



**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE**  
KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

555 E Downie St  
Alma, MI 48801  
(517) 202-1808

[www.highschoolsportsscene.com](http://www.highschoolsportsscene.com)

- **Publisher**  
Randy Miniard  
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com  
517-202-1808
- **High School Liaison**  
Paul Hornak  
plhornak@gmail.com  
989-331-1168
- **Sales**  
Patricia A. Remp  
patriciaremp@gmail.com  
989-620-4600
- **Editorial**  
John Raffel  
john.raffel@gmail.com  
616-894-2936
- Greg Chrapek  
greg102300@yahoo.com  
616-655-9058
- **Photographers**  
Russ Pierce, Skip Traynor,  
Dana McCann, Gary Williams,  
Kim Larner, Eric Sawatzki,  
Marvin Hall, Jaymee Beard,  
Joe Vozar, Lynn Munger,  
Yoland Hayward, Lori Melton,  
Greg Chrapek, John Raffel,  
Dan Seeley, Jason Barden

Vol. 11, Issue 123 - April, 2020

# CONTENTS

- 3** | Heritage Player Is Mr. Hockey
- 4** | Rockford Skier A State Qualifier
- 5** | Ithaca Girls Finish At 22-2
- 6** | Sacred Heart Girls End At 21-3
- 7** | O-E Standout Going To Indiana Tech
- 9** | Holt Misses Another Shot At East Lansing
- 10** | Alma Standout Looking Forward To Next Season
- 11** | 2020 Girls Basketball Dream Team
- 12** | 2020 Wrestling Dream Team
- 14** | 2020 Boys Basketball Dream Team
- 16** | Case Ends Fabulous Gymnastics Career For Rockford Girls
- 17** | P-W Cheer Team Settles For Runner-Up Trophy
- 19** | Breckenridge Boy Bowlers Enjoy Huge Season
- 20** | Midland Bowler Is State Champion
- 21** | Two-Thirds Of Owosso Triplets Excel At State Finals
- 23** | Swim Round Up

**COACHES:**  
To publish your results on our free website  
[Highschoolsportsscene.com](http://Highschoolsportsscene.com)  
send your results after every event to  
[jraffel@gmail.com](mailto:jraffel@gmail.com)

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hello sports fans. We've had better days here at High School Sports Scene Magazine. That said, the people of the mid-Michigan have faced trying times before and have always come back stronger than ever. The Covid-19 virus may have put an end to the school year and ended high school sports prematurely this year, but it has not touched the competitive spirit and heart of not only our local athletes but all the residents of mid-Michigan, young to old. The 2019-2020 high school sports season was in the middle of a memorable run. Area wrestlers and wrestling teams turned in some remarkable performances capped by Lowell winning a seventh consecutive team state championship and Lowell senior Austin Boone capping his career as a four-time, individual state champion. Hats off to the Alma wrestlers who reached the final four at the team wrestling state finals for the first time in program history. Several mid-Michigan boys and girls basketball teams were in the midst of memorable post-season runs and East Lansing senior Aaliyah Nye was named the Division 1 player of the year.

With high schools being cancelled for the remainder of the school year, all the outstanding student athletes that were hard at work preparing for the spring sports season saw their hopes dashed. So many outstanding baseball, softball, track and field, girls tennis, boys golf, girls soccer and lacrosse teams and players will not be able to play the games they love this spring. The pain is especially sharp for all the seniors who not only are unable to play their final season of high school sports, but were robbed of the traditional senior-year activities and ability to enjoy their high school graduation.

Everyone in all areas of life has been dramatically impacted by the Covid-19 virus. Lives have been lost, jobs lost, business impacted. One thing that the virus can't touch is the spirit and heart of all our people. This virus will pass and on the other side we will emerge as stronger people and stronger communities.

Take care everyone and look forward to seeing you at the games sooner than later.



Randy Miniard  
Publisher/Owner  
517-202-1808  
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com

# Heritage Player Is Mr. Hockey

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Saginaw Heritage was two games away from winning a Division I state hockey title.

But the season ended prematurely when the MHSAA canceled the season because of the coronavirus issue.

But Heritage can boast having its first Mr. Hockey with Brady Rappuhn, who won the honor at the end of the season.

Rappuhn was voted the top senior hockey player in Michigan by the state's high school hockey coaches association. He led Heritage to three straight Frozen Four appearances including two in the state finals. He scored at least one point in every game, racking up 44 goals and 45 assists in 28 outings.

His team was 25-3 going to the state finals before the season was canceled.

"It was a really special honor to receive that award," Rappuhn said. "There's a lot of great high school players in Michigan. I was very special to be voted the best one. I was on the Dream team so I knew I had a chance for it. But it kind of came by surprise."

It was a dream season for Rappuhn al-

though he wanted to play two more games.

"Our team, accomplished a lot of things this year," he said. "Obviously the final four teams in Division I were really good teams. I thought our team was just as good if not better. I thought if we competed hard, we had a good chance."

Rappuhn considers his best skills to be his shooting ability. He's played the sport since he was 3 years old.

By growing into a bigger body and continually improving, "that helped me get to where I am today," he said

Rappuhn a left forward, said it's tough to say if this was his best team, considering the quality of his previous squads.

Rappuhn also played lacrosse his freshman and sophomore seasons.

When it comes to hockey, "it's enjoyable being with your teammates at school and going to practice," he said. "They're your best friends."

Rappuhn said he hasn't decided yet if he'll go to juniors for hockey or go to college.

Heritage coach JJ Bamberger appreciates having had Rappuhn on his roster.

Heritage was set to play Howell in the semifinals prior to the cancellation of the season.

"Like everyone else, we didn't know the impact because it was the starting stages of all of this," Bamberger said. "It was a weird feeling. It was something we weren't ready or prepared for. It was a shock at first. Then we realized the bigger picture of it. There was no closure to this. Usually when you win your final game, you're a champion. We won our final game, but we aren't champions. "I liked our chances. All year long when we were behind in games, we came back and

found a way to win. When you only have three losses you like your chances."

Saginaw Heritage's Brady Rappuhn was named Mr. Hockey for 2020.



# Midland Dow Advances To Semifinals

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Dick Blasy's Midland hockey Chargers were two games away from a state title in Division 3.

But the MHSAA postponed and later canceled the state tournament because of the coronavirus issue

The Chargers were 22-6 after a thrilling 3-2 three-overtime win over Grand Rapids Catholic in the quarterfinals.

The Chargers were scheduled to play Riverview Gabriel Richard 20-8 in the championship game.

"We play a pretty tough schedule," Blasy said. "At the end of December, we had six games in a short period of time, it was a grind. There's some of these wins that were very rewarding. You could tell we were tired. But yet, we found a way to win, just by digging and grinding."

"It's a great group of boys. You can see they all compete and they all play hard. We do a good job with our speed of suffocating other team's players and not giving them time or space."

Luke Blasy, a senior, led the team in scoring.

"Personally, I'm a scrappy player. I get the puck down low and I try banging it in," he said. "I get shots on net. If it's there, it's there."

Dow's hockey team advanced to the state semifinals.



**FREE PHOTOS! WITH PURCHASE OF YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE... \$79**

12 EXCITING ISSUES COVERING ALL MHSAA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS AND MHSAA STATE FINALS.. LEAVE YOUR CAMERA AT HOME, HSSS HAS YOU COVERED!!

LIMITED TIME, MHSAA EVENTS COVERED... email [midmichss@yahoo.com](mailto:midmichss@yahoo.com) FOR DETAILS, MAGAZINE AND/OR DIGITAL COPY!



**GA General Agency Company**  
Insurance since 1915  
Knowledgeable. Committed. Trusted.  
(989) 773-6981 (800) 589-6982  
www.ga-ins.com

**DLP Financial Group**  
RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
Daniel R. De Jong, AAMS  
Vice President, Investments  
Randy Lewis  
Associate Vice President, Investments  
John W. Pobanz  
Financial Advisor  
989-463-3052 Toll-Free: 888-846-7895 Fax: 989-463-1989  
dlpfinancialgroup.com

**Laurie's Hair Junction & Tanning**  
Mon 9-5 Tues 8-8 Thurs 9-8 Fri 9-5 Sat 8-12  
116 W. Main, Maple Rapids MI 48853  
Laurie Baker  
Savannah Baker  
Cosmetologist and Nail Tech  
"Color" "Cuts" "Waxing" "Manicure" "Pedicure"  
"Make-up" "Up-dos"  
(989) 682-4420

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS!**



ALMA • PLEASANT • CARSON CITY • ST LOUIS  
OPTICS • OPTICS • OPTICS • OPTICS

TACIA • WHITMORE • BARTZ  
LARK • ZAINEA • LARK • NEAR  
*New Patients Always Welcome!*  
1321 Pine Avenue • Alma, Michigan • 989-463-1139  
miedoctor.com • 

# Rockford Skier A State Qualifier

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Rockford ski coach Michael Thomas called the 2020 season a "fun" one for his team.

"We had a challenging start and it was great to get on snow when we could," he said. "We had a young team this year with a lot of freshmen and sophomore coming in. It was fun to be with them and see them grow in their season. We were top five girls in our conference. We had a very competitive regional."

Parker Wilson, a sophomore Rockford skier, qualified for the slalom in the state meet.

"The program, all together,

is young," Thomas said. "We're returning all of our varsity skiers from last year. We're excited to see all those 12 athletes come back and keep pushing themselves and hopefully go after some conference titles and hopefully regional and state again next year. It should be a good group."

Wilson's future is promising.

"Her next two years are wide open," Thomas said. "She's a hard worker. She's been at the top of the conference the last two years. We're starting to see what she can do. We look forward to her as a junior next year and hopefully she can make it to state in both events."



Parker Wilson, a sophomore Rockford skier, qualified for the slalom in the state meet.

# ★ 2020 Hockey All-Area Team ★

## Division 1

Matthew Cole, Saginaw Heritage  
 Brady Rappuhn, Saginaw Heritage  
 Matthew Witt, Midland  
 Matthew Babinski, Midland  
 John Michael-Watson (def.) Saginaw Heritage  
 Jacob Winters (goalie), Saginaw Heritage

## Division 2

Cooper Dereth, Okemos  
 Dylan McCullen, Davison  
 Jeffrey Schmidt, Davison  
 Casen Faustyn, Okemos  
 Dominic Wendel (goalie), Davison

## Division 3

Luke Blasy, Midland Dow  
 Andrew Hovey, Mount Pleasant  
 Billy VanSumeren, Midland Dow  
 Thomas Crandell, Big Rapids  
 Auston Leuter, Midland Dow  
 Collin Lemanski (goalie), Midland Dow

## All divisions honorable mention:

Ethan Houck, Saginaw Heritage; Nathan Witt, Midland; Ben Carroll, Big Rapids



**YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR MILL ACCESSORIES**

- Square & Round Spouting & Accessories • Truss Kits
- Screw Conveyors & Parts • Power Transmission Components
- Belting, Buckets & Fasteners • Drag Conveyors & Accessories
- Level Controls • Bin Sweeps and Unloading Equipment

3984 W. Monroe (M-46) Alma, MI 48801  
 Ph.: (989) 463-4532  
 Fax: (989) 463-4560  
 Toll Free: 1-877-681-3064

www.premier-com.com

**Carman's Tree Service & Stump Removal**

Gary Carman  
Owner/Operator

8426 N. Wheeler  
Wheeler, MI 48662  
(989) 330-9782 cell  
25yrs. Experienced

Free Estimates  
License/Insured  
Taking Pride in our Exceptional "Clean up!"

**BOLAND'S BESTONE TIRE**

The Leader In The Field

120 S. Pine Street  
Breckenridge, MI 48615  
989-842-5855

General • Cooper  
Firestone • Bridgestone  
Goodyear

24 Hour On The Road Service  
Large Selection of Farm Tires ~ Semi  
Light Truck ~ Passenger ~ ATV ~ Lawn & Garden

**FIRST CONTRACTING INCORPORATED**

Specializing in MSHDA multi Family Renovations  
 701 South Main - Ovid, MI 48866  
 989-834-1500

# P-W Girls Denied Shot At Another State Title

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It could have been another state championship season for Pewamo-Westphalia's girls basketball team.

