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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

The 2018-2019 high school sports scene came to an end last month and what a month it was as local teams challenged for Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) state titles.

On the diamond, the Millington softball team made school history as it won the first team state championship in school history. After falling short in a heartbreaker in last year's state title game, the Cardinals left nothing to chance this season.

Both the Rockford and Saginaw Nouvel baseball teams ended the season playing for a state title. In softball, Bay City Western, Eaton Rapids and Coleman all reached the state semifinals while the Pewamo-Westphalia baseball team also reached the state semifinals.

Area track athletes turned in some amazing efforts at the state track finals. Along with numerous individual state champions and all-state honorees, a trio of local teams captured team titles. The Ithaca boys won the Division 3 team title as did the Pewamo-Westphalia girls in Division 3 and the Fowler girls in Division 4.

On the soccer field, hats off to a game Essenville-Garber team that reached the Division 3 state championship match.

On the golf course, Rockford finished third in Division 1 and DeWitt took third in Division 2.

In girls lacrosse, the Rockford dynasty keeps rolling. The Rockford girls won a seventh straight state championship this season.

With school out and the games finished, I wish everyone a happy, safe and enjoyable summer. Get out and enjoy our beautiful state, before you know it school will be in session once again.

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Ithaca Boys Squeak By For State Championship

John Raffel Sports Scene

It obviously couldn't have gotten any closer.

But close or not, Ithaca's boys track team are state champions for the first time in school history.

Coach Jason Marcy's team had won its first regional title in 72 years in May. But on June 1 at Jenison, the Yellow Jackets used the talents of three athletes to score 45 points and edge second-place team Pewamo-Westphalia and Saugatuck with 44 apiece and fourth-place Harbor Springs with 43.

It was incredibly tight. "When it comes to track and field, you never know what's going

to happen," Marcy said. "Some kids have good days and some kids have bad days. We were hoping to come out on top. We had scheduled everything so we would try to win it. But after the 4x800, when our leadoff runner was tripped up, it wasn't looking so good."

Ithaca finished 15th and didn't score in the 4x8 relay."

The points came from basically where Marcy was expecting them to come.

"I knew my two throwers were going to do some damage in both the discus and shot," Marcy said. "I knew Ransom would do well in the 1,600 and 3,200. The other points like in the hurdles, we were expecting there would be bonus points if we got them."

Alex VanDeWeghe picked up 10 points in the shot put with a first-place throw of 59 feet, 7 inches. Baylee Chaffin was fourth at 53-9 3/4 for another five points in that event. Chaffin threw the discus 161-1 for second place and eight points, while VanDeWeghe tossed it 154-3 for fifth place and another four points. Ithaca bagged 27 points just with the shot put and discus.

Allen produced 10 points in the 3,200-meter run with first place on 9:19.7 for 37 points and delivered the final eight points with his second place in the 1,600-meter run in 4:15.63.

"It's huge, the first time in school history for something like this," Marcy said. "It's neat seeing the kids get congratulated by the community and their schoolmates. It was three guys in four events. But we had a lot of team leadership and involvement."

All three scorers are seniors. "I have 13 seniors graduating,"



Ithaca's boys championship track team.

Marcy said. "I'm hoping it's not a rebuilding year and we just reload. I'm hoping with this championship we'll see more people out next year. Chaffin also played basketball while VanDeWeghe was strictly track. Allen was in cross country and track.

"Ransom doubled in soccer and basketball when he was younger," Marcy said.

VanDeWeghe is going to U of M, no sport. Chaffin is going to MSU, track and field to throw.

Allen is going to Wayne State for cross country.

Ithaca Throwers Close Unique Chapter Of Breaking Records

John Raffel Sports Scene

Kevin Chaffin was able to watch a unique friendly rivalry on the Ithaca track and field throws team



this season between his son Baylee and Alex VanDeWeghe.

They were two of the three scorers, along with Ransom Allen, to lead Ithaca to a boys state track and field title.

Alex was first in the shot put (59-7) and Baylee fourth (54-2). In the discus, Chaffin was second (161-1) and VanDeWeghe fifth (154-3).

"Alex VanDeWeghe and Baylee Chaffin first picked up a shot in junior high," Kevin Chaffin said. "Those first two years forged a competitiveness that set the stage for their, back-and-forth-we-go, high school careers. Winning meets and collecting medals is fun in track and field. But if you ask many athletes what they want most is to break records. Setting

Alex VanDeWeghe

a new benchmark of excellence is something Alex and Baylee did a few times during their years at Ithaca High School. The school shot put and discus records had stood since 1988 and both were in their sights.

"Alex was first to break the school records their sophomore year in both shot put and discus. Their junior year it was Baylee's turn setting new marks for each. Now the stage was set going into their senior year. It was anybody's guess. Who would end up holding the school records in a meet early in the year? Baylee broke his own record in the discus. About two minutes later Alex broke that mark. Then about five minutes later, Baylee broke the mark Alex just set. You will never guess what happened two minutes after that. Alex broke the record yet again. So early into their senior year each held a school record. Would this be the case after all was said and done?"

As Kevin Chaffin would write in his memories of the season, the battle continued:

"Halfway through the season, Baylee's shot put record fell to Alex. He would further this record at the state meet and after all the back and forth, Alex held both records. That is until both received invites to compete at The Meet of Champions. This meet pits three Michigan, three Ohio and three Indiana seniors against each other in all events. Alex competed in the shot put and Baylee the discus which gave him one more chance at a school record. Baylee did end up breaking the discus record with a throw of 174-8. Alex would keep the shot put record set at 59-7 during the state meet."

Ithaca coach Jason Marcy knew coming into the season Chaffin and VanDeWeghe were capable of special things.

"Alex is one of the hardest working athletes I have ever seen," Marcy said. "He trains pretty much



Baylee Chaffin

year around."

As for Chaffin, "Baylee has been a stable source for points over the last four years," Marcy said. "He works hard and is never satisfied with being okay at the throws."

P-W Track Teams Narrowly Missed A Double State Championship

John Raffel Sports Scene

It's not unusual for a Pewamo-Westphalia track team to contend for a state championship.

This season, the Pirates came to within a point of having two state champs. It's unique, but again, not unusual.

The girls took first place in the state meet at Jenison on June 1. The boys in a wild scramble for the top spot, had 44 points to tie Saugatuck for second behind Ithaca which had 45.

"Back in 2010, we pulled a similar feat, where we had the girls win and the boys take runner-up," P-W coach Scott Werner said. "It's the exact same outcome."

Werner said he knew his team would be in "the mix" on both sides.

"We felt the teams that were involved would be the teams that were there," Werner said. "We kind of had a different approach on the girls side. We came a lot of events where we were trying to score. At the end of the day, we scored in nine events, in over half the events. At a state championship, that's relatively

unique. It was a true team effort, in that sense. We thought that would be the way to go about it since 2012 and also were runners-up in 2014.

The girls won their third state title in Division 3 and fourth overall.

P-W had 45 points compared to 37.5 for St. Charles.

The boys came very close to their first state title in Division 3. They won the 2008 Division 4 title and took the next two second-place efforts. They took third in the 4x400 relay and second in the 4x800.

"For the boys, we didn't score in as many events," Werner said. "We have a lot of top level talent in terms of like our throwers, Nathan Spitzley and Cameron Wirth, one of the top long sprinters in the state. We have excellent middle distances with the boys and were able to piece together 44 points. It was just one shy. At the end of the day, we thought Ithaca, Saugatuck and P-W would be in a tight meet."

Werner indicated his teams got the points they generally expected to get.

"Our girls 4x800, was seeded sixth. They started out the meet

the first event of the day and took second," Werner said. "That was a big step and I thought it set the tone for the girls team going forward. On the boys side, one of the things that stood out to me was the high jumper. We have a sophomore high jumper Ben Arens, who had a lifetime personal best of 6-feet, 5 inches and ended up taking sixth place. The effort was fantastic. He's been kind of banged up, but he put together quite an effort to jump 6-5. We were pleased with that."

Looking ahead, Werner notes he'll be graduating a handful of girls track athletes.

Amelia Thelen and Lilly Schafer were involved in relays.

"But on the girls side we return a significant amount back," Werner said. "Our entire 4x800 team and most of the relays we return around three. Sophie Thelen had quite a day in the sprints third in 100, fourth in 200 and fifth in the 400 and is only a sophomore. Annabelle Schafer (fifth in the 100 meter hurdles) is quite the scorer and is only a junior.

"On the boys side, we have some graduation as well. We return Arens and Nathan Spitzley who was second in the shot put (53-6) and



P-W's girls track team (top) and boys track team (bottom).

won the discus (157-5). We have a lot to look forward to. We're excited how this year came together and we have a lot to look forward to."

Amelia Thelen was in the fifth place 4x400 meter relay and on the second place 4x200 meter relay and the fifth place 4x100 team.

"Based on seedings, it didn't look like it was going to be much of a show," she said. "We kept working

after regionals. We knew we could be better than what we were seeded. We knew we were strong enough to win. We came in to do we thought we could do."

There was a rain delay prior to the 4x400 relay but Thelen knew by then the Pirates had the state title secured.

"We believed were going to win," she said.

Spitzley Leads Way For P-W

John Raffel Sports Scene

Nathan Spitzley couldn't have asked for a better day as a thrower for Pewamo-Westphalia's track and field team.

Of course, in retrospect, the Pirates would have loved another point as a team since they lost the state title to Ithaca 45-44 at Jenison on June 1 in Division 3.

Spitzley had an extremely



Nathan Spitzley had a big day at the state meet.

impressive day for the Pirates. He threw the shot put 53-6 for second place and tossed the discus 157-5 for first place.

A junior, Spitzley said he exceeded his expectations.

"I tried to remain as calm as possible," he said. "That's what a teammate of mine, who throws in college, said. He said take your first one easy and stay calm. That ended up being the winning throw."

Spitzley said he feels he's built better for the discus compared to the shot put.

"I would say the discus is stronger," he said. "I feel having some length is the key. And I have some length."

Mental strength is among the keys to being a good shot putter, Spitzley added.

"Being able to hit position helps too," he said.

Spitzley focused on the throws for P-W. His goals for his senior season are simple.

"I hope to win both events at state and throw further," he said. "I'm starting football soon so I'll have to put throwing on the backburner. But I'll still find a way to throw like two or three times a week, maybe."

It was obviously disappointing not to win the meet but still a fine season for the team.

"We had a strong sprinter in Cam Wirth, other strong field events and good pole vaulters and high jumpers and distance runners who were good this year," Spitzley said.

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Fowler Girls Celebrate Another State Track Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was an amazing day for an amazing track team.

Fowler's girls had three seniors who combined for 38 points and overall the Eagles had enough to emerge victorious in the Division 4 state finals at Hudsonville on June 1.

Fowler wound up with 71 points while Pittsford had 63.

It's Fowler's second Division 4 state title in a row and the third in the past four seasons. When Fowler didn't win in 2017, the Eagles were second to Southfield Christian. Fowler also won state titles under coach Jill Feldpausch in 2011 and 2012 and were runners-up in 2009, 2010 and 2015. Since 2009, Fowler has been first or second in nine of 11 seasons.

Vandegriff won the high jump

at 5-2 and the 100-meter hurdles in 15.24 seconds. She was the anchor along with Sadie Weber, Grace Boak and Kaitlyn Langin in 1:48.84.

Morgan Goerge was second in the 800 meter run (2:24.25) and on the third-place 4x800 and on the second-place 4x400 relay team.

Fowler was 8-1 in duals action. "It was a talented, hardworking team, who accomplished all of the season goals," Feldpausch said. "The team sets the goals the first week of practice and the goal was to win the Division 4 state championship."

Feldpausch admits the poor weather conditions was among the factors the team had to endure throughout the season. But there were so many enjoyable highlights.

"Morgan Goerge breaking the school record in the 800 meter



run and Alyssa breaking the 200 hurdles record were two of the many special moments for the Eagles," she said. "Alyssa Vandegriff, Morgan Goerge and Marisa Snyder are three senior girls who scored 38 individual points at the state meet. That's incredible. They are all strong

leaders and top contributors."

Vandegriff will be attending Central Michigan University for track and field next season.

"She was an outstanding athlete and team captain," Feldpausch said. "She surpassed all of her season goals. She finished her career at Fowler with three school

records in the high jump, 100 hurdles and 800-meter relay. She was all-state seven times, individual champion and with a three-time team state champion. She had the work ethic, speed and desire to improve. She broke her own 100 hurdles record from two years ago."



Alyssa Vandegriff

Fowler Senior A Double State Champion In Final Event

John Raffel Sports Scene

Alyssa Vandegriff made sure she left her high school track and field career in championship style.

The Fowler senior played a key role in the team's drive to another Division 4 title with a 71-63 margin over second-place Pittsford.

She took a pair of first places, a second and a seventh in the state meet on June 1 at Jenison. Vandegriff won the 100 hurdles in 50.12 seconds with a personal

record of 15.17 seconds. She won the high jump at 5-2. She was seventh in the 300 hurdles (50.12). She anchored the 4x200 relay, which was second (1:47.30).

