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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hello sports fans!

It's another great day at High School Sports Scene. What a fall to remember!.....New Lothrop and Morrice win MHSAA football titles while Portland and Breckenridge fall just short in their title games. Midland, DeWitt, Williamston, Swan Valley and Montrose all win regional title. Way to represent the Sports Scene coverage area!

Boys cross country was well represented as well as Pewamo-Westphalia and Shepherd placing second and third respectively in Division 3 and Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart finishing runner up while Breckenridge finishes fourth in Division 4.

On the girls side, Bay City Western finishes fifth in Division 1. DeWitt finishes runner up while St. Johns finishes sixth in Division 2. A pack of teams finish in the top ten in Division 3 with Pewamo-Westphalia third, Clare fourth, Shepherd sixth and St. Louis 10th. Rounding out the girls cross country was Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart girls winning another MHSAA title while Fowler finished seventh.

In girls golf, Okemos freshman Allison Cui shoots 78-73 to find herself tied atop of the field before coming up just short in the playoff to finish runner up in Division 2. Flint Powers rolls the competition in Division 3 to win another MHSAA championship while Freeland placed third and Big Rapids seventh to round out the top ten. Division 3 individual standouts included runner up Jolie Brochu of Flint Powers, Maggie Knight of Flint Powers fourth, Olivia Pumford of Freeland seventh, and Hope Thebo of Big Rapids tenth. Division 4 golf had a runner up with Shepherd followed by Frankenmuth in sixth and St. Louis eighth. Morgan Yates of Shepherd finished her career placing seventh.

In girls volleyball Rockford finished runner up. Lake-wood Lake Odessa and Corunna both reached the state semifinals to cap off brilliant seasons.

Congrats to all the schools and student athletes that worked so hard fulfilling goals and dreams that will last a lifetime.



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# SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON FOOTBALL

## Swan Valley Football Team Reaches Division 5 State Semifinals To Cap Memorable Season

David Cook  
Sports Scene

Ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 5 for much of the season, it took the eventual state champion to put an end to a memorable season for the Swan Valley football team.

Swan Valley turned in a perfect 9-0 regular season and reeled off wins in the first three rounds of the playoffs before dropping a heart-breaking 14-7 decision to eventual Division 5 state champion Hudsonville Unity Christian in the state semifinals.

Swan Valley won the Tri-Valley with a perfect record for the second-consecutive season and finished the season with 12 wins.

Win number 12 is one that Swan Valley fans will remember for a long time. Facing Reed City in a battle of unbeaten in the regional championship game, Swan Valley needed a fourth-quarter rally to pull out the win. Swan Valley trailed 22-7 at halftime before a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns by senior running back Chase Mendoza gave the Vikings the final lead with just over four minutes remaining in the game.

Swan Valley's senior class came up big the entire season. Senior quarterback Alex Fries directed a Viking offense that averaged 39.5 points per game this season. Fries threw for 2,062 yards and 28 touchdowns and added 487 rushing yards and eight touchdowns.

Mendoza and fellow senior Deondric Sanders led a potent ground game. Mendoza finished the season with 929 yards rushing (8.8 avg.) and 14 touchdowns while Sanders added 560 yards (.3 avg.) and nine touchdowns.

Senior wide receiver Terryon Liddell and junior receiver Ethan Champney provided Fries a pair of reliable targets. Liddell caught 46 passes for 997 yards (21.7 avg.) and 12 touchdowns while Champney hauled in 45 passes for 769 yards (17.1 avg.) and 11 scores.

Defense was also a strong suit for the Vikings. Swan Valley's defense allowed an average of 10.8 points per game. Senior linebackers Mitchell Boehler and Matt Pike led the team in tackles. Boehler recorded 95 total tackles along with 12.5 tackles for loss while Pike notched 88 tackles and 19 tackles for loss.

Senior Rorey Garner and junior Carson Berenyi anchored the defensive line. Garner totaled 48 tackles and 8.5 tackles for loss with Berenyi adding 43 tackles and nine tackles for loss.

Champney and Liddell were

the ringleaders in the secondary. Champney intercepted six passes this season including a key interception late in the fourth quarter of the regional title game. Liddell added five interceptions.

"This was a great group of

seniors," said Swan Valley coach Kevin Gavenda. "It was a heck of a year and they earned every bit of what they got. They were great all year. It's kind of the way we expected the season to go but not the way we expected to finish."



Staff Photo

## Midland Football Team Closes The Season Strong With Trip To State Semifinals

David Cook  
Sports Scene

With a 3-3 record after week six of the regular season, a trip to the state playoffs was in jeopardy for the Midland football team. Not only did the Chemics finish the regular season strong to qualify for the playoff, but they won three playoff games and reached the Division 2 state semifinals for the first time since reaching the Division 2 state championship game in 2007.

Midland wrapped up the regular season with three straight wins, including a 14-8 win against rival Dow in week nine to secure a berth in the playoffs.

Midland opened the playoff with a 50-28 win against Swartz Creek. The Chemics then won their first district championship since 2013

with a 38-19 win in a rematch with Dow.

With a district title in hand, Midland added a regional championship with a 43-0 win against Walled Lake Western. Midland running back Christian Gordon led the way for the Chemics as he ran for 217 yards and scored two touchdowns. Sophomore quarterback Al Money passed for 67 yards and two touchdowns while also running for 67 yards.

The Midland defense also came up big with the first shutout of the season. The Chemic defense scored the first points of the game with a safety and then held Western's offense in check the remainder of the game.

Midland's playoff run came to an end in the Division 2 state

semifinals with a 49-28 loss to Muskegon Mona Shores.

The Chemics went down battling as they took an early 14-7 lead against Mona Shores on a 15-yard touchdown pass from Money to Gordon and a one-yard touchdown run by Gordon. Midland tied the game midway through the third quarter on a two-yard touchdown pass from Money to Carter Grove before Mona Shores put the game away with 28 straight points.

Money finished the game with 103 yards passing for Midland while Gordon rushed for 64 yards.



"You can look at the special plays we've had, but when I think about the playoffs, I'll think of the players resiliency. It's been exciting for our team and for our players. I couldn't be more proud of how

our kids fought. They fought and battled and really got after it. They don't have anything to hang their heads about."

Midland wrapped up the season with a 9-4 overall record.

## Alma Closes Outstanding Football Season

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

A banner season for Alma came to a heartbreaking close in a 14-13 loss to Escanaba in the Division 4 district title game on Nov. 3.

"We had a pretty good season, I can't complain too badly," Alma coach Dan Falor said. "We had to be pretty pleased, considering we lost a lot of guys from last year's team."

"Brec Alward was unbelievable

for us," Falor said, noting his senior running back ran for 2,165 yards in 11 games. He had all but 307 of his team's rushing yards.

"We graduated our whole offensive line last year," Falor said. "They obviously led the charge for Brec."

Next year, Alma will be without Alward, and also minus three-year starting quarterback Drew Humm.

"We lose a lot but bring back some players too," Falor said. "I

feel good about our line coming back. We lose some linebackers and DBs."

Alma is still looking for a week one nonleague game next season.

"Teams left over in the central and east are combining into one league," Falor said. "We'll bring teams like Frankenmuth, Essexville Garber, Birch Run. It will be a different look for us. Anytime you bring in Frankenmuth, Garber and Birch Run. It will be a tough go."



Brec Alward rushed for more than 2,000 yards this season. (Staff Photo)

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# Team Unity A Key Element In New Lothrop's Drive To Division 7 State Championship

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

State champions in 2006, the New Lothrop Hornets have reached the state semifinals three times since but have been unable to return to Ford Field. That drought came to an end this season as New Lothrop not only made it back to Ford Field, but it capped the return with a 50-44 win against Madison Heights Madison.

"It's been a long climb up this mountain all year long," said 10th year New Lothrop head coach Clint Galvas. "This group is as tight a knit group that I've been a part of. We talk about brotherhood and family and these guys truly play for the guys next to them. You hear that a lot, but it couldn't be more true with this team."

Going up against a high-powered Madison Heights offense, New Lothrop used its ground game to pile up yardage and points. Junior quarterback Avery Moore paced the New Lothrop offense. Moore ran the ball 27 times for 132 yards (4.9 avg.) and four touchdowns. Moore added 99 yards passing as he completed 7-of-13 passes for 99 yards. New Lothrop featured a trio of productive runners in the game. Senior Aidan Harrison ran for 93 yards (8.5 avg.) and scored one touchdown with sophomore Will Muron adding 57 yards (6.3 avg.) and one touchdown.

As well as the New Lothrop backs ran the ball, the offensive line paved the way punching holes in the Madison Heights line.

"I could not have got this done without the guys up front," Moore said. "They really controlled the game."

New Lothrop's offensive line of junior center Colby Hemesberg, senior guards Allan Jamick and Chandler Saunders and senior tackles Jayson Tunstall and Garrett Birchmeier paved the way for the ground game that amassed 280 yards rushing.

Harrison, who has committed to the University of Missouri, also added a key 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown that put the Hornets up 30-16 in the second quarter.

Scoring points in bunches is nothing new for New Lothrop as the offense was in overdrive all season. New Lothrop scored 619

points this season (44.2 avg.), the second-most points scored in school history.

New Lothrop's lowest point total of the season came in week nine when the Hornets traveled to Traverse City to face a St. Francis team that would eventually reach the Division 6 state semifinals. New Lothrop dropped that game 35-14, but the Hornets learned from the experience and ran the table in the state playoffs.