But now, we'll never know.

The Eagles were going for their second straight Division 3 crown but had to get past Ithaca for the regional title in a finals matchup of two 22-2 teams.

P-W had an impressive 40-37 win over Kent City in the regional final.

But the MHSAA shut down the season because of the coronavirus and the dream game will never be played.

"We were trying to go back-to-back and hearing we weren't going to have that

opportunity was pretty hard on all of us," P-W standout Hannah Spitzley said. "It was pretty much a team effort all year. To be told you won't be given the chance and you're going on with the unknown as you don't know if you'll win the state championship or not, that's pretty hard to cope with."

"I think we would have faced some difficult teams but I think we know what it takes to win tough games and I think we could have won the whole thing. I think our biggest win was beating Kent City. We've played them many years in a row now and it's always a tournament game and we've won all of them. It's always a close game. We had some close games at the beginning of the season. We played against Southfield A&T

and for us to win against a higher division team like that was good."

Spitzley liked how she was playing.

"I think my defense was continuing to give me my offense and was the biggest way I was contributing to the team, always being a rock for my teammates," she said. "Overall, I was playing some of the best basketball I ever played."

Spitzley will be going to Western Michigan University for college basketball.

Her teammate, Emily Droste, was also disappointed with the end of the season.

"It's just a really bizarre situation," Droste said. "Never in a million years did anyone imagine they'd have to go through this. It's unfortunate

it's our senior year that it has to happen. I feel for the girls below us because they didn't get the full feeling of what a state championship run is like. But there's nothing we can do about it. We've had an amazing last four years on this team. The accomplishments we've had are unbelievable. I'm thankful to have won a state championship last year and what we did this year.

"I think our team had a good shot. We wanted it so badly."

Droste is going to Grand Valley State University for basketball.

"I'm going to stay in shape as best I can but it's hard when you can't get into a gym," Droste said.



Pewamo-Westphalia's Hannah Spitzley has been hoping for another state crown.

# Ithaca Girls Finish At 22-2

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Ithaca's Ty Warczinsky and his players would have loved to have played one more girls basketball game this season.

But the fact the coronavirus crisis canceled a dream match-up between a pair of 22-2 teams, Ithaca and Pewamo-Westphalia in the regional title game at Morley Stanwood, couldn't take away a memorable season for the Yellow Jackets.

Their final game would have been on March 10 in a 44-35 win over Muskegon West Michigan. They were set to play P-W, defending champions, but the season was canceled.

"We had just a tremendous season," Warczinsky said. "It was a great ride. The girls played so hard. They worked every day. They focused on the task at hand. We had seniors who had phenomenal years. Sam Vermeesch and

Emma Belles had big-time years. They were first team all-conference, both of them. They just had phenomenal years. Kierra Henderson wasn't talked about a lot but does all the little things and hit a game-winning shot against Saginaw Nouvel at the buzzer.

"Delaney Seaman stepped up as a freshman and had a great freshman year. It was one of the better freshman years since I've been at

Ithaca. This team didn't really care about who scored or who got the numbers. When you work together, work hard and have great relationships, great things happen."

For next year, we have some good pieces coming back," Warczinsky said. "They've had big years. Delaney Seaman works like crazy on her craft. We have some pieces on the JVs that could help us out. We can do things if we continue to work hard."



Emma Belles had a huge season for Ithaca.





## Pine River DENTAL CARE

Where excellent care, the latest technology, and friendliness live

**Jenna Putman, D.D.S. • Brian Putman, D.D.S.**  
 610 N. Pine River Street • Ithaca, Michigan 48847  
**(989) 875-2888** www.pineriverdentalcare.com

# Sacred Heart Girls End At 21-3

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was a fabulous regular season for Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart's girls basketball team, but not exactly the type of postseason the Irish had envisioned.

Coach Damon Brown's team had finished the regular season with a Mid-State Activities Conference title and, after winning the district, took a 21-3 record into the regional semifinal. But the Irish ended their season with a 45-33 loss to Ubyly.

But Brown still enjoyed a memorable season in his 12th year.

"We're very excited about the outcome of the season," he said. "The girls worked hard all season. We had a young team this year and we exceeded expectations."

Top athletes included Delaney Scully, a sophomore point guard.

"She had an amazing year," Brown said. "She stepped up in a leadership role and increased her scoring. She finished the season averaging 13 points, five rebounds and three assists per game."

Sophomore Madison Mun-

ley "had a strong sophomore campaign," Brown said. "She is an athletic post player. She finished the year averaging 11 points and six rebounds a game."

"The lone graduate is Sammy McDonald. "She was a four-year varsity player and developed into a tremendous leader," said Brown who has Delaney Scully, Madison Munley, Anna Terwilliger and Allison Hauck returning. "We have a strong team returning next year. I'm excited about what the future holds for the Lady Irish basketball team."



Delaney Scully (left) got the job done for Sacred Heart this season.

# Scully Posts Banner Season For Sacred Heart

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was a fabulous regular season for Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart's girls basketball team, but not exactly the type of postseason the Irish had envisioned.

Coach Damon Brown's team had finished the regular season with a Mid-State Activities Conference title and, after winning the district, took a 21-3 record into the regional semi-

nal. But the Irish ended their season with a 45-33 loss to Ubyly.

But Brown still enjoyed a memorable season in his 12th year.

"We're very excited about the outcome of the season," he said. "The girls worked hard all season. We had a young team this year and we exceeded expectations."

Top athletes included Delaney Scully, a sophomore point guard.

"She had an amazing year," Brown

said. "She stepped up in a leadership role and increased her scoring. She finished the season averaging 13 points, five rebounds and three assists per game."

Sophomore Madison Munley "had a strong sophomore campaign," Brown said. "She is an athletic post player. She finished the year averaging 11 points and six rebounds a game."

"The lone graduate is Sammy McDonald. "She was a four-year varsity player and developed into a tremendous leader," said Brown who has Delaney Scully, Madison Munley, Anna Terwilliger and Allison Hauck returning. "We have a strong team returning next year. I'm excited about what the future holds for the Lady Irish basketball team."



Emily Gandy of Chippewa Hills signed a Division I athletic scholarship in February to attend Eastern Michigan University and be on the rowing team.



We have low rates for new and used cars or trucks, we can also refinance an existing auto loan. Local loan processing means you'll be on the road in no time. Even the application is quick — apply online or in our office today!



isabellabank.com 800.651.9111 isabellabankmi



# O-E Standout Going To Indiana Tech

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

One reason in particular exists for Ovid-Elsie's excellent girls basketball season:

Lauren Barton.

Barton, who has signed to play college basketball at Indiana Tech, ended the season averaging 12.9 points, 7.1 rebounds, 2.5 steals and 3.0 assists per game. Against Durand she scored 23 points and had 18 rebounds and five assists. Against Mount Morris, she had 25 points and 10 rebounds. "I have added about three or four post moves to my inside game as well as a mid-range jumper that I have practiced a lot with over the past summer so I am a threat from outside the paint as well," Barton said.

"I have been recruited by Indiana Tech where I plan on pursuing my academic and athletic career. I have been accepted into their Biomedical Engineering Program which I plan to study. My main reason for going into Biomedical Engineering is to help people. I have always enjoyed helping people ever since I was younger and I want to continue that in my future as well. I have also been given the opportunity to play basketball there as well. I was given both an academic and athletic scholarship."

She's had four years of varsity ball.

"This year has gone pretty good," she said. "We're doing pretty good. My freshman year we had a lot of great talent. This year we have a lot of heart, I think that makes up for

our lack of skill."

In the games where she scored a lot of points, "they were mainly putbacks and post moves," Barton recalled. "I think I improved a lot. I suffered an ACL injury my sophomore year. Coming into my junior year, I was a little shaky coming off an injury. But I was able to sign with Indiana Tech (mid-November) and pursue my athletic and academic career."

"They were a successful team already. They were 23-4 this year."

A home win over New Lothrop was memorable.

"They were a very physical team. So we were able to get down, get dirty and get the win," Barton said.

She also played volleyball in the fall.



Ovid-Elsie's Lauren Barton.

# Fowler Winds Up With 20 Wins

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was another good girls basketball season for Nathan Goerge and his Fowler team.

The team finished 20-4 overall and 14-2 in the conference.

"After losing four starters from last year's team, I think many felt we exceeded expectations," he said. "But I knew we had a lot of young talent and great senior leadership."

Fowler was set to play Battle Creek Calhoun for the Division 4 regional title before the season was canceled from the Coronavirus issue.

"Having an opportunity to play for another regional title was a big accomplishment," Goerge said. "Unfortunately, we were not able to find out how the season would ultimately finish, but I am extremely proud of the team. Another highlight was getting to 20 wins. That is something the girls should be very proud of given how competitive our conference is. Having got to the state

semifinals last year, the team came back this year more focused than ever, ready to work extremely hard, and eager to get to that next step.

"Obviously, not being able to finish the season was devastating. It is difficult to address the team and not have many answers. My heart goes out to the seniors. They have given the basketball program so much, and I am heartbroken they were not able to pursue their dream of a basketball state championship."

Mia Riley (sophomore) averaged 15 points, 7 rebounds and 4 steals per game. She was All-State (first team) and All-Conference (first team).

Emma Riley (freshman) averaged 15 points and 4 steals per game, (47) 3-point field goals and was All State honorable mention and all-conference first team. Kalani Koenigs-knecht and

Emma Halfmann were All-Conference.

Key graduates are Kalani Koenigs-knecht and Josie Koenigs-knecht

"Both players have played for me for four years," Goerge said. "Both are unselfish, hard workers, always positive. Key returners are Mia Riley, Emma Riley, Emma Halfmann and Christi Spitzley."

"We have a lot of talent coming back," Goerge said. "The returning players spend a lot of time in the gym working on their game. If the girls continue to stay focused and work hard, they will have an opportunity to do some special things. I hope that we will have the opportunity to play summer basketball. Then we will get a chance to see how the veteran players mesh with the new personnel. They are a great group of girls so I am confident we will have another strong, unified team."

"It was an absolute pleasure to coach the team this season. They worked so hard all year long. The girls should be proud of their accomplishments. They did an amazing job representing their community."



Mia Riley was a sophomore forward for Fowler this season.



**101 Hidden Oaks Dr,  
St Louis, MI 48880**

**989-463-AUTO (2886)  
seeleycars.com**

**Low Money Down!  
Low Monthly Payments!  
Guaranteed Financing!**

**Ready For  
Your Service  
Needs!**



# Hemlock Settles For 21-2 Record

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Hemlock's girls basketball team was all set to play Flint Hamady to determine who had the best 21-2 team in the Division 3 regional finals on March 12.

The coronavirus pandemic ended all this but coach Scott Neumeyer's team still had a season for the ages. Regan Finkbeinner had 15 points a game for the Huskies. Sydney Peake led the team in rebounding with 8.2 boards per game. She was third in scoring with 10.8 points

per game. Freshman Chloe Weston was second in scoring in 12.3.

The key for the team's success was "understanding what it takes to play defending at the varsity level, especially the way we play," Neumeyer said. "We play a pretty complicated system. I knew it would take our younger players awhile to get the hang of it. We started playing really well.

"We had some key returners in Sydney Peake and Cassidy Peake. We had experience there and it was nice for them to guide the younger players. We had

the perimeter shooting. It was the best 3-point shooting team we've had and it's only going to get better."

Sydney Peake also averaged 8.2 rebounds a game.

Looking ahead to next season, "we graduate Sydney Peake and Kylee Ryder, our two big girls," Neumeyer said. "We've got some young talent coming in, so we're going to be very good next year. Once the girls get experience, we could be very good next season. We're just anxious to get back into the gym."



Cassidy Peake (21) was among the key players for Hemlock's girls basketball team this season.

