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KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

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### PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The winter sports season is finally in the book! A few months ago completing the winter sports season seem seemed a shaky proposition at best. Thanks to the perseverance and hard work of our athletes, coaches and administrators the winter season was salvaged and completed.

While the Covid-19 virus did its best to disrupt the season, our local teams and athletes were able to stick it out to the end and create some fantastic memories.

What a season it was for both the Portland and Fowler girls basketball teams. Both squads went on memorable state tournament runs and brought state championship trophies back to the area.

In boys basketball, both Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart and Bridgeport went on thrilling state tournament runs and reached the state semifinals.

In wrestling, the Lowell wrestling team added to its collection of team state championships while the Alma wrestling team continued to build on its legacy by reaching the state semifinals. A number of local wrestlers also chased down individual glory by winning state titles at the state individual wrestling finals.

For all the hundreds of other local athletes, just being able to compete during these challenging times makes them champions in their own right.

With the weather improving and the numbers on the virus front heading down, our spring athletes are already busy with their seasons. After not having spring sports last year, it's a great sight to see athletes out and competing on the ball diamonds, tennis courts, soccer field, tracks and golf courses playing the sports they love.

We here at High School Sports Scene will do our part to keep our local athletes in the news! Shoot us an email or give us a call if you think of a local athlete or team that deserves some mention.

A big thank you to all our advertisers and sponsors, without you there would be no High School Sports Scene Magazine.

See you at the games!



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# Sacred Heart Boys Basketball Rides Thrilling State Tournament Run To State Semifinals

## David Cook Sports Scene

Led by one of the top pair of guards in the state, the Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart boys basketball team turned in a state tournament run that will be long remembered.

With seniors guards Zach Wentworth and Luke PREDUM leading the way, the Irish not only turned in an outstanding regular season, but they went on a memorable tournament run that needed the state's Mr. Basketball to put a stop to it.

After turning in a 15-1 record during the regular season, the Irish added a district title in thrilling fashion, defeated a long-time catholic school rival for a regional title and then reached the state semifinals for the first time since

the 2005 season before falling to the eventual Division 4 state champions led by the state of Michigan's Mr. Basketball while playing with just five players due to Covid-19.

"We had a very memorable run," said Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart coach Justin Sherlock. "It was very exciting and good for our program. I'm very proud of our student athletes and our seniors. They certainly left a mark on our program."

A major highlight of Sacred Heart's tournament run came in the district championship game when the Irish needed to go to overtime to defeat Fulton-Middleton 52-48 to win the district title and keep heading down the tournament trail.

"Our tournament run really started in the district championship game where we won in overtime," Sherlock said. "It was a close one and we almost didn't get out of the district. We were down by 10 points at the start of the fourth quarter and we had two starters in foul trouble. That we were able to get it to overtime and pull it out was amazing."

It took some strong defense and some clutch buckets by Wentworth and PREDUM to enable the Irish to overcome a talented Fulton squad to earn the win. PREDUM and Wentworth combined to score 23 points during the fourth quarter an overtime to help pull the game out.

"We got the defensive stops we needed and also

got the rebounds," Sherlock said. "We also made some key shots."

With the district title secured, the Irish moved on to the regional where they defeated Hale 61-49 in the semifinals.

"Hale is a good team and a good program," Sherlock said. "They won their conference and they have some good players. We did a very good job of guarding their scorers and we scored 61 points. It was a solid win."

The win then moved the Irish into the regional finals where they faced rival Saginaw Nouvel.

"It was the two catholic schools in the area," Sherlock said. "They are a good team with a freshman who is a three-point shooting phenom. He his seven 3's in the regional semis so we made sure we had a man on him at all times."

Sacred Heart matched Nouvel's offense with the hot-shooting of PREDUM who scored 28 points in the game. PREDUM was on fire on the offensive end of the floor almost the entire tournament as he scored 28 points in both regional wins and 28 points in the quarter-final game.

Sacred Heart faced a tall task in the state quarterfinals where it faced Frankfort, led by its 6-foot-7 standout big man Jack Stefanski.

Sacred Heart utilized its quickness in the game and jumped out to a 10-point lead and went on to defeat Frankfort 59-53.

"Not a lot of people expected us to get this far," Sherlock said. "This game was a contrast in styles, but we had a strong start. They (Frankfort) had some spurts and took

the lead in the fourth quarter but our guys stayed strong."

The win propelled Sacred Heart on to the state semifinals where the Irish faced a tall task in more ways than one. Eventual Division 4 state champion Detroit Douglass, led by Mr. Basketball Pierre Brooks, who will be playing his college basketball stood in the way of the Irish as well as Douglass's 6-foot-10 big man Javontae Randall, another Division 1 recruit. Making Sacred Heart's task even more daunting was the fact that Covid-19 testing has revealed a number of positive tests that sidelined Sacred Heart's entire bench, leaving the Irish with just the five starters without any backup.

Other than a cold spell in the second quarter, the Irish hung with Douglass before eventually falling 60-41.

"I was proud of our guys," Sherlock said. "They really played well. It was an even game outside of the second quarter."

The loss ended Sacred Heart's dream season at 20-2 overall. Along with PREDUM and Wentworth, the semifinal game also ended the high school career of senior Ben Wilson who started at center for the Irish.

"Those three played a lot of minutes this season," Sherlock said. "Due to our lack of size we had to play Ben at center where he is



Freshman Aidan Halliday (1) made a big impact for the Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart basketball team this season and will be a key player the next three seasons.

undersized. His defense for us this year was huge. We put him on the opponent's toughest post player and he did a great job all year."

While the seniors will be missed, the returning players along with players coming up in the program have the Irish on an upward trajectory.

"We have a couple of nice classes coming up," Sherlock said. "Zach and Luke will be tough to replace, but we a lot of guys to step up and improve their games during the summer. Our freshman, Aidan Halliday, had 11 points against Douglass and he is going to be a special player the next three years. We are not looking to rebuild, we want to compete for regional championships every year."

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The East Lansing basketball team reached the Division 1 state quarterfinals where it fell 66-56 to Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern.

# Area Boys Basketball Team Aim For Post-Season Success After Exciting Regular Seasons

## David Cook and Butch Harmon Sports Scene

It took a while and lasted longer than normal, but area boys basketball teams were able to complete the Covid-19 pandemic season despite numerous stops and starts for teams across the state. Area teams showed plenty of skill and heart during the season bringing home district and regional titles and giving their followers plenty to be proud of this season. High School Sports Scene takes a look at what area teams accomplished this season and during the state tournament.

### DIVISION 1 GRAND BLANC WINS FIRST-EVER STATE TITLE

It was a histories season for the Grand Blanc boys basketball team. Grand Blanc made its first appearance in a state championship game since 1952. The Bobcats not only reached the title game but they came home with the state championship hardware by turning back Ann Arbor Huron 45-36. "It means everything to us as a community," said Grand Blanc head coach Mike Thomas. "As a team. As a family. It's just unbelievable and I'm at a loss for words." Grand Blanc utilized a strong inside game led by junior standout Ty Rodgers and were able to strike from the perimeters with standouts like sophomore RJ Taylor and senior Josh Rechsteiner to hold off the previously undefeated River Rats of Huron. "Everybody doubted us," said Rodgers, who scored

seven points and pulled down nine rebounds in the title game. "People counted us out and that was one of the main things. That's why we wanted to come in here and prove that Grand Blanc is known for basketball too."

### HOLT EARNS DISTRICT TITLE IN THRILLING FASHION



The Holt basketball team edged Lansing Everett for a district title before falling to East Lansing 63-56 in the regional semifinals.

It took a pair of heart-stopping efforts but the Holt basketball team prevailed to win their first district championship since 2017. Competing at the Okemos district, Holt opened tournament play 51-49 overtime win against Okemos. Jacob Howard led Holt with 17 points and also delivered the game-winning shot on a baseline jumper in the final seconds. The Rams then came back two days later to claim the district title with a 42-41 thriller against Lansing Everett. Aaron Carter led the Rams with 13 points while Howard added 10

points and Holden Fedewa added seven points.

### EAST LANSING ADVANCES TO STATE QUARTERFINALS

The East Lansing boys basketball team battled Covid-19 issues all season but was able to rally and reach the Division 1 state quarterfinals before dropping a 66-56 decision to Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern despite Marcus Wourman and Devin Wilkerson combining for 43 points. The road to the quarterfinals was a tough one. East Lansing needed to defeat DeWitt 59-52 in overtime of the district finals and then held off host Lansing Waverly 59-54 in the district title game. The Trojans needed a pair of strong efforts to win the regional title. East Lansing outlasted league-rival Holt 63-56 in the regional semifinals and then defeated Coldwater 63-57 in the regional championship game. A pair of Trojans earned first team all-conference honors including senior guard Marcus Wourman and junior Brevin Jackson. Trojan guard Devin Wilkerson earned honorable-mention, all-conference honors.

### MIDLAND CAPTURES DISTRICT HOOPS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Midland basketball team capped a winning season by earning a district title. Midland won a pair of close contests in the district it hosted. The Chemics held off Bay City Western

57-50 and then edged Mt. Pleasant 44-42 in a thrilling district title game. The Chemics sealed the win when Eli Gordon scored on a drive to the bucket that provided the deciding points. Midland's season came to an end in the regional final when it fell to Marquette 54-48.

### DIVISION 2 BRIDGEPORT REACHES D2 STATE SEMIFINALS



Bridgeport went on a long tournament run before falling to Battle Creek Pennfield in the Division 2 state semifinals.