"Playing a tougher regular-season definitely made us more battle tested," Galvas said. "Going up to Traverse City and playing that team, that was a heck of a team. Coming off that loss week nine, it kind of forced us all to take a step back, maybe have a bit of humble pie because we were feeling good about ourselves. I

think that was actually a big thing for us. Since then we've kind of hit another gear. That we could do this. That might have been a big turning point for us, that loss, I wouldn't change it any other way."

That experience was especially valuable in the regional final game. Playing two-time, defending state champion Pewamo-Westphalia, the Hornets came away with a 26-14 win.

"We met them in the regional and that was one of the best games I've ever been a part of," Galvas said. "Pewamo is a powerhouse and well coached team and we have a lot respect for them. That game could've went either way. It was the fourth quarter and we were down. After we won that game it was like let's keep this thing going."



# Senior Class Caps Incredible High School Career By Leading Breckenridge To State Title Game

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

It may not have ended as planned, but the 2018 football season is one for the ages in Breckenridge.

The greatest season ever in Breckenridge history was capped off in Ford Field with the Huskies playing Reading for the 2018 Division 8 state championship. While Breckenridge came out on the short end of a 39-20 decision, what the Huskies accomplished during the entire season will be remembered for generations.

Along with reaching a state championship game for the first time in school history, Breckenridge won a school-record

13 games. The Huskies also set school records for points scored (444), shutout nine opponents and allowed just 88 points in 14 games (6.3 avg.).

Providing the backbone of this year's team was an 11-player senior class. Those seniors were part of three of the greatest seasons in school history. Along with seeing the best of times, the seniors know what it's like being on the other end of the ledger as many of those seniors were part of the 2015 Breckenridge team that went 0-9.

Since their freshmen seasons, the current group of freshmen went a combined 32-4. As sophomores, the current group of seniors helped Breckenridge break a 22-year playoff drought.

As juniors, they won 10 games and a district championship before winning 13 games this year along with a third consecutive Mid-State Conference title, district and regional titles and reaching the state finals.

Seniors like quarterback Carter Staley and running back Hunter Collins were part of the progression and leaders on this year's squad. "We got a plan and we stuck to it," said Breckenridge coach Kris Robinson. "When you have Collins and Carter that were here and experienced that 09 season, having them as leaders, taking charge of stuff and handling things like the weight room, making sure everyone is there doing what they are supposed to do, you can't say enough about these two."

Along with Carter and Collins, the Breckenridge senior class included running back Lukas Ebright, wide receiver Brennan Waslusk, linebacker Grant Gillis, defensive back Tyler Story, defensive lineman Corbin Reed, and Logan Hurst and offensive linemen Schriver Miller, Hunter Smith and Garrett St. John.

Staley completed 14-of-19 passes in the title game for 177 yards and two touchdowns.

"I'm just extremely proud of everyone on our team," Staley said. "Pushing ourselves and pushing each other and not giving up on

Breckenridge defenders Corbin Reed (50), Grant Gillis (22), Schriver Miller (62), Spencer Ramereiz (71) and Logan Hurst (52) prepare for action during the Division 8 state title game.



Breckenridge running back Cameren Vallier (1) looks for running room as the Reading defense closes in.

one another. That's what got us here."

Collins caught both touchdowns passing from Staley along with adding a rushing touchdown.

While the loss stung, the overall accomplishment is special.

"Everyone doubted us, saying we couldn't get to Ford Field," Collins said. "but look where we are, at Ford Field playing for a state championship game. I couldn't be

more proud of the team I'm on right now."

For his coach, the pride in his team and what it accomplished was more than evident.

"Being able to go through this with these guys was great," Robinson said. "I'm happy for them. Disappointed we couldn't get a win today, but when we're hanging that banner in the gym it will be time to celebrate."

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# Portland Caps Memorable Playoff Run By Playing For Division 5 State Championship

David Cook  
Sports Scene

At the beginning of the season, few people gave the Portland Raiders much of a chance to be playing for the Division 5 state

championship at the end of the year. Those critics were proven wrong as the Raiders returned to the Division 5 state finals for the second time this decade.

While the Raiders dropped a 42-7 decision to Hudsonville Unity

Christian, the trip was something the Raiders and the Portland community will long remember.

It didn't work out the way we wanted to obviously, but I wouldn't change it for anything," said Portland senior running back Jacob Veale. "This is more than I could ever ask for. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Veale provided the Portland fans with the biggest thrill of the game as he scored the Raiders' lone touchdown on a 91-yard kickoff return.

Line play was the key to the game as Unity Christian controlled the line on both sides of the ball. Unity finished the game with 279 yards rushing while the Crusader defense held Portland to 95 yards rushing.

"Obviously, we got beat up today a little bit up front on both sides of the ball," said Portland coach John Novara. "Their (Unity Christian) offensive and defensive lines just played great. We had a hard time moving them off the ball. We ran the football very successfully all year long, but we just couldn't do it today. We had to resort to throwing the ball around a little bit."

Unity Christian had four scores of 25 or more yards and its overall athleticism created problems for Portland.

"They are a super-athletic football team," Novara said. "They just have athletes all over the place. Probably the most athletic football



Portland running back Trevor Lattimer (14) cuts through the middle of the Unity Christian defense.

team we played all season. We don't get stoned too many times, but they did it to us today."

The loss ended a memorable playoff run for Portland. After defeating Ovid-Elsie 33-19 in the first round, the Raiders defeated league-rival Lansing Catholic Central 17-13 in a thrilling title game. Portland then defeated Frankenmuth 40-6 in the regional title game and Marine City 35-14 to reach Ford Field.

"I think we went on a great playoff run," Novara said. "We

talked about some of the runs that Chelsea made and Clarkston made, I know we were 13-0 but we got a ton better in the playoffs. We beat some real good football teams, but it just wasn't in the cards today."

Not many saw the Raiders making a playoff run when the season began.

"It's still kind of surreal that we are here," Novara said. "We had to replace a ton from last year. We started out really slow this season. We had no skill kids coming back, but the kids just stepped up."



Portland running back Jacob Veale (2) tries to break free from a Unity Christian defender during the Division 5 state finals.

# DeWitt Football Team Wins Conference, District And Regional Titles This Season

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

The DeWitt football team proved to be one of the best Division 3 teams in the state this year and it took arguably one of the best teams in the state to end the Panthers' season.

Conference, district, and regional champions this season, DeWitt's season came to an end in the Division 3 state semifinals when it dropped a 34-21 decision to eventual state champion Detroit Martin Luther King.

Led by its 25 seniors, DeWitt turned in a memorable season.

DeWitt won 12 games for the sixth time in school history and added its 13th consecutive conference title as it won the CAAC Blue in its first year in the league.

A productive offense and stingy defense were key to DeWitt's success this season. The DeWitt offense averaged 37.8 points per game while the Panther defense allowed 10 points per game. In going 5-0 in conference play this season, the DeWitt defense recorded three shutouts of league opponents.

After a 9-0 regular season, DeWitt opened the playoffs with a 34-7 win against St. Johns.

The Panthers added a district championship the next week with a 9-7 win against league rival East Lansing. David Locher scored a touchdown on a six-yard run and freshman placekicker Nick Flegler provided the game-winning points with a 25-yard field goal.

DeWitt won a regional championship for the first time since 2013 with a 42-7 win against Farmington. Ty Warren opened the game in a big way by returning a kickoff for a touchdown and linebacker Jace Preston returned an interception 25 yards for a touchdown to spark the Panthers.

DeWitt's season came to an end with a 34-21 loss to Detroit King in the state semifinals. DeWitt quarterback Blake Gatfield passed for 136 yards and a touchdown while Warren added a rushing touchdown. Gatfield also ran for a touchdown. Derek Hamp caught eight passes for 60 yards and Mason Gilbert caught three passes for 33 yards.

Isaac Hungerford led DeWitt's defense with 11 tackles and a tackle for loss. Brendan Melton and Hamp each added eight tackles and one tackle for loss.

The Panthers, who ended the season with a 12-1 overall record, had several players earn all-CAAC Blue honors. Senior linemen Carson Holley, Michael Joseph, Brandon Melton, Lucas Roy, and Adam Stone and junior lineman Jacob Redinger all were named first-team, all-conference. Senior quarterback Blake Gatfield and senior running back Justin Anwar also earned first-team honors.



DeWitt quarterback Blake Gatfield (3) looks for an opening as East Lansing defenders Tyler Washington (13) and Noah Iosefa (4) close in.



DeWitt defenders Collin McCrackin (10) and Mason Gilbert (88) combine to bring down East Lansing's Kobe Hayward (1) during the regional title game.

They were joined by seniors Caleb Aungst, Nate Flannery, Quinton Hall, Derek Hamp, Tyler Warren, and sophomore Andrew Debric on the first team. Seniors Isaac

Hungerford and Jace Preston and juniors Noah Behovitz and Brock Yabs earned honorable-mention honors.

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# Williamston Wraps Up Season By Reaching Division 4 State Semifinal Game

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Although it fell a game short of reaching the ultimate destination, the football season was a memorable one for the Williamston football team.

After finishing the regular season with a 7-2 record and sharing the CAAC Red title with Haslett and St. Johns, Williamston put together a thrilling state tournament run.

The Hornets opened the postseason with a 35-28 win against Goodrich. Quarterback Austin Stiffler led the offense with 157 passing yards and 130 rushing yards while accounting for three touchdowns.

The following week

Williamston defeated Flint Powers 31-7 to win a second consecutive district championship. Stiffler passed for 170 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 108 yards and a score to lead the offense. Running back Evan Field added 141 yards rushing and one touchdown.