# Nouvel Girls Are Regional Finalists

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Saginaw Nouvel's girls basketball team was all set to be in the regional title game against 23-1 Ubly.

But the game never tipped off because of the coronavirus

This was coach John Wilson's third season at Nouvel and the team finished at 19-5.

"My thoughts about this team's season ended with the question 'What could have been,'" Wilson said. "I understand your health and safety takes top priority and what is going on is bigger than the game of basketball. I also know how special and fortunate it was to have your team get as far as this team did and a big reason for our success is the teams we face in our conference which are very competitive. I also know that it takes a huge commitment with time and practice to develop this kind of run to have your team try to reach the state championship.

"We made our team goals

together at the beginning of the season and the team was on their way to accomplishing their goals by playing and peaking at the right time. The journey was incredible, winning a district since 2015 and their belief in themselves and their team was getting stronger after every game."

Nouvel was All-Academic All State honorable mention honorees with a GPA of 3.66.

"Some of the other top highlights were the times the team got together for special occasions such as the Christmas scavenger hunt, secret Santa exchange and the revealing of their individual poster pictures," Wilson said. "I knew this team was special when they were down by double digits against Hemlock on the road and they finished strong with an incredible win."

Madison Looby averaged 10 points, 4.0 rebounds and 3.2 steals per game and was honorable mention All-State and second team all-conference.

Grace Chacon averaged 9.3 points and 5.0 rebounds and was honorable mention all-conference.

Catherine Buko averaged 6.3 points, 4.3 rebounds, 2.8 steals and was first team all-conference

Isabelle Patel averaged 5.0 points and 8.0 rebounds and was, second team all-conference.

Grace Buckingham was honorable mention all-conference.

Sara Wilson was all-conference.

Sterling Solek, Molly Wilson, Iris Patel, Faith Buckingham and Mackenzie Sprague all contributed to this year's team.

"The entire team will be key returners along with potential in the lower program players," Wilson said. "If the team continues to improve on their individual game skills and commits to improving their strength and conditioning as well as their team chemistry, together they will have a very bright future."



Catherine Buko was a standout for Saginaw Nouvel.

**THE Camera SHOP**  
 M-F 9am-6pm, Sat: 10am-4pm  
 We Can Transfer To DVD Home Movies Including:  
 • VHS  
 • 8mm, Super 8mm & 16mm  
 • 8mm & High 8mm video  
 • Digital 8mm video tape  
 • Mini DV Type  
**FREE** Second Copy With This Ad!  
 6006 S. Pennsylvania at Miller, Lansing  
**517-272-0027**  
 www.LansingCamera.com

**MICHIGAN PAVING & MATERIALS CO.**  
 • Binding Our Roads And Communities Together  
 • Serving All Your Asphalt & Emulsion Needs  
 Alma - (989) 402-5932  
 Monroe - (734) 241-9189  
 Spartan Asphalt Division - (517) 482-9611  
 Jackson - (517) 787-4200  
 Kalamazoo - (269) 343-4659  
 Grand Region South - (616) 459-9545  
 www.michiganpaving.com

**FOUST**  
 Furnace & Air Conditioning  
 "CUSTOMIZING YOUR COMFORT"  
 • FURNACE • POWER HUMIDIFIERS • ALL TYPES OF VENTING  
 • CENTRAL AIR • MEDIA AIR FILTERS • HANGING UNIT HEATERS  
 • WATER HEATER • DUCT & ATTIC INSULATING • GAS LOG FIREPLACES  
**JASON FOUST**  
 LICENSED & INSURED  
 989-944-1527  
 MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858

# Holt Misses Another Shot At East Lansing

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Cassandra Kotlarczyk's Holt Rams realized it wouldn't be easy, but they were hoping to pull off the upset against East Lansing when the two girls teams were scheduled to meet on March 12 in the regional title game.

But the coronavirus attack forced the MHSAA to end all sports.

Holt was 20-4 after its 51-40 win over Battle Creek Central and was hosting the regional title game against East Lansing, 23-1 before the

game and season was canceled.

Holt is in East Lansing's conference and went 0-2 in regular season clashes.

"It did not go very well," Kotlarczyk said of the two losses. East Lansing is a very good team. The first time we lost by 19. The second time we got blown out pretty good. They were hitting pretty good that night."

Kotlarczyk had some specific strategy in hoping to make it a different story.

"We were going to change how we were playing defensively," Kot-

larczyk recalled. "They have a really tough full-court press they put on. We worked on a lot of transition. They're very good at playing at a very high tempo, which on offense causes a lot of unnecessary turnovers. We worked on a lot of that.

"Defensively, we were working on moving during the pass instead of being more proactive and reactionary. They're a very good shooting team. So we were focusing on making sure they only got one shot. They had to shoot well the first time.

They had multiple threats. So even if you shut down Aaliyah Nye at any one point, one of four or five other people could step and have a 20-point game."

Nye has committed to Illinois. She was the Associated Press' Division I player of the year.

But Holt had its own unique success.

"It was different people stepping up at different points," Kotlarczyk said. "It was consistency and playing cohesively as a team. They really trusted each other. We were finding our stride a little bit going into winter break. In February, we had some really good wins. We just trusted each other. The girls trusted what was happening on the floor. They talked to each other. The hard work was always there.

"The athletes I worked with, I don't have to tell them to work harder. They're always scrappy, diving on the floor, kind of a motto for our team to out hustle and outwork someone. They bought into that and trusted each other."

Holt's top player was Janae Tyler, a freshman, who averaged a double-double every game; 17.4 points and 11.5 rebounds a game. She had 50 blocks. The second leading scorer was junior guard Ella Barker at 12 points and 3.1 steals a game.



Ella Baker (32) and Janae Tyler (34) had huge seasons for Holt.

**FIRST CONTRACTING INCORPORATED**  
 Specializing in MSHDA multi Family Renovations  
 701 South Main - Ovid, MI 48866  
 989-834-1500

**WIDEMAN APPRAISAL SERVICE**  
 Full Line Of Appraisals  
 1002 E. Center St. Ithaca, MI 48847  
 Office: (989) 875-4544  
 Fax: (989) 875-4838  
 James J. Wideman Owner  
 www.widemanappraisal.com  
 E-mail: jim@widemanappraisal.com

**Nutrien Dyna-Gro**  
 Ag Solutions  
 Doug Belles Manager  
 Office: (989) 842-1185  
 8263 N. Ransom Rd.  
 PO Box 157  
 Breckenridge, MI 48615  
 www.cpsagu.com

**WATERSHED**  
 TAVERN AND GRILL

**Family Owned And Operated**  
 5965 Marsh Rd • Haslett, MI 48840  
 Call Us For  
**517-999-SHED Take-Out!**  
 Now Serving Lansing's Best Slow Smoked Barbecue!



## Freeland Basketball Player Reflects On Emotional Season

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Kadynd Blanchard enjoyed a strong season for Freeland's girls basketball team, but it was bittersweet in so many ways.

The defending Division 2 runners-up lost their coach Tom Zolinski who passed away prior to the season unexpectedly.

Zolinski had a 244-59 record in 12 seasons at Freeland. Matt Hirschenberger took over as coach.

One of Blanchard's best games was a 52-34 win over Swan Valley, with 21 points, seven rebounds and three steals.

Freeland started out slow but ended up 20-4. The problem was the final game was a win in the regional semifinal. The regional title clash was

called off, along with all other basketball games across the state because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We started out a little rough," Blanchard said. "We lost coach Z which was hard on everyone. It took us awhile, but we all came together and wanted to play for him. We knew he wanted us to go out and play the way we know how. We lost four starters from last year so we weren't expected to do too much."

"Eventually, things turned around and we won the conference championship and then we won districts. We were about to play in the regional championship, which we could have won but we didn't play it."

The MHSAA canceled all winter sports at that time because of the coronavirus crisis.

When school was canceled for the

rest of the year, Blanchard and her teammates realized sports most likely would not continue.

"It was tough," she said. "Coach H and all the coaches were good about talking with us. We know no matter how the season ended, we made coach Z proud. We turned our season around and for each other."

As a senior, Blanchard was in her third varsity season, and it was her best one. She felt she improved on her shooting and taking more of a leading scoring role. Blanchard averaged 20 points a game.

"Every win in post season is special, just knowing that you get to play another game is nice," she said.

Blanchard will be playing basketball at Ferris State University. She was also on a Freeland volleyball team which advanced to the quarterfinal.

Freeland's Kalynd Blanchard averaged 20 points a game.



## Alma Standout Looking Forward To Next Season

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Alma's Alyssa Leister succeeded in having another banner season despite playing on a young Panthers team team this season.

The basketball team finished around .500.

"We're definitely looking forward to next year because we'll have more experience," she said. "I definitely had some help from my teammates and I'll be better."

Leister was at 16 points, six boards and 3.2 steals and 2.2 assists per game.

"Our losses actually helped us a little more than our wins did," she said. "They were tough losses but we played well. Both times we played Freeland, we played well. That's super important to us because Freeland is our rival and we always want to beat them. The second time we played Standish Sterling, the first time we lost by 30. We only lost by 11 at our place. We definitely stepped up our game."

Leister said she improved in stepping up at the point guard position.

"I was out of my comfort zone but I did what I had to do," she said.

It was a unique season for Leister who shined on the volleyball court and was planning on switching from softball to track before the coronavirus pandemic forced the MHSAA to cancel the season.

"I was extremely disappointed," Leister said. "A lot of other people do too. I was looking forward to trying something new. I hope the gyms get reopened too."

Alyssa Leister played both volleyball and basketball for Alma this season.

## Presenting The 2020 Girls Basketball Dream Team

### Divisions 1 and 2

#### First Team

**Aaliyah Nye, East Lansing, Sr.**

She was runner-up in Miss Basketball voting after leading her team to a 23-1 record and a berth in the regional final. She averaged 16.1 points and 5.2 rebounds per game as a senior. She will go to the University of Illinois.

**Janae Tyler, Holt, Fr.**

She averaged a double-double every game; 17.4 points and 11.5 rebounds a game. She had 50 blocks.

**Jasmine Clerkley, Okemos, Sr.**

She has averaged a double-double in her career. She will be attending Bowling Green State.

**Kadynd Blanchard, Freeland, Sr.**

She averaged 20 points, 6.5 rebounds, 3.3 steals and 2.5 assists per game as the only returning starter for a 2019 state finalist team. She will be going to Ferris State and made 51 3-pointers for a 20-4 Freeland team.

**Sarah Miller, Birch Run, Sr.**

Miller averaged 22 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists and 2.6 steals per game. She finished her career with 1,877 points.

#### Second Team

**Alecsis Smith, Bay City Central, So.**

**Kenzie Lewis, Williamston, Sr.**

**Maddie Voelker, Goodrich, Sr.**

**Ella Barker, Holt, Jr.**

**Abi Tarrant, Bay City John Glenn, Jr.**

#### Honorable Mention

Mackenzie Egger, Mt. Pleasant; Jada Garner, Midland Dow; Isabelle Gilmore, DeWitt; Sanaya Gregory, East Lansing; Lauren Gunn, Saginaw Heritage; Hannah Kurncz, DeWitt; Ahlura Lofton, East Lansing; Rachel Rustad, St. Johns; Sug Williams, East Lansing; Lexi Boyke, Frankenmuth; Ashley Bower, Portland; Taylor Sas, Saginaw Swan Valley; Carly McCrum, Bay City John Glenn; Bailey Taylor, Clare; Catarina Juarez, Bridgeport; Zoey Pearsails, Frankenmuth; Sidnee Struck, Chesaning; Alyssa Leister, Alma; Lauren Barton, Ovid-Elsie; Lauren Hanes, Lansing Catholic; Taylor Kirby, Ionia; Olivia Green, Haslett.

### Divisions 3 and 4

#### First Team

**Hannah Spitzley, Pewamo-Westphalia, Sr.**

She averaged 14.4 points, 5.4 rebounds, 3.3 steals, 2.2 assists for the Pirates this winter. She shot 58 percent from the field and will play at Western Michigan University.