Vandegriff had won the high jump three straight years and the 100 hurdles two straight seasons.

"I was definitely excited to see what was going to happen at the state meet," she said. "But I was also very worried because I looked at the rankings at all of my events and the people ahead of me and I kept comparing my

times to theirs," she said. "I was worried with how I would compete."

Vandegriff felt she exceeded some of the expectations.

"It was a matter of me battling myself each race and pushing myself to get better and better," she said. "There was competition in my meets earlier in the season."

She won the high jump again but Vandegriff didn't feel it was her best season in that event.

"But for the 100 hurdles, I definitely believe this is the best season I've had," she said. "The key is practice and a lot of repetition and working on getting a form over the hurdles and stepping, and racing in between

each hurdle."

Winning a team state title was a sweet highlight for Vandegriff.

"I definitely think we met people's expectations," Vandegriff said. "Personally as a team, we were very nervous on where we would place in each event. We've had some amazing upperclassmen come through."

She also competed in basketball and cross country.

"Track is definitely my best sport," Vandegriff said.

She'll be running track at Central Michigan University.

Fowler, "has prepared me a lot for the next level," Vandegriff said. "College is definitely going to be a step up from where I'm at now."

Waverly Hurdler Takes Pair Of Titles

John Raffel Sports Scene

Keshaun Harris' performance at the state meet was very impressive considering the Lansing Waverly senior picked up a pair of first places in the hurdles and a seventh place in the relays.

He PRed in the 110 meter hurdles in 13.98 seconds. He also PRed in the 300 hurdles in 37.75 seconds. His 4x200 relay

team was seventh in 1:29.80.

"I was very satisfied," he said. "I ran my best times of the year and broke my school record for both events. I was double state champ. So it can't be much better than that."

Harris recalls when it came to running the 110, there were a lot of delays because of the weather.

"You had to stay warm and keep loose, that was the hard part," he recalled. "But once the race started, I got out and

I ran a good time. In the 300 hurdles, it was the same with a lot of delays before the race. You had to stay warm and keep loose. When the 300 started off, the first 200 (meters) I didn't do so good. But toward the end, I picked it up. It was so close. It was a good race."

He beat Thomas Moreman of Lake Orion by a tenth of a second.

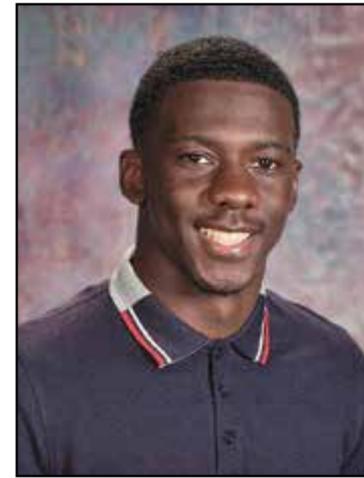
It was definitely Harris' best season.

"I liked my steps in-between

the hurdles," he said. "Over the years, I've been fast but my technique has not always been good. In hurdling every little technique and every little detail matters."

Harris is going to Michigan for track and football as a wide receiver and his track experience helps with his speed on the gridiron, he indicated

"I should have the edge over everybody with my speed," he said.



Waverly's Keshawn Harris

Mohawk 800-Meter Runner Seals State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Morley Stanwood's Aiden McLaughlin did about everything he could in the 800-meter run this season, including winning a Division 3 state title.

McLaughlin was league champ in 400, 1,600, 800 and 4x400 meter relay as anchor and regional champ in the 800 meters and second-place finish in the 1,600 meters, and MHSAA Division 3 State champ in the 800 meters.

As state champion, he had a school record of 1:55.10 in the 800 meters and won it at the wire over Harbor Springs' Jeremy Kloss, who was the 1,600-meter champ.

"Aiden demonstrates one of the most incredible training ethics I have ever seen as a coach," Mohawk coach Michele Young said. "He not only works hard at practice, but trains extra in his free time. He competes at extra meets, like the Golden Triangle in Saline, and The Grand Rapids Elite Mile. He is the hardest

working athlete on the team and will do anything to put the team first. He is also one of the captains on the team and sets an amazing example for our other athletes. He remains undefeated in the league in all his events."

Young had a strong feeling McLaughlin was set for an extraordinary season.

"He has worked really hard in the off season and should be in great shape for the outdoor season," she said during the pre-season.

McLaughlin was also

confident.

Earlier this season, McLaughlin talked about this goals for this season.

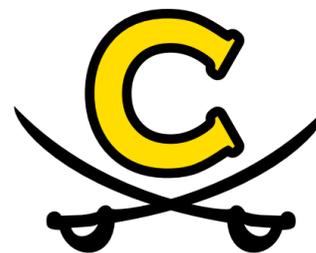
"As far as times, I want to go under 1:57 in the 800 and under 4:20 in the mile," he said.

His strength in the 400 and 1,600, McLaughlin said, has been his finish and he wants to work on his endurance.

McLaughlin opted not to run the 1,600 at the state meet and was able to focus all of his attention at winning the 800.



Morley Stanwood's Aiden McLaughlin



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Martin, Corunna Girls Claim State Titles

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a grand day at the track and field finals for Saginaw long jumping standout Tony Martin and the entire Corunna girls track team.

Martin jumped 22-11 to take

first place in the Division 2 long jump at the track and field state meet in Zeeland on June 1.

The Corunna girls claimed 54 points to win the Division 2 meet at Zeeland.

For Corunna, Miriah Dunkin was second in the discus at 126-

10 and was fourth in the shot put at 38-1.

Hannah Hollister took third place in the 100-meter hurdles at 14.75.

Lexi Mort in the same event was seventh in 16.08.

The 4x100 meter relay squad

of Lilly Bower, Elizabeth Norris, Lexi Mort and Hannah Hollister was first in 49.56 seconds.

Hollister also won the 300-meter hurdles (44.12) and the 200-meter dash (25.26). Lilly Evans was sixth in the 3,200-meter run (11:00.16).

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Breckenridge Track Teams Shine At State Meet

John Raffel Sports Scene

Breckenridge's track and field teams both made some noise at the Division 4 state finals this season.

The boys scored 43 points for third place. Leading



the way was senior discus thrower Brennan Waslusky with a toss of 161-8 for first and first in the shot put at 54-2 3/4. Freshman Mason Summer was second in the 3,200-meter run (9:58/53) and third in the 1,600 run (4:31.56) and the 4x100 relay squad was second (44.40).

The Breckenridge girls were seventh. Junior Annie Laurenz won the 300 hurdles (45.75).

Coach Kurt Gulick indicated Waslusky was ranked first all season in the shot put.

"In the discus, he went

Annie Laurenz is recognized for taking first in the 300 hurdles.

back and fourth from No. 1," Gulick said. "So it wasn't surprising she won. He worked hard this season and put the work into the offseason, which paid off. It's the first time he has won state. He was All-State his sophomore and junior years. I would say the shot put is his better event. He did a lot of weight room stuff in the winter.

"He used the glide and this year he moved to the rotation technique and that's what helped him the most. (In the discus) he has long arms which is what helped him the most."

Waslusky will be going

to Saginaw Valley State as a thrower.

Laurenz had been ranked second or third coming into the state meet in the hurdles.

"She kind of exceeded my expectations on that," Gulick said. "She was a big surprise to everyone. She was seeded by over a half-second slower than the girl who was first. She got first which was fun to see. She didn't play basketball this winter and just focused on indoor track. He ran all winter and that's what helped the most. She was hurt all of last winter. This year she was healthy, and that makes a difference.

"She just missed her PR by a tenth of second (at the state meet). She wasn't too far off."

Laurenz was third in the 200 (26.06) and fourth in the 100 hurdles (16:45).

"She actually moved up her seeding in those two other open events," Gulick said.

Laurenz was the anchor of the 4x200 team which was 18th at state.

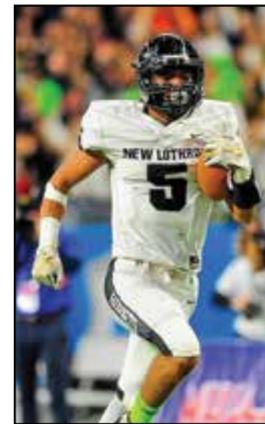
Next year is expected to be a promising one for Laurenz.

"She has big things coming this fall and hopes to be All-State in cross



Brennan Waslusky (far left) won the shot put and discus.

country," Gulick said. "Then she'll get after it next winter and spring."



Aidan Harrison was a state champion in football and track for New Lothrop.

Harrison Completes Remarkable Sports Season At New Lothrop

John Raffel Sports Scene

As far as New Lothrop football coach Clint Galvas was concerned, it was a remarkable way for Aidan Harrison to end a remarkable high school sports career.

Harrison had a two-state championship effort at the track & field meet on June 1

He spent one varsity season at New Lothrop and the previous two at Flushing.

"Aidan helped lead our team to the Division 7 state championship," Galvas said. "He is a tremendous athlete, but an

even better leader and person. Aidan was named the Div 7/8 Athlete of the year. Recently he captured the 1000-meter dash state title and was a part of the 4x100 team that won the state title."

At the Division 4 track state meet, New Lothrop, the Hornets tied for fifth place. Harrison had a time of 11.07 seconds to win the 100. He anchored the winning 4x100 relay team (43.34) and the 4x200 relay foursome (1:30.26).

For the football team, Harrison rushed for 15 TDs with an 11 yards per carry average. He caught eight touchdown passes with 18 yards per reception, and threw for one touchdown on one attempt.

"Aidan's work ethic is tremendous as is his leadership skills," Galvas said. "He is very coachable and willing to learn and do more to be successful. Coming in to New Lothrop as a first-year football player on our team, he adjusted very well and was able to quickly learn our playbook and scheme."

There are many memorable moments Galvas will cherish about Harrison.

"The first week he came to New Lothrop, in late June, he attended a 7-on-7 tournament with the team," Galvas said. "Right away we knew what kind of athlete he was as he was lighting up the score board

from day one. Avery Moore, our QB, and Aidan had an immediate connection that lasted all season for us.

"His most memorable game in my eyes was playing in the regional championship vs Pewamo Westphalia with a broken hand that he had injured just three days earlier in practice. He gutted out the rest of the season with it as well as playing almost the entire season with a torn labrum which he had surgically repaired after the season. His most memorable play had to be the 90-yard kick return for a touchdown in the state finals game."

New Lothrop finished 13-1 as the Division 7 state champs.

"Aiden left for the University of Missouri just two hours after graduation as they were starting practice the next day," Galvas said.

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Shepherd Senior Posts Exciting Finish

John Raffel Sports Scene

Shepherd senior Amber Gall definitely saved her best for last.

Gall had a tremendous day on June 1 at the Division 3 state meet. She was first in the 800 meters 2:12.72. She PRed in the 1,600 meters for first place (4:49.40) and a new state meet record. The 1,600 was a virtual photo finish with second-place girl Adelyn Ackley of Hart finishing in 4:49.42, a 0.02 second difference.

"For Amber to come out on top



Shepherd's Amber Gall closed out a championship career at Shepherd.

of that rivalry was cool," Shepherd coach Carey Hammel said. "They battled it out in the end."

"It was a very exciting race," Gall said. "I just wanted to stay with the leaders and see what happened at the end. Adelyn is a super runner. I was fortunate to run against that high level."

All three titles were equally gratifying, Gall said.

Gall anchored the 4x800 relay team which won in 9:33.89 and the 4x400 relay team, which was fourth (4:07.30).

"In the 3,200 relay, the other three girls did all they needed to do to give us a shot at the end," Hammel said.

These places gave Shepherd all 35 of its points for third place.

"She performed at the highest level at all four races," Hammel said. "She had a great cross country season and a great indoor season. In the outdoor season, Michigan weather is always a factor. We had some meets canceled. The season started out slow; midway through the season, she started

putting things together. For last six weeks of the season, including the Midwest Meet of champions, Amber broke a school record six straight weekends."

Gall will now be running cross country and track at the University of Michigan. She feels her prep career has set the stage for a promising collegiate career.

"The whole Shepherd community has gotten ready for Michigan," she said "They give you so much support and love. It's been truly amazing."

CC-Crystal Runner Gets Job Done In 3,200 Meters

John Raffel Sports Scene

Carson City-Crystal's Coleman Clark will remember the 3,200-meter run at the Division 1 state track and field finals for a long time.

He became a state champion as a sophomore with a time of 9:47.23. He finished more than 11 seconds in front of the second-place finisher, Mason Summer of Breckenridge.

"He was ranked first since the



Coleman Clark is the 3,200-meter state champ in Division 4.

beginning of May," Carson City Crystal track and field coach Grant Woodman said. "Last year he made it to the state finals in the 3,200 but he got tripped up in the second lap and ended up finishing 11th.

It was definitely smoother this time.