Williamston defeated Saint Clair 28-0 to win its first regional title since 2010. Stiffler paced the offense with 252 yards passing and four touchdown passes. Carey Haney caught two touchdown passes and totaled 148 receiving yards.

The season came to an end

for Williamston as it dropped a 38-13 decision to Chelsea in the Division 4 state semifinals.

Several Williamston players earned all-conference honors in helping the Hornets to a 10-3 overall record. Senior quarterback Austin Stiffler, senior

wide receiver Peter Daniels and senior offensive linemen Carter Cyzmbor and IJ Strien earned all-conference honors on offense.

On defense, senior defensive end Nathan Elenbaas, junior defensive lineman Eston Miles, senior defensive back Carey

Haney, junior defensive back Haden Burkholder and junior linebackers Maverick Pardee and Connor Sparks earned all-conference honors. Sophomore kicker Cade Plaxton earned all-conference honors while Stiffler was an all-conference punter.



The Williamston football team prepared for the Division 4 state semifinals by practicing at Michigan State University's indoor practice facility.

# Montrose Football Team Captures First District, Regional Titles Since 2013

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Montrose football team turned in its best season in five years this fall as it reached the Division 6 state semifinals.

After turning in a 7-2 regular-season record, Montrose won its first district and regional titles since 2013. The Rams' season came to an end in the Division 6

state semifinals when it dropped a 42-20 decision to eventual state champion Jackson Lumen Christi. Montrose began its playoff run with a 54-0 win against Hemlock in the district semifinals. The win was also the 200th of head coach Dennis Reinhart's career.

Montrose claimed the district title with a 29-6 win against rival Millington. The Rams captured the

regional championship with a 37-6 win against Flint Hamady.

An explosive offense was a big key to success for Montrose this season. Led by senior running back Devante Bedford, the Rams averaged 34.6 points per game. Bedford was one of the premier

running backs in the area this year as he rushed for 1,718 yards (10.1 avg.) and scored 27 touchdowns.

Montrose closed the season with a 10-3 overall record.

Several Rams were named to the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference all-conference team. On offense,

Bedford, wide receiver Adam Stiverson and offensive lineman Brandon Gross made first team while quarterback Bobby Skinner was named to the second team. On defense, defensive lineman Griffin Barnette, linebacker Jack Kalakay, and defensive back Sean Kittle earned first-team honors. Jayden Harden was named to the second-team and linebacker Antio Harrison was honorable mention.



# Morrice Celebrates 8-Player State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Morrice made the long journey from downstate to the Upper Peninsula from the Division 1 8-player football championship game and came back as huge winners.

The Orioles' opponents on Nov. 17 in Marquette's Superior Dome were the Pickford Panthers. Both teams were 13-0.

But it was all Morrice in this one 44-16.

Coach Kendall Crockett's team had two relatively close games during the regular season with wins of 44-20 over Lawrence and 34-14 over Deckerville. They dominated most other games although Pickford, from the eastern U.P. proved to be a worthy opponent.

The Panthers scored first but

Hunter Nowak countered for Morrice with a 45-yard TD run and it was 8-8 after one. Nowak had a 4-yard run in the second and threw a 15-yard pass to Austin Edington to give Morrice a 22-8 lead at halftime. Nowak's 50-yard run gave his team a 30-8 lead in the third. Edington had scoring runs of 54 and 6 yards in the final quarter to seal the win.

"That was a really good team we played," Crockett said.

Morrice had a 353-253 lead in total yards. Nowak had 199 yards rushing while Edington had 122.

"Hunter Nowak is very shifty. But what really helped him was the offensive line in front of him," Crockett said.

Nowak also passed for 36 yards. Beau Dietz led the defense with 10 tackles.

Morrice was 9-2 last year and lost 38-0 to Deckerville in the



second round of the playoffs, but 2018 would prove to be totally different.

"I knew we had a special team this year," Crockett said. "This is the same team we brought up as sophomores. It was their third season together. We were close last season going into the regional

finals against Deckerville. We had a horrible game.

"Going into this season, you tell the sense of urgency and how hard they worked and how diligent they were in the film room. We knew it would be a special season. But you don't know how special. Things went our way and we had a great

season." As for next year, "we are losing 13 seniors that have played three years for us, 15 total seniors," Crockett said. "The core of the team is leaving. We have some juniors ready to go."



Courtesy of MHSAA Second Half

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# Portland St. Patrick Falls In Football State Semifinals

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was a very enjoyable season for Patrick Russman and his Portland St. Patrick 8-player football team.

Russman has been coaching at St. Patrick for 23 seasons and has been the St. Patrick head varsity coach for 12 seasons.

The Shamrocks are an independent and had a regular season record of 5-4. Their final record was 7-5 as they won the regional championship but lost the Division 2 semi-final game to Onekama.

"This team practiced and played with great effort and continued to grow as a team throughout the season," Russman said. "We have great expectations and have goals to reach and win the final game. We had a challenging regular season schedule which made us grow as a football team."

"Highlights for our team was getting big plays out of our seniors Tanner Lawson, Paul Cook, and Brett Price. Ned Smith had another big season for us as a defender and running back. Brian

Kwiecinski stepped in to a starting role for us as a lineman and Connor Cross had a huge season for us stepping into the quarterback duties."

St. Patrick beat Tekonsha 20-6 for the regional title.

"The key to our regional effort was the renewed defensive intensity sparked by senior Paul Cook and juniors Riley, and Alex Kissane. Our team really stepped up the defense," Russman said. "The offense continued to make plays, while special teams was again very solid for us. We have a great group of players who really enjoy the game and have a gift to play it."

Ned Smith gained 1,474 and scored 17 touchdowns.

Connor Cross passed 53-of-134 for 1,464 yards and 22 touchdowns. Zach Spitzley caught 18 passes for 596 yards and eight touchdowns. Tanner Lawson had 17 catches for 557 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Running back John Schneider had 368 yards in catches for two touchdowns and rushed 57 times for 182 yards and one score.

Offensive linemen were Alex Kissane, Bret Weller, Jeff Davlin, and Brian Kwiecinski.

Defensive leaders in tackles were Alex Kissane (163); Riley Kissane (130), Ned Smith (116), plus 11 sacks; Brett Weller (96) plus two sacks; Jeff Davlin (62) plus two sacks; John Schneider (60); Zach Spitzley (59) plus three sacks and Paul Cook (59), who only played in five games.

"Paul was recovering from an injury suffered in the preseason scrimmage that kept him out of most of the regular season and was a major factor in our defensive schemes in the playoffs," Russman said

"He's a great emotional leader and is an outstanding football player."

Russman is looking forward to 2019.

"The thing most enjoyable about this team is that they are working to become better Catholic men, they care about each other and care about becoming better football players," Russman said. "We have a great coaching staff with Ben Cross, Todd Davlin, Aaron Thelen, Mike Coyne, Ross Schneider, and Colin Pline.

"We know we can build a great team."



Portland St. Patrick's Ned Smith (34) runs for pay dirt in the regional semifinal on the snow in Onekama. (Courtesy photo)

# Cedar Springs Enjoys Record-Breaking Season

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was a school-record breaking 10-game winning streak to highlight a memorable season for the Cedar Springs Redhawks, who were 10-2 overall and 6-0 in the OK White.

"We had one of the best seasons in school history and accomplished things that had never been done before," Cedar Springs coach Gus Kapolka said. "Our expectations were high coming into this season. The players set their goals

as: conference champs, district champs and regional champs."

Other high points were the first district title since 2000, the first ever OK White Conference title and the third league crown in five years.

It was the highest scoring offense in school history with 440.

"This group worked extremely hard year round to have this opportunity and played hard for each other," Kapolka said. "I think we did a better job this year of beating the quality opponents on

our schedule, and I think losing in the district final last year to DeWitt, gave us playoff experience that allowed us to win a district championship."

Cedar Springs lost to state contender Swan Valley, 21-12, to open the regular season and lost to Muskegon, 34-18, in the regional finals.

Standouts included senior fullback-linebacker Ryan Ringler with 128 rushes for 920 yards, and set a school record four tackles in a season with 142 and in a career with 387.

Running back Sage Serbenta rushed 124 times for 1,192 yards and 13 touchdowns. He's the first junior in the history of the program to go over 1,000 yards.

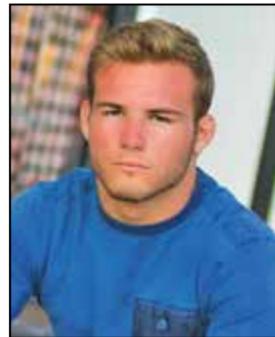
Senior defensive end Gage Gardner had 77 tackles with 4.5 sacks and four tackles for losses.

"He was an absolute anchor on our defense," Kapolka said. "He was great vs. the run and rushing the passer."

Senior defensive back Lucas Pienton had 68 tackles with four interceptions.

"He usually matched up with the other team's best wide receiver," Kapolka said.

Ben Shaw, a junior defensive back, had 51 tackles and two fumble recoveries. Senior Colton Pope was the team's best offensive lineman and sophomore defensive tackle Landon Totten was the best interior lineman.



Ryan Ringler - Cedar Springs  
"It has been an honor for me to coach this team," Kapolka said. "They loved playing football and were all business all the time."

# Ithaca Football Team Sustains Shorter Playoff Season

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was not quite the same for Ithaca football when it came to the playoffs this season.