**Ellie Droste, Pewamo-Westphalia, Sr.**

The senior guard averaged 13.4 points, 3 assists and 2.3 steals per game for the Pirates and will play at Grand Valley State.

**Regan Finkbeiner, Hemlock, Fr.**

She averaged 15 points per game for a 21-2 Hemlock team.

**Amaka Unobagha, Saginaw Arts & Sciences, Sr.**

She averaged 11 points, 15 rebounds and 7.7 blocks a game and had 631 career blocks, third all-time in the state.

**Mia Riley, Fowler, So.**

She averaged 15.0 points, 7.0 rebounds, 4.0 steals for a team which was 20-4 and regional finalists.

#### Second Team

**Chloe Watson, Hemlock, Fr.**

**Madison Looby, Saginaw Nouvel, So.**

**Emma Bolles, Ithaca, Sr.**

**Sam Vermeesch, Ithaca, Sr.**

**Delaney Scully, Sacred Heart, So.**

#### Honorable Mention

Maddi Osantowski, Reese; Alyssa Welsh, Perry; Sydney Peake, Hemlock; Madison Travis, Farwell; Brooke Brauher, Morley-Stanwood; Kara Mahoney, Laingsburg; Brooke Wenzlick, New Lothrop; Katelyn Pnacek, Coleman; Emma Riley, Fowler; Makaiya Thomas, Saginaw Arts & Sciences; Madison Munley, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Academy; Jenna Dove, Vestaburg; Summer Smith, Breckenridge; Lydia Meredith, Portland St. Pats; Mia Judd, Lansing Christian; Katelyn Bontrager, Lansing Christian.



**IN YOUR HOUR OF DARKNESS LET US BE YOUR LIGHT**

**Lux-Moody-Wolfel Funeral Home**  
531 N State St.  
Alma, MI 48801  
Phone: 989-463-8970

**Lux and Schnepf Funeral Home**  
521 S. Main St.  
Crystal, MI 48818  
Phone: 989-235-4212

**www.luxfuneralhomes.com**

**Lux Funeral Homes, Inc.**  
Funeral Directors  
Paul C. Lux    Nicholas P. Lux  
Scott Kilgo    Laura E. Krebs  
Chris Krebs

**Lux and Whiting Funeral Chapel**  
156 W. Saginaw  
Breckenridge, MI 48615  
Phone: 989-842-3547

**Dodge Funeral Home**  
404 S. Newton  
Middleton, MI 48856  
Phone: 989-989-7270

**Assistant Directors**  
Carl Cecil  
Mike Krebs

**Lux and Schnepf Funeral Home**  
228 W. Center  
St. Louis, MI 48880  
Phone: 989-681-2982

**Lux and Schnepf Funeral Home**  
6479 N. Lumberjack Rd.  
Riverdale, MI 48877  
Phone: 989-833-7352

**Lux and Schnepf Funeral Home**  
816 E. Main St.  
Carson City, MI 48811  
Phone: 989-584-3504

Your local agent is your neighbor – someone you can trust and someone who's here for you when it matters most!

Your #1 fan

**BRECKENRIDGE INSURANCE AGENCY**  
126 Eaton St. Breckenridge, MI 48615  
(989) 842-3161  
fax (989) 842-5570  
BIAOFMI.COM

**Auto-Owners INSURANCE**  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Presenting The



# 2020 Wrestling Dream Team



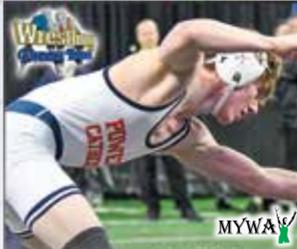

**Grant Stahl**  
Mt. Pleasant High School  
103 - Freshman (39-3)

Stahl made a big splash in his first season of high school wrestling. A district and regional champion, Stahl reached the 103-pound title match in Division 2 before dropping a one-point decision.



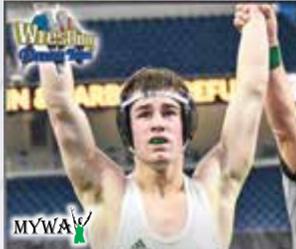
**Jacob Brya**  
St. Johns High School  
112 - Sophomore (41-0)

A two-time state champion, Brya has compiled an 83-2 record during his first two seasons of high school wrestling.



**Sean Spidle**  
Flint Powers High School  
119 - Senior (35-1)

A three-time state champion, Spidle suffered his first loss of the season in the state-title match in Division 3.



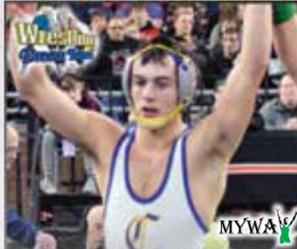
**Ryker Johncheck**  
Williamston High School  
125 - Sophomore (44-2)

A state qualifier last year as a freshman, Johncheck took his game to a next level this year. Johncheck defeated Dundee freshman standout Aiden Davis in overtime to win the Division 3 state title.



**Brock Holey**  
Durand High School  
130 - Junior (45-1)

A three-time state placer, Holey placed second at 130 pounds in Division 3 with a final record of 45-1. A fourth-place finisher last year, Holey has a career record of 109-23.



**Jamison Ward**  
Carson City-Crystal HS  
135 - Senior

Ward capped his career with 217 total wins and captured his second-straight state championship in Division 4 this season.



**Chris Haynes**  
Eaton Rapids High School  
140 - Senior (45-2)

Second in the state in Division 2 this season, Haynes is a three-time state placer who won 124 matches the past three years.

### D1 & D2 BIG SCHOOL ALL-AREA TEAM

- 103) Tayden Miller, Mason, fr.
- 112) Nick Korhorn, Lowell, sr.
- 119) Trevor Marsman, Cedar Springs, fr.
- 125) Andrew Hughes, Charlotte, sr.
- 130) Dylan Phelps, Holt, sr.
- 135) Dawson Jankowski, Lowell, sr.
- 140) Trenton Wachter, Rockford, jr.
- 145) Luke York, DeWitt, jr.
- 152) Chad Haynes, Eaton Rapids, sr.
- 160) Colton Blaha, Owosso, sr.
- 171) Aidan Wardell, Midland Dow, soph.
- 189) Cole Gleason, Rockford, jr.
- 215) Keegan Nugent, Lowell, jr.
- 285) Tyler DeLooff, Lowell, sr.

### SPECIAL MENTION:

- Manuel Leija (119), Lansing Eastern, sr.
- Zeth Strejc (130), Lowell, jr.

### HONORABLE-MENTION:

- Jacob Brandt (189), DeWitt; Tyler Brandt (171), DeWitt; Robert Davids (119), Eaton Rapids; Doak Dean (160), Lowell; Matt Foddi (125), DeWitt; Dakota Forgash (103), Bay City Glenn; Ryan Granger (152), Holt; Jacob Hough (215), Lowell; Evan Kaser (145), Rockford; Kiefer Kolito (119), DeWitt; CJ Krum (189), St. Johns; Jacob Lee (171), Lowell; William Link (140), Lowell; Tanner Miller (130), Mason; Dylan Norris (215), Eaton Rapids; Caden Peterman (125), Greenville; Conner Porchert (285), DeWitt; Jay Shaull (103), Eaton Rapids; Jaden West (285), Eaton Rapids.



### D3 & D4 SMALL SCHOOL ALL-AREA TEAM

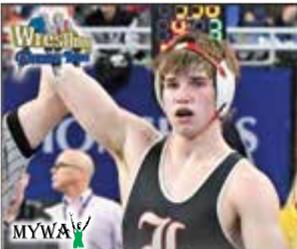
- 103) Isaiah Mullins, St. Charles, soph.
- 112) Jordan Rodriguez, Chesaning, sr.
- 119) Zack Hall, Byron, soph.
- 125) Jaron Johnson, Carson City-Crystal, jr.
- 130) Lance Clark, Shepherd, jr.
- 135) Dametrius Castillo, Alma, jr.
- 140) Nicholas Dodman, Sanford-Meridian, jr.
- 145) Colt Smedley, Clare, sr.
- 152) Peyton Brooks, Bullock Creek, soph.
- 160) Randy Pyrzewski, Gladwin, soph.
- 171) Jacob Cassidy, Beaverton, sr.
- 189) Justin Carnahan, New Lothrop, sr.
- 215) Levi Harber, Montrose, soph.
- 285) Grant Clarkson, Lakewood-Lake Odessa, sr.

### SPECIAL MENTION:

- Andrew Krupp (125), New Lothrop, jr.
- Solomon Rosales (130), Alma, jr.
- Alex Wolford (130), New Lothrop, so.
- Mac Breece (135), Birch Run, sr.
- Bryce Cheney (152), New Lothrop, jr.
- Terrance Watson (285), Birch Run, sr.

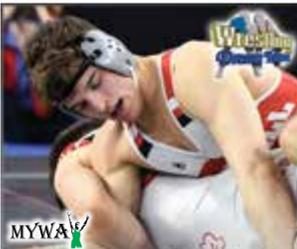
### HONORABLE-MENTION:

- Ty Anderson (145), Corunna; Kyle Andrews (112), Shepherd; Kanan Atwell (119), Lakewood-Lake Odessa; James Bailey (285), Gladwin; Austin Barnett (160), New Lothrop; David Barrett (145), Blanchard-Montabella; Aidan Bernard (125), Montrose; Jon Bouchey (140), Clare; Logan Buckner (171), Shepherd; Alex Christie (171), Essexville-Garber; Caleb Cline (125), Shepherd; Zachary Gibson (112), Lakewood-Lake Odessa; Alex Goodson (130), Sanford-Meridian; Clayton Hackett (285), Bullock Creek; Corbin Hamilton (285), Ithaca; Carson Hayes (130), Chippewa Hills; Logan Kehres (130), Dansville; Calvin Kittendorf (130), Williamston; Daven Lockwood (103), New Lothrop; Luke Mahaney (135), Williamston; Derek Mayle (119), Breckenridge; Travis McDonald (135), Sanford-Meridian; Chris Mills (160), Frankenmuth; Jimmy Miron (189), Sanford-Meridian; Alex Newton (112), St. Louis; Connor Owens (140), Flint Powers; Isiah Pasik (285), New Lothrop; Caiden Pelc (119), Portland; Colby Roosa (215), Chippewa Hills; Robert Skinner (152), Montrose; Ty Tanner (152), Birch Run; Justin VanBlaricum (160), Alma; Clayton Wiggins (189), Chippewa Hills; Logan Wolford (135), New Lothrop.

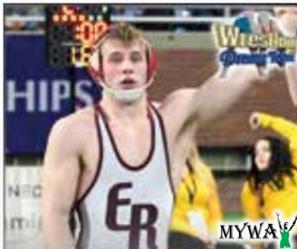
**Austin Boone**  
Lowell High School  
145 - Senior (41-0)

Boone concluded his career as a four-time state champion. A Penn State recruit, Boone went 156-8 during his high school career.



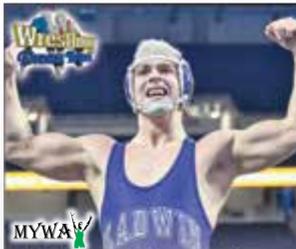
**James Fotis**  
Lowell High School  
152 - Senior (29-6)

Fotis wrapped up his career as a three-time, state placer and four-time state qualifier. Fotis placed second at 152 pounds in Division 2 this season and ended his career with 111 total wins.



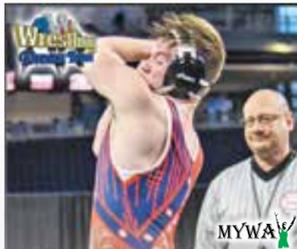
**Caleb Fish**  
Eaton Rapids High School  
160 - Senior (46-0)

Heading to Michigan State University to continue his career, Fish capped his career with a 183 wins and back-to-back state titles.