"He ran very well," Woodman said. "He had a plan and we went over it a couple of different times he wanted to get out pretty good to avoid getting tripped and spiked

like he did last year. Once he got out he maintained it and built upon it. That's been his strength (all season).

"He gets out pretty good, and then he maintains it. We've been working on building a little more strength and stamina so he can go out quicker and maintain it during the race. He's still young. We're adding a little bit at a time."

Clark was second in the 800 and 1,600 meters in the conference

regional and state meets.

The 3,200 has been his best event.

Clark also runs cross country. He was fifth in the state at the finals last season. He's equally effective in both sports, Woodman said

Clark's goals for the next two years are fairly simple: to get better each year.

"He does a decent amount of running over the summer and winter," Woodman said.

Lansing Sexton Thrower Celebrates State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Mohogany Wells won the shot put for Lansing Sexton at the Division 2 state championship, and Coye Bouyer, the boys and girls coach, was very impressed with what he saw.

Wells had a first-place throw of 42-8. It was below her personal throw of 45-5 1/4 in the shot put.

"We knew she had the ability to win," Bouyer said. "She came in with one of the best throws in



Mohogany Wells, shot put state champ.

the state. She came in with a really good throw last year and ended up scratching. While we knew she had the ability and the talent, we also knew in this type of meet when the nerves get the best of you, you still have to perform.

"We knew she could do it but it was still a pleasant surprise."

Wells was a senior and placed 17th in the shot. Ever since 2018, Wells was determined to win it all in 2019.

"She was never defeated all year," Bouyer said. "She didn't

lose a shot put. She won a lot in the discus. Her event was the shot put."

Bouyer found it easy to explain Wells' key for success.

"Our throws coach (Eldon Evans) worked with her the past three or four years," Bouyer said. "She was in the weight room all year round. She started lifting when she played volleyball. This year, we allowed her to focus on her throwing. Doing that was a huge thing that contributed to her success. She really wanted it."

Wells also was the anchor of the 4x100 relay team which was 17th at the state meet.

Wells is going to Central Michigan University on a track scholarship.

"She has a chance to do very well in Division I," Bouyer said. "As good as Mohogany is, there's still a lot for her to learn. When you go from high school to college, you get a lot stronger and faster. It becomes like a job, especially when you're on scholarship."



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Sacred Heart Runner Enjoys Fabulous End To Career

John Raffel Sports Scene

When she ended her high school track career on June 1 at Hudsonville in the Division 4 track and field state final, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart's Scout Nelson did it in style.

Nelson ran the 400 meters once this season and won the MSAC title with a PR of 58.15. She ran the 800 meters and only lost once. She got a PR of 2:19.54 for first place at the state meet, Division 4.

Sacred Heart's Scout Nelson ended her prep career in championship style.

For the 1,600 meters, she had

a PR of 5:10.75 at the Alma College Scottie Classic and took second at state.

She anchored the 4x400 relay team, which was first at state on 4:06.34. She anchored the 4x800 relay team, which also took first in 9:50.27. Sacred Heart took third place.

"I also used to focus on the 400-meter dash, which I ran once this year to help my friend Annie Laurenz from Breckenridge break her school record. We both ended up breaking our records and I ran a 58.15," Nelson said. "Also running a 58.15 in the 400

dash, I ran so hard my muscle gave out and I fell at the end."

Relays were a special event for Nelson.

"I love anchoring the relays, coming from behind for a win is an amazing feeling and my teammates did a great job in both the 4x800 relay and the 4x400m relay at the finals to get me close enough to win," Nelson said. "After not having a 4x400 relay team last year and it being my favorite event, it was really special to win a state championship my senior year.

"Also I have been running with the McConnell girls since I was in fifth grade so running my last race, the 4x800 relay, with them was bittersweet.

Ending on a state championship and a school record was really special since it was our last race together. And with my sister as the coach it was really special as well."

It was a track team Nelson won't soon forget.

"I think this is the best our girls track team has been so far in my four years of competing; we had a lot of freshmen step up and returners improve," she said. "Everybody shared a tough mentality and we all really wanted to win. Our leadoff in the 4x400 relay, Ashley Plum, ran so hard at states she collapsed after the hand off.

"Overall, I couldn't think of a better way to end my athletic career at Sacred Heart."

Fulton's Lyndsi Wolfe Has Throw Of Her Life In Discus At State

John Raffel Sports Scene

Fulton's Lyndsi Wolfe ended her high school career the right way: as a Division 4 state champion.

Wolfe was in two events at the state meet on June 1 at Hudsonville. She threw the shot put 30 feet 5 inches for 15th place. She had thrown it almost five inches farther for her PR in the regional meet.

But the discus had been her main event all season and it was again at state with a throw of 130-5 for first place. She had won all but one of the 13 meets where she threw the discus.

"I knew that I was ranked first," Wolfe said. "When I was throwing in the first round, I had a pretty good throw, I had a 119. Then I threw 125.

I thought I was pretty set with 125. The girl in second place only threw a 112. But when we got into our finals throw, she threw a 127. It made me nervous because I knew I'd have to throw it farther to beat her."

Wolfe also high jumped and had the season record of 5-0 at the state meet. At the 2018 state meet, she was eighth in the discus and 15th in the high jump.

But this has been her best season.

"I improved by quite a bit," she said. "My best throw last year was 113. My best throw from this year was 130."

The key to getting more distance in the discus, Wolfe said, 'is staying relaxed. I could never throw well when I'm nervous or anything. If you're

not tensed up and you stay relaxed, it what helps me throw the best."

Wolfe said she was "superexcited" placing in two events at state.

Wolfe also played basketball and volleyball but indicated she was equally successful and talented in all three of her sports.

"She is a great kid who works very hard," Fulton coach David Sheahan said. "She is just a tough competitor and a very versatile athlete. She has played multiple years of varsity volleyball, varsity basketball and track and field. She has qualified for the state meet in high jump and discus for three years in a row.

"Her strength levels have improved due to her dedication in the weight room. The added

strength was obviously seen in the discus pit. But it was also very evident in her shot put as she threw a season best 35-1 at the regionals. I also think as a senior her competitive spirit was always in over drive. This kid doesn't like to lose."

Sheahan recalls how important it was for Wolfe to get the discus school record

"Lyndsi was a fierce competitor this year in the discus circle. As a coach I was just amazed at her ability to make huge throw after huge throw all year long. Winning is very important to Lyndsi. Setting the new school record was very important to Lyndsi. Her first memorable throw came at the CMAC Championship Meet. She was conference champion by one inch with a throw of 126-4. This throw not only won the conference but it was her career best and set a new school record.

"But the biggest throw of her career came at the state meet 10 days later."



Lyndsi Wolfe of Fulton, discus state champ



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Division 1 Boys

Discus: 7-Justin Doty, Bay City Western, 150-10.
Shot put: 2-Ellis Trainor, Lansing Waverly, 55-3/4
110 hurdles: 1-Keshaun Harris, Lansing Waverly, 13.9
100-meter dash: 1-Noah Stallworth, Rockford, 10.76.
4x200 meter relay: 1-Lansing Waverly (1:29.8). Keshawn Harris, Bryson Fronta, Brian Williams, Devin Johnson.
1,600-meter run: 3-Alex Penski, Holt (4:14.95).
4x100-meter relay: 1-Rockford (42.10), Jacob Rademacher, John Vanden Heuvel, Eli Haddad, Noah Stallworth.
300 hurdles: 1-Keshaun Harris, Lansing Waverly, 37.75; 5-Jake Rasmussen, Greenville, 38.56.
800-meter run: 3-Titus Bretzke, Greenville, 52.56.
200-meter dash: 1-Noah Stallworth, Rockford, 21.64.

Division 1 Girls

Shot put: 1-Jasmine Clerkley, Okemos, 44-0 1/4.
Long jump: 6-Morgan Vargo, Rockford, 17-9 1/4.
4x800 meter relay: 1-Bay City Western (9:11/33). Karissa Picard, Ashlyn Nagel, Kenna Picard, Sydney Nesbitt.
4x200 meter relay: 3-Rockford (1:40/49). Peyton Korytkowski, K Zang, Abby Nash, Taylor Korytkowski.
1,600-meter run: 1-Ericka VanderLende, Rockford, 4:41.
4x100-meter relay: 1-Rockford (48.55), Grace Gohl, Kate Zang, Abby Nash, Jillian Roney.
400-meter dash: 4-Taylor Korytkowski, Rockford, 56.25.
300-meter hurdles: 2-Jillian Roney, Rockford, 42.98.
800-meter run: 2-Ericka VanderLende, 2:11.32

Division 2 Boys

Discus: 4-Sergio Llamas, Frankenmth, 149-4.
Pole vault: 4-Ben Urquhart, Lansing Catholic, 13-10; 5-Toby Bonner, Williamston, 13-10.
High jump: 2-Case Martin, Alma, 6-5; 5-Noel Spence, Lansing Catholic, 6-2.
Long jump: 1-Tony Martin, Saginaw, 22-11 1/4; 6. Noel Spencer, Lansing Catholic., 21-2 1/4; 8-Jack Townsend, Freeland, 20-10 1/4.
4x800 meter relay: 4-Cedar Spring, 8:01.07. Daniel Vemulm, Jaydon Molecki, Dilan Sargeant, Corey Bowers, 8:01.07.
800-meter run: 2-Logan Williams, Big Rapids, 1:55.68.
200-meter dash: 4-Brec Alward, Alma, 22.63.

Division 2 Girls

Discus: 5-Abby Frost, Ionia, 124-4.
Shot put: 1-Mohogany Wells, Lansing Sexton, 42-8; 5-Kirsten Spiegel, Freeland, 37-8 1/2; 8-Sophie Patrick, Alma, 37-6.
Long jump: 3-Jessica Robach, 17-7; 7-Lexi Martenis, Owosso, 17-1/2.
100-meter dash: 1-Chaiya Madison, Bridgeport, 12.4; 2-Payten Williams, Bridgeport, 12.54; 6-Asia Greene, Saginaw, 12.92.
4x200 relay: 1-Williamston (Jayda Bush, Makayla Kribs, Danielle Pollack, Jessica Robach), 1:43.59; 2-Bridgeport, Chaniya Madison, Rudy Garner, Destiny Manley, Arielle Allen, 1:43.89; 3-Frankenmuth, Hayleigh Atkin, Jenna Bentley, Alexa Cross, Courtney Palmer), 1:44.49. 4-Saginaw (Brenasiha Greene, Asia Greene, Aidia Adams, Diamond Sanders), 1:44.52.
1,600 meter run: 6-Jaden Theis, Lansing Catholic, 5:02.20.
4x100 relay: 2-Frankenmuth (Rebecca Kiser, Alexa Cross, Jenna Bentley, Hayleigh Atkin (49.57); 3-Williamston (Jayda Bush, Danielle Pollak, Megan McCune, Jessica Robach, 49.83; 4- Bridgeport (Payten Williams, Chaiya Madison, Destiny Manley, Ruby Garner), 49.83.
400 meter dash: 3- Taryn Chapko, St. Johns, 58.91.
300-meter hurdles: 5-Macie Ries, Mason, 46.60; 6-Abby Youngstrom, Freeland, 46.83.
800-meter run: 1-Taryn Chapko, St. John, 2:15.14; 3-Lucy Petee, Mason, 2:16.32.
200-meter dash: 5-Aidia Adams, Saginaw, 26.23; 6-Hayleigh Atkin, Frankenmuth, 26.34; 8-Asia Greene, Saginaw 27.59.
3,200-meter run: 3-Lauren Cleary, Lansing Catholic, 10:43.53; 4-Jaden Theis, Lansing Catholic, 10:44.90.
4x400 meter relay: 2-Frankenmuth (Avery Knoll, Hayleigh Atkin, Keeley Snell, Courtney Palmer, (4:04.58).