After turning in a strong regular season, the Bridgeport basketball team kept it rolling in the state tournament as it reached the Division 2 state semifinals where it dropped a 62-52 decision to Battle Creek Pennfield. After finishing the regular season with a 12-2 record, Bridgeport claimed the district title with a 53-33 win against Frankenmuth. The win avenged a 19-point loss suffered against Frankenmuth earlier in the

season. Bridgeport kept things rolling in the regional with a 64-45 win against Corunna in the regional finals and a thrilling 54-53 win against Carrollton in the regional title game. The win was the second one-point win against Carrollton of the season for the Bearcats. Bridgeport earned its third-ever trip to the state final four with a 52-41 win against Escanaba in the state quarterfinals. Jaylen Hodges led the way with 19 points and three steals in the win while Omarion Wilkins added seven points and a team-leading 11 rebounds.



Carrollton won a district title and reached the regional quarterfinals before falling short against Bridgeport.

of free throws with two seconds remaining. Jones and Marco Broome-Hernandez led Carrollton with 17 points while DJ Voltz added 16 points. Carrollton moved on to the regional and defeated Shepherd 60-41 in the semifinals. Carrollton fell to Bridgeport 54-53 in the regional title game. Jones and Voltz both earned first-team, all-conference honors for the Cavs who finished the season with a 13-5 record.

### SHEPHERD WINS FIRST DISTRICT TITLE IN 12 YEARS



Shepherd came up big in the state tournament as it defeated Alma in the district championship game before falling to Bridgeport in the regional semifinals.

The Bluejays of Shepherd ended a 12-year drought as it won its first district championship since 2009. Shepherd snapped the drought with a 49-43 win against Alma. The tournament trail for Shepherd ended in the regional semifinals with a 60-41 defeat against Carrollton. Thomas Alfano led Shepherd with 16 points and eight rebounds.

### CARROLLTON ENDS DISTRICT TITLE DROUGHT

The Carrollton basketball team won its first district title since 2012 with a thrilling 65-62 win against Freeland. Tay Joes sealed the win for the Cavaliers with a pair

honors this season. Brandon Hunt, who will play in college at Bethel, was named first-team all-conference along with Wallace and Spencer Feig. Jacob Duncel and Cade Conley were both named honorable-mention, all-conference. Conley will be playing football at Central Michigan University in the fall.

### IONIA WINS THIRD STRAIGHT DISTRICT TITLE

The Ionia Bulldogs made it three straight district titles when they turned back Lansing Sexton 58-49 in the district title game. Junior point guard Trevor Tooker led Ionia with 19 points. Ionia reached the title game after defeating Lansing Catholic 61-60 in a semifinal thriller. Kyle Griffith paced Ionia with 20 points and seven rebounds while Gauge McQueen added 10 points and 10 rebounds. Ionia finished the season with a 10-8 record.

### CORUNNA PUTS END DISTRICT TITLE DROUGHT

The Corunna basketball team ended a nine-year district title drought by defeating Lake Fenton. With the four-man senior class of Carson Socia, Cole Mieske, Porter Zeeman and Caleb Stahr leading the way, Corunna defeated Lake Fenton 64-46 to win the school's first district title since 2012. The four seniors combined to score 50 points to lead the offense. Corunna finished the season with a 14-5 record.

### DIVISION 3 BEAVERTON FALLS IN REGIONAL FINAL SHOWDOWN

A dream season came to an end for Beaverton in the regional finals where the Beavers came up short in a battle of unbeaten. McBain grabbed the early lead and held off a Beaverton comeback for a 56-50 win in a battle of unbeaten. Carson Oldani led Beaverton with 22 points while Trent Reed and Brayde Keeley added 11 points apiece for the Beavers who finished the season with a 17-1 record. Beaverton reached the regional final with a 74-51

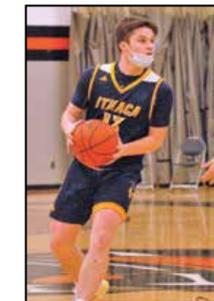
win against Mason County Central in the regional semifinal. Reed scored 25 points and added 13 rebounds while Oldani added 22 points and 11 rebounds. The season included a number of highlights including a conference and district championship along with veteran coach Roy Johnston winning the 800<sup>th</sup> game of his career.

### FLINT BEECHER ADDS TO STATE TITLE COLLECTION

One of the premier basketball programs in the state, Flint Beecher added to its tradition by winning the ninth state title in school history. Beecher dominated the Division 3 state title game from beginning to end as they defeated Iron Mountain 75-47. Senior guard Keyon Menifield led the way with 37 points as Beecher wrapped up the season with a 16-1 record.

### ITHACA CAPTURES DISTRICT TITLE

Ithaca finished the season



Ithaca defeated St. Louis to win a district championship before falling to North Muskegon in the regionals.

strong by winning a district championship. The Yellowjackets defeated St. Louis 66-54 to earn the title at the district it hosted. Brendan Wood led Ithaca with 19 points while Gibson Marr added 15 points and Trevor Wright 12 points. The Yellowjackets were clutch at the free-throw line hitting 10-of-12 free throws in the fourth quarter. Ithaca looked to continue

the tournament run in the regional where it dropped a 53-50 thriller to North Muskegon. Wood led Ithaca with 20 points and Marr added 16 points. The game was close throughout and Ithaca missed a chance to send the contest into overtime when Wood's three-point attempt at the buzzer just missed.

### PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA FALLS IN REGIONAL

The tournament trail came to an end for the 2019 Division 3 state champions in the regional semifinals as Grand Rapids Covenant Christian defeated the Pirates 67-58. The loss ended a fine season for Pewamo-Westphalia as the team won a fifth-straight district title and compiled a 12-3 record. Pewamo-Westphalia defeated Carson City-Crystal 44-33 in the district title game led by Brock Thelen who scored 15 points.

### BATH EARNS DISTRICT CROWN

The Bath Bees finished the season with a winning record and also claimed a district championship. Led by senior point guard Gavin Perry, a four-year varsity player, and seniors Sam Onan and Hayden Wilson, a pair of three-year varsity players, the Bees defeated New Lothrop 81-43 to win the district title. Bath's season came to an end in the regional semifinals when it fell 64-47 to Leslie.

### DIVISION 4 SAGINAW NOUVEL ENDS SEASON ON A ROLL

The Saginaw Nouvel basketball team ended the season on a roll as it won a district title and reached the regional championship game. Nouvel won the title at the Akron-Fairgrove district with a 66-59 win against Midland Calvary Baptist. Nouvel continued the tournament trail with a 55-46 win against Uby in the regional semifinals. Freshman MJ Yeager turned in a big game in the win as he connected on seven, three-point shots and led the team with 27 points. In the regional title game

against Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, Nouvel came up short 59-51. Jonathan Tunney led the way for Nouvel with 22 points and eight rebounds while Devin Smith added 12 points. Nouvel finished the season with a 9-9 overall record.

### WEBBERVILLE REACHES D4 STATE QUARTERFINALS



The Webberville basketball team defeated Colon to win a regional championship for the first time in 49 years.

Webberville photo by EZRA FULLER

It was a season to remember for the Webberville Spartans who reached the state quarterfinals for the first time in 49 years.

The tournament run started with a district title when Webberville turned back Portland St. Patrick 52-40. Webberville added a regional championship with a 79-45 win against Colon. Kolsen Lycos led the Spartans with 19 points while Gage Rhodes added 18 points.

The season came to an end for Webberville in the Division 4 quarterfinals when it dropped a 56-44 decision against Wyoming Tri-unity Christian. Lycos led Webberville with 25 points.

Five Webberville players were named to the all-conference team. Senior Dawson Lott, junior Nathan Lott and senior Quinton Woolford were all named first-team, all-conference while Lycos and Rhodes were named second-team, all-conference.

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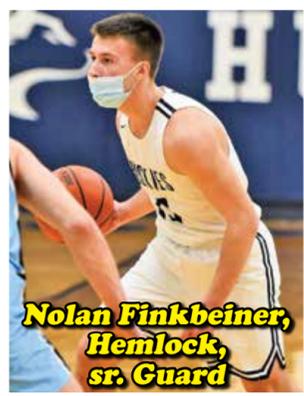
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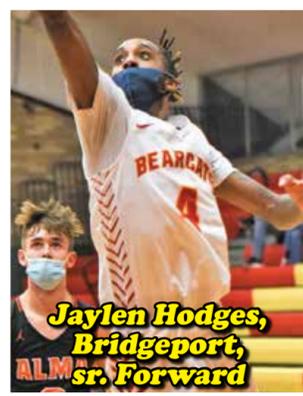
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# Presenting HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS 2021 All-Area Boys Basketball Team



**Nolan Finkbeiner, Hemlock, sr. Guard**

A four-year varsity player, Finkbeiner helped lead Hemlock to its first undefeated regular season since 1973-74. A first-team, all-state player in Division 3, Finkbeiner went over the 1,000-point mark for his career this season. Finkbeiner will continue his career at Olivet College next season.



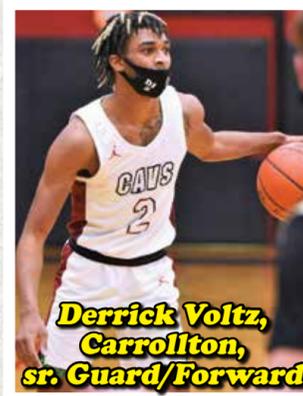
**Jaylen Hodges, Bridgeport, sr. Forward**

A dynamic forward with outstanding offensive skills who also plays tenacious defense, Hodges played a big role in Bridgeport's drive to the Division 2 state semifinals. An all-state player, Hodges averaged 18 points, six rebounds and three steals per game.