The Yellowjackets realized going all the way to a Division 6 state title might not be easy. But it wasn't easy starting with the first playoff game.

Millington eliminated Ithaca from the playoffs with a 50-33 win. This is the earliest the Yellowjackets have been eliminated from the playoffs since 2007 and the 50 points allowed by Ithaca is the most they have given up since they allowed 58 to Reese in 2001.

It was coach Terry Hessbrook's 30th season as coach and 15th as Ithaca head

skipper. Ithaca was 8-2 overall and 7-0 in the TVC West for championship honors.

"We have won 63 consecutive TVC West Games dating back to week No. 8 of the 2009 season as our last loss, Hessbrook said. "Expectations in Ithaca are very high every football season. Our goals are set and they will not change from year to year. We are very happy to win our league championship for the 10th consecutive season."

The Yellowjackets lost to perennial state power Pewamo-Westphalia 38-0 to open the season, but bounced back for a win over Hemlock.

"We suffered many injuries this season," Hessbrook said. "I loved how our team never wavered from the goal."

Ithaca was coming off a 13-1 state runnerup finish last season.

"Our senior class was small but they were key in what we accomplished," Hessbrook said

"Rexton Nowakowski, Derek Pendell, Dante Williams, Hunter Beck, Ethan Schall, Jordan Johnson, and Jannis Loos were all very important."

Hessbrook said he especially enjoyed "our team's attitude during a somewhat difficult season. They came to work every day."

As for next season, "we lose a few of our linemen," Hessbrook said. "That will be tough. But our skilled players return with a great deal of experience."



Ithaca's Zach Poff (6) looks for yardage against Millington. (Photo by Skip Traynor)



# P-W Football Left Out Of Ford Field This Year

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was not quite the same in the Division 7 title game at Ford Field this season.

For the first time since 2014, Pewamo-Westphalia wasn't in the title game.

The Pirates had won the last two state titles and appeared poised to make a run again this year. They had fired through the schedule at 11-0, winning the Central Michigan Athletic Conference title and scoring impressive nonleague wins of 38-0 in the season opener over perennial power Ithaca and 28-27 over a Division 4 playoff qualifier Williamston.

But in the regional title game. New Lothrop prevailed 26-14.

Coach Jeremy Miller would have preferred to have seen his team playing for

a state title. But it still was a championship season for P-W.

"The season obviously ended a little sooner than we wanted," Miller said. "Hey, we had a great year, putting these kids through a tough nonconference schedule. We withstood the challenge, won the league and won the district. When these guys look back at what they accomplished, it was a very successful year and, more than anything, it was a great group of kids to work with."

"We beat two very good teams in Ithaca and Williamston. Williamston made it to the Division 4 semifinals, so beating them was a very big deal. Those were two highlights. You can boil down this season to two bad halves of football: the first half against Saranac in week two and the second half against New Lothrop. Everything else was pretty good."

In the loss to New Lothrop, "We just didn't execute," Miller said. "Watching film, I saw guys do things we don't normally do. We missed a lot of tackles and weren't blocking up front and had miscues on special teams. We had a huge pass interference call against us, which, to me, put us really behind. A lack of execution got us in the second half. To New Lothrop's credit, that's a good football team and good football teams are going to make you do that."

Cameron Wirth rushed for 1,536 yards to lead the P-W offense. Jacob Pung led the defense with 74 solo tackles.

As for next year, "we're excited," Miller said. "We're already looking forward to it. We have a good part of our defense coming back. We had a good JV team this year. I'm excited to see how these guys work in the offseason to fit in for next year."

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# SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON CROSS COUNTRY

## Theis, Vanderlende Win Cross Country Titles

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Jaden Theis of Lansing Catholic and Erica VanderLende of Rockford were individual champions in the top two

divisional races of the state finals on Nov. 3 at Michigan International Speedway.

Theis won the Division 2 race (18:01.9).

"Time wasn't too good, place I'm happy with," Theis, a junior, said,

adding she was in front after the first turn and the finish was her best part.

But she has another year in which to focus on another title and having a better time.

DeWitt as a team, took second place with 159, way behind East Grand Rapids with 51.

DeWitt had three all-state runners with Ashley Shipp, who was 14th (18:54.7), Sofia Perez, who was 23rd (19:09.5) and Kaitlyn Hynes who was 24th (19:10.8).

"The course was a little rough, but we weren't focusing how we did individually," Shipp said. "We were so excited finding out we took

second. We've been in third place a few years. It was nice to make it on the podium this year.

"My season was good. I overcame a lot of things. It was a good end of the season."

"We worked really hard together," Perez said. "We're excited to have it show up at this meet."

"I thought it was a really good race," Hynes said. "I had Sophia to help push me to the finish."

Cecilia Stalzer of Mason was 27th (19:13.2) and Kiera Hansen of Freeland was 28th (19:14).

St. Johns was sixth with 260. Taryn Chapko was third overall (18:35.8).

"I'm pretty happy with it," Chapko said. "There's some rough spots. But overall, it went good. The last 1,000 yards, that's when I felt like I was stronger. Overall, I'm proud as a team and how we did as a group. Individually, I thought I did well."

Megan Langworthy, of Big Rapids, was 22nd (19:07.9), Cecilia Stalzer, of Mason, was 27th (19:13.2) and Kiera Hansen, of Freeland, was 28th (19:14).

In the Division 1 race, VanderLende finished in 17:08, which was 50 seconds faster than her nearest competitor. Her teammate, Emma Everhart-Decker was 22nd (18:33). Rockford was seventh as a team.

It's VanderLende's senior season.

"I wanted to get out in front," she said, "I thought there would be people with me. I'm pretty happy I've been able to improve every year."

VanderLende has committed to the University of Michigan.

"I felt pretty good about my race," Everhart-Decker said. "I was happy to end with a good note on my high school career. This was my best state performance."

Bay City Western was fifth as a team and was led by Ashyn



Nagel, who was sixth (18:06.60). Anastasia Tucker of Midland was 27th (18:42.40).

"I think it was pretty good," Tucker said. "I'm glad I got all-state, my second time. I thought the finish to my race was my best part."

## Division 1 & 2 Boys Cross Country Wrap Up

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Holt had a strong race with two of its runners in the Division 1 state final on Nov. 3 at Michigan International Speedway.

Alex Penski was seventh (15:48.9) and Adugna Moritz was 19th (15:58.4).

"I was shocked about the place," Penski said. "I came in ranked something like 16th. I knew to make the top 10, I'd have to come out hard. So I came out hard and hung on for dear life. Everyone wants to go out hard. The true key is going out hard and being able to stick with the pace the whole time."

"I thought my race was pretty good," Moritz said. "The course was a little bit muddy."

Moritz said he started strong.

"Toward the end, I passed a lot of people," he said.

Tyler Pritchett of Midland was 12th (15:54.5).

"It was good," Pritchett said. "I know going into it I was ranked 19th. It was good to jump seven spots. I know the course was slow so all the times weren't that great."

"My race was good inbetween. That's when I passed the most people."

Ethan Rockburn of Belding was 20th in the Division 2 boys race.

"There was a lot of fast people to stick with and pull me along," he said. "So that was pretty good. (The ground) was quite soft. It had been muddy."

Jaydon Moleski of Cedar Springs earned all-state honors by taking 28th (16:28.8)

"I felt I did pretty good, even though it was muddy," he said. "I did my best."

It was his second appearance in the state finals but his first all-state effort.

"It feels amazing," he said "It was more of a confidence thing. I had a good mindset coming into this."

Will Peters, of Lansing Catholic, was 24th (16:26.9).



Midland's Tyler Pritchett (887) finished 12th in the Division 1 state race. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr.)

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## Shepherd Senior Finishes Prep Career With Second Place

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Shepherd senior Amber Gall closed her fabulous cross country career with a second-place finish in the Division 3 state final at Michigan International Speedway, Nov. 3

Gall's hopes for first place were taken by Hart's Adelyn Ackley, who covered the course in 17:42.8.

"I think it went really well," Gall said. "I executed well. Adelyn raced so fast. It was my fourth time under 18 minutes. That was cool. We could have all run faster if it wasn't so muddy."

Her career "definitely had its highs and lows but all the things I could have done through the whole thing, it's been really good."

The top five finishers were seniors. The fastest underclassman was Ithaca's Lani Bloom, who was sixth (19:04.1).

Asked if she ever imagined when she started the season she would be sixth in the state, Bloom smiled and replied, "definitely not. When I ran a 18:40.9 at the DeWitt Invite, that's when it started to click in my head."

At the state meet, "I think I definitely could have run faster. If it

wasn't muddy, I think I could have gone to 18:30."

Also finishing all-state from Shepherd was Hailey Hegenauer in 27th (19:58.3).

Hart won the team race handily 43-143 over Calvin Christian. Pewamo-Westphalia was third at 152 and was led by junior Aubrey George, who was 19th (19:47.4).

"My freshman year, P-W was Division 4 and I was sixth overall. For Division 3, this was my best," George said. "With the conditions, I'm happy with my state finals race."

Clare's team was fourth, led by senior Lainey Veenkant who was ninth (19:16.9).

"Last year didn't go as plan, but this year I was happy with my finish," Veenkant said. "(At the state meet) I got out well and held it. I'm super happy with my career and all the friends I made because of it."

St. Louis had two all-state runners with Libby Munderloh eighth (19:21.5) and Mikenna Borie 22nd (19:53.0).

"It was hard, it was really good competition," Borie said. "I didn't like the course very much. It was my first time here. I had to keep pushing through anything. I almost fell a couple of times."