1,600 meter run: 2-Ransom Allen, Ithaca, 4:15.63.
3,200-meter run: 1-Ransom Allen, Ithaca, 9:19.70.
110 hurdles: 8-Brady Hawks, Laingsburg, 16.10.
4x100 meter relay: 1-New Lothrop (Carson Mulcahy, Will Muron, Trevor Bishop, Aidan Harrison), 44.34; 6-Clare, (Brenden Sersaw, Colt Smedley, Nick Roe, Jake Hawley), 44.32.
4x200 meter relay: 2- New Lothrop, Pottville, Will Muron, Trevor Bishop, Aidan Harrison 1:30.26; Clare (Brenden Sersaw, Colt Smedley, Aiden Boyd, Jake Hawley), 1:31.06).
4x400 meter medley: 2-Shepherd (Dana Nestle, Ross McNeel, Dylan Fisher, Ben Moegenberg), 3:26.66; 3-Pewamo-Westphalia (Evan Thelen, Ashton Walker, Hayden Germin, Cameron Wirth), 3:27.68; 6-Clare (Brendan Sersaw, Jake Hawley, Colt Smedley, Ben Wood), 3:30.62; 8-New Lothrop (Thomas Hespil, Gage Ruddy, Micah Poletti, Jacob Black (3:30.94).
4x800 relay: 2-Pewamo Westphalia (Evan Thelen, Hayden Germin, Kyle Hengesbach, Ashton Walker), 8:12.14; 6-New Lothrop (Thomas Hespil, Gage Ruddy, Carson Hersch, Micah Poletti (8:19.63); 8-Shepherd (Ross McNeel, Dane Nestle, Ben Moegenberg, Seth Schafer (8:22.26).
High jump: 5-Ethan Engelhardt, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, 6-5; 6-Ben Arends, Pewamo-Westphalia, 6-5.
Pole vault: 4-Dylan Fisher, Shepherd, 14-0.
Long jump: 4-Kyle Stockford, Sanford Meridian, 21-2 3/4; 5-Ted LeViere, Sanford Meridian, 21 1 1/4; 6-Joey Gonzales, St. Charles, 21-1 1/4.
Shot put: 1-Alex VanDeweghe, Ithaca, 59-7; 2-Nathan Spitzley, Pewamo-Westphalia, 55-6; 4-Baylee Chaffin, Ithaca, 53 9 3/4.
Discus: 1-Nathan Spitley, Pewamo-Westphalia, 173-9; 2-Baylee Chaffin, Ithaca, 161-1; 5-Alex vanDeweghe, Ithaca, 154-3.

100-meter dash: 3-Sophie Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, 12.56; 4-Caitlyn Bruff, New Lothrop, 13.05; 5-Jenna Odykirk, Farwell, 13.08.
200-meter dash: 3-Jenna Odykirk, Farwell, 26.13; 4-Sophie Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, 26.16.
400-meter dash: 5-Sophie Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, 59.51.
800-meter run: 1-Amber Gall, Shepherd, 2:12.72.
1,600-meter run: 1-Amber Gall, Shepherd, 4:49.40; 7-Lani Bloom, 5:10.713.
3,200-meter run: 5-Lainey Veenkant, Clare, 11:06.82 8-Mikenna Borie, St. Louis, 11:29.79.
100-meter hurdles: 5-Annabelle Schafer, Pewamo-Westphalia, 16:52.
4x100-meter relay: 1-St. Charles (Erica Garcia, Hope Kushion, Celine Whiren, Lindsey Pumford), 49.95; 5-Pewamo-Westphalia (Lindsey Pohl, Annabelle Shaite, Lily Schafer, Amelia Thelen (51.25); 6-New Lothrop (Alana Wendling, Brooke Wenzlock, Sydney Pope, Caitlyn Bruff), 51.30; 8-Perry (Kallei Brown, Elizabeth Gramz, Izzy Miller, Hailey Lewis), 51.65.
4x200-meter relay: 1-St. Charles (Lindsey Pumford, Hpe Kushion, Erica Garcia, Celene Whiren) 1:46.05; 2-Pewamo-Westphalia (Aubrey Georgesophie Thelen, Annabella Schafer, Amelia Thelen), 1:46.59; 7- Stanton Central Montcalm (Morgana Train, Madison Holland, London Eldridge, Kiley Guelzo (1:49.48).
4x400-meter relay: 4-Shepherd (Maddie Skeel, Elizabeth Moegenberg, Amelia Gouin, Amber Gall), 4:07.39; 5-Pewamo-Westphalia (Emily Nurenert, Amelia Thelen, Bailey Droste, Aubrey George), 4:07.83.
4x800-meter relay 1-Shepherd (Madde Skeel, Haley Hegenauner, Amelia Gouin, Amber Gall), 9:33.89; 2-Pewamo-Westphalia Emily Nurenberg, Cailey George, Bailey Droste, Aubrey George (9:39.54).
High jump: 5-Mikayla Williams, St. Charles, 5-2).
Pole vault: 2-Katie Blanchard (Sanford-Meridian), 11-3; 3-Elizabeth Gramza, Perry, 5-Mikayla Williams, St. Charles (9-6); 7-Shaily Baynes, Laingsburg, 9-6; 8-Grace Ann Gomez, Clare, 9-7.

Division 3 Girls

100-meter dash: 3-Sophie Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, 12.56; 4-Caitlyn Bruff, New Lothrop, 13.05; 5-Jenna Odykirk, Farwell, 13.08.
200-meter dash: 3-Jenna Odykirk, Farwell, 26.13; 4-Sophie Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, 26.16.
400-meter dash: 5-Sophie Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, 59.51.
800-meter run: 1-Amber Gall, Shepherd, 2:12.72.
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3,200-meter run: 5-Lainey Veenkant, Clare, 11:06.82 8-Mikenna Borie, St. Louis, 11:29.79.
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4x200-meter relay: 1-St. Charles (Lindsey Pumford, Hpe Kushion, Erica Garcia, Celene Whiren) 1:46.05; 2-Pewamo-Westphalia (Aubrey Georgesophie Thelen, Annabella Schafer, Amelia Thelen), 1:46.59; 7- Stanton Central Montcalm (Morgana Train, Madison Holland, London Eldridge, Kiley Guelzo (1:49.48).
4x400-meter relay: 4-Shepherd (Maddie Skeel, Elizabeth Moegenberg, Amelia Gouin, Amber Gall), 4:07.39; 5-Pewamo-Westphalia (Emily Nurenert, Amelia Thelen, Bailey Droste, Aubrey George), 4:07.83.
4x800-meter relay 1-Shepherd (Madde Skeel, Haley Hegenauner, Amelia Gouin, Amber Gall), 9:33.89; 2-Pewamo-Westphalia Emily Nurenberg, Cailey George, Bailey Droste, Aubrey George (9:39.54).
High jump: 5-Mikayla Williams, St. Charles, 5-2).
Pole vault: 2-Katie Blanchard (Sanford-Meridian), 11-3; 3-Elizabeth Gramza, Perry, 5-Mikayla Williams, St. Charles (9-6); 7-Shaily Baynes, Laingsburg, 9-6; 8-Grace Ann Gomez, Clare, 9-7.

Division 4 Boys

Discus: 1-Brennan Waslusky, Breckenridge, 150-10; 2- Zane Forist, Carson City-Crystal, 158-9.
Pole vault: 4-Ryan Cadwallader, Saranac, 12-9.
Shot put: 1-Brennan Waslusky, Breckenridge, 54-2 1/4; 5-Daniel Smith, Carson City-Crystal, 49-11 1/2; 7-Chase Smith, Beal City, 47-2; 8-Zane Forist, Carson City-Crystal, 46-11 1/2.
High jump: 1-Shannon Ewing-Brown, Crossroads, 5-11.
Long jump: 7-Brennan Grant, Fulton, 20-6 1/2.
4x800-meter relay: 4-Pottville (Carson Brunk, Luke Tarr, Dane Taylor, Zach Wright), 8:20.54; 8-Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart

(Josh Lynch, Brock Lynch, Matthew Nowak, TJ Moore), 8:30.57.
100-meter dash: 8-Hunter Collins, Breckenridge, 11.27.
4x200 meter relay: 1-Fulton (Collin Stahl, Patric Alwood, Adam Dufflo, Nate Alwood (1:31.68); 7- Beal City (Ben Matthew, TJ Maxon, Jack Shafer, Trey Small.
1,600-meter run: 1-Zach Wright, Pottville, 4:27.41; 3-Mason Sumner, Breckenridge, 4:31.56.
4x100-meter relay: 3-Breckenridge, Lukas Ebright, Jace Horman, Cameren Valliere, Hunter Collins, 44:40; 8-Beal City (Jack Shafer, Trey Small, Ben Matthew, TJ Maxon), 45.68.
400-meter dash: 3-Nate Alwood, Fulton, 51.03.
800-meter run: 7-TJ Moore, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart, 2:01.76.
3,200-meter run: 1-Coleman Clark, Carson City-Crystal, 9:47.23; 2-Mason Sumner, Breckenridge, 9:58.53; 6-Grayson Ramus, Saranac, 10:10.31.
4x400 relay: 3- Fulton, Collin Stahl, Patric Alwood, Brennen Grant, Nate Alwood, 3:29.06; 6-Pottville, Luke Tarr, Mitchell VanNotel Zach Wright, Zach Baker, 3:32.33.

Division 4 Girls

Discus: 1-Lyndsi Wolfe, Fulton, 120-9; 2-Laura Keilholtz, Montabella; 4-Marisa Snider, Fowler, 103-9
Pole vault: 2-Rachel Craft, Fulton, 10-3; 6-Morgen Myles, Pottville 9-6; 7-Mya Scott, Montabella, 9-6
Shot put: 3-Brooklyn Federspiel, Breckenridge, 37-1/2; 4-Erikah Cudjoe, Sacred Heart, 36-4; 6-Marisa Snyder, Fowler, 35-4.
High jump: 1-Alyssa Vandegriff, Fowler, 5-2; 7-Lyndsi Wolfe, MP Sacred Heart, 5-0; 8-Nicole Olivieri, Sacred Heart, 5-0.
Long jump: 7-Makaiyn Moson, Coleman, 15-8 1/4.
4x800 relay: 1-MP Sacred Heart, 9:50.27; 3-Fowler, 9:54.22.
100 hurdles: 1-Alyssa Vandegriff, Fowler, 15.24; 4-Breckenridge, 16.45; 6-Saide Weber, Foler, 16.91.
100 meter dash: 4-Brianna Greene, Saginaw Nouvel, 13.01.
4x200 meter relay: 2-Fowler, 1:47.63; 3-Saginaw Arts Science, 1:48.72; 7-MP Sacred Heart, 1:51.39.
1,600 meter run: 2-Scout Nelson, MP Sacred Heart, 5:18.52; 4-Lauren Macdonald, 5:48.84.
4x100 meter relay: 2-Saginaw Arts & Sciences, 51.26; 4-Fowler, 51.91.
400 meter dash: 1-Annie Gunderman, Portland St. Patrick, 59.59; 6-Leah Cook, Portland St. Patrick, 1:02.47.
300 meter hurdles: 1-Annie Laurenz, Breckenridge, 45.61; 5-Allison Wichert, Vestaburg, 49.23.24.
800 meter run: 1-Scout Nelson, MP Sacred Heart, 2:19.54; 2-Morgan George, Fowler, 2:3.58; 3-Madison Volz, Lansing Christian, 2:4.7; 6-Grace Boak, Fowler, 2:26.96; 8-Molly Dailey, CC-Crystal, 2:30.9 61
200-meter run: 3-Annie Laurenz, Breckenridge, 26.60; 4-Brianna Greene, Saginaw Nouvel, 27.05. 6-Portland St. Patrick, 27.18.
3, 200-meter run: 4-Cammie McCConnell, MP Sacred Heart, 11:49.93/
4x400 meter relay: 1-Saced Heart, 4:06; 2-Fowler, 4:08.01



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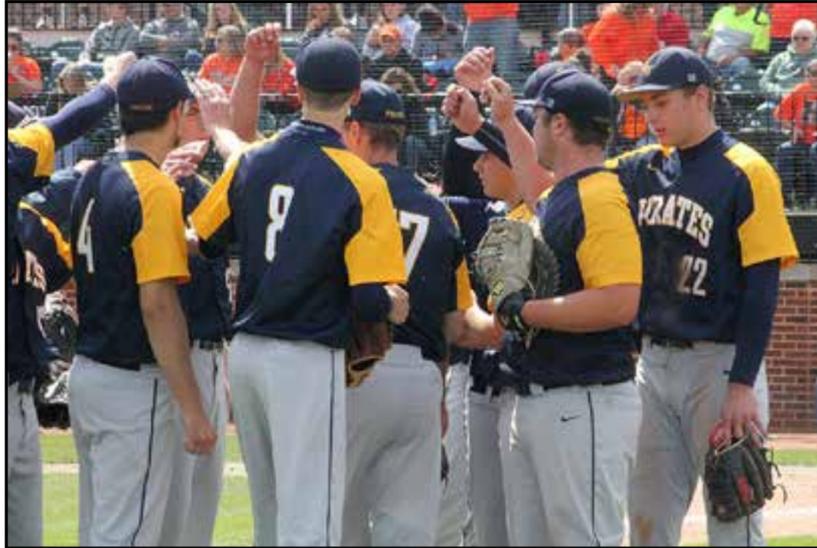
Thelen Brilliant, But P-W Falls In Baseball Semifinals

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Pewamo-Westphalia came incredibly close to another state title for the school when its baseball team battled Homer in the semifinals on June 14 at Michigan

State University.

The two teams battled down to the wire with Homer pulling out the 2-1 win in nine innings. Jacob Wilson's walkoff single in the bottom of the ninth gave Homer the 2-1 win. Homer would win the



state title the following day.

P-W's outstanding season ended at 31-3.

The Pirates out-hit Homer 8-5 and didn't make an error compared to three by the other side. But the Pirates couldn't push across the winning run when it had runners in scoring position.

Coach Mark Rademacher's team edged Central Montcalm 2-0 and Bronson 5-4 to advance to the

Final Four.