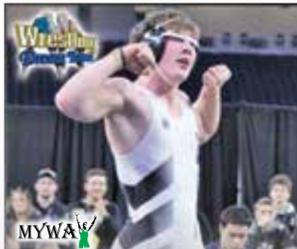
**Dillon Kroening**  
Gladwin High School  
171 - Senior (52-1)

A two-time, state placer, Kroening reached the top of the podium in Division 3 as he turned in a 52-1 record. Kroening placed second last year at 171 with a 50-2 final mark.



**Jonathan Clack**  
Lakewood-Lake Odessa HS  
189 - Senior (52-0)

A three-time, state placer who totaled 145 wins the past three seasons, Clack capped his career with a Division 3 state title.



**Camden Orr**  
New Lothrop High School  
215 - Junior (44-3)

After placing sixth in Division 4 as a sophomore, Orr reached the top of the podium this season and has 82 wins the past two years.



**Jack Gilchrist**  
Reason High School  
285 - Senior (45-2)

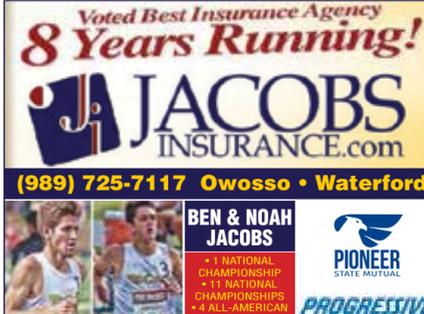
After winning over 40 matches as a junior, Gilchrist turned in a huge senior season capped by winning the heavyweight title in Division 2.



**Gratiot Towing**  
(989) 875-8484



**BARDEN FUNERAL HOMES**  
Serving Ithaca for 114 years. 989-875-4715



Voted Best Insurance Agency 8 Years Running!  
**JACOBS INSURANCE.com**  
(989) 725-7117 Owosso • Waterford  
BEN & NOAH JACOBS  
• 1 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP  
• 11 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
• 4 ALL-AMERICAN AWARDS  
PIONEER STATE MUTUAL  
PROGRESSIVE



**Become a School Coach or Game Official**  
Contact your local high school athletic administrator or the Michigan High School Athletic Association



**MHSAA**  
michigan high school athletic association  
1661 Ramblewood Dr.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
**517-332-5046**  
www.mhsaa.com

Presenting The



# 2020 Boys Basketball Dream Team



**Mason Docks, Williamston, so. guard**

This versatile sophomore guard earned first-team, all-state honors in Division 2. Docks averaged 19 points, three assists and two steals in helping Williamston to a 20-2 record this season.



**Jo Ostrowsky, Mt. Pleasant, sr. guard**

The co-MVP of the Saginaw Valley League, Ostrowsky wrapped up his career with over 1,000 points. This season Ostrowsky averaged 18 points along with five rebounds and four assists.



**Noah Pruitt, Okemos, sr. guard**

A three-year starter at Okemos, Pruitt's heady point-guard play was a key to Okemos winning three-state CAAC Blue titles and earning Division 1 all-state honors this season.



**Sir'Real Smith, Saginaw, sr. guard**

A first-team, all-state selection in Division 1, Smith possesses unreal scoring skills as he averaged 29 points and 9.5 rebounds as he earned co-MVP honors in the Saginaw Valley League.



**Mason Wojtusik, Mt. Pleasant, sr. forward**

Honorable-mention, all-state in Division 1, Wojtusik scored over 1,000 career points. Wojtusik averaged 18 points along with eight rebounds per game for an Oiler team that finished 20-1 this season.

### D3 & D4 SMALL SCHOOL ALL-AREA TEAM

Connor Arnold, Coleman, sr. forward

Aaron Bearss, Pewamo-Westphalia, sr. forward

Sam Buckingham, Saginaw Nouvel, sr. forward

James Felton, Lansing Christian, sr. guard

Nolan Finkbeiner, Hemlock, sr. guard

### HONORABLE-MENTION:

Logan Chilman, Beal City; Ben Drowley, Ithaca; Jayden Evans, Hemlock; Gabe Hawes, Laingsburg; Zach Hawes, Laingsburg; Logan Heath, Merrill; Jacob Hecht, Saginaw Valley Lutheran; Cole Krause, Potterville; Cody Luce, Dansville; Hunter McGowan, Morrice; Trey Plichta, Sanford-Meridian; Carter Pline, Fowler; Luke Predum, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart; Jacob Pung, Pewamo-Westphalia; Keaton Ringley, Saginaw Valley Lutheran; Nathan Walker, Webberville; Zach Wentworth, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart; Gage White, Sanford-Meridian.

### D1 & D2 BIG SCHOOL ALL-AREA TEAM



**Andrel Anthony, East Lansing, jr. forward**



**Jaylen Hodges, Bridgeport, jr. forward**



**Shamar Howard, Lansing Everett, sr. guard**



**DJ Voltz, Carrollton, soph., guard**



**Marcus Wourman, East Lansing, sr. guard**

**HONORABLE-MENTION:** Thomas Alfano, Shepherd; Justin Bates, Charlotte; Parker Day, Saginaw Heritage; Jack Dillon, Haslett; Paul Gadde, Alma; Mason Gilbert, DeWitt; Griffin Gleeson, Eaton Rapids; Tracy Holbrook, Lansing Eastern; Grant Holtzer, Okemos; Bryson Huckebe, Freeland; Landon Hungerford, DeWitt; Shane Jenkins, Clare; Will Jerzak, Grand Ledge; Emmanuel Jones, Lansing Sexton; Tay Jones, Carrollton; Caleb Leykauf, Perry; Shayne Loynes, Ovid-Elsie; Case Martin, Alma; Dylan McFarland, Essexville-Garber; Justin Moore, Ovid-Elsie; Charlie Nylander, Lansing Catholic; Connor Richardson, Mason; Logan Schafer, Ionia; Josiah Shamsideen, Holt; Nick Szymanski, Ionia; Xander Thelen, Haslett; RJ VanVliet, Eaton Rapids; Aryan Virk, Portland; Jacob Wallace, Williamston; Keagan Wendal, Sanford-Meridian; Devan Wilson, Grand Ledge; Hunter Woolston, Clare; Will Young, Okemos.

**KRAPOHL**  
  
 Specializing in Ford Pre-Owned Certified Vehicles  
 MT. PLEASANT 772-2991  
 1-800-772-5974  
 www.krapohlford.com

**Quick Lane**  
 TIRE & AUTO CENTER  
**KRAPOHL**  
 Ford & Lincoln  
**10% Off Brake Service**  
 (Disc or Drum) Savings Off Regular Price Service Only  
 Mt. Pleasant • (989) 953-TIRE

**Meemic** Kingsley Insurance Group  
 Rich and Louanne Kingsley  
 800-783-0817  
 Alma 116 W. Superior Street Suite 1 989-463-5347  
 St. Johns 1000 E. Stugis St. Suite 12 989-224-3505  
 Lansing 526 S. Creys Rd. Suite C. 517-489-2257  
 Auto / Home Boat / Umbrella  
 www.KingsleyInsuranceGroup.com

**Good Luck All Area Sports Teams**  
**PROANE GAS**  
 RESIDENTIAL - FARM - INDUSTRIAL - COMMERCIAL  
  
 Gas Production Co. Inc.  
 989-268-5079 8152 East M-46 Vestaburg, 800-991-7477

**Blake Hollenbeck Auto Sales Inc.**  
 W. M57 Greenville, MI  
 www.Blakehollenbeckinc.com  
 CHECK OUT OUR INVENTORY  
 Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9 to 8 Tuesday, Thursday Friday 9-8, Saturday 9-3  
 Ph. (616) 754-5566 Toll Free (866) 358-7473

**CENTURY 21**  
 Lee-Mac Realty  
 605 W. Warwick Drive  
 Alma, MI. 48801  
 (989)463-6085  
 Fax (989)463-1755  
 www.c21eemac.com

**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE**  
 KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS  
 Like Us On facebook

**CAMPUS LIFE** **YOUTH FOR CHRIST**  
 Give life to your story.  
 HIGH SCHOOL 6TH GRADE FULTON ALTERNATIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
 Mondays 7-9 pm Tuesdays 4-7:30 pm Wednesdays 2-5 pm Thursdays 7-9 pm  
 2550 W. Chassanum Rd., Alma | 1611 S. Jackson Rd., Mt. Pleasant | 469-4121

**BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value.**  
  
**ALMA** Alma True Value 102 W. Superior Street Phone (989) 463-4921  
**CARSON CITY** Barnes True Value Hardware 132 W. Main Street Phone (989) 584-6411  
**EDMORE** Edmore True Value 418 E. Main Street Phone (989) 427-5637



Senior Connor Arnold averaged 23.8 points per game for Coleman and finished his high school career with 1,180 points.

# Coleman Standout Connor Arnold Wraps Up Outstanding High School Career

**Greg Chrapek Sports Scene**

Playing basketball in Coleman, Connor Arnold may not be on the radar of most college coaches. That said, Arnold's skills on the hardwood has still piqued the interest of college recruiters.

A 6-foot-2 senior, Arnold has the type of well-rounded game that translates well to the college game.

"Connor has a very polished game," said Coleman coach Clark Swerdan. "He can hit the three, drive and finish, hit pull-up jumpers, dunk and can also post up really well."

Swerdan has had the privilege having a front-row seat to seeing Arnold's game progress the past seven years.

"I've literally coached Connor in some capacity for the last seven seasons," Swerdan said. "I coached him in the sixth and seventh-grade rec league. Then I became the junior-varsity coach. I helped the eighth-

grade team out a little bit. During Connor's ninth-grade year he was the best player on my junior-varsity team. He was always the best player on the team dating back to the sixth grade, and prior to that honestly. I then got the varsity position and pulled him up to the varsity where he has been a three-year starter."

During his years on the varsity Arnold scored a total of 1,180 points. Arnold's senior season was an all-around success. Arnold averaged 23.8 points per game for the Comets as he shot 58.3% from the field and 71% from the free-throw line. Along with making 40 three-point shots, Arnold also added 7.2 rebounds, 2.4 assists, 1.5 steals and 1.2 blocked shots per game.

"Connor rebounded less this year as he was our top on our 1-2-2 extended zone defense so he was not inside as much offensively or defensively," Swerdan said. "On defense Connor can guard most positions. Maybe not the quickest point guards, but just about anybody else. He does need to get stronger, but

that's a given for most high school players. He also finishes well with contact."

Along with his natural skills, Arnold brings a fierce work ethic to the court.

"Connor is a gym rat and true student of the game," Swerdan said. "He's turned into a great leader. He used to be real soft-spoken, more of a lead by example player, but now he is an outspoken leader. He's like having an assistant coach on the floor. He'll sometimes change defenses right before I tell them to. We are almost always on the same page."

As fine a basketball player as Arnold is, he's an even better person off the floor and will be a tremendous addition to whatever he chooses to attend.

"Connor is a great kid," Swerdan said. "He is a great student. Connor has a tremendous work ethic. I literally have nothing bad to say about him. He is an outstanding young man on and off the court. Connor will be an asset on some college team next season. There is no doubt of that in my mind."

# P-W Cheer Team Settles For Runner-Up Trophy

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Pewamo-Westphalia would have loved to have left the Deltaplex on March 7 as Division 4 state competitive cheer champions for the second straight season.

But coach Staci Myers' team was more than happy to take second place and take another piece of hardware home with them.

After three rounds, P-W had a 767.80, but not enough to surpass Hudson at 770.0. After the first round, the Pirates were ahead of Hudson 232.50-232.0. But Hudson had a 227.7-222.3 advantage in the second round for P-W for a 459.70-454.80 lead. This proved to be a critical difference. P-W had a 313-310.3 advantage over Hudson in the third round, involving mounts, but it wasn't enough.

"First is still the priority but second is still amazing," Myers said. "They went out there and hit every round like we thought we would and left with no regrets. We fell behind in Round 2, but they went out there and did everything they could in Round 2, better than they've done it before."