Ithaca Lana Bloom finished sixth and was the highest nonsenior in the Division 3 girls race. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr.)

Borie is a freshman and admitted being an all-stater was a pleasant surprise.

Munderloh is also a freshman.

"I have a lot of hopes of the future," she said. "I had a lot of confidence going into the season. Then I went into a slump. But I regained some of my confidence as the season went on."



## Allen Concludes Strong Career In Division 3 Finals, P-W Second

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Ransom Allen's cross country career at Ithaca came to an end in impressive fashion with a fifth-place finish in the Division 3 state finals on Nov. 3 at Michigan International Speedway.

His time of 16:14.2 on a wet and sloppy course put him at fifth in a crowded field.

Pewamo-Westphalia, led by Hayden Germain, was second with 100 team points behind Caro (61). Shepherd (195) took third place.

Allen was happy with his performance despite having to endure wet conditions.

"I went for it in the beginning and tried to hold on for the second half," he said.

Looking back at his career, Allen was happy.

"I thought it went pretty well," he said. "I was all-state my last two years."

Later in November, Allen placed 19th at the Mid East Cross Country Championships. Team Michigan also came away with the victory over Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. Ransom was team Michigan's No. 7 runner on a sloppy course with a time of 16:30. Winning time was only 15:58. P-W had three all-staters

who wound up in the top 30. Hayden Germain was seventh (16:21.3), Ashton Walker 14th (16:40.6) and Mitch Nurenberg 20th (16:45.9). "I thought it was pretty fast, pretty good," Germain said of his race. "It was a little muddy at the start and the ground was loose. Overall, I thought it was pretty fast, pretty good. It was muddy at first and the ground was loose. "The season has gone great. My team has put in a lot more miles than other schools have in past years. We came in this race more prepared than ever." Walker agreed with his teammate. "But it was a rough day for me," he said. "It was a rough course to have. It wasn't a bad day for the team. Caro is a good team. We're definitely happy with second place." Walker and Germain return next year. "We're only losing two seniors," Walker said. "We're hoping to come back stronger than this year." "Coming into the season, every kid had high expectations," P-W coach Scott Werner said. "But anyone familiar with cross country and observes the way our team runs knows we have a tendency to run in packs. I felt anyone running at the varsity level in our top seven has been running lifetime personal bests or close to it. It's not that anyone in particular stands out but they all stand out.

For other local runners, Aiden



Pewamo-Westphalia's Hayden Germain (542) heads to the finish line. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr.)

McLaughlin of Morley Stanwood was ninth (16:26.8), Dana Nestle of Shepherd 23rd (16:49.9) and Trey Plichta of Sanford Meridian (16:55.0).

"I thought my race was good," Plichta said. "The time wasn't very good. I'm pleased with all-state. I wanted to get all-state. Getting that was pretty good. I had to maintain my thing and not get passed by anybody."

Ithaca's Ransom Allen (492) stays in front of Montague's Cole Jensen (993). (Photo by Gary Williams Jr.)

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# Sacred Heart Makes It Four Straight Division 4 Cross Country Titles

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart's girls cross country team made it four Division 4 titles in a row by getting the job done on Nov. 3 at Michigan International Speedway.

But it was not quite as simple this time.

Sacred Heart had 69 points compared to 82 for Saugatuck, the closest the Irish has won

since their championship streak started in 2015. That season, Sacred Heart scored 52 and won it by 67 points. In 2016, the Irish scored 34 and won by 82. In 2017, Sacred Heart's score was 39 and the Irish won by 99 points.

It was much tighter this time but the Irish put enough together to get the win.

In individual scoring, the Irish had four all-staters with Desirree McDonnell sixth (19:44.7), Scout Nelson eighth (19:50.1), Lauren McDonald 10th (19:50.7), and Cammie McConnell 18th (20:13.3). The last three runners are seniors.

In the team scoring, Desirree McConnell was fifth, Nelson seventh, MacDonald ninth, Cammie McConnell 14th and Riley Hacker 34th (21:26.5).

"It was really good, but not the time I wanted," Desirree McConnell said, adding the finish was the best part of her race.

"It's so great for the seniors. This is their last year. They were the freshmen for our first state championship team. Now they're the last ones for the fourth."

Nelson said she didn't have her best race.

"But Desi and Lauren stepped up," she said. "We really worked as a team today to accomplish this. It was tougher this year. We were a little more nervous going in. We didn't know what the odds were of winning. We beat the odds."

It was the final cross country race. Nelson will be running track and playing basketball at Davenport University.

"I'll miss the people who have been brought into my life, especially the McConnells," Nelson said. "I've been running with them since the fourth grade."

McDonald was also 4-for-4 in racing for state titles.

"The course was super muddy and challenging for that matter," she said. "We all did great. Everyone got their goal today."

It was also the fourth title for Cammie McConnell.

"This season was not what I wanted, but I'm still happy," she said.

Lansing Catholic had two all-state runners with Madison

Volz who was second (19:02.9) and Lexi Kinna, who was 16th (20:07.1).

"It's basically the same (time) as I got last year," Volz said. "It was a really muddy course out there this year and I had some great competition to run against. The best part of my race was just entering the back of the beginning. I felt there wasn't a lot of time left."

Pottville junior Caleigh Winters was 12th (19:51.8)

"It was very exciting and there was a lot of adrenalin," Winters said. "It was hard to get around with the mud in the beginning. Once you got around, it was fast. Toward the middle I was 20th and worked my way to 12th."

Beal City's Rachal Weber was 17th (20:07.1).

"I was pretty nervous at the beginning," she said. "The two mile was OK. It was the hardest mile of my life, probably. I was telling myself to keep strong and keep going. I was trying to keep a positive attitude."



Mount Pleasant's Desirree McConnell (1789) led her Sacred Heart team to its fourth straight title. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr.)

Fowler's Morgan George was 20th (20:15).

"I'm excited, it's the first time in 15 years a Fowler girl has been all-state," George said. "I was just going to enjoy my last race."

Montabella's Helena Snyder was 28th (20:30.1).



Lansing Christian's Madison Volz (1772) was second at the Division 4 girls race. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr.)

# Sacred Heart Boys Second In Division 4

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart boys were hopeful of joining the girls squad as state cross country champs in the Division 4 state finals. But Saugatuck had other plans.

Saugatuck posted 62 points at Michigan International Speedway on Nov. 3, while Sacred Heart had 102 for second place. Breckenridge was fourth with 147.

T.J. Moore led the attack for Sacred Heart with a 17th-place finish (17:06.7).

"Sometimes you just don't have it," he said. "It was really muddy and it was rough. I pushed through and got all-state."

"We came in and ran as team."

Brock Lynch was Sacred Heart's No. 2 runner. The Irish freshman was 20th (17:07.2).

"We went out hard and we thought we'd drop some time," Lynch said. "It was hard to pick up the pace in the final stretch."

Lynch said Sacred Heart had been hoping for first place as a team.

Teammate Chase Nelson was 21st (17:07.3).

"We did well as a team," he said. "The people in the back stepped up, we ran as a team which wasn't fast enough but we were happy with second. It felt good to be up front."

Senior Alex Taylor of Beal City was the top local runner in fourth place (16:18.1) for a personal best.

"I fulfilled my expectations," he said.

Right behind Taylor in fifth place was sophomore Carson City-Crystal runner Coleman Clark (16:22.7).

"I was going for top five and that's what I got," he said. "For a wet, sloppy course, I'm happy with that. Overall, I'm happy with my season. I started with the right people."

Breckenridge was led by freshman Mason Sumner, who was sixth (16:23.0).

"With the mud and everything, I think it went great," Sumner said. "I'm pretty satisfied with my race. Being a freshman I'm, happy with it."

Also happy was Pottville's Zach Wright, who was 16th (17:06.7).

"It was a hard course this year, the end of the course was muddy," he said. "I feel like I had an off day because of the



Beal City's Alex Taylor (581) took fourth in the Division 4 boys state race.

weather conditions."

Breckenridge had two runners at 22nd and 23rd with Colttion Vine (17:07.5) and Trent Carter (17:08).

"It was real muddy and times weren't as good," Vine said. "It was all about placing. Our season was good. Next year will be even better."

"It was fun," Carter said. "The season was fun. It was my first year running. We didn't have any varsity guys running."



Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart was second in the boys meet for Division 4, led by T.J. Moore (703) in 17th and Brock Lynch (701) in 20th. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr.)

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### Division 4 Boys

4-Alex Taylor, Beal City (16:18.1); 5-Coleman Clark, CC-Crystal (16:22.7); 6-Mason Sumner, Breckenridge (16:23); 16-Zach Wright, Potterville (17:06.3); 17-TJ Moore, Sacred Heart (17:06.7); 20-Brock Lynch, Sacred Heart, (17:07.2); 21-Chase Nelson, Sacred Heart (17:07.3); 22-Coltton Vine, Breck., (17:07.5); 23-Trent Carter, Breck., (17:07.6).

### Division 4 Girls

2-Madison Vol, Lansing Christian (19:02.9); 6-Desiree McConnell Sacred Heart (19:44.7); 8-Scout Nelson, Sacred Heart (19:50.1); 10-Lauren MacDonald (19:50.7); 12-Caleigh Winters, Potterville (19:55.1); 16-Lexi Kinnas, Lansing Christian (20:07.1); 17-Rachel Weber, Beal City (20:09.1); 18-Cammie McConnell, Sacred Heart (20:13.3); 20-Morgan George, Fowler (20:15.3); 28-Helena Snyder, Montabella (20:30.1).

