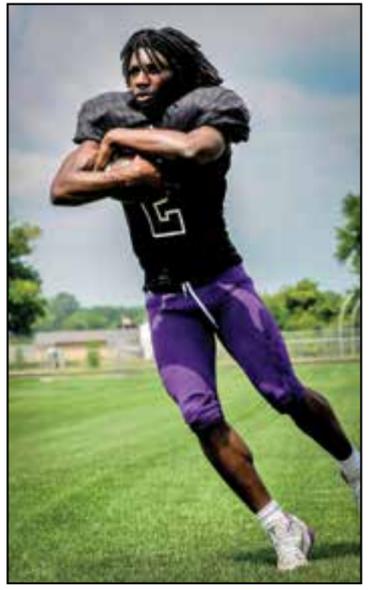
on him. But we'll just throw the other way."

His best position?

"Defensively, he can play man extremely well," Gavenda replied. "We don't play a lot of it. A lot of times we're in one and he's on a guy and he'll make it look like another guy is open. But he'll go in the zone, and make the play. He can read the quarterback very well. If he's made one area of improvement, he's coming up and tackling better this year. But he did a great job of that as well last year."

Liddell is a senior who will likely have college offers coming his way after season is completed.

Swan Valley's Terryon Liddell has been a face on both sides of the football for the Vikings each of the last two seasons. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photo)



Pirates Focus On Third Straight Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Pewamo Westphalia seems more than poised to go for another Division 7 football state championship.

The Pirates are bidding for their third straight title and were perfect after their first 10 games. They had outscored their 10 opponents 537-75.

The Pirates' 35-0 win over Ithaca to open the season seemed to set the stage. But they did have a major scare on week 9 of the regular season against Division 4

power Williamston and snuck out with a 28-7 win.

The Pirates crushed Saranac 62-14 to open the playoffs. Senior running back Cameron Wirth has been among several talented P-W players.

Jeremy Miller has been coaching P-W for six seasons. His Pirates have only lost two games in the last four seasons and he's hoping this remains the case when the 2018 postseason comes to an end.

"We need to keep getting better every week," Miller said. "We have met our goal

of going 9-0, and now it is time to make a run in the playoffs."

Miller added that the key to his team's success is "overcoming injuries and working hard every day. Hopefully we can have a long playoff run and a shot at another state title."

Miller has to admit he's enjoyed watching this team.

He's liked "watching these guys grow throughout the season and embrace the work that comes along with continuing to improve. Their dedication and hard work every day has been great to see."

Pewamo-Westphalia is looking to three-peat in the Division 7 finals this season. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photo)

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Meridian Return Specialist Enjoys Special Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a game Meridian's Kyle Stockford will remember for a long time.

Stockford returned two interceptions for touchdowns and a kickoff for a TD, and the Mustangs pulled away in the middle two quarters in a game during the regular season for a 48-24 win over host Houghton Lake in Jack Pine Conference football.

Coach Michael Bilina's team was 4-5 but players like Stockford presented plenty of memorable highlights.

Stockford was a senior who was a utility

type of player who performed at running back/ receiver, defensive back and safety and also returned kicks and punts.

He returned two kickoffs for touchdowns the final weekend of the regular season.

On the ground, he rushed for 47 times and 412 yards for 8.8 yards per carry and four touchdowns. He also threw three passes for 102 yards. Stockford caught 10 passes for 278 yards and three scores. He had 13 total touchdowns. Defensively he had 20 solo tackles and four assists. He has three interceptions and recovered three fumbles. He had 10 kickoff returns for 451 yards and four touchdowns with 45.1 yards

per return. He had a punt return for a TD but it was called back on a holding penalty away from the play.