"Round 3 was amazing. It was beautiful, strong, powerful and loud. That's all we could ask. We did the best we could. We were so proud of our girls and so happy. We'll take (second), it's a trophy."

Seniors for P-W were Isabella Droste, Paige Hengesbach, Olivia Richards, and Emma Thelen. Juniors were Miya Beech, Ellie Pohl, Ella Simon and Ella Smith. Sophomores are Halie Myers, Lindsey Pohl, Anna Spitzley and Emma Tabor. Freshmen are Emma Flanigan and Natalie Smith.



P-W girls celebrate the runner-up trophy.

"I'm so proud of my team, we performed the best we thought we could have," Hengesbach said. "I'm so proud of what we did. Runner-up is amazing. We killed it in

Round 3. We did the best we have all season."

P-W has won nine state titles and No. 10 could come next year.

"We only lose four seniors," Myers said. "We should have a good season next year. We're very excited. It's because of the legacy we've built over the years."



# Case Ends Fabulous Gymnastics Career For Rockford Girls

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

A difficult part for Rockford gymnastics coach Michelle Ankney to say goodbye to her seniors was it came two days before Rockford was to host the state meet on March 14. The MHSAA had suspended the season because of the coronavirus.

But she also was denied the chance to take one more look at senior Morgan Case.

Case was the defending state vault champion and was in her fourth season of gymnastics.

"Her consistency on each event helped bring her and our team a lot of success this season," Ankney said. "She has been the all-around champion at the Flip Flop

Invitational and the Kenowa Hills Invite this year. The key has been setting goals, working hard, and adding a few skills to help increase value to her routines.

"I think Morgan's biggest improvement from last year is her bar routine. She is continuing to add new skills. It has typically been her weakest event, but her improvements have helped increase her scores which is also helping increase her all-around scores. She has been individual event champion at State in 2018 and 2019. She has also PRed several times for her highest all-around score throughout the season."

Case dearly wanted a 2020 team and individual title but still accomplished plenty of things.

"I expect that she will see a lot of success in the post-season here," Ankney said prior to the suspension of the state meet. "Morgan would love to be state champion both as a team and individually this year. She knows it is a big dream, but she is going to go for it. She worked hard in the off season, and it has been very important for her. She wants her senior year to be her best and so far it has been."

Morgan is team captain this year. She is a leader on the team, and she is an extremely hard worker. Also, one of the other top all-arounders, Ashley Faulkner and Morgan, have competed together for years. They both push each other to be better and it is a constant competition between them to see who will win the all-around each meet."

Morgan Case finished a fabulous gymnastics career at Rockford.



# Charlotte Happy With Performance At State Meet

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was quite an experience for the Charlotte Orioles in the Division 3 competitive cheer state finals on March 7 at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids.

The team qualified for the state meet and finished eighth out of eight teams in Division 2 with 760.74 points. Cedar Springs was seventh with 761.34. Allen Park was third with 775.70.

"I think the girls gave it everything they've got," Charlotte

coach Yvonne Ridge said. "It wasn't the outcome we wanted but they were amazing all day. We are a very young team and they were amazing."

Seniors for Charlotte were Erica Brock, Hailey Hoyt, Zaraya Newth and Lynsey Peters. Juniors were Haley Bell, Nicole Hewlett, Elizabeth Lundy, Julia Phillips and Meagan Treadwell. Sophomores were Brooklyn Baker, Ryley Forbes, Dakota Gerard, Brynn Helvie, Osa Ounsombath and Cara Rankin. Freshmen were Annabelle Densmore, Merissa Kalczynski, Kathryn Mason,

Savanna McConnell, Kennedy Mizer, Jenna Phillips, Serena Sparks and Jaelen Wertz.

This was Charlotte's fourth appearance at the state meet. "We've been in Division 2 twice and Division 3 twice," Ridge said. "Our best round was round 2 today. Usually our best round is round 3. But not today."

"We lose four kids so we'll be coming back stronger than ever," Ridge said. "I think we exceeded expectations. We've had consistent coaching. It's a great group of people coaching the athletes."

The Charlotte cheer girls were eighth at state.

**THE LAURELS**  
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

**Your Small Town Rehabilitation Center**

620 North Second Street - Carson City MI 48811 - www.laurelsofcarsoncity.com

Committed to our Future ...

**Village of Breckenridge**

Inspired by our Past.

**GI-TEC Students**

Bring this coupon to ICCU's Student-Run Credit Union for a free prize!

ICCU Student-Run Credit Union Branch

ICCU Isabella Community Credit Union

ICCUonline.com \*One prize per person

**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE**  
KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

Like Us On **facebook**

**VALET AUTO CARE, INC.**

- **FREE** Pickup Toppers
- Truck Accessories
- Tonneau Covers
- Detailed Auto Cleaning

Over 100 new and used toppers on site! Factory seconds also available!

610 N. Mission in Mount Pleasant (2 blocks S. of Meijer)

**989-773-3477**



# Cedar Springs Places Seventh At State Finals

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Cedar Springs gave it their best shot at the Division 2 state competitive cheer finals at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids on March 7, and the result was a seventh-place finish.

The Red Hawks wound up with 761.34 points in the eight-team field. Southgate Anderson was sixth with 766.16. Allen Park won it with

790.88.

Anne Olszewski was in her sixth year as Cedar Springs coach. "In light of the week we had, we had some injuries and some were real serious," Olszewski said. "We had to rework all three rounds. I'm really happy with what they did, I really am. They're a little disappointed but in light of what's happened, I'm thrilled." Olszewski was happy with the season in general.

"We were doing great all the way up to the end," she said. "They were hoping they would place a little bit higher. They have to take into consideration they made it here. They're one of the best teams in the state."

Cedar Springs placed fifth last season. Seniors on the team were Zoe Castor, Olivia Esquivel, Tressa Hall, Rylee Kinzinger, Alexis Lee, Paige Pierson, Cory Shaffer and Morgan Symon. Juniors were Sarah Adkison,

Shelby Beeman, Isabella Mosqueda and Kate Roth. Sophomores were Paige Castor, Abbey Salisbury, Lauren Sherburn, Josilyn Slagter and Kira Vander Kooi.

The Red Hawks are graduating eight seniors.

"We have some hard to do," Olszewski said. "But we'll be back. I'm fortunate. A lot of the time my alumni came back and worked with us."

The Cedar Springs cheer team placed seventh.

# St. Charles Cheer Team Finishes Sixth

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

St. Charles' competitive cheer team positioned itself as one of the best programs in the state in Division 6 by taking sixth out of eight teams at the state finals on March in Grand Rapids.

The Bulldogs had a final score of 740.56. Hudson won the division with 770.

Seniors for St. Charles were Madelyn Fowler, Samantha Pillsbury, Lauren Rankin, Aimee Slivinski, Madison Stikeleather, Addison Stimac and Celine Whiren.

Juniors were Kirsten Franzel, Bryan Lennox, Makenna Stephens and Claire Tippet. Sophomores are Alexis Breidinger, Lily Nader, Zoe Pease and Melanie Symons. Freshmen were Jozlyn Childs, Bailey Stimac and Cadense Ward.

It was St. Charles' first appearance in a competitive cheer state meet.

"I was actually very proud of the girls," Bulldogs coach Jetta Stimac said. "The competition level was very high. Our skill level in our tumbling isn't at the highest quality yet. That's definitely one of our weaknesses. For us to make it along those other teams that have

been there for years, we were proud. It was an awesome weekend. We were happy to be there.

"A lot of the teams that were in the top five had more 1.2 skills than we had. We kind of knew we were going to be at the lower end because our second round is our weakest round. We fell behind. We were fifth after the first round, then we dropped down after the second round."

The Bulldogs will graduate seven seniors.

"That's why we had so many girls on the mat this year," Stimac said. "I knew I needed to have more girls out there so they'd have the experience. We had 13 girls on



St. Charles girls competed in their first state meet.

the mat. At least they'll be ready for next year."

Three of the girls were on the

basketball team.

"They're very athletic," Stimac said.

# DeWitt Cheerleaders Take Third At State Meet

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

DeWitt put up a good bid for title contention in the Division 2 state cheer meet on March in Grand Rapids but fell short.

The Panthers were third out of eight teams. While Allen Park had 790, Gibraltar Carlson had 787.96 and DeWitt had 775.70.

Seniors for DeWitt were Abigail Bailey, Alexa Beyer, Britney Buck, Isabella Dominguez, Andrea King, Mariah King, Lillian MacCowan, Gabriella Sanchez, Ambraja Snyder and Madeleine Taylor.

"It was amazing performance," Snyder said. "We put our all into it. We exceeded

expectations."

Juniors were Ashley Austin, Emma Bailey, Aubrey Chamberlain, Gabrielle Cooney, Aubrey McKinley, Mackenzie Richard and Paige Smith.

Sophomores are Mallory Adcock, Hilary Ballard, Kylie Beckner, Madalein Boyle, Emily Dillard, Andree King, Kyleigh Greenhoe, Koya LaPaugh, Nicole Luebbs and Anneliese Phillips.

Freshmen were Evelyn Arocha, and Brooke Wittenberg.

As for the season overall, "at first it was rocky, then we started to improve as it went on," Snyder said.



Panthers did well on all three rounds at the finals, Snyder indicated.

"They were all amazing rounds," she said.

Snyder was a four-year varsity cheerleader.

"I'll miss all my friends" she said.

The DeWitt cheer team competed in Division 2.

**Simmet Insurance Agency**  
 Since 1933  
 "Insuring For You & Yours"  
**Auto • Home • Farm**  
**Business • Life**  
 Agents: Bradley M. Simmet, Cedric E. Watson, Autumn Novak, Brandon M. Simmet  
 117 West Center, Ithaca, MI 48847  
 Ph. (989) 875-3580

**JLube OIL CHANGE SERVICES**  
 1217 E Center St. Ithaca, MI 48847  
 Phone: (989) 875-7705  
 Fax: (989) 875-6605  
 jlubeservices@hotmail.com

Bring this ad into any JFCU location to receive a **FREE GIFT** when you open a new account!

**JOURNEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**  
 Discover the possibilities.  
 ST. JOHNS - FOWLER - OVID  
 989.224.9511  
 www.JourneyFCU.org

Serving Clinton, Gratiot & Shiawassee Counties

# Breckenridge Boy Bowlers Enjoy Huge Season

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Breckenridge coach Aaron Wise had a memorable bowling team, which was a quarterfinalist in Division 4 at Royal Scott Lane in Lansing and had a state semifinalist in Aaron Stephens.

"At states, the boys came out steady and kept improving all throughout qualifying," Wise said.

"Going into the last team game, we were sitting in sixth place. The Huskies then rolled an impressive 957, which just happened to be the second highest team game on the day. This jumped us to the No. 3 seed going into match play. As proof of Region 24 strength, all three teams made match play, the only region to do so. In the opening round the Huskies started out with one of their lowest Baker

games of the year, nerves perhaps? "We then settled in and started battling back from the 53-pin deficit. By the 7th/8th frame of the team game, things were all tied up. Even going into the last 2-to-3 bowlers it was still either team's to win. In the end they made one more shot than us and we lost to a great Farwell team by 10 pins."

Aaron Stephens, junior, led the team with a 195 season average, 85 percent marks in bakers with 38 percent strikes and high game of 258.

"At regionals, singles event, he battled but never gave up. He finished ninth place, earning the right to compete as an individual

at states for his second time. One of the areas of improvement we have been working on for over a year is the mental game and things really started to click for him.

The best thing for me as a coach was to witness Aaron's growth as a young man along with his bowling."

Weston Wise was a senior with



Breckenridge's bowling team

187 season average, 73 percent marks in bakers with a 40 percent strike.

# Farwell Takes Second At State

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Farwell's bowling team advanced to the title match for the state finals at Royal Scott Lanes in Lansing, but fell to Grass Lake 1,257-1,104.

Farwell came up big in the semifinals with a 1,488-1,186 win over Rogers City.