### Division 3 Boys

5-Ransom Allen, Ithaca (16:14.2); 7-Hayden Germain, P-W (16:21.3); 9-Aiden McLaughlin, Morley Stanwood (16:28.8); 14-Ashton Walker, P-W (16:40.6); 18-Mitchell Bjorne, Bath (16:44.4); 20-Mitch Nurenberg, P-W (16:48.6); 23-Dane Nestle, Shepherd (16:49.9); 29-Trey Plichta, Sanford Meridian (16:55).

### Division 3 Girls

2-Amber Gall, Shepherd (17:53.6); 6-Lani Bloom, Ithaca (19:04.1); 8-Libby Munderloh, St. Louis (19:16.9); 9-Lainey Veenkant, Clare (19:21.5); 19-Aubrey George, Pewamo-Westphalia (19:47.4); 22-Mikenna Borie, St. Louis (19:53); 27-Haley Hegenauer, Shepherd (19:58.3).

### Division 2 Boys

2-Ethan Rockburn, Belding (16:23.1); 24-Will Peters, Lansing Catholic (16:26.9); 28-Jaydon Moleski, Cedar Springs (16:28.8).

### Division 2 Girls

1-Jaden Theis, Lansing Catholic (18:01.90); 3-Taryn Chapko, St. Johns (18:35.8). 14-Ashley Shippis, DeWitt (18:54.7); 22-Meghan Langworthy, Big Rapids (19:07.9); 23-Sofia Perez, DeWitt (19:09.5); 24-Kaitlyn Hynes, DeWitt (19:10.8); 27-Cecilia Stalzer, Mason (19:13.2); 28-Kiera Hansen, Freeland (19:14.0).

### Division 1 Boys

7-Alex Penski, Holt (15:48.9); 12-Tyler Pritchett, Midland (15:54.3); 19-Adugna Moritz, Holt (19:58.4).

### Division 1 Girls

1-Ericka VanderLende, Rockford (17:08.4); 6-Ashlyn Nagel, Bay City Western (18:06.6); 22-Emma Everhart-Decker, Rockford (18:33); 27-Anastasia Tucker, Midland Dow (18:42.4).



Staff Photos

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## Bath Volleyball Completes Unique Championship Season

### John Raffel Sports Scene

It was an historic year for Bath's volleyball team.

The regional finals. But to get this far was an historic achievement for the Bees.

Bath had a 3-2 win over Hanover-Horton before falling 3-0 to Manchester in the regional finals.

Coach Kristen McIntyre couldn't have been happier with the performance of her team.

"It is our first district win in 28 years," she said. "The last district win was 1990 also at Leslie High School.

When I discovered we were going back to Leslie I told my team we were winning districts this year. Little did I know the road we would travel. We were down 0-2 in our first match against Leslie and won the next 3 sets to win the match. Moving on and making it to the Regional final match has never been accomplished by a volleyball team at Bath High School. It has been a year filled with historical accomplishments."

Bath's final record was 35-17-5.

Coming into the season, "I knew I had a group of girls that were hardworking," McIntyre said. "I knew they were dedicated. But I did not think we would make it to regional finals. It came from a lot of hard

work. We focused on defense, a key for us was working on our serve receive and passing to targets so we can have a good offensive attack. We also emphasized our defense. It's very important in keeping the ball in play and when we are out of systems, to try to get back into systems."

Bath's setter was Lindsey Matsumoto.

"She was a very key player for us this year," McIntyre said. "We use a lot of players on the team. Some of the girls play back row defense and some play front row hitter. It was a definite team effort."

The libero was Madison Ingram



Bath's volleyball team went to the regional finals for the first time in school history. (Courtesy photo)

who played a key role in digging and serving.

Other key players included, as hitters, Sydney Knitter with 2.3 kills per set and Tait Hosford, who averaged 2.1

kills per set.

"When we got to the tournament, I had some girls able to do some things they hadn't done and that made a big difference for us," McIntyre said.

## Sacred Heart Girls Reach Quarterfinal Round

### John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a rebuilding year of sorts, but one of impressive accomplishments for Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart Academy and coach Krista Davis.

The team was 6-1 in the Mid-State Activities Conference and 26-19-8 overall.

"This year began as a rebuilding year," Davis said. "We lost four starters to graduation. Even though our program had been to the state quarterfinals five years running, this team knew they were young and were skeptical about post season. They didn't feel any pressure, except maybe to keep the conference title. I was only certain of three starting positions before the season started. Each week was a work in progress, trying to move the program forward.

"Finally the last week of regular season play felt like two steps forward without a step back. They took that momentum into post season and played their best five games, which led

to a surprising district and regional title, thus progressing the program to six years in a row, reaching the state quarterfinal round."

It was an intriguing season, of sorts.

"The team exceeded expectations this year," Davis said. "We graduated four starters who had a big impact on the program during their tenure. The 2018 season had one senior on the roster and only four of the nine total roster players had limited varsity experience. On paper, we were a very young team; the regular season shaped up reflecting our youth, with a record of 21-18-8. We took second place in our conference, of which we had won for at least the four previous seasons I had coached, possibly the streak goes longer. We were not expected to win districts.

"However, during post-season play the team rose up to its potential and showed the depth and grit of seasoned veterans. The team won districts and regionals, not dropping a single set."

The highlight of the season, Davis said, "was no doubt the incredible play

of the five post-season games, where the team continually surprised everyone, including me. They held strong together, executing play systems consistently as they haven't been able to do during regular season play. The year was about gaining experience, learning new systems, maximizing their potential, and continuing to build team culture."

The top athlete was senior middle hitter Michele Hubbard.

At 6-2, "Hubbard dominated the net with her offensive power and defensive blocks," Davis said. "She finished her senior year with 451 kills and a .348 hitting efficiency. She had 90 total blocks and also led the team in service aces with 77.

"Next would be sophomore setter Allison Hauck. Allison ran the team's offense and tallied 831 assists. She contributed 218 digs and 24 service aces on the year. Allison shared setting duties with a senior in 2017. This year she improved every day, working the hardest on the team, and successfully



Sacred Heart's volleyball team won district and regional titles this season. (Courtesy photo)

commanded the sole setting role. I anticipate she will continue to run a 5-1 offense during her next two years."

Davis said a surprise newcomer on the roster was 5-11 freshman Madison Munley. "Maddie filled the middle hitter spot opposite of senior middle hitter Michele Hubbard," Davis said. "Maddie struggled in the beginning of the season adapting to the high pressure role and a fast paced game.

She worked hard and came along, peaking at the end of the season. She was second on the team in kills with 174. She accumulated 41 blocks.

"Junior libero Lauren Rookard took on more of a leadership role for the team. She provided consistent defense and passes which were essential to run the offense. She chipped in 521 digs as well as 58 service aces."

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# Rockford Volleyball Team Runner-Up At State Final

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was a memorable season for Rockford coach Kelly Delacher and his Rams volleyball team in the semifinals at Battle Creek on Nov. 16.

The Rams defeated Northville by scores of 25-13, 19-25, 25-23, 25-21.

The next day, in the Division I title match, Lake Orion prevailed over the Rams 25-18, 25-23, 23-25, 25-16.

Delacher has been coach 14 years at Rockford, and 24 seasons overall. The Rams finished 11-1 in the OK Red Conference and shared the conference title with Hudsonville.

"It is our third straight OK Red Title and fifth in the last nine years," Delacher said.

"We have one of the toughest conferences in the state and it was a battle every night of league play. I was happy with

the how our team prepared every night during the conference season."

Delacher was even more impressed with his team in the MHSAA playoffs.

"We had an awesome run in the state tournament," Delacher said. "We had a tough road where seven out of eight teams (were ranked). We were down 1-2 to top No. 10 Lowell and came back to win in five during our district finals. Then the next round, we battled back in the biggest comeback I have ever witnessed. We were led by our seniors, Lindsay Taylor and Emmy Webb, who combined for over 55 kills. Then had a great battle in our final four match against Northville where we got some huge contributions from our whole team.

"Then we lost a tight match with No. 2 Lake Orion in the state finals. It was a great run and my players really

came together as a team during the last three weeks of the season. We had a great comeback win in five sets against Grandville to secure a share of the conference title. Down 11-14 in the fifth set, we battled back to win 24-22."

Delacher said it was tough to compare last season's team to this one.

"Last year, we were ranked No. 1 for much of the season before losing 17-19 to Grand Rapids Christian in the fifth set," he said. "We were two different teams with different players that stepped up in each season."

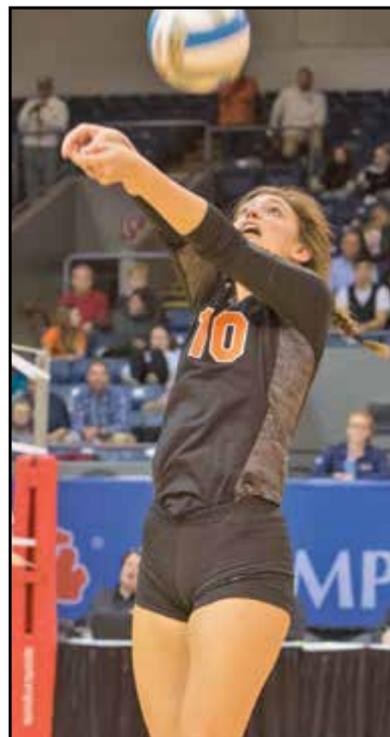
Lindsay Taylor was the leader of the team.