**Luke Predum, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, sr. Guard**

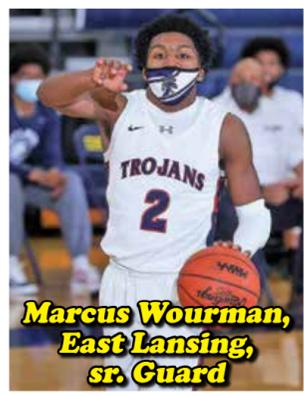
An outstanding all-around athlete who will play football in college at Madonna University, Predum led Sacred Heart on a memorable state tournament run to the Division 4 state semifinals. A first-team, all-state player, Predum averaged 21.5 points per game.



**Derrick Voltz, Carrollton, sr. Guard/Forward**

An outstanding all-around athlete who has earned all-state honors in both basketball and football, Voltz helped to lead the Cavaliers to a district title and a berth in the regional title game. Voltz has a versatile game and can fill up a stat sheet in a variety of ways.

Photo Provided By The Morning Sun



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

An outstanding all-around guard who led the team in scoring, assists and steals, Wourman has been a backcourt standout the past four years for the Trojans. Wourman's leadership and all-around game helped the Trojans reach the state quarterfinals in Division 1.

**D1 & D2 ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM**  
 Ryan Brenner, Frankenmuth, sr. forward  
 Brandon Hunt, Williamston, sr. forward/center  
 DJ Ferguson, Lansing Catholic, sr., guard  
 Landon Hungerford, DeWitt, sr. guard  
 Christian Smith, Saginaw Arthur Hill, jr. forward

**D1 & D2 ALL-AREA SECOND TEAM**  
 Drew Barrie, Midland Dow, jr. guard  
 Brevin Jackson, East Lansing, jr. guard  
 Tay Jones, Carrollton, sr. guard  
 Sam Krist, Rockford, sr. forward  
 Jacob Wallace, Williamston, sr. guard

**D3 & D4 ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM**  
 Trent Reed, Beaverton, sr. guard  
 Keaton Ringley, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, sr. forward  
 Devin Smith, Saginaw Nouvel, sr. guard  
 Zach Wentworth, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, sr. guard  
 Michael Zolinski, Hemlock, sr. center

**D3 & D4 ALL-AREA SECOND TEAM**  
 Zach Hawes, Laingsburg, sr. forward  
 Carson Oldani, Beaverton, sr. guard  
 Kyler Stone, Carson City-Crystal, sr. forward  
 Brock Thelen, Pewamo-Westphalia, sr. guard  
 Brenden Wood, Ithaca, jr. guard

**HONORABLE-MENTION:**  
 Thomas Alfano, Shepherd; Quincy Almond, Bay City Glenn; Isaiah Bailey, Grand Ledge; Jailem Bowles, Lansing Eastern; Seth Bradford, Bullock Creek; Wilson Bragg, Gladwin; Lavell Brodnex, Saginaw; Evan Burrows, Essexville-Garber; Max Burton, Williamston; Derrick Campbell, Saginaw; Chris Coleman, Carrollton; Willie Curtis, Lansing Eastern; Jayce Cusack, Lakewood-Lake Odessa; Zach Dassance, Eaton Rapids; Malachi Davis, Holt; Alex Duley, Freeland; Josh Elliot, Freeland; Spencer Feig, Williamston; Carmelo Franklin, Saginaw Arthur Hill; Cade Frillici, Alma; Paul Gadde, Alma; Reese Greenfielder, Chesaning; Kyle Griffith, Ionia; Josh Harrison, Mason; Jacob Howard, Holt; Bryson Huckey, Freeland; Sammy Jacobs, Lansing Catholic; Calvin Kibbe, Rockford; Bryce Kurncz, DeWitt; Jeremy LaValley, Charlotte; Gabe Lynn, Durand; Elvis Machul, Saginaw Arthur Hill; Ricky Martinez, Lansing Waverly; Anthony Mazzolini, St. Johns; Cole Meiske, Corunna; Trent Meyers, Portland; Jack Mulariz, Essexville-Garber; AJ Pipkins, Bridgeport; Ben Reinert, Frankenmuth; David Rivera, Grand Ledge; Logan Schafer, Ionia; Brendan Schueller, Rockford; Carson Socia, Corunna; Caleb Stahr, Corunna; Ben Steele, Eaton Rapids; Xander Thelen, Haslett; Jackson Thornton, Ovid-Elsie; Keegan Tolliver, Bullock Creek; Cameron Washington, Bay City Central; Tyler Washington, Lansing Everett; Alex Watters, Lansing Catholic; Mason Wichman, Eaton Rapids; David Wilkerson, East Lansing; Omarion Wilkins, Bridgeport; Donte Wright, Lansing Sexton; Will Young, Okemos.

**HONORABLE-MENTION:**  
 Nate Ackley, Pottersville; Drew Cole, Breckenridge; Connor Cross, Portland St. Patrick; Jaden Curry, New Lothrop; Jamison Eklund, Pewamo-Westphalia; Collin Farmer, Carson City-Crystal; Jalen Fear, St. Charles; Jacob Gillis, Breckenridge; Eric Grabill, Midland Calvary; Brayden Green, Hemlock; Aidan Halliday, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart; Logan Heath, Merrill; Travis Hungerford, Fulton-Middleton; Landon Jastrzemowski, St. Charles; Brayde Kceley, Beaverton; Matt Keifer, New Lothrop; Morgan Krause, Pottersville; Dylan LaGrow, Hemlock; Joe Lung, Fulton-Middleton; Gibson Marr, Ithaca; Cameron Mishler, Beaverton; Monte Missentz, Montrose; Jack Murphy, Sanford-Meridian; Jalen Nelson, Dansville; Sam Onan, Bath; Hayden Palmer, Vestaburg; Gavin Parry, Bath; Cade Pesture, St. Louis; Luke Saunders, Breckenridge; Zach Simon, Pewamo-Westphalia; JT Smith, Montabella; Alex Suppes, St. Charles; Ethan Swenson, Bath; Cayden Sysak, Merrill; Avante Taylor, St. Louis; Carson Voss, Dansville; Ben Wilson, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart; MJ Yeager, Saginaw Nouvel.



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## Midland Bowler Successfully Defends State Title

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Izaak Goergen did it again. The senior Midland bowler won his second straight Division 1 individual championship at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park in late March.

Goergen showed right off the bat he was ready for another title. In the qualifying block, he was No. 1 with a six-game total of 1,361.

It put him in the round of 16. He defeated Jacob Vernier of Wyandotte Roosevelt 383-371

and then topped Shane Legeret of Macomb Dakota 388-335 to make it to the semifinals. He had a tough match with David Schaberg of Holt and prevailed 467-464. But he dominated the title match with a 463-384 win over Ian Cain of Livonia Franklin.

"I had been there before and I felt pretty good," Goergen said. "I was throwing the ball pretty well. During qualifying, I felt pretty good and I was scoring high. When it came to match play, I approached it like I do every time, one match at a time. I felt

pretty confident." Goergen was very confident he could take the tournament title after he snuck out of the semifinal win.

"After he left that seven pin that allowed me to win, I knew there was no way I was going to lose after being that lucky," Goergen said. "I threw all three strikes in the 10th which force him to need the first strike and he left the seven pin which should have fallen down. After that, I knew I couldn't lose."

Goergen said "definitely the second state title" was the sweetest one.

"For the second one, I had teammates that qualified for the state singles event that were there with me and they stayed and

watched and I got to be with a lot of friends and family that I didn't get to have last year," Goergen said. "The first year, the matches were not as close as the matches this year. The adrenaline rush was definitely there. This one was definitely sweetest."

Goergen said he's planning on bowling in college.

"I'm going on visits right now," he said. "I'll find out which team suits me the best and hopefully I can continue with my career. I've been in contact with schools around the state."

Goergen said after the fourth match of the season he was starting to get into the groove consider the delays because of COVID.

"By regionals and state, I felt as good as I have all year," he said.



Isaac Goergen of Midland bowled his way to another state title.

## Ithaca Bowlers Finish Fifth In The State

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

It was another terrific season in Division 4 for Ithaca's boys bowling team.

The Yellow Jackets were state qualifiers and were seeded fourth after the qualifying round among 10 teams with a 2,937.

They lost to Burton Bendle in their first match 1,152-1,119.

Wally Schneider coached the team again.

"We had an awesome season," he said. "I think we exceeded a lot of the expectations most people had when we came into it, including ourselves. We had a very senior-dominated team, and not a lot of experience, at least at the varsity level. Over the last five years, I graduated at least four kids off of every team. I thought maybe this year, that was going to start catching up with us.

"These guys worked hard and accomplished a lot. If you told me at the beginning of the season we were going to be conference champions and regional champions and take fifth in the state, I would have taken that in a heartbeat," Schneider said. "That's our second best

state finish ever. We finished runner-up in 2014. We were seventh last year."

Players were Isidore Baumann, Braxton Lamey, Brady Wood, Riley Vernon, Garrett Smith, Lucas Gruesbeck and Josh Dame.

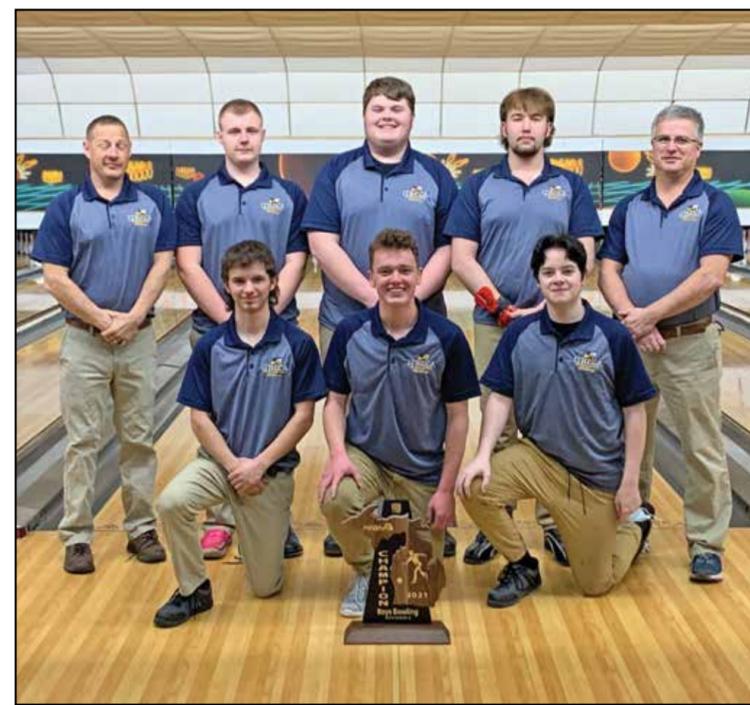
Vernon was the top bowler as a senior. He was third in the state in singles.