Bowlers for Farwell were Dakota Wardle (156), JJ Crysler (163), John Cosswell (1,566), Darren Eigner (189) and Connor Yule (150).

Coach is Brian Eigner of Farwell.

It's the team's highest state finish.

"We had a good team that jelled well together," he said. "They came together well as a team. We were third in regional. I felt we could do this well (at state). I knew we had a good team. We hadn't made the state finals yet. We had been close several times."

Making the state finals was the ultimate goal.

"I was ecstatic with that," Eigner said. "The rest was icing on the cake."

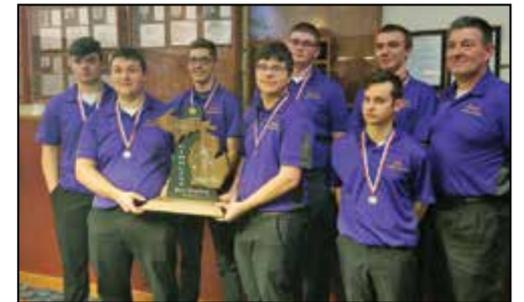
Yule was the top bowler through-

out the year.

"When it came to regionals, other kids came through and stepped in," Eigner said. "My son Darren Eigner had been having a rough time this year and came out of his shell a little bit. He had been averaging 250 and came out and bowled a 219 and 204 in the qualifying round."

Farwell will be graduating five bowlers from this year's team.

"I enjoy watching the kids develop and get to the next level," Eigner said. "Even in the semifinal game we had



Farwell's bowling team finished second in the state tournament.

some guys bowl their best games ever. I enjoy watching them develop more as players."

# Ithaca Competes At State Finals

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

The Ithaca boys bowling team traveled to Royal Scot in Lansing on Friday March 6 to compete in the MHSAA State Finals. The Yellowjackets qualified for the finals at the Regional Competition with a second-place finish the previous Friday.

Ithaca started the day out with 8 baker games and shot a high game of 187 and a low game of 148. This placed the Yellowjackets in 10th

place, two places out of the qualifying position for match play.

"Ithaca would then move on to bowl 2 regular games to complete the qualifying round," coach Wally Schneider said. "They would fire an 877 game in the first game to move into seventh place. In game two, Ithaca would shoot better than the first game with an 896 but would fall to eighth place. This was good enough to qualify for the afternoon match play but they would face No. 1 ranked Grass Lake.

"Match play would start out rough for both teams as they tied at 148 in the 1st of two baker games. In game 2, both teams would get better. Ithaca would shoot 169 but Grass Lake would throw five strikes in a row and shoot 245. Ithaca would need to win the regular game by 77 pins to move on. That would prove to be too much for Ithaca to overcome and Grass Lake would stay hot beating Ithaca, 1,015-839. Grass Lake would go on to win the State Championship."



Ithaca's 2019-20 bowling team.

**Scott Allen covers Ithaca**  
 Auto, Home, Life, Business, Farm and more

Call today!  
 (989) 875-2200  
 225 E. Center St., Ithaca  
 FarmBureauInsurance.com

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE** A Company

The name you've grown to trust just got better  
 Put Our Team To Work For You

**Weichert Realtors**  
 Broadway Realty Mount Pleasant  
 989-775-3800  
 WeichertBroadway.com

**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE**  
 KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

Like Us On **facebook**

Bumping & Painting • Glass Repair  
 Insurance Work • Custom Painting  
 FREE ESTIMATES

**TIM'S BODY SHOP**  
 Domestic and Foreign  
 Most Deductibles Waived Or Reduced  
 Adam Musselman

Monday-Friday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm  
 phone/fax 989-681-2577

# Essexville Garber Girls Enjoy Bowling Title

## John Raffel Sports Scene

In the Division 3 state bowling tournament for team girls, Essexville sneaked past Clare 1,182-1,117 in a very tight finish in Jax 60 Lanes in Jackson.

The baker total was 353 for Garber. The regular game total was 829. Bowlers were Taylor Osterhout (152), Brittany Rohde (175), Brooke Binder (172), Ireland Michalak (173) and Maya Janowicz (157).

Clare had a Baker total of 319 and a regular game total of 858. Scorers for Clare were Sofie Coker (159), Lexi Coker (157), Nicole Taylor (124), Sydney Swartz (210) and Jenna Betts (208).

beating them twice, but it wasn't easy. Both matches in which we bowled them, we lost both baker games but came back to win both team games each time and ended winning those matches 16-14 and 17-13.

First Garber won the conference, then the conference tournament, then the MHSAA regional and state championship.

"So those were the challenges we overcame," Tesner said. "As far as any disappointing moments, when you have the season we did, there aren't many, but the main one was the cancellation of the MHSBCA banquet because of the coronavirus where they would have been honored and received their awards. We had two seniors on the team this year, and, yes, they will be missed, but there are five coming back next year from this year's squad, so the future isn't all that bleak.

"Maya Janowicz, who was our anchor bowler pretty much all year and a senior, came through on



Essexville-Garber was state bowling champions for girls in Division 3.

many occasions. She was all-conference first team and all-state first team and state finalist in singles. So now we have to find someone to replace her. Brittany Rohde, the other senior, had the team high game in the final, a 175 which helped us to win by only five pins. Brooke Binder had the conference high average, high game and high two-game series with 170, 240, 419 and was also a state finalist in

singles."

Other honorees were Taylor Adams on the All-County team; Ireland Michalak on the All Country team, tied with Brooke for conference high average at 170, state finalist in singles, and TVC all conference first team; Alena Grawburg was on the All Country team, TVC all-conference 1st team. Taylor Osterhout was TVC all-conference second team.

# Midland Bowler Is State Champion

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It was an incredible Division I state tournament for Midland bowler Izaak Goergen.

The Midland junior advanced to the title match on March 7 at Thunderbowl in Allen Park and rolled a 414, beating Dylan Kelley of Utica Eisenhower, who had a 345.

Goergen has been bowling his whole life and took the sport seriously starting at age 8.

His previous state performance came in 2019. He came in 10th after losing in the first round of match play.

The key to his success, Goergen said, "was staying focused, definitely keeping myself calm and not getting too excited and giving everything to every shot and not giving in. That was definitely big for me."

Goergen entered the tournament very confident.

"I had a good regional performance and my game was feeling really strong," he said. "I knew most of these guys I had

bowled with. It was just another day of bowling with people whom I had bowled with for a long time."

He was also confident going into his final match.

"I knew the match and I knew the kid was very strong competition," he said. "I knew I wouldn't be happy with myself if I didn't give it everything I had."

Goergen indicated his composure is a strength.

"A problem with a lot of kids'

games is keeping themselves calm," Goergen said. "I feel I (stay calm) better than both."

Bowling is Goergen's only varsity sport.

"When the bowling centers reopen (from the state closure mandate), I will try to come in as much as possible," he said. "I try to go in close to every day and get a few games under my belt, and get prepared for summer tournaments I have scheduled for this year, if they stay scheduled."

Izaak Goergen, of Midland, was the Division I state bowling champion.



# Portland Bowlers Finish Banner Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach William Armour III had a fun season with his Portland boys bowling in his sixth season of coaching.

The squad was 8-2 in the league and 11-5 overall.

"This has been a rebuilding year, losing eight seniors last year," Armour said. "We had a great year, only one of our team bowled with the varsity last year and we came out strong, winning our first match vs. East Lansing early in December. We used nine different bowlers this year to find the right six by the end of the year. These young men had their struggles but I was proud of

how they worked together to get better. They finished in second in the CAAC Blue Division only losing to DeWitt twice.

"We just missed being CAAC champs as we have the last few years. But on an individual basis the team exceeded my expectations. Luke Dalman was the CAAC individual champion two years in a row, and all members of the varsity team hit all-time high scores. Josh Rutkowski showed he is ready to lead his team next year and freshmen Cooper Hoskins has proved that he deserved to be on the varsity. Kyle Edlund gave a concerted effort at regionals coming up close to making states. He switched from one-handed to two-handed one month into

the season." Armour said his team practiced very hard. "The first match vs. Dewitt, our freshman Cooper Hoskins, just days before the match, his father died," Armour said. "His comment to me is 'I want to bowl' and he did. Unfortunately, we lost the match."

Dalman averaged 193 this season and had a high game of 257 also qualifying second at regionals out of 87 bowlers. At states, he made it to 22nd out of 60

Josh Rutkowski averaged 175 this season.

Cooper Hoskins was honorable mention, averaging 157 and a high game of 224.

Graduating this year is Dalman. Portland has 12 returning bowlers.

"It will be a great year with most likely being CAAC champs and state finalists," Armour said.



Portland coaches and top bowlers enjoyed a banner season.

# Two-Thirds Of Owosso Triplets Excel At State Finals

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Alex and Braden Triggs are two thirds of triplets and athletes at Owosso High School, who did very well in the Division 2 state bowling tournament the first weekend in March at Century Bowl in Waterford.

Alex lost in the semifinal round while Braden bowled out in the quarterfinals.

Tom Trecha is the coach.

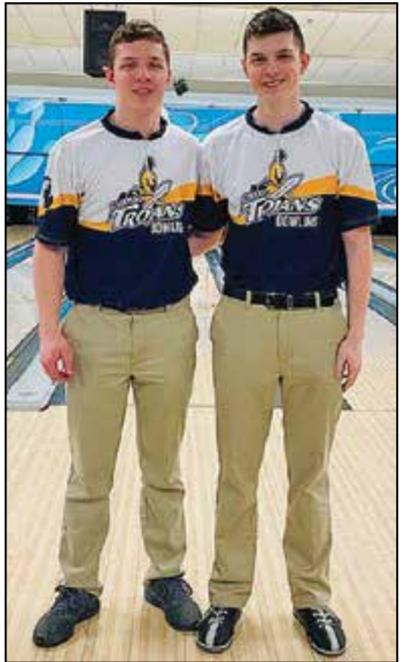
"They're triplets and I've had them for four years," he said. "The third one, I had all three of them in baseball years ago. The third one didn't bowl. Both Braden and Alex have accomplishments. We had two in the final eight. Braden was actually No. 1. He was first team all-Metro conference. Alex was second team."

Both are seniors. The team had five seniors and one sophomore.

Alex, at the state finals, "was consis-

tent," Trecha said. "He never had a bad game or a super hot game. He qualified 11th. Braden was in first after three games. He qualified fourth. They were in different brackets. The only way they would have bowled against each other would have been if they were in the finals, which would have been cool."

In the regional, Braden Triggs was fifth and Alex Triggs was eighth. The top two qualify for the state tournament.



Braden (left) and Alex (right), Triggs, two-thirds of triplets, are from Owosso's varsity bowling team and were All-Staters.



Big Rapids' Hope Thebo.

# Big Rapids Girl Is State Bowling Champ

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Hope Thebo is an all-state golfer who will be playing at Ferris State University. But the Big Rapids senior added a huge bonus to her resume:

State champion in Division 3 bowling

The Cardinal senior bowled 14 games to get the job done at Jax 60 Lanes in Jackson.

In the championship match, Thebo had games of 223 and 183 for a 406 to beat Baylee Hutchinson of Caro with a 155 and 223 for a 378. Going into Saturday's individual tournament as her team's only qualifier, by taking eighth out of 10 qualifying spots in the regional, Thebo was 216 pins from the first-place bowler after six regional games.

In the qualifying round of six games, Thebo tied for eighth out

of 60 bowlers with a 1,142 which was 85 pins from first place. But she advanced to the round of 16. As the ninth seed, she drew No. 8 Jasmine Carroll of Flat Rock who bowled a 348 in two games. Thebo bowled 219 and 153 for 372 and found herself in the quarterfinals where she would face No. 1 seed Krissa Manifold of Hillsdale. Thebo won 437-401 and was in the semifinals against Madilyn Keiling of Livonia Clar-

enceville. Thebo prevailed 350-328 and then advanced to the title match against Hutchinson.