"She is an elite player who was awarded with an Under Armour All-American Award as well as a National Player of the week award during the playoffs," Delacher said. "She is an explosive player with great understanding of the game. And she has a will to win and put the team on her back in many situations throughout the season.

"Emmy Webb is our other go-to offensive player who played her best during the state playoffs hitting over .500 during that span. She is fast, explosive jumper who rarely gets blocked. She is a competitive player that pushes the players around her to be better. Emilee Karelse was our setter who racked up impressive numbers guiding this team. She is fluid setter that makes our offense run smoothly. She has a great knack for setting the person that is hot and did a great job of putting our hitters in great situations throughout the year."

It was an enjoyable season for Delacher.

"This was a fun team to be around," he said. "They all bought in to the same goal this season and everybody accepted their roles and performed them to the best of their ability. They supported each other and played for each other. Our program was led by four awesome seniors that were on the floor the whole season. They were passionate about the game and led by example."



Megan Witte passes the ball for Rockford against Northville in the state semifinals. (Photo by Eric Sawatzki)

# Beal City Volleyball Posts Extraordinary Season

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was Jade Kennedy's third season as Beal City volleyball coach and a highly successful one.

The Aggies were 12-0 in the Highland Conference and 36-8-3 overall. They also won Division 3 district and regional titles before falling in the state semifinals.

"They have exceeded my expectations," Kennedy said. "I knew going into this year we would have a strong team. We set a lot of high goals and we accomplished

almost all of them. Last year, we had a record of 21-20-5 and this year we've improved that to 36-8-3.

Jordyn and Lyndsey Fillenworth, Sage Schumacher and Bailey Torpey were among the top players.

Jordyn Fillenworth, a senior libero, was a three-year starter who ended with 720 digs and 44 aces.

Lyndsey Fillenworth is a junior third-year outside hitter who had 270 kills, 100 aces, and 334 digs.

Schumacher is a sophomore middle hitter who had 382 kills,

132 blocks and 42 aces.

Torpey is a sophomore setter with 859 assists, 374 digs, 110 kills and 78 aces.

"The most enjoyable aspect of coaching this team is there is never a day where I question their work ethic," Kennedy 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.

"Next year looks bright, as we have all but four girls returning. We do lose a few key defensive players and the leadership from this senior class, but I am confident that there will be a few girls that will really step it up for the team.



Beal City players and coaches discuss strategy during postseason action. (Photo by Randy Miniard)

We were two games away from playing in the state final, and the underclassmen got the taste of how

it feels to be so close to getting to Battle Creek. They are ready to put in the work to get another shot of going there."

# Okemos Boys Water Polo Team Takes State Title

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Okemos' boys water polo team claimed the 2018 Michigan Water Polo Association state championship in early November and did it in a special way.

The Chiefs survived in a quadruple overtime thriller over Hudsonville 11-10 on Nov. 10 at East Kentwood.

"This is the first boys water polo state championship in school history," Okemos athletic director Ira Childress said. "Under the leadership of head coach Andrew Olesnavich, the team had an outstanding season, also winning a district championship and regional championship in route to the state title."

For the boys team, Olesnavich has been coach two years.

It was a sweet bounce back for the Chiefs who lost in the 2018 title

game to Rockford in overtime.

Okemos had a final record of 36-10.

The keys in the title contest was "not looking to win the game but winning each individual possession, and trying to take a microscopic approach to the game, and that way you're trying not to win it in the first quarter," Olesnavich said. "In the overtime, everyone was exhausted. But we just kept grinding it out each individual possession, trying to take the ball away and create a good offensive look. Our boys kept plugging along and eventually came out with a win."

Okemos entered the season figuring it could contend, but realized Rockford and Hudsonville were also strong contenders.

"We knew it would be something really difficult," Olesnavich said. "When mistakes happened, they just dusted each other off."



Okemos water polo team celebrates the state title. (Courtesy photo)

Jeffrey Brill was the center and was the MVP for the state for the season and also for the state tournament.

"He led by example everyday in practice and in games," Olesnavich said. "He was an absolute workhorse. That young man would fight through double and triple teams, share the ball offensively. He was able to find his teammates

for the open look. He scored the game-tying goal in overtime when we were down by one, and sent it into sudden death."

Jarran Fountain was a center-defender and was also second team all-state.

"He was a leader every day in practice," Olesnavich said.

Brock Monette was another captain along with Brill and

Fountain.

Karim Seif scored the game winning goal with a lob over the goalie's fingertips.

"Karim was the guy who could get it done both sides of the pool," Olesnavich said. "He saw the pool very well and could move the ball where he needed to. He's 5-foot-4, and was always the smallest guy in the pool."

# Lakewood Goes To Semifinal Under New Volleyball Coach

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Lakewood frequently goes deep into the state volleyball playoffs, and this year was no exception, even under a new coach.

Cameron Rowland and his team advance to the state semifinals in Division 2 before losing to eventual Grand Rapids Christian 25-14, 25-20, 25-14.

They were playing at a level higher than we were," Rowland said.

The regional semifinal win over Marshall was dramatic. The first and third sets were 25-17, 25-14 in Lakewood's favor. The third set was a dramatic 36-34 Lakewood win.

It was Cameron's mother Kellie Rowland, who led the team to a state title in 2012 and second-place finishes in 2014, 2015 and 2017. Cameron had assisted her mom in 2017.

"I grew up in the program and was raised in

the program," Rowland said.

When Kellie decided 2017 would be her last season, Cameron knew he would be around and wanted to do it. His team would return to the semifinals

"I knew we would have a shot," Rowland said. "I knew we would have the talent to do so but didn't know how good we would get in the course of the year. We got a lot better than I was expecting and really played our best volleyball at the end.

"We served extremely tough and knew we were going to have to do that. Defensively, we were very good. We have two sisters who have committed to Michigan State whom our offense ran through."

She was referring to sophomore Aubrey O'Gorman who had eight kills in the semifinals and freshman Maradith O'Gorman, who had 10 kills.

Lakewood's final record was 46-9-2.



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## PRESENTS AREA ATHLETES TO WATCH



### Owosso's Katie Clevenger Uses Gymnastics Background To Earn All-State Diving Honors

**Butch Harmon Sports Scene**

Gymnastics loss turned has proven to be the Owosso swim teams gain.

In her second season with the Owosso swim team, junior diver Katie Clevenger not only qualified for the state finals for a second consecutive year, but she earned all-state honors. Clevenger placed seventh overall at the Division 3 state finals with a score of 353.65.

A former gymnast, Clevenger has quickly put the skills she used in the gym to work on the diving board.

"I was a gymnast for 10 years," Clevenger said. "I had to stop doing that, so I wanted to do something that correlated to gymnastics. I decided to do diving and it's been working out pretty well."

Owosso diver Katie Clevenger placed seventh at the Division 3 state swimming and diving finals.

With her all-around athletic skills developed in gymnastics, Clevenger has made a smooth transition to the pool. Clevenger is an all-around athlete who also runs track in the spring. A versatile athlete on the track team, Clevenger placed fourth in the 300 hurdles at the regional meet.

While accomplished as a track athlete, diving is Clevenger's focus.

"I love it," Clevenger said. "This is definitely my main priority. It's super fun and I'm glad I can correlate my gymnastics background with the sport."

Earning all-state honors this year, Clevenger is setting her sights on an even loftier finish next season.

"I'm going to continue working through the winter and the spring," Clevenger said. "I'm hoping I will improve even more next year."



### Corunna Volleyball Team Falls In State Semifinals

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Corunna's volleyball team made an impressive run in the Division 2 state tournament.

But the season for the Cavaliers ended at 50-7-5 with a 25-9, 25-14, 25-17 semifinal loss to Pontiac Notre Dame in the state semifinal match. Notre Dame was 64-5 but lost to Grand

Alexa Mort (5) sets the ball for Corunna during postseason action. (Photo by Randy Miniard)

Rapids Christian in the finals.

Standouts for the Cavaliers included Madison Birchmeier, who had 23 defensive digs in the match while Hannah Hollister had 27 digs and three kills.

Alexa Mort had 22 assists and nine digs, Ellie Toney had six kills.

Corunna had an impressive tournament.

In the district first round, it was 25-21, 25-23,

15-25, 25-19 over Mount Morris, and 25-21, 25-20, 25-19 over Flint Powers in the district semifinals and 25-23, 25-23, 25-15 over Clio in the district title match.

Corunna defeated Freeland 25-14, 25-22, 25-21 in the regional semifinal and edged Birch Run 18-25, 25-11, 25-20, 28-26 in the regional final. The Cavs beat the regional champs from the north, Kingsley in the quarterfinals 25-22, 25-14, 25-19.

# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SCENE STEALERS!



**Bailee Crandall, Mason, volleyball**

Mason senior volleyball player Bailee Crandall will be continuing her academic and athletic career at Trevecca University. A setter for the Mason volleyball team, Crandall was a team captain for the Bulldogs and was a three-time, all-conference honoree. This season Crandall helped Mason win the CAAC Red Division with a perfect 10-0 league record and helped Mason win a district volleyball championship.



**Katelyn Feldpausch, Corunna, cross country**

Corunna senior Katelyn Feldpausch will continue her academic and athletic career at Michigan Tech University. Feldpausch finished sixth at the Division 2 regional and placed 59th at the Division 2 state final. During the regular season Feldpausch set a personal record of 19:19 as she placed third at the Shiawassee County Championships.