Jared Thelen had two hits in the semifinal while Aaron Bears had the only RBI for the Pirates on a single. Brendan Thelen had a masterful pitching performance allowing two hits and three walks while fanning five, but had to leave in the bottom of the eighth because of the pitch count.

"Homer has a great program," Rademacher said. "We threw at them the best pitcher they've seen all year and they got only two hits off of him. The Homer coach said it's the best pitcher he's seen. It was a great performance on Brendan's part; it's too bad we couldn't have gotten him the win."

Thelen was a reliever last season but took over the reins this year as P-W's ace.

"He worked on his mechanics all winter long and you saw what the results were," Rademacher said. "He had a great year. Our defense does a lot with supporting our pitcher. We had a lot of opportunities but we didn't get the big hit."

"I wish we would have gotten our state championship. But we put ourselves in a position to win

The Pirates try to fire each other up during the semifinals.



Brendan Thelen

a championship. It's all we could ask for."

Rademacher said 24 wins was the previous season high for P-W. He has a 554-326 coaching record in 35 years.

"Our guys kept rising to the occasion," he said. "I couldn't have been more proud."

Brendan Thelen agreed.

"Homer made plays and hit the ball well," he said. "Give credit to them. I mixed up my slider and my curveball and used all my pitches to catch them off balance."

Thelen said his team set its goals high.

"After football, we went into the gym and started working out with the goal we could go far," he said.

Area Baseball Teams Close Out Season With Strong Tournament Efforts

Greg Chrapek
Sports Scene

ROCKFORD CLOSES SEASON PLAYING FOR TITLE

The Rockford baseball team found itself playing for a state title on the last day of the high school baseball season. After going on a memorable playoff run, the Rams fell short in the Division 1 state championship game dropping a 10-4 decision to Portage Northern.

"We didn't make a couple of plays and when you're playing against a team like Portage Northern you have to make plays," said Rockford baseball coach Matt Vriesenga. "There was no quit in our guys. They battled and they kept battling to the end."

Zach Schamp hit a home run, Grant Martin had a pair of hits and Cody Sterkenburg had a hit and an RBI to pace the Ram offense.

Rockford reached the title game after edging Macomb Dakota 3-2 in eight innings in the state semifinals. The Rams received strong pitching from Zach Marshall who went the first six innings and sophomore Luke McLean who pitched the final two innings. McLean also scored the game-winning run. Rockford ended the season with a 28-10 record.

GRAND LEDGE SEASON ENDS IN THRILLER

It took extra innings and the best team in the state of Michigan to put an end to a strong season by the Grand Ledge baseball team.

The Grand Ledge season came to a heartbreaking end as the Comets dropped a 5-4 decision in nine innings to eventual Division 1 state champion Portage Northern in the regional title game. The Comets reached the finals after defeating Gull Lake 9-1 in the semifinals.

Grand Ledge turned in a big effort in district play by edging East Lansing 5-4 in the title game. The Comets earlier defeated Okemos (9-3) and DeWitt (2-0).

Grand Ledge capped the season with a 27-6-1 record. Along with winning the district title, the Comets won the Diamond Classic title for a 28th year and won the CAAC Blue. Seniors Braedon Stoakes (OF), Aaron West (3B) and Payton Wieber (P) and junior catcher Logan Hylek all earned first-team, all-conference honors.

MIDLAND DOW WINS DISTRICT TITLE

It was a memorable state tournament for Midland Dow as the Chargers won their first district title in 12 years. Dow defeated Saginaw Valley League North co-champion Midland 5-3 in the district semifinal and then came from behind to beat Bay City Western, the other SVL co-champion, 3-2 in the title game. Sophomore pitcher Trent Johnson tossed a complete game to help lead Dow to the title. Dow's season came to an end in the regional semifinal when it fell to Flushing. The Chargers ended the season with a 26-11-1 record.

ALMA WINS THRID STRAIGHT DISTRICT

The Alma baseball team played some of its best baseball at the end of the season. After turning in an 8-16 regular-season record, Alma defeated Corunna 9-4 in the district semifinals and then stopped St. Johns 6-1 in the regional title game for its third consecutive district championship. Freshman DJ Thompson pitched a complete game in the final, allowing one run on three hits while striking out eight. Brice Austin, Drew Humm and Cam Sutherland paced the offense with two hits apiece.



The Saginaw Nouvel baseball team finished the season playing for a Division 4 state championship at Michigan State University.

The Following Area Players Earned All-State Honors In bBaseball This Season

DREAM TEAM

Aaron West, Grand Ledge, INF
Joe Kelley, Rockford, OF
Braedon Stoakes, Grand Ledge, OF

2nd TEAM

Nick Dardas, Bay City Western, C
Shane Juday, Midland Dow, INF
Avain Rivera, Midland Dow, OF

Mitch Jebb, Swan Valley, INF
Brian Ross, Swan Valley, OF

Mason Gengler, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, OF
Tanner Wirth, Pewamo-Westphalia, OF

DIVISION 1

1st TEAM
Adam Randall, Bay City Western, P
Logan Hylek, Grand Ledge, C
Aaron West, Grand Ledge, INF
Joe Kelley, Rockford, OF
Braedon Stoakes, Grand Ledge, OF

DIVISION 2

1st TEAM
Carson Kwapiszewski, Essexville-Garber, P
Ben Cnudde, Bay City John Glenn, OF

2nd TEAM

Blake Waibel, Bay City John Glenn, P
Austin Stiffler, Williamston, C
Jack Monroe, Eaton Rapids, 1B
Tyler McLaren, Freeland, INF

DIVISION 3

1st TEAM
Brendan Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, P
Gideon Scott, Central Montcalm, C
Hunter Merillat, Sanford-Meridian, C
Hunter Fehn, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, INF

2nd TEAM

Asher Vissman, Central Montcalm, P
Anthony Pohl, Pewamo-Westphalia, C
Gunner Hill, Central Montcalm, INF
Kollin Leinau, New Lothrop, INF

DIVISION 4

1st TEAM
Brandon Scheurer, Portland St. Patrick, INF
Keegan Haynes, Beal City, INF

2nd TEAM

Nathan Lehnit, Portland St. Patrick P
Montana Glazier, Merrill, INF
Conner Corson, Breckenridge, OF

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Millington Softball Team Brings Home First-Ever Team State Championship

Greg Chrapek Sports Scene

After falling one agonizing run short last season, the Millington softball team put a hammer-lock on the school's first-ever, MHSAA team championship this season.

Led by a powerful offense and the lock-down pitching of senior Gabbie Sherman, the Cardinals defeated Schoolcraft 8-0 in the Division 3 softball state championship game.

"This is our first team championship ever in our community," said Millington coach Greg Hudie. "It means a lot. We were the first ones to ever make it to a state final last year but to win it, this is legendary. Some people might take it for granted, but I know me and the girls in the dugout and our coaches and parents do not take this for granted. We will remember this the rest of our lives."

Millington struck quickly to take

control of the title game. Darrien Roberts led off the first inning for Millington by hitting a towering home run that sparked the Cardinals to a five-run, first inning.

Roberts, who hit 18 home runs and drove in 48 runs this season, had a good feeling after the dinger.

"I just knew this was going to be a great game," Roberts said. "Not just for me but for our team. This was our year and we were ready to win."

Roberts was part of a Millington offense that received production from various spots in the batting order. Leah Denome finished the game by going 4-for-4. Denome was on fire the entire state tournament as she went 19-for-24 (.792) with three home runs, 16 runs scored and 10 RBI during the entire tournament. Elizabeth Bees, Madi Hahn and Sydney Bishop added two hits apiece. Sherman helped her cause with three hits.

In the circle, Sherman turned in a dynamic pitching performance. Sherman struck out 12 and allowed four hits on the game.

Sherman turned in a dazzling season overall as she totaled 274 strikeouts against nine walks with a 0.79 ERA for the Cardinals who turned in a 38-2-1 record. A four-year varsity player, Sherman and her fellow seniors helped the Cardinals to four-straight regional titles. Winning the state title was the ultimate goal, however.

"We've been working for this since we were little kids," Sherman said. "We just kept working and working and for this to come true



Millington senior pitcher Gabbie Sherman finished the season with 274 strikeouts and also tossed a pair of no-hitters.

it was incredible. This means everything to our town. We wanted to leave a mark of our own. Our town follows us everywhere. It was a sea of red up there and to give back to our town is incredible."

The title capped an incredible season for Millington that finished the year ranked 20th in the nation by MaxPreps Sports.

Along with the pitching of Sherman, the Cardinals boasted an offense led by Denome who hit .528 with 46 RBI. Senior catcher Sydney Bishop hit .460 with eight home runs and 41 RBI, senior third baseman Hannah Rabideau hit .405 with 49 RBI, Roberts with 18 home runs and 48 RBI and Sherman hit .435 with seven home runs and 43 RBI.

The Millington offense produced eight runs in the Division 3 state championship game to follow up on the seven runs scored in the state semi-final win against Standish-Sterling.



Coleman Makes Another Final Four Softball Experience

John Raffel Sports Scene

If a state softball tournament is down to the Final Four, it seems only natural for the Coleman Comets to be involved.

The Comets again advanced to the Division 4 state semifinal at Michigan State this season.

The season ended with a 6-1 loss to Kalamazoo Christian on June 14 in semifinal action.

Coleman's final record was 35-8.

Annabelle Bovee was hit by the pitch with the bases loaded the top of the first inning for what would be Coleman's only run.

Jaden Berthume and Katelyn Pnacek both had two hits to account for all four of Coleman's hits.

Berthume was the losing pitcher. It was 2-1 before Kalamazoo Christian exploded for four runs the bottom of the sixth.

Coach Chad Klopf's Coleman team had won five straight tournament games rather handily before coming across Kalamazoo Christian.

"They were a good hitting team," Klopf said. "We didn't get it done when we needed to and they've got a good pitcher. We were ready to play but it just didn't go our way."

Coleman dominated the Mid-State Activities Conference.

"It's unbelievable, three years in a row to get down here," Klopf said. "It's an unbelievable run. It's a lot of extra practice and a lot of extra experience. For our seniors, it's four straight quarterfinal games and three straight Final Fours, plus one final. It's been a great year."

The key this season, Klopf recalled, "was some unbelievable two-hit hitting. We had 112 two-out RBIs this year as a team. The last two weeks, we've been hitting one through nine. Then we had Jaden Berthume on the mound. We've got four good ones graduating this year (including Berthume)."

But softball has been and remains a sport Coleman takes seriously.

"There's a lot of girls at 7 in the morning or after practice who are getting in extra hitting," Klopf said. "It's a hobby and they love it. They take it serious and we have fun at the same time."



The Following Area Players Earned All-State Honors In Softball This Season

DIVISION 1

1st TEAM

Skylar Coberly, Bay City Central, SS
Megan Mann, Bay City Western, C
Adaline Ziehmer, Bay City Western, P

HONORABLE MENTION

Tauri Hintz, Bay City Western, 1B
Sydney Spencer, Bay City Central, P

DIVISION 2

1st TEAM

Peyton Benjamin, Eaton Rapids, OF
Lily Beyer, Freeland, SS
Kyra Acker, Eaton Rapids, 2B
Natalie Linebaugh, Portland, 2B
Cam Coonan, Freeland, 3B
Grace Lehto, Eaton Rapids, P

Emily Coulter, Frankenmuth, UT

HONORABLE MENTION

Brooklin Karwat, Frankenmuth, OF
Jada Walton, Portland, SS
Maggie Thiel, Swan Valley, 2B
Morgan Stahl, Lakewood-Lake Odessa, P

DIVISION 3

1st TEAM

Darrien Roberts, Millington, OF
Molly Gerow, Beaverton, OF
Erica Barta, Chesaning, OF
Leah Denome, Millington, OF
Kara Mahoney, Laingsburg, SS
Greta Lesperance, Byron, SS
Mya Hall, Sanford-Meridian, SS
Mia Morgan, Central Montcalm, 1B
Mady Pahl, Beaverton, 2B

Hannah Rabideau, Millington, 3B
Sydney Bishop, Millington, C
Gabrielle Sherman, Millington, P
Taylor Gross, Chesaning, P

HONORABLE MENTION

Mackelle Thompson, Ithaca, OF
Elizabeth Coon, Chesaning, OF
Bailey Hill, Sanford-Meridian, 1B
Charleigh Birchmeier, New Lothrop, 1B
Skylar Walser, Chesaning, 2B
Peyton Grice, Sanford-Meridian, P
Lauren Viele, Byron, P
Izzy Doyle, Central Montcalm, P
Sam Vermeesch, Ithaca, UT

DIVISION 4

1st TEAM

Abby Wohlfert, Fowler, OF

Jessica Eva, Morrice, 3B
Gracie Mindel, Beal City, 3B
Tricia Feldpausch, Fowler, 1B
Jaden Berthume, Coleman, P
Claudia Feldpausch, Fowler, P
Sidney Upton, Beal City, UT
Cassidy Smith, Breckenridge, DP

HONORABLE MENTION

MaKailyn Monson, Coleman, OF
Amiah Cole, Breckenridge, OF
Anna Terwilliger, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, SS
Abigail Tubbs, Coleman, 3B
Morgan Westall, Breckenridge, P
Lyndsey Fillenworth, Beal City, P
Katelyn Pnacek, Coleman, UT

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Area Softball Teams Make Memorable Runs In State Tournament

Greg Chrapek Sports Scene

BAY CITY WESTERN REACHES D1 SEMIFINALS

The Bay City Western softball team capped the season by reaching the Division 1 state semifinals. Western dropped a 4-0 decision to eventual state champion Warren Regina as it ended the season with a 31-6 record.