"I wasn't too nervous, my coach really helped me and kept me calm," she said. "The first game, I beat her by a lot (223-155). The last game, she came back so I had to pull it together for sure for the win. It came down to the last frame."

**COMMERCIAL BANK**  
Your Hometown Community Bank

Convenient locations to serve you in Central and Western Michigan  
Specializing in Home & Small Business Lending  
www.commercial-bank.com

Alma - East Lansing • Grand Rapids • Greenville • Hastings • Ithaca  
Lake Odessa • Okemos • Mason • Middleton • Mt. Pleasant • St. Louis

Serving Mid-Michigan • Fully Insured

**Grass Wackers Inc.**  
Lawn Care Service  
(989) 763-1425

**DAN SEELEY**  
Lawn Mowing and Trimming • Trees and Shrub Care  
Spring and Fall Clean-Ups

**ECO WATER**  
SINCE 1925.

**Lindsay Soft Water Co.**  
1209 Michigan Ave. St. Louis, MI 48880  
P.O. Box 401 Gladwin, MI 48624  
(989) 681-5436  
1-800-244-3464  
www.ecowater.com  
E-mail: waterboy@cmsinter.net

**ISO 9001**

**KEVIN EAREGOOD**  
Certified Water Specialist

**Bonham**  
HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING, INC.  
Serving Gladwin Area Since 1981

**bryant** Heating & Cooling Systems  
WHATSOEVER IT TAKES.

- Industrial • Residential • Commercial
- Service
- Geothermal Systems
- Design • Installation

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

989-426-2151  
2441 W. M-61  
Gladwin, MI 48624

Visit Our Website At:  
www.bonhamheating.com

**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE**  
KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

Like Us On **facebook**

**Venue 219 Capital Bowl**

Your Family Fun & Entertainment Center  
24 Lanes w/Automated Bumper, Parties, Arcade, Pro Shop  
Grille - Dine In/Carryout + Delivery through Owosso Eats  
Venue At 219 - Your Family Friendly Event Center + Comedy/Music for 18+ & Private Rental Availability  
219 S. Washington St. Downtown Owosso  
989-725-7717 www.capitolbowl.net

105.9FM / 1520AM  
**WMLM**  
Real Country

Your Voice For Local High School Football & Basketball Games!

The NEW **2 92.5** THE CASTLE  
**KROL COMMUNICATIONS INC.**

# Mason Girl Bowlers Win State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a perfect season for Mason's girls bowling team. The best part for coaches Terry Dormer and Russ Whipple was winning the Division 2 state championship at Century Bowl in Waterford.

Dormer had been coaching 14 years and Whipple two years. The team was 8-0 in the CAAC and 12-0 overall.

"It was a dream come true, but not a surprise," Whipple said. "The core of this team has been to the state tourney three straight years, making it to the knock-out round of final eight each year. The skill has been there, it was just a matter of putting it all together at the right time. We began the season with three goals: win the league, win the regional and win states.

We were successful in achieving all three goals, but we also won two of four tournaments, were runner-up in a third (to Tecumseh), and qualified for the knockout round of the fourth.

"All six girls qualified for the final 16 of league singles tournament, two girls made it to semi-final and one girl was runner up. We won team regional by over 300 pins. Four of six girls finished in top-10 of regional singles and qualified for state singles."

A key highlight was defeating Flint Kearsley in the state semifinal by 88 pins. Kearsley had won last six state titles and seven of the last eight.

Dormer was chosen as Division 2 State Coach of the Year by the Michigan High

School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association.

"None of our four girls in state singles made it to final 16 knock-out round," Whipple said.

"They may have been a bit emotionally drained since it was the day after the State team event. The accomplishments of the team were the result of a total team effort. There was no athlete more important than any other. They all bowled well when they were needed. But the team had impressive stats in the league."

All six girls won all CAAC honors: Grace Ann Whipple, Alexis Beach, Emilee Hendershot, Mercedes Thomas, Leigha Rue and Alivia Kuch.

Mason in the CAAC had a total individual average of 164; team total game score average 825; team Baker game average 169; team points per match average 26 out of 30

"The game scores were best of all girls teams in CAAC and were bested by only three of the boys teams in CAAC," Whipple said. "The team points average was highest of boys and girls in CAAC by two points."

Additional good news is the team consists of five juniors and one sophomore, and the goal will be back-to-back state titles in 2021.

"It's the same team returning with confidence and some promising young bowlers waiting," Whipple said. "The girls on the team are all very talented bowlers. They have been aware of their potential for years. This year, though, they all finally began to believe they could compete with any other team. They also all took the important step of accepting that each of them contributes to the team's success in some way. The scoring average of each girl this year was actually lower than every one of them would have



Mason's girls championship bowling team: Front row L-R, Grace Ann Whipple, Alexis Beach, Emilee Hendershot Back row L-R, Head Coach Terry Dormer, Mercedes Thomas, Leigha Rue, Alivia Kuch, Asst. Coach Russ Whipple.

liked to see.

"But, as a team, they were a powerhouse. All of them are very good bowlers who gave it their all when it mattered most. Their accomplishments as a team were earned as a team. The State title was the storybook ending. The path to the state title required

the team to beat the top two teams in the state, defeating No. 1 Kearsley head-to-head for the first time, and defeating No. 2 Tecumseh head-to-head for the first time by one pin. This team has been told for years that every pin counts and the final score against Tecumseh (1,185-1,184) proved it."

# Meridian Bowlers Are Third In The State

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a third-place finish for Sanford-Meridian's boys bowling team in the Division 3 state finals this season.

The Mustangs lost to Boyne City in the semifinal round at Jax 60 in Jackson.

Kyle Lipp coached Sanford Meridian, which was third in the final rankings.

"This is by far the best season in program history," he said. "We're only about six years old. This year

we won our (Jack Pine) Conference and went undefeated. We got out of the regional (at third place) for the first time ever and at state we won our first match. Then we ran into a team that made strikes and we didn't."

Kyle Nohel led the team with the best average in the conference. Other top bowlers were Chris Schalk and Jerrod Wirth.

"We're a young program and we always finished middle of the pack in conference and regionals," Lipp said.



The Meridian boys bowling team had quite a season.

**Downtown Auto Services Inc.**  
 Scott Nevins  
 President  
 110 W. Newark St. Ithaca, MI 48847 Shop Hours M-F 8-5:30 989-875-4261  
**Auto Value CERTIFIED SERVICE CENTER**

**RPC**  
 Roslund Prestage & Company  
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
 DAVID RAYBURN, RTRP  
 525 W. Warwick Dr., Ste A Alma, Michigan 48801 Ph. (989) 463-6123 ext. 200 Fax (989) 463-4055 email: dave.rayburn@rpcpas.com

**GCCU**  
 GRATIOT COMMUNITY CENTER  
 Alma - (989) 463-8321 Ithaca - (989) 875-6184 gratiotcu.org

# Virus Dashes Opportunity For Area Swimmers And Divers To Shine On The Big Stage

Greg Chrapek Sports Scene

The MHSAA state swimming and diving finals were among the first events on the high school sports calendar that were cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Numerous local swimmers and divers were poised to make their mark at the three state swimming and diving finals that were cancelled in early March. Following is a look at some of the area standouts in the pool that were poised to chase state titles and all-state honors.

## AREA DIVERS AMONG BEST IN THE STATE

The Mid-Michigan area boasted an outstanding group of divers this season.

In Division 2, Okemos senior Hunter Hollenbeck was poised to earn a state title. The No. 1 seed in Division 2, Hollenbeck entered the finals as the only diver with a score above 500 points.

A large squad of divers were ready to make an impact at the Division 3 state meet. Bay City John Glenn junior Trevor Post was seeded

fifth. Mason junior Gavin Sutton and John Glenn sophomore Jamie Miller were both seeded in the top ten while St. Johns senior Sam Hudgens and Mason senior Andy Hebert were both in the top 16. In Division 1, Holt senior Benjamin Karn was seeded seventh.

## MIDLAND DOW SWIMMERS POISED FOR SUCCESS

With a deep group of talented swimmers leading the way, Midland Dow was in position to make a run at the top five as a team at the Division 2 meet.

Senior Collin Che entered the finals as the top seed in the 100 butterfly and the second seed in the 50 freestyle.

Fellow senior Luke Lezotte was also looking for a big state final as he was seeded third in the 100 freestyle and fourth in the 50 freestyle. Junior Brendan Ladwein came in seeded 12th in the 100 freestyle.

Dow also boasted a pair of talented relay teams. The 200 free relay team of Che, Ladwein, senior Joseph Krzciok and Lezotte were seeded first with a time of 1:25.96.

Dow's 400 free relay team of Che, Ladwein, Krzciok and Lezotte was the second seed.

## LUKE MEHL LEADS SAGINAW HERITAGE

Senior Luke Mehl was set to pace Saginaw Heritage swimmers in Division 2. Mehl was the ninth seed in the 50 freestyle. Mehl also was set to swim the anchor led in the 200 free relay with fellow seniors Jonah Fleming, Luke Basil and Braydon Bays.

## MASON A FORCE IN D3

With junior Jonas Cantrell leading the charge, Mason was looking for a top-ten finish in Division 3.

A returning all-state swimmer, Cantrell was a big favorite in the 500 freestyle as his time of 4:36.69 was over 10 seconds faster than the second seed. Cantrell was also seeded second in the 200 freestyle. Mason sophomore Liam Boomer came in seeded third in the 100 butterfly while junior Gabe Williams was seeded 11th in the 50 freestyle.

A pair of Mason relay teams were also looking for all-state



Area swimmers were unable to dive into the pool at the state swimming and diving finals due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

honors. The 200 free relay team of Williams, senior Ben Carter, Boomer and Cantrell were seeded fifth as was the 400 free relay team of Boomer, Hebert, Williams and Cantrell.

## DEWITT

DeWitt junior Dillon Blair was seeded sixth in the 100 butterfly.

Blair was also part of a 200 medley relay team of junior Zach Young, junior Nate Schluckebier and junior Ellis Davison that was aiming for all-state honors.

## ALMA

Alma senior Jack Lesinger entered the Division 3 finals as the seventh seed in the 100 backstroke.

# Carrollton Boys Bowlers Have Memorable Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Brad Mrozinski coached a boys bowling team which had a sparkling season at Carrollton.

The team finished the regular season at 10-4 and one of the best teams in program history.

"I used to coach Bridgeport for nine years," Mrozinski said. "We had a couple of good teams there too."

Carrollton scored 1,000 in one of its games.

"That's the highest we've ever scored," Mrozinski said.

Three bowlers had exceptional seasons. Junior Gabe Rowan has had games of 230, 221 and 208.

"He has scored pretty high a number of times," Mrozinski said. "He's gotten better as the year has gone on, which is encouraging to see."

The team's best overall bowler is Bernard Grappin "who is always capable of throwing high

games," his coach said. "He's our highest average bowler. He's in the high 170s."

His most consistent bowler has been freshman Connor McMahon, averaging in the 170s.

"He doesn't even know how good he is yet," Mrozinski said.

He could see where the team improved all season.

"Our Peterson scores are going up," Mrozinski said. "We've been in the 900s at times and we had the 1,000."



Carrollton bowlers celebrate their 1,000 game.

No Limit to the Fun You'll Have  
**City Limits**  
 Bowling Center Sports Grill  
 Pizzas Burgers Steaks Ribs  
 801 N. Cedar St. • Mason  
 517-244-1090  
 www.citylimitmason.com

**Pat's Auto, Inc.**  
 "Quality Of Our Work Guaranteed"  
 Complete Collision Repair • Serving Gratiot County Since 1982  
 Phone (989) 681-5334 FAX # (989) 681-3855  
 1501 West Monroe Rd. (M-46) Saint Louis, MI 48880 www.patsautoinc.com

WWW.HIGHSCHOOLSPORTSCENE.COM

**AMERICA'S CHOICE REALTY L.L.C.**  
  
 Marci Browne/Broker Cheryl Reeves/Realtor  
 989-620-1027 989-388-3121  
 108 E. Center St. Suite A, Ithaca