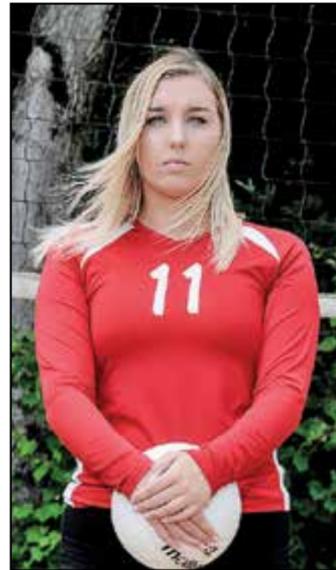
"He's a pretty special athlete," Bilina said. "He's as fast as hell. He gets in the open field and his speed is really fast. The kids do a good job of blocking."

He was on varsity three years and this statistically was his best, Bilina said.

"What was a bummer for him is he missed the first three games of the season with a high ankle sprain," Blina said. "The stats he got are remarkable considering it's from six games."



Sanford's Kyle Stockford finished the season with a total of 13 touchdowns. (Submitted Photos)



Hubbard Concluding Fabulous Volleyball Career At Sacred Heart

John Raffel Sports Scene

Michele Hubbard has provided Mount Pleasant Sacred volleyball with three solid varsity seasons, but has been extremely impressive in her senior campaign.

Sacred Heart finished the regular season second in the Mid-State Activities Conference and overall was 18-17-7.

Coach Krista Davis has had a young team this season, but

Hubbard continues to get the job done.

Despite being a young squad, Hubbard, a senior hitter was definitely the strength.

For the season she has been hitting over .300 at .328. Davis said.

Hubbard has committed to playing volleyball at Olivet College.

She's been on the varsity all three seasons and showed steady improvement.

"She played a little at a time her sophomore year," Davis said. "As a junior, she got moved to my second middle position. This year, she's my first middle position. She's taken on stronger roles. She dominated this year for sure."

As a hitter, "she runs a lot of quicks and usually gets up and over every block and she hits it," Davis said. "She's a hard hitter to defend. She's a close second leading my team in service aces. She has already 70 blocks in

the season. She's a very good blocker."

Hubbard also runs track in the spring.

"She does volleyball in the off-season as well," Davis said. "Her freshman and sophomore years she played basketball, but doesn't do that any longer."

Allison Hauck, a 5-foot-1 sophomore setter, has been running the team.

"She's very athletic," Davis said. "This year she's my primary setter. She's really good at reading the court, reading my players and getting them the ball. She has almost 600 sets on the season."

Beal City Volleyball Puts Together Championship Type Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a Highland Conference championship season for Jade Kennedy's Beal City volleyball team.

It's Kennedy's third season at BCHS. The overall record going into the final weekend of the regular season was 29-7-3 with a Highland Conference record of 12-0.

"The season so far has been very successful, of course we've had some ups and downs, but as we get closer to districts we are playing more consistently at a high level," Kennedy said. "They have exceeded my expectations,

Beal City's Lindsey Fillenworth (12) attacks the ball during a recent match for the Aggies this season. (Submitted Photo)



I knew going into this year we would have a strong team. The goals we set are high and as of right now we have accomplished close to all of them, but we have big post season aspirations."

Highlights have included winning the Sacred Heart Invite and sweeping the conference.

"We knew we had a lot of talent coming into this season, but their ability to play as a team and never be satisfied has driven them to continually improve to become a better team," Kennedy said. "They love to be challenged and do not shy away from bigger competitors. They want the top teams, they are constantly trying to seek new

challenges and compete against the best. The girls know in order to have a great run, they must be constantly improving and the best teams show our weaknesses and they treat it as a learning opportunity.

"Last year, we had a record of 21-20-5 and this year we've improved that to 29-7-3 so far."

Jordyn Fillenworth is one of Beal City's four seniors, "who has been my libero for the past three years and has stepped up big for us this year," Kennedy said. "Some of her stats include 581 digs, 34 aces and 15 kills.

Lyndsey Fillenworth is a junior outside hitter.

"She has been with the varsity for the past three seasons,"

Kennedy said. "Some stats include 215 kills, 232 digs and 79 aces."

Sage Schumacher is a sophomore middle hitter with 270 kills, 117 digs, 97 blocks and 38 aces.