**Madison Jordan, Lowell, softball**

Lowell senior softball player Madison Jordan signed her letter of intent to continue her academic and softball career at Central Michigan University. A middle infielder and outfielder for the Red Arrows, Jordan set a state record with four triples in a game. Jordan is also second on the MHSAA list for total RBI in a game with 11.



**Cayden Petrak, St. Johns, diving**

St. Johns senior diver Cayden Petrak recently signed his letter of intent with Lake Superior State University. Petrak, who was named High School Sports Scene's Swimmer of the Year last season, won a second straight Division 3 state diving championship last year and will be looking for the three-peat this year.



**Drew Stout, Carson City-Crystal, football**

A four-year varsity player, Stout rushed for 1,370 yards this season. Stout scored 18 touchdowns and helped lead Carson City-Crystal to an 8-2 overall record and a state playoff berth. For his career, Stout rushed for over 4,500 yards to set a new school career rushing record.



**Allie Pumford, Owosso, swimming**

Owosso junior Allie Pumford finished the swim season in a big way. Pumford set a school record in the 100 freestyle with a time of 54.70 as she won the league title at the Flint Metro League Championships. Pumford turned in a time of 54.33 in the 100 free at the Division 3 state championships. Pumford placed 15th overall in the 200 free at the state finals with a time of 1:59.22.



**James Whitaker, St. Johns, wrestling**

St. Johns senior wrestler James Whitaker recently signed his letter of intent with the University of Virginia. A state champion at 140 pounds in Division 2 last season, Whitaker finished the season with a 39-1 record. Whitaker had an eventful offseason as he was runner-up in his weight class at the Super 32 tournament, one of the premier folk style tournaments in the country.

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# Okemos Girls Basketball Standout Chooses Northwestern

John Raffel Sports Scene

Her senior high school basketball season is still on the schedule for Okemos standout Laya Hartman.

But she knows what her destination will be after she graduates.

In mid-November Hartman

signed her national Letter of Intent with Northwestern University.

"I was attracted to the academic side of it," Hartman said. "After talking with coaches and the team and everybody, I realized it was a great place and I wanted to be part of it. They're a growing team."

Hartman made her decision in May.

"I really liked Oregon State," Hartman said.

She's wanted to play college basketball for a long time. She said she realized she could play at this level when she got an offer in eighth grade. Teams like Michigan, Michigan State and Villanova were showing some interest.

When she joins Northwestern, "my strengths are my diversity and

my speed," Hartman said. "My mid-range shots, I'll be willing to play wherever the team needs me the most."

Her focus now is to help Okemos have a banner basketball season.

"We're just getting ready and will have a (tough) conference season," Hartman said. "We'll have to be ready every game."



Okemos' Laya Hartman is going to Northwestern to play basketball. (Courtesy photo)

# Ingram To Play Basketball At Lourdes

John Raffel Sports Scene

It's off to another state for Mount Pleasant's Logan Ingram, who has signed a national letter of intent to play women's basketball with Lourdes University, an NAIA school in Sylvania, Ohio.

"I went on a few other visits and when I went there, they made me feel the most at home," Ingram said. "After I visited the gym and saw the classes, I could see myself going there and having a successful career there. I thought it would be the best fit for me. I didn't seriously consider anyone

besides them, after I went there, I didn't consider anyone else.

"They have a new coach this year. With the new coach, I hope the program will only go up."

Ingram expects to be a shooting guard at Lourdes.

"My greatest strength, I'd say, would be my shooting," she said. "I've been working on my court vision and I hope to be a well rounded offensive and defensive player."

Ingram said she started realizing she could be a college player during the summer.

Ingram is now focusing on her high school season.

"We're real young this year," she said. "We'll have to work hard and get everyone on the same page. It will be different but I think it will be a successful year. Last year, it was the role of scoring. This year, I want to not just be a scorer but help other players score and be a defensive player as well."



Mount Pleasant's Laura Ingram signed her national letter of intent with Lourdes University, an NAIA school in Sylvania, Ohio.

# Big Rapids Golfer Signs With Michigan State

John Raffel Sports Scene

He knows where he's going to play college golf, and now Pierce Morrissey can focus on leading his Big Rapids team to a state title.

Morrissey has signed a national letter of intent to play golf at Michigan State University. Morrissey was the Division 3 state individual champion last spring.

The Big Rapids junior golfer fired a 70 on day one and a 77 on day two to earn the individual golf state championship.

Morrissey finished sixth overall in last season's state tournament.

He decided on Michigan State more than a year ago.

"I liked the atmosphere along the campus and the coaching staff," Morrissey said. "I initially

made contact with them."

Morrissey said he also considered schools like DePaul, Oakland, Michigan, Iowa and Ohio State, plus others.

"I was looking to make a commitment and am fortunate to have made it early," Morrissey said. "Right now, I'll be in the weight room quite a bit and do a lot of cardio I'll hit a lot of golf balls in the free time."

He played as much golf as he could during the fall as the weather would allow.

"I want to help the team win the state championship," he said. "That's my No. 1 goal. Being Mr. Golf is also up there."

"From tee to green is where I'm looking to make more progress. I get up and down majority of the time."



Staff Photos

# Freeland Soccer Player Signs With Saginaw Valley

John Raffel Sports Scene

Autumn Kloha of Freeland High School on Nov. 14 signed with Saginaw Valley State University

to play soccer.

She has been a starting varsity soccer player all three years. In the ninth grade, the team was a final four finisher and she received honorable

mention all-state with 17 goals and 8 assists. In the 10th grade, her squad made it to the state championship game and she was awarded with second team All-State. She had 22 goals and 8 assists. In the 11th grade, the team made it to the state championship game and she was awarded with First Team All-State and had 26 goals and 13 assists.

Along with playing soccer she has been a four-year varsity

basketball player making it to the final four her 10th grade year. She was awarded with second team all-conference.

"Autumn chose Saginaw Valley because the coaches were very good and they have a lot of the same outlook on the game that she does," a school spokesperson said. "She feels that she will be a good fit with their program and she felt at home on the campus. SVSU has done very well in their seasons

and made it to the NCAA tournament this year.

"Autumn has played soccer since the age of four, starting travel club soccer at 7 years old. She is the oldest of 6 and stands at only 5-5. Along with Autumn's athletic honors she has also accomplished a few other achievements. She is a member of Freeland Scholars, National Honor Society and was this year's Homecoming Queen."



Courtesy Photo

# Ithaca Thrower Going To Michigan State

John Raffel Sports Scene

Ithaca's Baylee Chaffin will be taking his weight throwing talents to Michigan State.

The Ithaca senior signed his letter to become a Spartan on Tuesday.

"What made me decide to go to MSU was the wonderful campus, the academic and athletic support the school provides, and the atmosphere the team and coach showed while I was on my visit," Chaffin said. "It

reminded me a lot like my own track team and throws group."

Chaffin had a personal record of 7 feet 5 inches in the shot put at the Division 3 region last spring and was fifth at the state final. In the discus, he had a personal record of 159-5 at the Shepherd Blue Jay Invitational and placed fifth at the state meet.

"To make it to the next level I'll have to train in the off season, get stronger, and drill," Chaffin said. "I'll have to get used to throwing heavier objects because the

weight goes up in the shot put (from 12 to 16 pounds) and discus (1.6kg to 2kg) from the high school level to the collegiate level and also learn how to throw the hammer, weight, and javelin to see if I can excel in those three events as well."

He's anxious for the spring season.

"My goals for my senior season are to throw 60 feet plus in the shot and 175 feet plus in the disc, and also earn all state for both events hoping to place first in Division 3," Chaffin said.



Baylee Chaffin signed his letter to be on the track team at Michigan State. (Courtesy photo)

# Clare Volleyball Player Signs With Olivet

John Raffel Sports Scene

Clare volleyball coach Shannon Zinser has announced senior Kennedy Blackburn signed her commitment to Olivet College where she will play volleyball in the fall of 2019.

"I'm thankful for everyone's support and everyone who has helped me to get to this point," Kennedy said in a statement release by Zinser.

"Kennedy has been playing volleyball since she was 9 years old and in fourth grade," Zinser said. "Kennedy's love for volleyball

began when she would spend countless hours in the gym, where her mom was a coach for Clare High School. She would attend practices, games, tournaments and summer camps with a volleyball in her hands whenever she had the chance. With determination, hard work and dedication, she is excited to continue her journey playing for Coach Megan Merchant and the Olivet Comets.

"Kennedy is a utility player but being a setter is where her heart is. Over the years she has played for various community programs, Clare Public Schools, Championship Volleyball Club and Michigan Elite Volleyball

Academy."

"Kennedy is one of the hardest working athletes I've had the privilege of working with," Monica Skrabut, previous travel coach with Michigan Elite Volleyball Academy, said in a statement. "Her dedication and discipline far exceeded that of her peers, and her maturity as both a volleyball player and a young woman will continue to make her a standout, even at the collegiate level. I am so proud to say that I've had the opportunity to coach and lead her for even a year in her journey, and I cannot wait to see where her next adventure at Olivet will take her."

Zinser noted Blackburn's studies at Olivet will include social work and business, and she plans to continue giving back to the community through various service projects.



Kennedy Blackburn signs her letter with Olivet. (Courtesy photo)

Zinser added Blackburn is involved in various service organizations including; TGOF/ That Girl on Fire, Gleaner Life/ North Central Arbor, DIG PINK SIDE OUT Foundation, Business

Professional of America, Feed My Starving Children, Mental Health Awareness "Be the Change" and Go Global Mission Trip 2018 to Puerto Rico.

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