"He's been our anchor the last couple of years," Schneider said. "He put in a lot of work during the offseason in getting kids to practice and pushing people. At the end of the season when it mattered the most, he carried the team and kind of put them on his back to carry them through."

Josh Dame was No. 2 as a junior "and by far was the most improved player on the team," Schneider said. "He came off the JV last year and really excelled and led the team in average most of the season. He was one of the keys for us winning the conference and regional."

Baumann was another senior and on the team for his second year.

"We threw a lot of strikes but spares were our nemesis all year," Schneider said. "That's what caught up with us in the finals."



Ithaca's boys bowling team had another championship season.

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# Birch Run Celebrates Bowling Title

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Birch Run reigned supreme for girls high school bowling this season with a Division 3 state championship.

The Panthers were coached by Jane Severson. From the qualifying block, Birch Run came out with a 3,054 to rank second out of the eight qualifying teams. The Panthers beat Hudsonville Unity Christian 1,184-1,090 and then topped Jonesville 1,127-1,089.

For the title, Birch Run defeated Armada 1,200-1,152.

Two years ago, prior to Severson being coach, Birch Run took second place and in 2017 the

team took first place in the state.

"We went in with an open mind and to have fun," Severson said. "We were hoping we had a good chance. But we knew just making it to state was a great honor. I wanted them to be happy with it."

Jillian Inman was the team's top scorer. "She is a junior and will be back next year," Severson said. "I'm very excited to see where that will take her."

Jillian has a twin sister, Jessica Inman.

"She was our anchor bowler the whole day," Severson said. "She did not crack to the pressure. She went out and did her thing."

Cheyenne Brown had a few high games as well for Birch Run.

"She's a very consistent bowler," Severson said.

Alexis Mader made it to individual states and was on varsity four seasons.

"They're all very good bowlers," Severson said. "They worked together. The three girls coming back are amazing bowlers. I also coached the JV team and we have some new girls coming up who will be good additions to the team. My main thing is attitude. You can't be a good bowler if you don't have a good attitude. Our program is growing."



Birch Run bowlers celebrate the state Division 3 title.

# St. Charles Claims Division 4 Bowling Title

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It was St. Charles' turn to win the Division 2 state title this season.

Coach Mark Faupel's team won the school's first title since 2010 the first year there was a Division 4 bracket. In 2016, St. Charles was in the final match against Sandusky and lost. In 2018, St. Charles was runners-up to Bronson.

The 2021 meet was at Canton's Super Bowl on March 26. In the qualifying round, the Bulldogs bowled a 3,073 to be the No. 1 seed.

In the final, St. Charles had some close matches including the first one with a 1,111-1,090 decision over Traverse City Christian. In the semifinals, it was 1218-1,114 over Burton Bendle. The title match came down to eight pins with a 1,167-1,159 decision over Manchester. The qualifying block

consists of 8 Baker games and two regular games. Total pinfall determines Top 8 Manchester advancers and seeding for Match Play Round. 169 168 805 1142 match play consists of two Baker games and one regular game. Total pinfall determines the winner.

Bowlers were Brandon Armstrong, Nicholas Armstrong, Hunter Bashans, Cale Douglas, Bryce Coty, Gunnar Rousseau and Ben Garcia.

Faupel was confident entering the finals his team had a chance.

"The defending champ, Grass Lake, moved to Division 3," he said. "We were set up for it. When I saw they moved up to Division 3, I thought we had a chance."

But when it came to the state finals, spare shooting saved the day for St. Charles.

"The conditions were absolutely brutal," Faupel said. "There were not a lot of big games. There was only one 900 game, Peterson game,



St. Charles' state championship bowling team for 2021.

in the whole tournament qualifying and we had it. It was demanding conditions. Spare shooting was the absolute key. Our Baker games were important too. In conference games, our Baker games weren't that good. Peterson games were

our strength, but when it got down to the tournament, the Bakers got us our lead."

St. Charles top six players were all seniors.

Armstrong averaged 203 and

was the top bowler for the year. His brother Nicholas was at 189. Hunter Bashans was 181.

"I have one junior I'm keeping and some JV players who are moving along," Faupel said.

# Mason Girl Bowlers Settle For Second Place

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It was nearly a back-to-back Division 2 state championship season for Mason's girls bowling team.

Mason was the defending state champ and advanced to the finals but lost to Flint Kearsley 1,189-1,166 on March 26 at Waterford.

Russell W. Whipple was in his first year as head coach.

Mason entered the postseason with a 9-1 record.

"The team had an excellent season," Whipple said. "The only loss



Mason's Grace Ann Whipple

was on an average performance day against Charlotte, which is an excellent team as well. The girls were dominant in the league singles tournament and regionals. Our expectations, or better said goals, were league championship, regional championship, and state championship.

"We achieved the league and regional goals but fell 23 pins short at states. Although there is some disappointment in not winning at states, the team performed well overall. In the state team finals, we had a couple of low baker games that put us 55 pins behind. Flint Kearsley is a great program that has won 8 of last 10 state championships and we stayed with them, actually beating them by 22 in the full game...and we own one of the two times they did not win in the past 10 years."

Mason won its league outright for the second straight year and won regionals by 250 pins. The total pinfall of 3,867 was the highest of any girls team in the state, all divisions, by 201.

"Four girls, Grace Ann Whipple, Alexis Beach, Leigha Rue, and Emilee Hendershot, qualified for

state singles," Russell Whipple said. "Three of them (Whipple, Beach, Rue) made the top 16 knockout round. Beach made it to final eight and Whipple and Rue made the Final Four. It was the second time in Mason history that any girl made the final 16 and the first time any girl made final 8, and obviously first time in Final four. Whipple, Beach, and Rue are first team All-State.

Five girls, Grace Ann Whipple, Adriana Thomas, Alexis Beach, Leigha Rue, and Emilee Hendershot were in top 10 of the league singles tournament, with Whipple winning the tournament.

"Other than getting so close to winning the state title, there are absolutely no disappointments from this season," Russell Whipple said. "We had a very deep team so all of the girls played their role as a top athlete at one time or another. High average in competition was Whipple (189), but Beach (184), Rue (181), Thomas (178), Hendershot (175) and Kuch (161) all had very respectable averages as well. Our team average of 178 is 10 pins higher than last year.

Three girls, Hendershot, Kuch,

and Rue are planning to bowl in college with Hendershot and Kuch to Spring Arbor and Rue top Cleary

"Whipple, Hendershot, Rue and Kuch are all graduating while Beach and Thomas are only returners for next year and should form a strong core for the team," Whipple said. "Next year will most likely be a classic rebuilding year. There are a couple of freshman who bowled some this year that show great promise and a couple of eighth graders we hope will continue to show improvement. But Beach and Thomas are both excellent bowlers with potential to be very competitive with any other bowler in the state. So with that core, we have the potential to be a strong team next year."

"The girls on the team are all very talented bowlers. The seniors have been aware of their potential for years. Division 2 girls bowling has been dominated by a short list of schools since bowling was added as a varsity sport. In this very odd year for bowling and limited competition, the team got the job done anyway. Despite falling one



Mason's Leigha Rue

win short at states, this was a very impressive season overall for the team. The girls dominated their league singles tournament and put more girls into the Final Eight and Final Four in state singles than any other school. The seniors leave an impressive legacy and have set the bar high for younger bowlers."

Rue said she was "pretty happy overall. We could have done better as a team. I thought I bowled really good. I bowled four 200s in a row."

Grace Ann Whipple agreed.

"We won last year and that was an incredible experience," she said. "It was great to be in the finals. We can't change it now. We played great that day. Second in the state isn't that bad."

# Central Montcalm Hearing Impaired Bowler Advances To State Semifinal

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Arabella Huntoon is deaf, her Central Montcalm bowling coach Larry Matson points out, and she is in the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District Deaf and Hard of Hearing program.

She's on the Central Montcalm bowling team and proved to be among the top keepers in the state.

Huntoon bowled in the

Division 3 state finals after qualifying from the regional round. Among 60 bowlers in the qualifying round, she placed ninth with a 10-round score of 1,093.

This put Huntoon in the sweet 16. She faced Lauren VanderMaas of Hudsonville Unity Christian and won 372-335. Then she topped Natalie Kapanowski of Alognac and won 348-327. In the semifinals, she lost to Bridget Ryon of Corunna

418-366.

It was her third year on the team.

"This was her third best year yet overall for the school season and postseason event," Matson said.

"In her last individual meet, she shot 1,219 pin fall for a 203 average and at regionals shot 1,098 pinfall for a 188 average. Her final average for the school meets is 160.



Central Montcalm's Arabella Huntoon bowls during the season.

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# Lowell Wrestling Team Adds To Its Success Winning Its Eighth Consecutive Division 2 Title

## David Cook Sports Scene

Led by a special group of seniors whose performance in the classroom rivals the numbers they put up on the mat, the Lowell wrestling team continued to add to its historic run with an eighth consecutive Division 2 team championship.