"Bailey Torpey is a sophomore in her first year as the varsity setter and she has stepped into the position extremely well," Kennedy said. "She leads the offense with confidence while having high energy all the time. Bailey's stats include 667 assists, 294 digs, 101 kills and 63 aces."

For Kennedy, it's been a fun team to coach.

"The most enjoyable aspect of coaching this team is there is never a day where I question their work ethic," she said. "They come in and get right to work without anyone reminding them what to do. They are a great group of girls and they have the ability to work hard and have fun at the same time."

Freeland's Volleyball Team Finds Success This Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Freeland High School coach Penny Cook's volleyball team is having a fabulous season and for many reasons.

Among the reasons is the presence of Cook, who has coached eight seasons at Freeland and 26 years of total coaching including at the junior college and NCAA Division III levels.

As of late October, Freeland was 20-9-6 overall and 3-0 in the conference.

"We are constantly working

to reach our goals," Cook said. "We have made steps toward those goals, but in the end we will evaluate that when the season is complete. We are pleased with our team's accomplishments so far, and feel we have more yet to accomplish. We are currently sitting in first place in our conference with a 3-0 record. We have played some very good teams and have felt like we competed in every match."

Among the other reasons for the team's success has been the presence of Caitlenn Pistro, who leads the team in kills (209), aces (83), digs (230) and serve

receptions (450). "She is the backbone of our offense and passing," Cook said.

Lauren Moon is second on the team in digs (229) having earned her spot as the Libero after a couple of weeks played into our season. She also leads the team in serving percentage with 96 percent.

Elli Howard is currently second on the team in kills (132) and the top non-middle blocker (23).

Taylor Bakos leads the team in blocks (42) and kill percentage with .215.

"We are looking to finish strong while hoping to secure a TVC Central Championship," Cook said. "We will move into districts with a first round draw against Swan Valley. We are hoping for a



The Freeland volleyball team opened district play with a victory over Swan Valley. (Submitted Photo)

different outcome than last year's district final match where we came up short in with a fifth set loss.

"This group of young ladies are just really nice girls to work with.

Every day they come into the gym to get better. Everyone embraces their role on the team and do it to the best of their ability. That is what makes us both as good as we are and special to work with."

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Presents **GOLF STATE FINALS WRAP UP**

Shepherd, Freeland, Okemos Finish High At State Meet

John Raffel Sports Scene

Various golf teams came very close to the top spot in state girls golf action the weekend of Oct. 19-20.

The weather featured rain, cold and wind. And some lightening. But teams like Shepherd, Okemos and Freeland all did well.

Shepherd just misses
Shepherd was second in Division 4 with a 750, some 20

strokes behind first-place Harbor Springs.

Morgan Yates with a 173 led the Shepherd attack.

"Morgan has been on fire this season," Shepherd coach Julie Prout said. "She has been on top at every match. She played all summer, participated in golf events and has been very committed to improving her game."

Freeland finishes third
Freeland was third in Division 3

with rounds of 349 and 361. Flint Powers was first at 659. "I was extremely proud of our team this year," Freeland coach Matthew Pumford said. "We had our highest finish in girls golf in school history, finishing third out of 16 teams. After tying Flint Powers in our regional we were pretty excited about the possibility of competing for the state title. We got off to a very solid start and after the first day we were in a very good position being in second place.

"Despite losing some strokes on the greens, our senior captain Olivia Pumford, posted a very solid 79 to lead us within striking distance of Flint Powers. We posted a very good team score of 349 which was just two shots off our season low. Our second round was a bit of a struggle. We fought through a 75-minute rain delay and a 30-minute hail delay to finish the round with a team score of 361 which put us in third place overall, our highest in school history."

Pumford was seventh with the 163 score. Lily Beyer second for Freeland at 171. Lydia Back was third with 96 and 90 for 186.

"Olivia Pumford has been solid for us all year," Pumford said. "She has finished on the all tournament team in five events this year and finished seventh overall this year at states. It has been amazing to coach my daughter these past few years and I am very proud of her accomplishments on and off the course. I could not be more proud as a father to see what a tremendous golfer she has become but even a better person too and to me that is the ultimate lesson that



golf teaches all of us that play.