Western reached the state finals by defeating Lowell 4-1 in the quarterfinals. Western and pitcher Adaline Ziehmer turned in a pair of defensive gems in the regionals with wins over Alpena (6-0) and Swartz Creek (3-0) in the semifinals.

EATON RAPIDS BOWS OUT IN D2 SEMIFINALS

It was a memorable season for the Eaton Rapids softball team as the Greyhounds reached the Division 2 state semifinals. Eaton Rapids dropped a 8-1 decision to Stevensville-Lakeshore ending the season

with a 39-4 record. Grace Lehto went 3-for-4 in the semifinals contest while Kendi Richardson went 1-for-2 with a RBI. Eaton Rapids defeated Chelsea in the regional title match and Charlotte in the district finals.

PITCHING KEY AS ALMA WINS DISTRICT

Pitching took center stage for the Alma softball team in the Division 2 state tournament. Alma pitchers Hailey Leister and Danielle Shaw were on the top of their games in the district tournament. Shaw struck out seven and allowed just one hit in a 1-0 win against Corunna in the district semifinals. Leister struck out 10 and scattered five hits as Alma blanked Owosso 1-0 in the district title game. Delanie Mott's RBI single plated the winning run in the title game. Alma's season came to an end in the regional where it dropped a 6-5 decision to Freeland.

STATE CHAMPS TOP FREELAND

It took the eventual Division 2 state champions to end the season for the Freeland softball team. District and regional champions this season, Freeland dropped a 2-0 to eventual state champions Escanaba in the quarterfinals. Freeland claimed a thrilling regional title as it edged Alma 6-5 in the semifinals and Frankenmuth 10-7 in the regional finals.

CLARE REACHES REGIONAL FINAL

The Pioneers reached the regional finals this season where they dropped a 6-1 decision to Standish-Sterling. Clare reached the title game after edging McBain 9-7 in the semifinals. Clare captured the district title with wins against Harrison (3-0) in the finals and Farwell (11-3) in the semifinals.



Pitching was key for Alma as the Panthers posted shutouts against both Corunna and Owosso to win a district championship.

SHEPHERD WINS DISTRICT TITLE

Shepherd pitching ace Olivia Raymond was on top of her game as she pitched a shutout against Central Montcalm in the district title game. Raymond allowed one hit and struck out five as the Bluejays defeated Central Montcalm 1-0. Shepherd opened the district with an 8-3 win. The season came to an end for Shepherd in the regional semifinals as Grandville Calvin Christian claimed a 2-0 win.

FOWLER BOWS OUT IN REGIONAL FINALS

The Fowler softball team saw a memorable season come to an end in the regional finals as it dropped a 9-5 decision to Coleman. Fowler reached the title game after defeating Breckenridge 16-3 in the regional semifinals. Fowler turned in a dominant performance at the district with a 16-0 win against

Martin and a 7-0 win against Saranac in the district finals.

PORTLAND WINS DISTRICT TITLE

Strong pitching efforts and timely hitting were key for Portland as the Raiders won a district title. Portland defeated Ionia 9-4 in the semifinals and then stopped Belding 10-2 in the district title game. Portland fell to Spring Lake in the regional semifinals.

CHESANING PUSHES CHAMPS TO THE LIMIT

The Chesaning softball team provided a major hurdle for Millington to clear in its run to the Division 3 state title. In the regional semifinals against Millington, Chesaning sent the game into extra inning before dropping a 4-3 decision to the Cardinals in eight innings. Chesaning reached the regional by defeating Saginaw Valley Lutheran 10-2 in the district title game.

The Shepherd offense was rolling in the district semifinals as the Bluejays defeated St. Louis 8-3.



Alma All-Stater Posts Standout Soccer Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Alma's Kennedy Davis has been rewarded for a strong soccer season with All-State honorable mention honors from the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association.

"I am very happy with how my season turned out," she said. "The team was a completely different team this year with a new coach and many new girls. Being such a young team, people had their doubts but we grew as a team tremendously throughout the season and proved what we were capable of on the field.

"The highlight of our soccer season was the first round of districts that we played against Clare. We were down 0-2 at halftime and our team managed to pull ourselves together and have a comeback to end the game 3-2 advancing in districts."

Davis enjoyed her role as a captain.

"My role was to push everyone to give 100 percent," she said. "No matter if it was practice or a game I motivated the team to play their hardest. On the field my role was to attack offensively, taking shots on goal and sending crosses in, as well as connecting passes throughout the field.

"My strengths as a player are my speed and aggressiveness. I'm willing to play physical on the field which helps me gain position on the ball. The team improved

greatly throughout the season. A large part of our team was made up of players who had never played soccer before. Our team increased our abilities greatly throughout the season. From our first game to our last game, we did not look like the same team."

Madison Costner is Alma's girls coach.

"Kennedy was named a captain this season and was a great leader for our team," Costner said. "Her competitiveness and drive during games and practices set a great example to her teammates, who really looked up to her. I knew if Kennedy got a chance to score, she would finish it and always look for the next goal or chance."

Davis had 22 goals and 17 assists this season. She totaled 71 goals and 53 assists throughout her career at Alma.

"I think the key to her success is how she approaches games and practices," Costner said. "In each drill I could tell she was giving her full effort and working to make herself better. She would stay focused throughout practice and continually work, even if things were not going her way. She had a solid determination with a "not good enough" attitude that was also seen during games.

"I am a first-year coach, so I did not coach last year but I do think her confidence on the ball improved throughout the season. She knew she had the ability to take players on and I saw her doing that more and more

as the season went on. Kennedy is very competitive and strives to be the best. During our first week of conditioning, Kennedy was consistently first in every sprint and workout. She made me question if the running was hard enough, because she did not look like she was even tired from all the running."

Costner will have fond memories of Davis.

"Even though the season is over, I expect her to be a player girls remember playing with," Costner said. "I hope that girls look back and try to model what she did as a player by taking each drill seriously and giving their full effort no matter what the score or how hard it might be. I can tell Kennedy keeps up with her fitness in the offseason, because she was fit right when she came in for preseason. She played for Midland Fusion for two years and Mt. Pleasant Extreme for one year. Kennedy played volleyball for one year and basketball for three years.

"Kennedy was a great role model and leader this year. You would never hear her complain or make excuses, she would just go out and work. Whenever I was talking to the team, she was focused on me and listening. Not only did she have a great season, I think she made the players around



Alma's Kennedy Davis was an All-State soccer player this season.

her better. She gained the trust of her teammates and they looked up to her. She found the joy in playing and is the type of player that every team wants to have."

The team finished 6-9-1.

"However, the record does not show how much improvement the team had," Costner said. "We are a very young team with a few girls new to the sport. I think Kennedy helped them immensely by taking each drill seriously and giving her best effort in every game, practice, or drill."

Stallworth Ends 'Phenomenal' Season For Rockford

John Raffel Sports Scene

Rockford boys track and field coach Andy Martin had one word to describe Noah Stallworth's senior season for the Rams:

"Phenomenal."

It was Stallworth's fourth season with the Rams and was a very good one.

He set school records in the 100 meters (10.54) and 200 meters (21.64) dash and the Rams were state champs in each. He was a sophomore on school record-breaking teams in the 4x100

meters (41.20) and 4x200 in 1:26.51.

The reason for Stallworth's stunning success was "dedication to his craft, determination to be the best version of himself at all times and love for his team and the support of his family," Martin said. "Noah dropped 0.26 in the 100-meter dash and 0.16 in the 200-meter dash.

"His mental and physical improvements were what set him apart from the pack. Also, his mechanics and start improved significantly. Noah anchored our 4x100 team at the state finals this year and had to come from

behind to win. It was significant enough that it wowed the entire crowd. The guys were overjoyed. It was a great end to their year."

Rockford as a team placed fourth in the Division 1 finals. Stallworth's efforts won't soon be forgotten.

"He delivered greatness and then some," Martin said. "He was Rockford's first ever state champion in the 100 and 200. And he added the 4x100 win as well. Noah worked incredibly hard all year in the weight room and during indoor track to prepare himself for the outdoor season.

"He is a great kid. He has been our team leader and captain all year long. His leadership has helped keep the 100 guys on our team always prepared and poised for greatness."



Rockford's Noah Stallworth.

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Erin Tyson score 32 goals for Freeland this season.

Freeland Soccer Season Ends In Regional Final

John Raffel Sports Scene

Freeland's girls soccer team had made it a habit of being to the state finals or semifinals for several years in a row.

They had been to the Final Four five straight seasons.

But it wasn't meant to be this year.

The Falcons had another strong season and were hoping to return to the

state championship game. But this year, they weren't able to get past the regional finals, losing 4-3 to Boyne City in a dramatic shootout.

Coach Ciaran Byrne's team ended at 19-6-2, prior to the regional title game. Freeland had outscored its opponents 25-0.

Autumn Kloha enjoyed a banner season and now Byrne must say goodbye to Kloha and other standouts who are graduating.

"We hope to build on our defense," Byrne said. "A far as attacking players, we have a couple of girls who scored a fair amount of goals. But we don't have an attacker with the credentials of Autumn, Erin Tyson and Ema Lynch. I'm pretty sure the girls will work hard. They want to hit those same levels. I don't think people will look at us right off the bat and see the same firepower we've had.

"But I'm certain the girls we have that will get to that level."

For Tyson, it was still a fun season.

"I thought it was a good season," she said. "Last year, we lost a lot of seniors so it was hard to come back from that. We played a lot of tough D1 schools. Even though we lost to those schools, we kept up with them."

Tyson scored 32 goals, a season high. She scored

four goals in a game against Standish Sterling. Tyson will now play soccer at Siena Heights University.

"They have a really good premed program," Tyson said. "One of the things I was attracted to their coach has a lot of experience. He's been their 16 years. The girls are really nice."

Tyson also plays travel soccer.

Garber Soccer Team One Win Shy Of State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Essexville Garber's undefeated girls soccer team was hoping for one more win on Saturday, June 15, when it played Grand Rapids South Christian in the Division 3 state title game at Michigan State.

But South Christian, 20-3-3, had other plans and pulled away with a 3-0 state championship victory.

Garber's season ended at 21-1-2 under coach Troy Stewart.

The Dukes were out-shot 15-8. Goalkeeper was Logan Rau. It was 2-0 at halftime.

Rau had 76 saves this season

"It was a more physical game than we're used to," Stewart said. "We weren't prepared for that level. We came back out the second half and had seven or eight shots. We don't make it happen. I'm happy for these girls. They got it everything they've got.

"The girls work hard all day in school. It's fun to see these kids come out here and have some fun. In the community, it was unbelievable this morning, they transported us to the county line. Our girls got quite a sendoff. There were 500 people there I would guess."

It was an historical season for

the team and the area.

"We've set records for every team in Bay County and no one has gone as far as we have this side of the state," Stewart said. "We're a tiny school of 600 kids and look what we're doing. And we only have 17 players." Rachel Hahn had 30 goals and 22 assists to lead the Dukes in scoring.

"Rachel Hahn has been an amazing player for us," Stewart said.

"We did not connect the ball and we did not pass the ball the way we should have," she said. "We struggled in the middle a little bit. After the first goal, we broke down



Garber coach Troy Stewart (left) presents the state runner-up trophy to his team.

and let the mental game get to us."

Hahn said she never would have imagined several weeks ago making it as far as the team did.

"It was hard work, being mentally tough and a little bit of

luck," Hahn said.

It was her best season.

"I had even more shots I could have made," she said.

Williamston Ends Another Strong Soccer Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was an eventful soccer season for Williamston, which ended in the regional final.

The Hornets ended the season at 11-8-1 but ended it with a strong postseason. They edged Lansing Catholic 3-2 in a shootout and then blanked Lakewood 8-0 and Portland 4-0 to win the district. They opened the regional with a 5-0 win over Lake Fenton but lost 3-2 to Essexville-Garber, which went to the state final.

"It was a good year," Williamston coach Steve Horn said. "We had pretty stiff competition during the course of the year in the regular season and we had some pretty good teams. When we got into the postseason, we were ready to make a run."

A special moment was the 3-2 loss to Essexville-Garber in the regional finals.