Lowell put on as impressive a performance as a team can give enroute to winning the state title. Lowell defeated Goodrich 59-7 in the state final match after defeating Charlotte 70-12 in the quarterfinals and Monroe Jefferson 67-6 in the semifinals. Lowell wrestlers won an impressive 37 of the 42 matches at the team finals.

"I'm always amazed," said Lowell coach R.J. Boudro. "Sometimes I have to pinch myself. It's awesome when you reflect on what these guys have done. I always get asked the question does it get old. It's an awesome feeling it is so special and it is amazing the run we are on."

At the heart of the success each and every year is a special core of

seniors. This year's version of the Red Arrows is highlighted by a unique senior class that puts up numbers in the classroom that rival the numbers put up on the wrestling mat.

"This was a phenomenal senior class," Boudro said. "It was one of the best senior classes that we've ever had. We had seven academic all-state candidates. The grade-point average of our 14 kids is 3.956. We have a phenomenally smart team with some great kids."

The senior class is led by veteran starters Doak Dean (160 pounds), Cole Huisman (140), Jacob Lee (171), William Link (152), Derek Mohr (189), Keegan Nugent (285) and Zeth Strejc (130) along with Terrick Stewart (130), Luke Skinner (189) and Brady Musser who added wins at the team state final and Josh Meier who also wrestled at team state.

Many of Lowell's seniors will be continuing their career at the next level including Dean at Harvard University, Strejc at the University of West Virginia and Lee at Michi-

gan State University. Nugent is also looking to wrestle at the next level and Link will be studying engineering at Kettering.

The overall depth of talent on the Lowell roster was especially evident at the individual state wrestling tournament the following week. A total of 12 of Lowell's 14 wrestlers placed at the individual state meet, setting a new Division 2 state record.

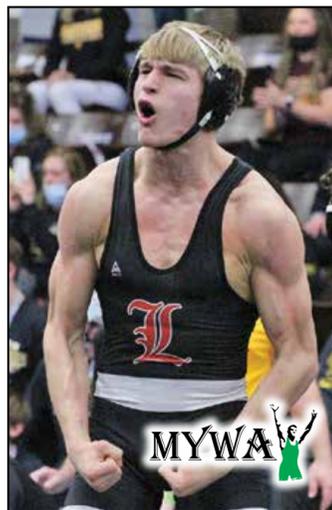
A total of four Lowell wrestlers came away with individual state championships including Strejc (135), Dean (160), Lee (171) and Nugent (285). The four individual state champions also set a new record for the Lowell program. Sophomore Carson Crace placed second (160) at individual state while Link (145) and junior Carter Blough (215) took third. Junior Ramsy Mutschler (125) placed fourth while junior James Link (130) and Mohr (189) both placed fifth. Freshman Tacho Gonzales (145) placed seventh and sophomore Landon Miller (125) took eighth.

"It was a unique season," Boudro said. "Dealing with all the challenges of the pandemic made it a real stressful season. At the same time, it also brought us closer together as a team. We came out the other side stronger and I think that will make us an even better team next year."

The eighth straight state championship was a true team effort for Lowell and required contributions from not only the wrestlers and coaches but from parents and the Lowell school administration, especially in this season that has been impacted by the pandemic.

"I'd like to thank our administration for what they did," Boudro said. "They allowed us to quarantine as a team as we approached and went through the post season. The last four weeks of the season we were able to quarantine and do remote learning. The guys worked their tails off and it took a lot of sacrifice to make it work. It took a lot of sacrificing and discipline both academically and athletically. Staying in a bubble was difficult. It was awesome that our administration allowed us to do this. Our administration puts a lot of value on school programs, not just athletics but the school play and all sports. We were all allowed to do this it was awesome."

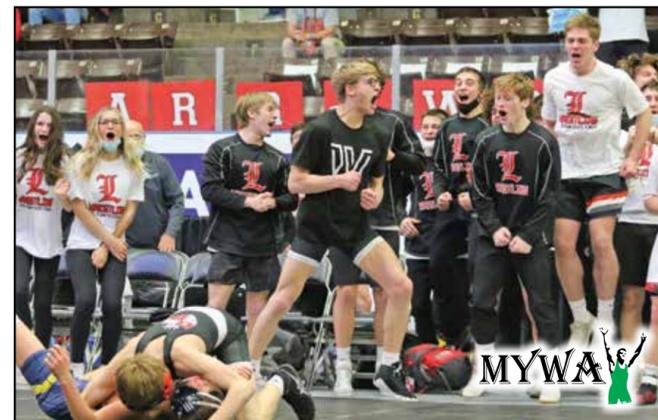
With eight straight titles to their credit, the question now is, can the Red Arrows keep the streak



The Lowell wrestling team flexed its muscles by winning 37 or 42 matches at the Division 2 team state finals as it defeated Charlotte, Monroe Jefferson and Goodrich.

going. While the senior class will be sorely missed, enough talent returns to provide a strong nucleus to build around next season. James Link, Blough and Mutschler will be returning seniors who placed at state this year while Crace and Miller will be back as a junior state placers and Gonzales as a sophomore state placer. Sophomores Steve Skinner and Easton Lyons and junior Nate Cleaver also posted double-digit win totals this season.

"We should have a great team next year," Boudro said. "We have some good eighth graders coming in and they should replace some of the holes in the lineup. I feel great right now about having a good team next year but obviously we have a lot of work to do."



"We had a banner year," Boudro said. "It was also a challenging year. It will be a year to remember for sure."

Not only did the Red Arrows face plenty of tough adversaries on the mats, but they also had to deal with the challenges of the Covid-19 virus along with all the other athletes across the state.

The Lowell wrestling team added to its historic run of state championships by defeating Goodrich 59-7 to win its eighth consecutive Division 2 team state championship.

# Covid Virus Dashes Alma Wrestling Team's Dream Of Berth In State Title Match

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Alma wrestling team gave it a strong run, but in the end a tough Whitehall team and the effects of the Covid-19 virus kept the Panthers from achieving their ultimate goal.

Coming into the Division 3 team state finals ranked second in the state, Alma's goal was to take on Division 3 super power Dundee in the championship match. Down four wrestlers, including three key starters, due to positive Covid-19 virus tests, the Panthers came up on the short end of a 37-29 decision against Whitehall in the semifinals to end the season with a 22-4 overall record.

The 22-4 record is even more impressive considering three of the losses came against state champions Davison, Lowell and Dundee, along with the loss to a state finalist in Whitehall.

Alma gave it all it had against Whitehall but being down several starters was too much to overcome. The two teams split the first eight matches of the dual, alternating wins from 135 to 215 pounds. Senior Solomon Rosales got things going for Alma with a technical fall at 135 pounds. Senior Dametrius Castillo added a decision at 145 pounds, junior Jacob Munger picked up a pin at 160 pounds and junior Jaden Morrow added a decision at 189 pounds. Whitehall,

however, opened up a 28-17 lead after pins at 215 and 285.

Alma cut the margin to 28-23 when junior Jordan Pannill came up with a pin at 103 pounds. Alma, however, was forced to forfeit at 112 pounds which put Whitehall back up by 11 points with three matches remaining. The Panthers continued to battle and picked up decisions from senior Dominic Anguiano at 119 and sophomore Gianni Tripp to cut the margin back to five but Whitehall claimed a decision in the final match of the dual to clinch the win.

I am really proud of my kids for winning seven matches," said Alma coach Randy Miniard. "I'm pretty confident that if we had all of our wrestlers, we would win this match. Whitehall is a great team and they had a great season, I just believe we would win with all of our starters."

Alma reached the semifinals by defeating Freeland 44-21 in the quarterfinal match. Freeland won four of the first seven matches to take a 15-13 lead before Alma took the lead and pulled away for the win.

Alma won nine of the 14 matches during the dual and received major bonus points from Kory Bell (215 pounds), Caden Adams (285), Morrow (189), Munger (160) and Anguiano (119). Castillo (145) and Tripp (125) added major decisions while Landon Bethka (135) and



Alma senior and state runner-up Dom Anguiano.

Pannill (112) added decisions.

"I think it worked out well that we faced Freeland in the quarterfinals," Miniard said. "They are in our conference and we were supposed to wrestle them during the season but the match was cancelled due to covid. They (Freeland) have a good team and they wrestled well but we were glad to be able to compete against them."

Alma earned a trip to its fourth consecutive team finals by winning a tough regional at Lansing Eastern. The Panthers defeated Durand 58-24 in the regional semifinals and then stopped Portland 43-27 in the regional title match.

Alma trailed Durand in the early going of the semifinal match before consecutive pins by Rosales (145), Castillo (152), Munger (160) and Cole O'Boyle (171) staked the Panthers to a 30-12 lead. Alma finished the dual with eight pins as junior Josiah Baltierra (130), junior Adam Garcia (285), Anguiano and Tripp also added pins. Morrow won by a forfeit and Pannill added a major decision.

While the Panthers were unable to achieve their goal of wrestling in the Division 3 state title match, the season was a positive one for the team.

Alma's coach Miniard celebrates with his 3 seniors (Castillo, Rosales and Anguiano) as they hoist their 4th consecutive regional championship!

Alma senior 2 time all-state Solomon Rosales.



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# Presenting The



# 2021 Wrestling Dream Team



**Talon Parsons**  
D'vid-Elsie High School  
103 - Freshman - 24-1

Parsons nearly ran the table in his first year of high school wrestling. A district and regional champion, he reached the D3 state finals before suffering his first setback.

**Jak Keller**  
Rockford High School  
112 - Sophomore - 30-3

A two-time state qualifier, Keller capped his sophomore season by placing fifth at the D1 state finals. Keller has a 66-13 record for his first two years of high school wrestling.