Lydia Back is our super sophomore and has really come into her own this year with tremendous work ethic and determination. She has steadily improved and it really showed with her personal best score coming during the last round of the finals. Her future looks bright!"

As for next year, "we will be losing five seniors this year," Pumford said. "We have Katie Lazarz (Junior) and Lydia Back (sophomore) returning with experience for next year. We also have a couple JV players that show great promise as well. We're looking forward to making a return trip soon. "I'm very proud of our team for accomplishing something has never been done before in Freeland. It goes to show that

hard work, determination and mental toughness really makes a difference."

Okemos Solid

Okemos was third in Division 2 with 697. Okemos had a 697, led by Allison Cui (151), Savera Rajendra-Nicolucci (172), Rhea Shenoy (186), Jessi Hinterman (188) and Angelas Mothersell (209).

We were very pleased to finish third in D2," Okemos girls golf coach Dan Stolz. "I thought our girls showed real toughness and determination to all post a better score on Saturday in the miserable conditions with two weather delays and it was extremely windy. We will have all five players back next year and hope to improve on our finish. Freshman Allison Cui shot an amazing 73 on day 2 to tie for first but lost in a playoff."

The St. Louis girls golf team battled the elements during the Division 4 finals held at the Meadows on the campus of Grand Valley University to finish the tournament eighth with a two-day total of 793. Harbor Springs won the championship. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photos)



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YOUNG OWOSSO PRESENTS AREA ATHLETES TO WATCH

Owosso Diver Continues To Break Records

John Raffel Sports Scene

Owosso girls swim coach Andrew Murray and dive coach Brooke Peterson have had a fun experience this season working with junior diver Katie Clevenger.

"Katie has been working very hard," Murray said. "She has only been diving for two years after coming from a gymnastics background. Her work ethic and talent have translated into some great results. She placed 13th in the Division 3 state finals last year and looks to improve on that this year. Katie

worked hard over the summer and this season to learn new, harder dives and they are really coming together nicely. Using many of those new dives she broke her own record of 242.6 last year."

Clevenger smashed the record, setting the new mark at 252.55.

"Katie performed her dives very well vs. Swartz Creek to break the record," Murray said. "It was great to see her earn scores of 6.5 and 7's on many of her dives. Katie is still improving every week and has room for even higher scores. There is a great chance she will

break the record again before the end of the season. Coach Peterson has been pushing Katie to keep improving her dives. They have worked on adding pikes to her dives to increase her degree of difficulty. There have been some frustrating days but Katie does a great job of pushing through the tough time. She is also great at helping her teammates when they are having a difficult day. Katie has been a tremendous addition to the team the last two years. Coach Peterson and I can't wait to see what she will accomplish this year and her senior season."

Owosso diver Katie Clevenger continues to break records this season for the Trojans. (Submitted Photo)



Yates Leads Shepherd Golfers To Second-Place Finish In D3 Finals

John Raffel Sports Scene

Shepherd's Julie Prout has been an instructor for 31 years and currently is the school's varsity golf coach. She's going to deeply miss Morgan Yates who completed her fourth and final season at the Division 4 state final.

"Morgan has been on fire this season," Prout said. "She has been on top at every match. She played all summer, participated in golf events and has been very committed to improving her game. She has a current average of 40. Morgan is a worker, a fall dual sport athlete (volleyball) and a leader on her team. She is a talented young lady and is always working towards being her very best."

At the state final, hosted by Grand Valley State University at The Meadows, Yates led Shepherd to a state runner-up finish. Harbor Springs had a 730 while Shepherd shot a 750 for second. Yates had the seventh best score of 173 with rounds of 82 and 91. She was sixth in the state last year. For nine holes, Yates averaged 40.

"She is the No. 1 medalist overall in the TVC West Conference," Prout said. "She is

the No. 1 medalist overall on our Division 4 Regional winning team."

Prout has been impressed with Yates' work ethic.