"We played some of our best soccer of the year," Horn said. "The playoff run itself was really phenomenal. It was our best soccer of the season the last five games we played. It all came together and all the work we put through. We played our best soccer at the

right time."

Williamston has been to the regional finals the last three years.

"The program itself has been to the state finals a few times," Horn said, referring to the 2008 and 2010 teams. "There's plenty of history in our program."

Maison Fenech "is one of the best players in the state and has been first-team all-state," Horn said. "She's had a phenomenal season."

Horn expects the tradition to continue and for Williamston to have a strong team for years to come.



Williamston's Maison Fenech

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Portland's Impressive Tennis Season Ends In State Finals

John Raffel Sports Scene

Crystal Lowe's first season as coach for Portland's girls tennis team was a very impressive one.

The facts speak for themselves.

In the CAAC White Conference, Portland was 5-0 and 10-1-1 in nonleague matches. Portland had seven of the eight flight champions at the league tournament and all of the flight champs at regionals to qualify for the state meet. The No. 3 doubles team was state runners-up and tied for eighth at the state tournament.

The No. 1 doubles team of Riley Helene and Rachel Ivanhoe was in the second year of playing top doubles

together.

"They ended their season with a tough match against an undefeated North Muskegon team who had beaten us earlier in the season," Lowe said. "They played a great quarter-finals match against North Muskegon and went three long sets. If only a few points had gone slightly different, it's possible we would have advanced to the semi-finals. They had a season record of 24-5."

Alyssa Jack as a freshman and first-year varsity had an "exceptional season," according to her coach.

"Going into the state tournament, she had one loss," Lowe said. "She played a close quarterfinal match against Sacred Heart to give her her second loss of the season, ending with

a 26-2 record."

The No. 3 doubles team of Noelle Matte son and Julia Savage was seeded No. 3 in its flight at the state tournament as the highest seeded flight of the team.

"They pushed through a tough semi-final match against Jackson Lumen Christi, who had beaten us earlier in the season," Lowe said. "Noelle and Julia did not give up throughout that match, going three sets, and securing their spot in the finals. They faced a very aggressive Sacred Heart doubles team in their final match who ended up as state Champions. Our No. 3 doubles



Portland girls tennis team

state runners-up ended their season with a record of 20-3."

Portland should be strong against next year despite having key graduates like Riley Helene, Rachel Ivanhoe, Samantha Weber and Emily Billow.

Key returners are Kayla Weller, Ainsley Allude, Taylor Jinks, Alyssa Jack, Maura Lufkin, Noelle Matte son, Julia Savage and Corey Smith.

"With eight returning players, I believe the team will be very competitive to repeat their league and regional titles," Lowe said. "These players are determined to maintain the high expectations set on them, not only by me, but by each other as well. They will work hard in the off season to insure we return well-prepared."

Dow Tennis Team Third At D1 State Final

John Raffel Sports Scene

Garrett Turner ended his 14th year as Midland Dow High tennis coach extremely satisfied with what his team was able to achieve.

Dow's final overall record was 8-1-1.

"We exceeded expectations," Turner said. "Going into the state tournament we were ranked fifth. Four of our flights played beyond their seed and we ended up placing third in the state. With replacing seven positions from last year's team, this was an

outstanding finish for us."

Another major accomplishment was "finishing in first place at the Ann Arbor tournament," Turner said, "having five flights make it to the semi-finals, having four flights play beyond their seed and having our 2 and 4 singles players beat players in the semifinals they originally lost to during the season."

Having the No/3 singles state champion was also a major moment for Dow with Laura Leiti (25-1).

Dow with 23 points, was five points from second-place Bloomfield Hills (28) and seven points from champion

Grosse Pointe South (30).

Savannah Matuszewski (26-6) was second at No. 2 singles. Claire Earley (28-3) was second at No. 3 singles.

"The only challenge was dealing with Valleys and Regionals and my seniors who were doing IB testing," Turner said. "This was the first time I have had an issue with it, and we had to forfeit some flights for my first time ever."

"No. 1 singles player Zoe Angell finished the year 22-6 and did a fantastic job moving from 2 singles up to 1 singles this year. She had big wins this season against Northville,



Midland Dow's girls tennis team

Holly, Seaholm, Livonia Churchill and Heritage.

Prospects are bright for next year. "We are losing one of our 1 doubles

and our 2 doubles," Turner said. "Anyone returning is a key returner. We have a lot of experience coming back."

Short Caps Off Solid Tennis Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a remarkable junior season for Big Rapids standout Eden Short.

Short again went to the state finals undefeated at 23-0 before losing to Helena Formentin of Grosse Ile 6-4, 6-2.

"Many times you don't know where you need to improve your game until you are able to test yourself against competition like this," Big Rapids coach Larry Langell said. "The only thing Eden is lacking at this point is experience like this. I am extremely proud of Eden's

season. She took another step forward in the tournament this year and gave it everything she had against Formentin. At this point, she is able to hold her own against the best players in Michigan. This is an amazing accomplishment considering that Eden first picked up a tennis racket less than three years ago.

"Her potential for improvement is so much greater than many of her peers that have taken lessons and attended summer tennis academies for 10-plus years. Couple this with her work ethic and she is going to attract a lot of attention from D1 and D2 colleges. Eden will be coming

back for her senior year as one of the favorites in D4 at No. 1 singles."

Short went to the state final last season undefeated and got to the second round before losing.

She said her season from last year to this year "has been a drastic change. I'm way more confident, way more mentality tough. My work ethic is much higher. I want it a lot more this year."

"I can hit the ball hard all day but want to take my time building my point and having a strategy," Short said.

Short has sparked a growing Big

Rapids program.

"Due to playing multiple invitationals and a conference tournament, players were able to get in 20 individual matches as opposed to 13 last season. This was very helpful," Langell said, adding that while the Cardinals were strong at No. 1 and 2 singles and solid at No. 1 doubles, "we had very inexperienced players in all other positions. Five of our eight flights had players that were new to varsity this season. Four of those players were brand new to tennis."

"The team had a very strong finish at regionals."



Big Rapids' Eden Short has lost only two matches at No.1 singles the past two seasons.

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Area Golfers Cap Season With Strong Efforts At Post-Season Tournaments

Greg Chrapek Sports Scene

The boys high school golf season came to an end with an exciting week of regional action followed by the state finals. Following is a look at how area teams performed down the stretch.

DIVISION 1

A pair of area teams were among the field challenging for the Division 1 state championship at The Fortress in Frankenmuth. **Rockford** finished third overall with a team score of 621 while **Okemos** placed 17th with a 708. Lake Orion won the Division 1 championship with a 606 total.

Justin Sui of Lake Orion claimed individual medalist honors as he edged Coalter Smith of Grosse Pointe South in the second hole of a playoff as both golfers finished the tournament with a 141 total.

Carter Housler of **Grand Ledge** placed third with a 144 total. Housler qualified for the state tourna-



ment as he was individual medalist at the Davison regional where he placed first by three strokes as he carded a 73.

Rockford was led by **Kevin Healy** who finished eighth overall with a two-day total of 149. **Oliver Haerberle** added a 156 while **CJ Stephan** finished with a 159.

Okemos was led by senior **Zack Hetfield** with a two-day total of 170 and junior **Grant Hinterman** who shot a 178. **Okemos** qualified for the state tournament by placing second at the Davison regional. **Hetfield** and **Hinterman** led **Okemos** at the regional as they both tied for fourth-place individually with rounds of 77.

DIVISION 2

HASLETT PLACES 14TH AT STATE MEET

The **Haslett** golf team wrapped up the season with a two-day total of 684 as it placed 14th in Division 2. **Haslett** benefitted from outstanding balance at the finals. **Justin Dixon**, a freshman, led the Vikings with a 171 while sophomores **Korben Leung** and **Josh Tulery** both totaled 172 and senior **Michael Corder** and junior **Henry Zayko** both totaled 173.

Haslett qualified for the state meet by taking second at the Mason regional. **Corder** and **Zayko** led the way for **Haslett** at the regional as they both tied for fifth individually with rounds of 76.

DEWITT GOLFERS PLACED THIRD AT STATE

The **DeWitt** golf team closed the season strong by placing third overall at the Division 2 state finals at Forest Akers West on the campus of Michigan State University.

Grand Rapids Forest Hills North won the team title with a

Michael Zanoni Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

two-day total of 620 while **DeWitt** placed third with a 634 total.

Senior standout **Charlie DeLong** led the way for **DeWitt**. **DeLong** placed second overall individually with round of 71-74 for a 145 total, four strokes behind **Brad Smithson** of **Ada Forest Hills Eastern**. **Parker Dietzel**, a junior, carded a 159 for the tournament while junior **Brody Sigmon** totaled 164 and sophomore **Nick Geisler** shot a 166.

DeWitt qualified for the state finals by winning the regional at Eldorado in Mason. **DeLong** earned medalist honors at the regional with a round of 66. **Sigmon** placed fourth with a 75 while **Dietzel** was fifth with a 76.

MASON GOLFERS PLACE 11TH AT STATE

The **Mason** golf team turned in a two-day total of 679 to place 11th overall at the state meet. Senior **Brett MacNeil** led the way for **Mason** as he placed ninth individually with a 155. Senior **Alex Jordan** finished with a 162 total while sophomore **Peyton Ried** carded 174.

Mason qualified for the state meet by placing third overall at the regional it hosted. **Jordan** paced the Bulldogs at the regional by finishing second overall with a 68. **MacNeil** carded an 81 and **Ried** shot an 82 at the regional.

IONIA'S HAUSSERMAN SHOWS STRONG AT FINALS

Tyler Hausserman of **Ionia** turned in a strong showing as an individual at the D2 state finals. **Hausserman**, a senior, finished just outside the top ten with a two-day total of 158. **Hausserman** shot a 78 on the first day and came back with an 80 on day two.

Hausserman earned his ticket to the state finals by winning medalist honors at the Hamilton region-



Okemos Golf

al. **Hausserman** carded a 68 at the regional to win the title by four strokes. **Hausserman** will continue his career at **Grand Rapids Community College** next season.

DIVISION 3

SHEPHERD PLACES 11TH AT STATE

The **Shepherd** golf team wrapped up a strong season by placing 11th at the Division 3 state finals at **Katke** on the **Ferris State University** campus.

Senior **Max Skeel** led the way for the **Bluejays** as he totaled a 159 for two days. Sophomore **Zach Bendele** added a 167 while sophomore **Max Kyser** shot a 189.

Shepherd qualified for the state meet by placing third at the **East Tawas** regional, one stroke behind **St. Louis** and **Frankenmuth**. **Skeel** led **Shepherd** at the regional as he placed second individually with an 80. **Bendele** added a 91.

ST. LOUIS GOLFERS COMPETE AT STATE

The **St. Louis** golf team wrapped up the season by placing 16th at the D3 state finals. Senior **Grant Mills** led the way for the **Sharks** with a two-day total of 165. Freshman **Spencer Sherwood** added a 191 and junior **Luke Harry** a 199.

St. Louis qualified for the state meet by placing first at the **East Tawas** regional with a score of 362. **Mills** led the **Sharks** as he captured medalist

honors for the regional with a 78. Junior **Gavin Giles** followed **Mills** with a 90.

LAINGSBURG, PORTLAND GOLFERS EARN STATE TRIP

Portland junior **Zach Pier** and **Laingsburg** sophomore **Zack Koerner** both competed at the Division 3 state finals as individuals.

Koerner carded rounds of 82 and 81 to finish with a 163 total. **Koerner** earned his spot at the finals after finishing second at the **Jackson Lumen Christi** regional with a 74.

Pier turned in rounds of 86 and 87 for a 173 total at the state meet. **Pier** placed fifth with a 74 at the **Hudsonville Unity Christian** regional to earn his spot at the state finals.

DIVISION 4

MT. PLEASANT SACRED HEART PLACES IN TOP 5

The **Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart** golf team capped the season with a fifth-place finish at the Division 4 state finals at **The Meadows** on the **Campus of Grand Valley State University**. **Sacred Heart** totaled a 686.

Sophomore **Michael Zanoni** led

the way for **Sacred Heart** as he shot back-to-back rounds of 74 to finish second individually. Senior **Evan Chomchai** totaled 175 for the two days while senior **Patrick Ervin**, senior **Noah Krepostman** and junior **Austin Lobsinger** all finished with a 183 total.

Sacred Heart qualified for the state finals after taking second at the **Muskegon** regional. **Zanoni** and **Chomchai** led **Sacred Heart** at the regional as they both carded an 81 to tie for fifth individually.

LANSING CHRISTIAN EARNS STATE TRIP

Lansing Christian wrapped up the season by placing 14th at the D4 state meet. Freshman **Sam Havey** led the way for **Lansing Christian** with a 176 followed by freshman **Davis Garrett** with a 187 and sophomore **Trevor Dunsmore** with a 191.

Lansing Christian earned a trip to the final by placing third at the **Clinton** regional. **Havey** paced **Christian** at the regional as he carded an 81 to place third individually. **Dunsmore** added a 94 at the regional.