**Tayden Miller**  
Mason High School  
119 - Sophomore - 12-3

Miller took third at state at 103 pounds as a freshman and placed second at 119 pounds in D2 this season. Miller has a 56-9 record for his first two years of high school

**Zachary Gibson**  
Lakewood-Lake Odessa  
125 - Junior - 33-1

After placing fifth in the state as a sophomore last year at 112 pounds, Gibson came back to win the Division 3 title at 125 pounds this season. Gibson is 77-6 the past two years combined.

**Ryker Johncheck**  
Williamston High School  
130 - Junior - 27-0

A three-time state qualifier, Johncheck captured his second consecutive state title as he won the 130-pound title in D3. Johncheck is 71-2 the past two seasons.

**Zeth Strejc**  
Lowell High School  
135 - Senior - 23-3

Strejc wrapped up his high school career by winning the D2 state title at 135 pounds. A four-time state qualifier and three-time state placer, Strejc finished his career with 103 total wins.

**Cole Stone**  
Carson City-Crystal  
140 - Junior - 32-2

After placing sixth at the state meet last season, Stone came back this year and won the D4 state title at 140 pounds. Stone has compiled a 79-11 record over the past two seasons.

## D1 & D2 BIG SCHOOL ALL-AREA TEAM

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 103) Noah Webster, Mt. Pleasant, fr. | 145) Will Link, Lowell, sr.     |
| 112) Ryan Mosher, Holt, soph.        | 152) Alex Russell, Holt, jr.    |
| 119) Ramsy Mutschler, Lowell, jr.    | 160) Ryan Ahern, Rockford, fr.  |
| 125) Kiefer Kolito, DeWitt, sr.      | 171) Derek Badgley, Mason, fr.  |
| 130) Jacob Brya, St. Johns, jr.      | 189) Derek Mohr, Lowell, sr.    |
| 135) Caden Peterman, Greenville, sr. | 215) Carter Blough, Lowell, jr. |
| 140) Ralph Thompson, Holt, jr.       | 285) Joshua Terrill, Holt, jr.  |

## Honorable Mention

Daniel Berg (130), Midland; Moses Bosscher (171), Rockford; Bo Brandt (152), Charlotte; Nathan Bremer (171), Holt; Elijah Bunn (119), Rockford; Emilio Caberara (135), East Lansing; Carson Crace (160), Lowell; Garrett Forgash (171), Bay City Glenn; Payton Frederick (130), Owosso; Tacho Gonzales (145), Lowell; Jacob Harris (103), Holt; Lane Huizar (119), Bay City Glenn; Jason Jones (130), Holt; James Link (130), Lowell; AJ Martel (160), Mason; Zach McMillan (285), Greenville; Landon Miller (125), Lowell; Harun Mkumbakwa (285), Lansing Eastern; Landon Peiffer (189), Mason; Devin Pfau (145), Grand Ledge; Zach Platte (125), Holt; Jackson Raymond (189), Grand Ledge; Adam Russell (160), Holt; Cole Schell (140), Midland; Jayden Schwartz (119), Charlotte; Eli Severns (145), DeWitt; Jay Shaull (125), Eaton Rapids; Adrian Sigurani (112), Eaton Rapids; Clint Tollison (215), Grand Ledge; Luke Watkins (189), Rockford; Cael Weinzweig (119), DeWitt.

## D3 & D4 SMALL SCHOOL ALL-AREA TEAM

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 103) Noah Graham, Freeland, fr.         | 145) Nick Knieper, New Lothrop, sr.       |
| 112) Daven Lockwood, New Lothrop, soph. | 152) Jason Dodman, Sanford-Meridian, sr.  |
| 119) Dominic Anguano, Alma, sr.         | 160) Jacob Munger, Alma, jr.              |
| 125) Aidan Bernard, Montrose, jr.       | 171) Konner Roche, Frankenmuth, sr.       |
| 130) Brock Holek, Durand, sr.           | 189) Trenten Wiggins, Chippewa Hills, sr. |
| 135) Isaiah Pelc, Portland, soph.       | 215) Camden Orr, New Lothrop, sr.         |
| 140) Trent Trierweiler, Portland, jr.   | 285) Isiah Pasik, New Lothrop, jr.        |

## Honorable Mention

Tyler Akin (103), Carson City-Crystal; Darrin Alward (135), Durand; Xavier Anderson (152), Corunna; Cameron Bacchus (103), Durand; Aden Baynes (135), Laingsburg; Evan Becker (152), Essexville-Garber; Jack Chambers (103), Williamston; Bryce Cheney (152), New Lothrop; Caleb Cline (125) Shepherd; Josh Collins (145), Hemlock; Hunter Coxon (112), Montrose; Greg Dion (125), Williamston; Seth Divine (215), Laingsburg; Jake Elavich (130), Montrose; Ty Emmendorfer (152), Montrose; Ty Fielder (119), Durand; Jake Fischer (285), Beaverton; Cole Fournier (140), Freeland; Tanner Gaw (145), Shepherd; Branson Goodman (215), Portland; Blake Greenman (145), Montrose; Brady Gross (171), New Lothrop; Corbin Hamilton (285), Ithaca; Levi Harber (285), Montrose; Harry Helmick (160), New Lothrop; Hunter Huguélet (215), Gladwin; Camden Johncheck (130), Williamston; Andrew Krupp (140), New Lothrop; Kody Krupp (189), New Lothrop; Luke Mahaney (135), Williamston; Matthew Massman (171), Belding; Luke Maxwell (285), St. Louis; Derek Mayle (135), Breckenridge; Gavin Miller (119), Chippewa Hills; Chandler Murton (171), Portland; Cole O'Boyle (171), Alma; Justice Onstott (189), St. Louis; Jacob Orweller (135), Perry; Isaac Plamondon (160) Saginaw Valley Lutheran; Brenden Quackenbush (285), Chesaning; Colby Roosa (285), Chippewa Hills; Solomon Rosales (140), Alma; Hunter Schaefer (189), Beaverton; Ethan Schmid (215), Belding; JD Schnell (140), Hemlock; Jake Schultz (189), Sanford-Meridian; Caleb Sharp (125), New Lothrop; Gibby Shepard (112), Freeland; Jared Shepler (119), Carson City-Crystal; Cody Smith (189), Montrose; Hunter Spaulding (189), Durand; Ethan Sumner (160), Breckenridge; Cole Tilton (171), Ithaca; Tyler Tomasek (130), Freeland; Gianni Tripp (125), Alma; Keegan VanAlstine (152), Lakewood-Lake Odessa; Nolan VanLoo (160), Freeland; Evan Wakefield (171), Michigan Lutheran Seminary; Jack Ward (189), Belding; Jack Wiggins (125), Coleman; Daylin Wittig (135), Chippewa Hills.



**Dametrius Castillo**  
Alma High School  
145 - Senior - 29-5

One of the premier wrestlers in school history, Castillo is a four-time state placer who won a state title and reached the state title match three times. Castillo totaled 140 wins for his career.

**Trenton Wachter**  
Rockford High School  
152 - Senior - 24-1

A four-time state qualifier and three-time state placer, Wachter capped his career by climbing to the top of the podium at 152 pounds in D1 this spring. Wachter totaled 143 wins for his career.

**Doak Dean**  
Lowell High School  
160 - Senior - 28-2

A four-time state placer who will wrestle in college at Harvard, Dean capped his career by reaching the pinnacle as he won the 160-pound title in D2. Dean ended his career with 135 wins.

**Jacob Lee**  
Lowell High School  
171 - Senior - 22-1

A three-time state placer, Lee won the 171-pound title in D2 this year after taking third last season. Over the past three seasons Lee compiled an 89-27 record.

**Aidan Wardell**  
Midland Dow High School  
189 - Junior - 34-3

A state placer last season as a sophomore, Wardell took third place at 189 pounds in D1 this season. Wardell has compiled an 81-12 record the past two seasons.

**CJ Krum**  
St. Johns High School  
215 - Senior - 36-0

A four-time state qualifier and two-time state placer, Krum reached the top of the podium this season as he won the 215-pound title in D1 to cap a perfect season. Krum capped his career with 147 wins.

**Keegan Nugent**  
Lowell High School  
285 - Senior - 29-0

After taking second place in D2 at 215 pounds last season, Nugent moved up to heavyweight this season and turned in a perfect record enroute to winning the 285-pound title.

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# Area Wrestling Teams Put Together Impressive Runs During State Tournament

## David Cook Sports Scene

### DAVISON BRINGS HOME TITLE IN D1

After coming up short last year against Detroit Catholic Central, the Davison wrestling team turned the table on the Shamrocks with a 29-24 win in this year's Division 1 state championship match. "That's something for the last 13 months we have never forgotten," said Davison coach Zac Hall. "That second-place trophy, it's the first thing you see when you walk into our wrestling room. Kids touched it every day. That's been our motivation all season." The win against Catholic Central capped a perfect season for the Cardinals who finished the year with a 19-0 record. The win was the ninth state team championship in school history and the first state title since 2006.

### NEW LOTHROP COMES UP SHORT IN D4 TITLE MATCH

The New Lothrop wrestling team reached the Division 4 state championship match where it came out on the short end of a 55-9 decision against defending state champion Clinton.

The appearance in the title match was the first for New Lothrop since reaching the finals in 2018. New Lothrop reached the finals by defeating Bark River-Harris 54-20 in the quarterfinals. The Hornets received pins from Daven Lockwood (112 pounds), Caleb Sharp (125), Jack Kulhaneck (135), Jackson Knieper (145), Harry Helmick (152), Kody Krupp (189) and Grayson Orr (215). Isiah Pasik (285) won by forfeit while Parker Noonan (130) and Andrew Krupp (140) won decisions in the quarterfinal match. New Lothrop received a bye in the semifinals. The Hornets reached the team finals after defeating Michigan Lutheran Seminary 68-3 in the regional finals.