"She is also very coachable," Prout said. "Morgan is a leader and leads by example. She is also a team player, always being supportive of her teammates. She is just a good human being. Her success is because of all of these wonderful attributes that she possesses. Lastly the influence of her father, mother and grandfather, whom are all excellent golfers, has made a huge impact on Morgan's game too.

"Morgan has progressed every season. She loves the game and is very motivated. Morgan's family golf support has been incredible too. Her goal is play collegiate golf. Morgan has improved in all areas of golf. She has a 'mind' for golf. She uses strategy and is always thinking ahead. She works hard to improve in every aspect of her game. Our program began with all of my seniors, to include Morgan. This is our fourth season."

Shepherd has been TVC West Champions three years in a row and has competed at the state finals three years in a row.

Shepherd's Morgan Yates led the Bluejays to a second place finish during the recent Division 4 girls golf finals held at the Meadows on the campus of Grand Valley University. Shepherd finished the tournament with a 750 only 20 strokes behind eventual winner Harbor Springs. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photo)



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Evan Morris, Ovid-Elsie Football
One of the premier high school kickers in the Midwest, Ovid-Elsie senior Evan Morris will be continuing his kicking career just down the road from Ovid-Elsie at Spartan Stadium. Morris, who is ranked among the top 12 high school punters in the nation, committed to Michigan State this fall. With the ability to hit 50-to-60 yard roll-out punts, Morris is also outstanding on kickoffs with hang times of 4.5 seconds on his kickoffs.



Christian Gordon, Midland High Football
Christian Gordon ran for three touchdowns in Midland High's 50-28 win over Swartz Creek in the first round of the Division 2 playoffs. Gordon ran 10 times for 97 yards, adding a 53-yard interception return for a touchdown on defense.



Heritage Boys Cross Country
Senior Jacob McDowell, who won the Saginaw Valley League championship earlier this month is leading the Hawks back to the Division 1 finals in 2018. Other Heritage runners include Brady Neumann, Tyler Lozano, Jacob Faerber, Justin Betancur, Zack Maddox, and Anthony Fiore.



Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Cross Country
Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart won both the boys and girls regional titles at Shepherd, with Sacred Heart taking the first four spots in the girls regional behind Scout Nelson, Lauren McDonald, Desiree McConnell and Cammie McConnell. Sacred Heart has won the last three state titles. Josh Lynch finished fourth in the boys meet to lead the Irish.



Courtney Allen, Western Michigan University
Former Ithaca standout Courtney Allen competed for Western Michigan University in the MAC meet at Toledo and helped the Broncos to a fifth place finish. She set a career 6k personal record time at the meet.



Fulton-Middleton Boys Cross Country
The Fulton-Middleton boys cross country team turned in a strong effort at the Division 4 regional meet at Shepherd. Fulton finished sixth overall with senior Tristan Rudy leading the way. Rudy placed 19th with a time of 18:07. Junior Nate Alwood placed 35th with a time of 19:21 followed by sophomore Austin McIntyre (42nd 20:00), junior Patric Alwood (45th 20:20) and sophomore Laine Sprowl (55th 22:04).



Fulton-Middleton Girls Cross Country
The Fulton-Middleton girls cross country team came up with a big effort effort at the Division 4 regional meet at Shepherd. Fulton finished fifth overall with senior Destiny Johnston leading the way. Johnston placed 16th with a time of 22:15. Junior Rachel Craft placed 21st with a time of 23:02 followed by junior Maddie Rattay (40th 25:08), junior Jillian Blair (46th 27:01) and junior Alyssa Mervyn (49th 27:53).



Broderick Jordan, Okemos Football
Okemos senior offensive lineman Broderick Jordan will be continuing his career in the Mid-American Conference next season. An anchor of the Okemos offensive line, the 6-foot-3, 275-pound Jordan is headed to Eastern Michigan University. Jordan has helped Okemos to a 7-3 record this year and a berth in the state playoffs.