SAGINAW NOUVEL 13TH AT FINALS

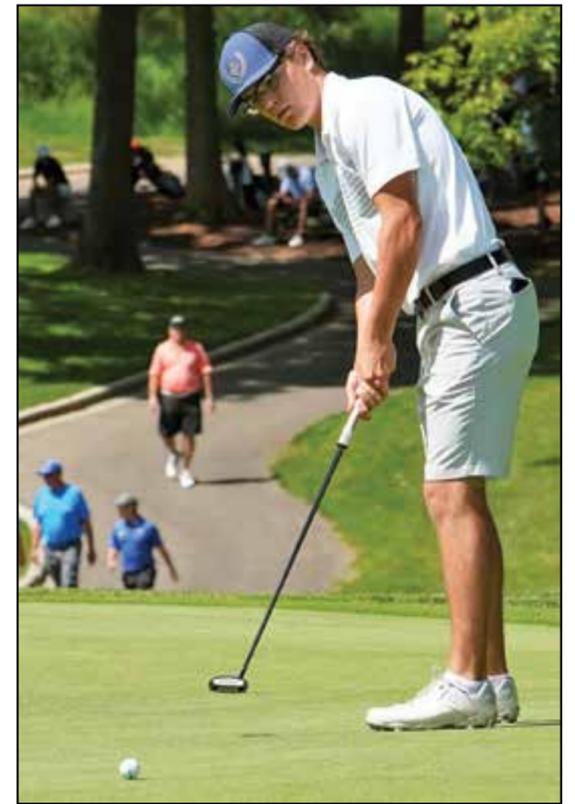
Saginaw Nouvel placed 13th overall at the D4 state finals. Senior **Jonah Wright** led the way for **Nouvel** with a 169 followed by freshman **Luke LeBourdais** with a 181 and junior **John Paul LeFevre** with a 192.

Nouvel earned a trip to the finals after placing third at the **Bad Axe** regional. Senior **Tim Stack** placed in the top ten with an 87 while **Wright** shot a 92.

NEW LOTHROP FINISHED YEAR AT STATE

New Lothrop capped the golf season by placing 15th at the D4 state finals. Sophomore **Noah Ruddy** led the way for the **Hornets** with a two-day total of 177. Sophomore **Gabe Salsgiver** totaled a 191 and junior **Isaac Richardson** a 193.

New Lothrop earned a spot in the finals by placing second at the **Bad Axe** regional. Senior **John Fras** led the way for **New Lothrop** as he placed fifth individually with an 84. **Richardson** also placed in the top ten individually with an 88.



DeWitt senior Charlie DeLong placed second individually and helped DeWitt to a third-place finish as a team at the Division 2 state finals.

St. Louis Golfer Caps Off Stellar Career

John Raffel Sports Scene

St. Louis golf coaches **Dave** and **Marcia Biehl** couldn't have been happier with the success compiled this season by senior **Grant Mills**.

"Grant had a solid season to cap off his high school career," **Dave Biehl** said. "He medaled in all six of our invites this year and was medalist in three. He was regional champ for the second year in a row. He was all-conference first team for the fourth year in a row which he was conference

champion two of those years and runner up the other two. He led us to a regional championship this year and was captain of the team the last two years."

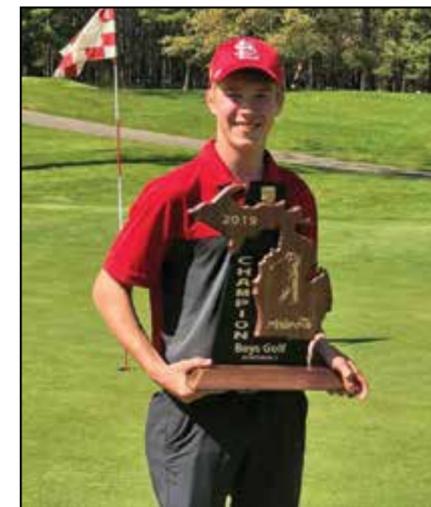
At the state Division 3 golf tournament at **Ferris State University's Katke Golf Course**, **Mills** was a team leader.

The **Sharks** finished tied for 16th at 758. **Mills** had the best score for his team at 16 with rounds of 82 and 83.

"In his career he was medalist in 13 of 25 tournaments," **Biehl** said. "In the last three years he led our team to three

second-place finishes in conference play and was All-State first team his junior year. He was a four-time MVP voted by his teammates and coaches for our golf team. His hard work over the off-season and work ethic really paid off for him and our team. He was a coach on the course and got his teammates to practice even after our practice was over.

"I can't say enough about what this young man did for our golf program here at **St. Louis** and will be sorely missed, but his leadership paved the way for others to follow."



Grant Mills led his St. Louis golf team to championship success.

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Rockford Girls Lacrosse Team Captures Seventh Straight State Title

Greg Chrapek Sports Scene

GIRLS LACROSSE RAMS WIN EIGHTH TITLE IN PAST 10 YEARS

The Rockford girls lacrosse team made it seven and counting as it defeated Brighton 21-6 to win the Division 1 state championship.

The win was the seventh in a row for the Rams and eighth in the past 10 seasons.

"Every year it's our objective," said Rockford coach Mike Emery. "Our number-one goal is to make memories for these kids. I enjoy these kids so much I don't want to send them home early. We want to play to the last day."

Rockford built a 12-5 halftime lead on Brighton and closed out the match with a 9-1 run in the second half.

Balanced scoring was the key for the Rams. Senior Izzy Holmes led the way with three first-half goals and totaled four assists. Sophomore Katie Rodriguez totaled four

goals while Karrington VanderMolen and Sydney Zimmerman added three goals apiece. Chloe Holmes and sophomore Chloe Durham added two goals each.

Rockford finished the season with a 15-5-1 record. The Rams outscored their opponents by a 359 to 147 margin. A total of eight Rams scored 20 or more goals this season.

DEWITT TURNS IN MEMORABLE SEASON

The DeWitt girls lacrosse team turned in a memorable season. The Panthers won the CAAC tournament championship and ended the season with a 19-5 record after dropping a 12-11 decision to Okemos in the regional finals. DeWitt reached the regional finals after wins against East Lansing (18-8) and Holt (17-4).

OKEMOS REACHES D2 STATE SEMIFINALS

Okemos wrapped up a solid season by reaching the semifinals in Division 2 where it dropped a 15-13 decision to Bloomfield Hills

Marian.

The loss ended a season that saw Okemos win a 13th straight CAAC regular-season championship and finish the year with a 20-2-2 overall record.

Okemos reached the state semifinals after a dramatic 12-11 win against DeWitt in the regional championship match.

BOYS LACROSSE

ROCKFORD REACHES STATE SEMIFINALS

It took the best in Michigan to end the season for the Rockford boys lacrosse team. Eventual Division 1 state champion Birmingham Brother Rice defeated Rockford 18-4 in the Division 1 state semifinals. Rockford ended the season with a 16-7 overall record.

HASLETT FALLS TO CHAMPS IN QUARTERFINALS

The Haslett lacrosse team saw its season end in the Division 1 state quarterfinals where it dropped a 21-11 decision to eventual state champion Birmingham Brother Rice. Haslett capped the season with a 15-5 record. Haslett reached the quarterfinals by defeating Lansing Catholic Central 16-5 in

the regional title match.

OKEMOS BOYS REACH REGIONAL TITLE MATCH

The Okemos boys lacrosse team wrapped up a winning season by reaching the Division 2 regional finals where it dropped a 9-6 decision to eventual D2 state finalist Ada Forest Hills Eastern. Okemos reached the regional title by defeating Dexter (11-6) and Pinckney (18-0).



The Rockford girls lacrosse team defeated Brighton in the Division 1 state championship game to win its seventh straight state title and eighth in the last 10 years.

The Following Area Players Earned All-State Honors In Lacrosse This Season

DIVISION 1

1st TEAM

Sydney Zimmerman, Rockford, MF
Karrington VanderMolen, Rockford, MF
Madison Kleefisch, Rockford, D
Madelyn Yakes, Rockford, GK
Isabelle Holmes, Rockford, ATK

Ella Lane, Midland Dow, GK
Bailey Banfield, Rockford, D

DIVISION 2

=1st TEAM

Delaney Kirinovic, DeWitt, D
Alexa Beyer, DeWitt, MF

2nd TEAM

Chloe Watters, East Lansing, D
Allison Schloss, Okemos, D
Zoe Ziegler, Okemos, MF

2nd TEAM

Emma Murphy, Midland Dow, MF
Anna Glynn, Rockford, D
Shae Strehl, Rockford, D

HONORABLE MENTION

Grace Wilson, Midland Dow, ATK
Gabrielle Wilson, Midland Dow, MF

HONORABLE MENTION

Kerrigan Brown, DeWitt, ATK
Natalie Yabs, DeWitt, MF

Ayanna Turrubiates, East Lansing, ATK
Gracin Emerson, East Lansing, MF
Averie Gordon, Grand Ledge, ATK
Nicole Glasgow, Grand Ledge, D
Katelyn Crittenden, Holt, D
Savannah Traub, Holt, MF
Olivia Rose, Lowell, MF
Ava Frederickson, Lowell, D
Lola Gonzalez, Okemos, ATK
Campbell Foltz, Okemos, MF
Grace Richardson, Okemos, MF
Mallory McCartney, Saginaw Heritage, MF
Natalie Woodland, Waverly/Catholic Central MF

BOYS

1st TEAM

Ian Rodriguez, Rockford, MF
Joey Ciuk, Okemos, GK
Samuel Faber, Haslett, FO

2nd TEAM

Cam Henckel, Rockford, ATK
Griffin Fenech, Haslett, MF
Trent Eichbauer, Rockford, DMF

3rd TEAM

Elliot Moore, Midland, ATK
Ezra Leppanen, Lansing Catholic ATK
Ryan Sisitki, Midland, MF
Jack Adair, Okemos, MF
Blake Gordon, Rockford, DMF

HONORABLE MENTION

Jacob Smith, Lansing Catholic, GK

SCENE STEALERS!



Jaden Thelen Haslett, Football

Jaden Thelen capped his high school football career in a big way playing at the East/West All-Star game. The Grand Valley State University recruit totaled 10 tackles and one interception for the West team. A wide receiver and safety on defense, Thelen was an all-state selection his senior year at Haslett.



Sam Faber Haslett, Lacrosse

Faber was one of the premier lacrosse players in the state this spring. Along with earning first-team, all-state honors, Faber earned all-American honors as well. Faber will continue his academic and lacrosse career at Ohio State University next season.



Griffin Fenech Haslett, Lacrosse

A junior midfielder, Fenech earned second-team, all-state honors for Haslett and was a first-team, all-conference player. Fenech helped Haslett to both the regular-season and tournament conference titles and a regional championship this season.



Abby Frost Ionia, Track

Frost threw the discus 124 feet, 4 inches in the Division 2 state finals to take fifth for All-State honors. Also during the season, she threw it 116-6 in the CAAC meet and 122-6 in the regional for second place. At the Greater Lansing Honor Roll meet, she took second with 117-4.



Ava Gruber Portland, Soccer

Playing holding mid all season and every game, Gruber always made a difference in the game, her coach said. Previous season she started in this position all year as a freshmen. She was CAAC White All Conference this year as well as All District.



Morgan Perkins Chippewa Hills, Softball

Perkins led her team in batting at .419 and keyed her team to a school record third-straight district title.



Annah Folkema Big Rapids, Softball

Folkema batted .364 and was a solid center fielder and also stole 198 bases. She has signed to play at Alpena Community College.



Tyler Hausserman Ionia, Golf

The Bulldog senior was the CAAC White individual champion and regional titlist with a nine-hole average of 38 and 18-hole average of 77.



Jace Gray Big Rapids, Baseball

Gray hit .405 this season and led his team in runs with 32 and stolen bases with 19. He will be playing at Mid Michigan Community College.



Nate Snyder Chippewa Hills, Baseball

Snyder batted .427, 20 singles, 17 RBIs, 17 runs scored and a .957 fielding percentage as an infielder.



Maddie Alber Crossroads, Softball

Alber batted .483 with on base pct. of .589 and 45 runs scored, plus 21 RBIs, three home runs and triples.



Brooke Edgerly Morley Stanwood, Softball

Edgerly batted .481 in her first season of high school ball and had 31 singles, 23 runs scored, 11 stolen bases and five doubles.



Carly and Macy Haines, Gladwin

Senior Carly Haines (left) had a big day for Gladwin at the Jack Pine Conference track and field meet. She won the discus and was second in the shot put. Her sister Macy Haines was seventh in the conference in the 400 meters.



Aiden Adkins Carson City-Crystal, Skeet Shooting

A senior, Aiden Adkins won the state skeet shooting title at the Michigan Scholastic Clay Target Program state meet. Adkins broke 99 of 100 skeet and won a shoot off to win the title. Even more impressive, Adkins lost his left thumb in a wood cutting accident two months prior to the state meet.

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