### ROCKFORD REACHES STATE SEMIFINALS

The Rockford wrestling team reached the final four in Division 1 before falling to eventual D1 state champion 62-9. The Rams, who finished the season with a 20-4 record, defeated Holt 36-29 in the quarterfinals. Bryson Aulbach (145 pounds), Moses Bosscher (189) and Luke Watkins (215) won by pin in the quarterfinals while Trenton Wachter (152) won by a technical

fall. Elijah Bunn (112) won by major decision with Jak Keller (112) Louis Bosscher (135) and Ryan Ahern (160) winning decisions.

### HOLT WRESTLERS COMPETE AT TEAM STATE

The Holt wrestling team qualified for the team state tournament by defeating Battle Creek Lakeview and Brighton to win a regional title. Holt, which finished the season with a 25-2 record, fell to Rockford in the Division 1 team wrestling semifinals. Jacov Harris (112 pounds) and Zach Platte (125) won by pin against Rockford while Ralph Thompson (140) and Nathan Bremer (171) won by technical fall. Joshua Terrill (285) won a major decision while Jason Jones (130) won by decision.

### MONTROSE DROPS HEARTBREAKER AT STATE

The Montrose wrestling team had its season come to an end in a tough way as it dropped a 33-32 decision on criteria to Richmond in the Division 3 state quarterfinals. The match ended in a 32-32 tie with the tiebreaker being the greater number of forfeits which Richmond won to break



The New Lothrop wrestling team capped the season by battling Clinton in the Division 4 state team wrestling finals.

the tie. Montrose, which ended the season with a 12-2 record, was led by Aidan Bernard (125 pounds), Jake Elavich (130) and Ty Emmendorfer (145) who all won by pin in the dual. Robert Skinner (135) won by technical fall while Hunter Coxon (112), Blake Greenman (140) and Ben Wade (152) won decisions.

### FREELAND WRESTLERS REACH TEAM STATE

The Freeland wrestling team capped a strong season by qualifying for the Division 2 team state finals. Charlotte punched its ticket to the team state finals by defeating Mason 45-30 for the regional championship. Charlotte fell 70-12 to eventual state champion Lowell in the team state quarterfinals. Bo Brandt (152 pounds) and Jayden Schwartz (112) both won by pin against Lowell. Charlotte ended the season with an 18-9 record.

technical fall in the Alma match while Noah Graham (103) won by forfeit, Tyler Tomasek (130) won by major decision and Cole Fournier (140) and Jacob Stevens (152) won decisions. Freeland ended the season with a 19-4 record.

### CHARLOTTE REACHES TEAM STATE FINALS

The Charlotte wrestling team capped a strong season by qualifying for the Division 2 team state finals. Charlotte punched its ticket to the team state finals by defeating Mason 45-30 for the regional championship. Charlotte fell 70-12 to eventual state champion Lowell in the team state quarterfinals. Bo Brandt (152 pounds) and Jayden Schwartz (112) both won by pin against Lowell. Charlotte ended the season with an 18-9 record.

# INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING STATE PLACERS AND QUALIFIERS

**DIVISION 1 EAST LANSING**  
Emilio Cacerera, 7<sup>th</sup> 135  
**GRAND LEDGE**  
Jayden Schwartz, 7<sup>th</sup> 119  
Bo Brandt, qf 152  
**DEWITT**  
Kiefer Kolito, 3<sup>rd</sup> 125  
Cole Weinzwieg, 5<sup>th</sup> 119  
Eli Severns, 6<sup>th</sup> 145  
**EATON RAPIDS**  
Jay Shaull, 5<sup>th</sup> 125  
Adrian Sigurani, qf 112  
**GREENVILLE**  
Caden Peterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> 135  
Zach Platte, qf 125  
Adam Russell, qf 160  
**MIDLAND**  
Daniel Berg, qf 130  
Cole Schelb, qf 140  
**OKEMOS**  
Kaleb Smith-Baldwin, qf 119  
**ROCKFORD**  
Trenton Wachter, state champ 152  
Jak Keller, 5<sup>th</sup> 112  
Moses Bosscher, 6<sup>th</sup> 189  
Elijah Bunn, 7<sup>th</sup> 119  
Ryan Ahern, 7<sup>th</sup> 160  
Logan Schwartz, qf 130  
Bryson Aulbach, qf 140  
Colin Harju, qf 152  
Luke Watkins, qf 189

Wyatt Bossbach, qf 135  
Garrett Forgash, qf 171  
**CHARLOTTE**  
Jayden Schwartz, 7<sup>th</sup> 119  
Bo Brandt, qf 152  
**DEWITT**  
Kiefer Kolito, 3<sup>rd</sup> 125  
Cole Weinzwieg, 5<sup>th</sup> 119  
Eli Severns, 6<sup>th</sup> 145  
**EATON RAPIDS**  
Jay Shaull, 5<sup>th</sup> 125  
Adrian Sigurani, qf 112  
**GREENVILLE**  
Caden Peterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> 135  
Zach Platte, qf 125  
Adam Russell, qf 160  
**LANSING EASTERN**  
Harun Mikumbakwa, 6<sup>th</sup> 285  
James Wagner, qf 130  
**LOWELL**  
Zeth Strejc, state champ 135  
Doak Dean, state champ 160  
Jacob Lee, state champ 171  
Keegan Nugent, state champ 285  
Carson Crace, 2<sup>nd</sup> 160  
Will Link, 3<sup>rd</sup> 145  
Carter Blough, 3<sup>rd</sup> 215  
Ramsy Mutschler, 4<sup>th</sup> 119  
James Link, 5<sup>th</sup> 130  
Derek Mohr, 5<sup>th</sup> 189  
Tacho Gonzales, 7<sup>th</sup> 145  
Landon Miller, 8<sup>th</sup> 125  
**MASON**  
Tayden Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> 119  
AJ Martel, 5<sup>th</sup> 160  
Darrin Alward, qf 135  
Derek Badgley, 5<sup>th</sup> 171

Landon Peiffer, qf 189  
**OWOSSO**  
Payton Frederick, 6<sup>th</sup> 130  
Chris Ott, qf 285  
**ST. JOHNS**  
CJ Krum, state champ 215  
**DIVISION 3 ALMA**  
Dametrius Castillo, 2<sup>nd</sup> 145  
Dominic Anguiano, 2<sup>nd</sup> 119  
Jacob Munger, 5<sup>th</sup> 160  
Solomon Rosales, 6<sup>th</sup> 140  
Cole O'Boyle, qf 171  
Gianni Tripp, qf 125  
**BELDING**  
Jack Ward, 6<sup>th</sup> 189  
Matthew Massman, qf 171  
Ethan Schmid, qf 215  
**CARROLLTON**  
Michael Boyd, qf 119  
**CHESANING**  
Braden Quackenbush, 4<sup>th</sup> 285  
Connor Everett, qf 135  
**CHIPPEWA HILLS**  
Trenton Wiggins, 3<sup>rd</sup> 189  
Colby Roosa, 6<sup>th</sup> 285  
Gavin Miller, 8<sup>th</sup> 119  
Daylin Wittig, qf 135  
**CORUNNA**  
Xavier Anderson, qf 152  
**DURAND**  
Brock Holek, 2<sup>nd</sup> 130  
Ty Fielder, 6<sup>th</sup> 119  
Cameron Bacchus, 8<sup>th</sup> 103  
Hunter Spaulding, qf 189

**ESSEXVILLE-GARBER**  
Evan Becker, 5<sup>th</sup> 152  
**FARWELL**  
Dominic Krabill, qf 152  
**FRANKENMUTH**  
Konner Roche, 3<sup>rd</sup> 171  
**FREELAND**  
Cole Fournier, 4<sup>th</sup> 140  
Noah Graham, 5<sup>th</sup> 103  
Tyler Tomasek, 7<sup>th</sup> 130  
Gibby Shepard, qf 112  
Wilson Lonnenecker, qf 135  
Cayden Remainder, qf 135  
Nolan VanLoo, qf 160  
**GLADWIN**  
Hunter Huguete, 3<sup>rd</sup> 215  
**LAKEWOOD-LAKE ODESSA**  
Zachary Gibson, state champ 125  
Keegan VanAlstine, 3<sup>rd</sup> 152  
Kyle Petrie, qf 160  
**MONTROSE**  
Levi Harber, 2<sup>nd</sup> 285  
Jake Elavich, 3<sup>rd</sup> 130  
Aidan Bernard, 4<sup>th</sup> 125  
Thor Robbins, qf 103  
**BRECKENRIDGE**  
Derek Mayle, 8<sup>th</sup> 135  
Ethan Sumner, qf 160  
**CARSON CITY-CRYSTAL**  
Cole Stone, state champ 140  
Jared Shepler, 4<sup>th</sup> 112  
Tyler Akin, 6<sup>th</sup> 103  
**COLEMAN**  
Jack Wiggins, qf 125  
**DANSVILLE**  
Conner Bramble, qf 1710  
**HEMLOCK**  
JD Schnell, qf 140

Isaiah Pelc, 4<sup>th</sup> 135  
Branson Goodman, 5<sup>th</sup> 215  
Ethan Weibert, qf 119  
Drew Miller, qf 130  
Chandler Murton, qf 171  
**SANFORD-MERIDIAN**  
Nick Dodman, state champ 152  
Jack Schultz, 7<sup>th</sup> 189  
**SHEPHERD**  
Caleb Cline, 8<sup>th</sup> 125  
Tanner Gaw, qf 145  
**WILLIAMSTON**  
Ryder Johncheck, state champ 130  
Camden Johncheck, 4<sup>th</sup> 130  
Luke Mahaney, 6<sup>th</sup> 135  
Jack Chambers, 7<sup>th</sup> 103  
Greg Dion, 7<sup>th</sup> 125