Evan Egan, Durand Football
One of the top junior offensive tackles in the state, Durand junior Evan Egan is drawing interest from several Division 1 universities. A 6-foot-8, 320-pound tackle/defensive end who ran a 5.14 40-yard dash at the Ohio State football camp this past summer, Egan visited Michigan State for its game against Purdue. Egan has also visited Central Michigan, Bowling Green and Miami (Ohio) this season.

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Ithaca Volleyball
Led by senior veterans Lyndie Litwiller, Kailyn Fairchild, Bailey Miniard, Jenna Thayer and Emily Sorensen, junior standouts Makelle Thompson and Emma Belles, and sophomore Maddy Snyder the Ithaca volleyball team has made steady progress this season. Ithaca turned in a strong effort at the TVC tournament where it placed first in the Silver division.



Okemos Boys Water Polo
The Okemos boys water polo team won the regional title and secured the number-one seed in the East bracket at the water polo state finals. Okemos defeated Grand Blanc 16-7 in the semifinals and then defeated Dexter 12-9 in the regional championship match.



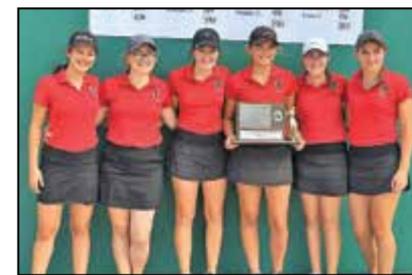
Corunna Volleyball
Ranked among the honorable mention in Division 2, the Corunna volleyball team won the GAC Red championship for a third straight season with a perfect 8-0 league record. Corunna also placed second at the Williamston Invitational where Elizabeth Norris recorded her 1,000 dig.



Owosso Soccer
The Owosso soccer team wrapped up the season with a 5-10-3 overall record. Owosso won its first-round district match with a 3-1 win against Flint Kearsley. Adam Dahl led the Trojans with two goals while Sam Roose added one goal. Owosso dropped a 3-0 decision to eventual district champion Fenton in the semifinals.



Lowell Red Arrows Volleyball
The Lowell volleyball team is turning in a landmark season. Along with being ranked No. 4 in the state in Division 1, the Red Arrows also captured the OK White Conference championship, winning the first conference volleyball title in school history. Lowell defeated Grand Rapids Northview 3-0 to clinch the conference title.



St. Johns Girls Golf
The St. Johns girls golf team captured the CAAC Red division title this year with a team score of 357. Tuesday Lewis led the Redwings with an 84. Ellie Palmatier and Teagan Sanders both carded rounds of 90 while Megan Purves shot a 93, Victoria Greenwood a 104 and Camryn Lowe a 116.

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Breckenridge Defense
Breckenridge, 10-0, won its Division 7 matchup with 5-4 Frankfort, 58-0, its eighth shut-out of the season. The Huskies get another home game in Week 2 against Johannesburg-Lewis-ton, a 15-8 winner over Merrill in the first round.



Amber Gall, Shepherd Girls Cross Country
The Blue Jay senior won the Region 25 Division 3 race at her home course in 17:57.3 on Oct. 26. She took first at her various TVC Central jamborees this season. She also took first with a personal record of 17:27.4 at her home Shepherd Bluejay Invitational on Sept. 29.



Dreea Atchison, Morley Stanwood Girls Cross Country
The Mohawk sophomore recorded her personal record of 19:24.9 on Oct. 27 at Bear Lake in the Region 20 Division 3 race to earn 11th place and qualify for the state finals. Her previous personal record was a 19:56 last year at Central Montcalm.



Zach Marotzke, Saginaw Valley Lutheran Football
He led his team to a 33-0 win over Coleman in the season finale. He passed for 104 yards and three touchdowns. He rushed for another 25 yards and helped the offense have a big day.



Ryan Ringler, Cedar Springs Football
A senior in his fourth season with the Cedar Springs varsity football team, Ringler earned second-team all-state honors last fall as a two-way starter at running back and middle linebacker. He's having another outstanding season for the Redhawks, who are 9-1 and have won nine straight after losing the season opener to Swan Valley.



DeWitt Girls Cross Country
With four of its runners placing in the top ten, the DeWitt girls cross country team in a big effort in winning the Division 2 regional at Ovid-Elsie and earning a trip to the Division 2 state finals. Senior Ashley Shipp led the way for DeWitt as she placed fourth with a time of 18:47. Senior Sofia Perez placed sixth with a time of 18:59 followed by sophomore Kaitlyn Hynes (seventh, 19:18), sophomore Elsa Rusthoven (eighth, 19:18) and sophomore Elise Snyder (22nd 20:29).



Aiden McLaughlin, Morley Stanwood Boys Cross Country
He finished second in the Regional 20 Division 3 race at Bear Lake on Oct. 2 with a personal record of 16:00.4. He finished first in CSAA Silver meets throughout the season. He was an all-state runner last season.



Jorga Ray, Chippewa Hills Girls Golf
She qualified for the Division 4 state golf tournament. The regional was at the Mount Pleasant Country Club, and Ray had her best score of the three individual qualifiers with a 94.



Owen Seay, Big Rapids Boys Soccer
Owen was the team's engine with 23 goals and 13 assists. He led the team with his tenacity, determination, and competitiveness. Very technical player with great skill. 2018 All Conference, All-District, All-Region.



Natalie Newcombe, Chippewa Hills Cross Country
She had a personal record of 19:22.7 for eighth place in the Division 2 Regional 10 meet at Gaylord and, in her junior season, has qualified for the state finals. She was her team's top runner this season.



Carson Hersch, New Lothrop Cross Country
He broke the school record at regionals at St Johns. The school record has been in place since 1992. He ran 16:41 as the old record was 16:45. He earned himself a trip back to the state finals this weekend. Last year, his PR was 17:42.



Peyton Smith, Ithaca Football
Peyton Smith threw for five touchdowns in Ithaca's 50-33 loss to Millington. Smith completed 22 of 29 passes for 376 yards for the 8-2 Yellowjackets.



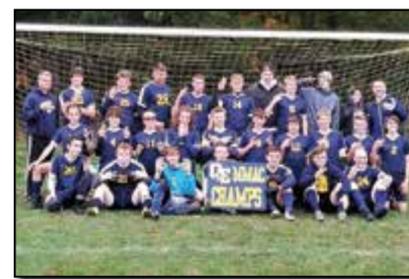
Hope Thebo, Big Rapids Girls Golf
She tied for 10th in the Division 3 meet with rounds of 81 and 87 for 168. She was Central State Activities Association Gold Division tournament champion. She helped her entire team qualify for the state meet.



Britton Angell, Crossroads Boys Soccer
He had 17 goals and eight assists. He was a huge boost to the team as an overpowering figure to any defender with a mindset to score. He has the height, pace and reach to carry the ball, send it to space, goal or cross.



Jada Meeuwes, Crossroads Volleyball
She has had a strong junior season for the Cougars at the net and has been among the team leaders in kills and blocks. She has helped a young team develop into a competitive force in the West Michigan D League.



Ovid-Elsie Boys Soccer
The Ovid-Elsie boys soccer team runs its championship streak to three this fall. Ovid-Elsie won the inaugural Mid-Michigan Athletic Conference championship with a 13-1 record. Finishing with a 16-3 overall record, the title was the third straight league title for Ovid-Elsie. Ovid-Elsie clinched the league title with an 8-0 win against Chesaning. Ethan Byrnes scored two goals and collected three assists in the win. The senior class of Chase Cabral, Chris Zruna, Adam Peckens, Hunter Bukantis, Grant Thornton, Sean Witt, Isaac Zimmerman and Conner Brown were at the core of the team's success this year.



Corunna Girls Cross Country
The Corunna girls cross country team is turning in a solid season. The Corunna girls came away with the championship at the Shiawassee County Championships and placed second at the conference meet. Corunna placed fourth at the Division 2 regional at Delta College. Sophomore Evie Wright led the way for Corunna as she placed second individually with a time of 19:00. Sophomore Lilly Evans placed third in 19:15 while senior Katelyn Feldpausch placed sixth in 19:38.

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