Josh Collins, qf 145  
**ITHACA**  
Cole Tilton, 5<sup>th</sup> 171  
Corbin Hamilton, 6<sup>th</sup> 285  
**LAINGSBURG**  
Aden Baynes, qf 135  
Dakota Dysinger, qf 140  
Sean Divine, qf 215  
**LAKEVIEW**  
Fred Roberts, qf 125  
**MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY**  
Evan Wakefield, 8<sup>th</sup> 171  
**NEW LOTHROP**  
Isiah Pasik, state champ 285  
Camden Orr, 2<sup>nd</sup> 215  
Andrew Krupp, 3<sup>rd</sup> 140  
Kody Krupp, 3<sup>rd</sup> 189  
Bryce Cheney, 6<sup>th</sup> 152  
Brady Gross, 6<sup>th</sup> 171  
Jackson Knieper, 8<sup>th</sup> 145  
Daven Lockwood, qf 112  
Caleb Sharp, qf 125  
Parker Noonan, qf 130  
Harry Helmick, qf 160  
Grayson Orr, qf 215  
**PERRY**  
Jacob Orweller, qf 135  
Seth Grooms, qf 145  
Aaron Seward, qf 189  
Andrew McConnell, qf 189  
**SAGINAW VALLEY LUTHERAN**  
Isaac Plamondon, qf 160  
**ST. LOUIS**  
Justice Onstott, 7<sup>th</sup> 189  
Luke Maxwell, qf 285

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# Mid-Michigan Marauders Hockey Team Advances To State Semifinals

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It was an historic season for coach Rob Husulak and his Mid-Michigan Marauders hockey team, which was a state semifinalist.

The team has Holt (host school), and also has players from Grand Ledge, Eaton Rapids, Portland and Potterville.

The team ended up 15-3. "It was fun to show up to the rink each day," Husulak said. "The team has a lot of fun on the ice and worked hard. I know we had a good team, but it was tough to gauge due to the November

shutdown. Expectations were set at regional finals and beyond depending on how good the team was playing. We exceeded expectations by winning 15 of 18 games and it was the first time a Division I team from Lansing made it to the final four state playoffs.

"A top highlight was winning against Saginaw Heritage in the state playoff tournament quarterfinals and then winning regionals as we had to beat a resilient division team for the third time this year, which is very tough. Losing to Rockford in the semifinals was tough. We were up 3-0 going into the third period and we had a few uncharacteristic mishaps playing the puck. Rockford was a good team and capitalized on those mistakes."

The Marauders lost the game 5-4 in overtime. Husulak enjoyed coaching some very fine players. "Carson Finney is an explosive player that has patience to allow plays to develop," Husulak said. "This draws opponents and he is able to set up teammates. Eli Reimer is big, strong with a great shot and very good work ethic. Brock Mason, once he gets the puck, it just makes its way into the goal. This playoff, Brock was on fire and seemed like every time he touched the puck it was possibly a goal."

On defense, "Jadon Reimer is very good positionally and smart, big and strong," Husulak said. "Danny Abdouch has a quick



The Mid Michigan Marauders advanced to the state semifinals this season.

release shot and intelligent hockey player with a great attitude."

Looking ahead, "AJ Stallone in goal is a key returner along with forwards, AJ Coates, Carter Myers and Owen Whitmoyer. Defense-an key returners are Reese Sandborn and Jake Koehn," Husulak said, adding that for next year, "we hope for some normalcy, as this past season was close to coaching

day-by-day. I think that the standard is set for our team to get into the state playoff tournament.

"I am very proud of this group of young men as they took a lot of time off due to the State shutdown and stayed healthy and focused on playing hockey. We are a new program at three years and they set a standard for having fun and working hard."

# Midland Dow Hockey Team Posts Another Memorable Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Legendary Midland Dow hockey coach had a memorable season he's likely to remember for a long time and not for reasons one might normally think.

Because of COVID, hockey ended after two weeks of practice in November. It returned in

February and teams put together a quick season.

Blasy has coached at Midland Dow for 26 seasons with 18 as head coach and eight as assistant.

This season, Dow was 10-5 overall and 6-2 in the Saginaw Valley Conference.

"Based on the fact that we were able to complete our season without anyone being quaran-

ted," Blasy said, "I would say this season exceeded my expectations. I think the definition of success has a different meaning this year. We had nice wins versus state ranked teams such as Saginaw Heritage and Lake Orion.

"The challenging part of this year was not having the time to truly develop our players and

give them many opportunities to be in certain situations. During most years, changes are gradual. This year we didn't have time to let things play out so changes were more immediate. We didn't get the pieces of the puzzle figured out until March. We were a very good team in March."

Blasy is focusing on next year when he hopes to lead Dow to state championship contention.

"We had five seniors so we will be returning 17 players next season," Blasy said. "We should be a strong team to contend with next year."



Under the coaching of Dick Blasy the last 18 years, Midland Dow has continued to be a hockey power.

# Rockford Hockey Team Falls In Championship Game

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a fun hockey season for the Rockford Rams but ended one win too short.

The Rams and coach Christopher Pobur lost in the Division 1 title game.

The team's final record was 13-6-1.

"It was the first time our program had made the final four and the first time we made the state championship game," Pobur said. "We had a great core group of kids

that had played together for over 10 years coming up from our Rams youth hockey organization. We had kids who had a lot of familiarity with each other. We were able to add a few key prospects into that group and the team became a force."

Perennial power Detroit Catholic Central proved to be too much in the title game. Rockford lost 5-1. Rockford was out shot 41-10.

"They're just a great team," Pobur, a DCC alum, said. "They're one of the deepest teams in the state of Michigan year in and year

out. They haven't lost a playoff game in three years. They're a strong team."

Carson Korte had the only goal for the Rams.

Rockford beat Holt 5-4 in overtime in the semifinal game with Switzer notching the winning goal. The Rams trailed 3-0 going onto the third period and outscored Holt 4-1 to force overtime. Korte, Andrew McPhee, Jared Switzer and Justin Lemonds scored goals for Rockford in the first 5:06 of the period.

In the regional championship game on home ice, Rockford overcame a 3-1 deficit to win in overtime. In the quarterfinals against Grandville, Rockford overcame a deficit.

"Being able to come back late in



Rockford lost to Detroit Catholic Central in the Division I state game.

games three times in a row showed the character of this group," Pobur said.

Korte was the team's leading scorer with 32 goals, one goal away from tying a school record. He had 1.55 goals per game, a school record.

Owen DeVries had 42 points and was Korte's linemate.

Will Haggerty, Braeden Fouchea and McPhee were also standouts.

Leading the defense was Dayton Perroud and goalie was Nolan Smith.

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# Portland Girls Basketball Team Wins First-Ever State Title

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Jason Haid and his Portland Raiders took advantage of a girls basketball season which almost didn't happen because of COVID.

But the Raiders made it to the title game against Newaygo at the Breslin Center and scored a convincing 52-32 win to take a state title in Division 2 with a 20-2 record.

The Raiders built a 20-12 halftime lead and put the game away with a 22-13 edge in the third quarter.

Junior Ashley Bower was tough all year for Portland, averaging 19.4 points, 4.4 rebounds, 2.9 steals and 2.0 assists per game. She shot 52.2 percent from the floor and 76 percent from the free-throw line.

In the title game, she was a true force with 8-of-16 shooting from the floor for 20 points, four assists

and three rebounds.

Alivia Densmore added 12 points and Ava Guilford added 12.

In the semifinal game, a 45-38 win over Parma Western, Bower had 17 points and five boards while Guilford contributed 12 points and seven rebounds and Densmore had nine points and nine rebounds.

It was 32-32 after three periods and Portland had a 13-6 scoring advantage in the final eight minutes.

"We lost to Frankenmuth last year in the regional final," Haid said. "We had a young team and had everybody back from last year. We had some goals in mind and wanted to try to win regionals. We saw Frankenmuth would again be a hurdle for us. Our girls set a goal we were going to do whatever we could to get past that team."

"We matched up in the regional final against them. Our girls worked hard in the offseason."

This time, Portland prevailed 53-49.

"That catapulted us the rest of the way," Haid said. "We knew the

sky was the limit for us. You could see our confidence grow."

Portland had played Newaygo earlier in the season and won by five.

"We had good defense that night and came away with the win," Haid said. Bower broke the school record for career points during the district run.

"Guilford hit big shots during the tournament," Haid said. "Densmore had the game of the tournament with 12 points and hit two buzzer beaters at the end of the first quarter and the end of the half to give us some big momentum. I'm proud of all the kids."

Densmore and Breckyn Werner led the team in rebounding with five boards per game.

Ava Gruber was a key guard for the Raiders.

It was the first state championship in school history.

"We return a lot of juniors next year," Haid said. "I'm happy for our kids we had a chance to play. The memories these kids will have is priceless."



Ava Gruber goes against Newaygo game during regular season. A rematch would follow in the state finals.



Ava Guilford of Portland focuses on defense against Freeland in the state quarterfinals.



Portland girls show off their state title trophy outside the Breslin Center.

# Bower A True Force For Portland

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Ashley Bower was obviously elated with being able to help her team win the school's first girls basketball state championships.

Bower, a junior, was tough all year for Portland, averaging 19.4 points, 4.4 rebounds, 2.9 steals and 2.0 assists per game. She shot 52.2 percent from the floor and 76 percent from the free-throw line.

In the title game, she was a true force with 8-of-16 shooting from the floor for 20 points, four assists and three rebounds.

"I means a lot to us and felt great to have accomplished this," Bower said. "We work so hard to be able to make it there. To be able to win was amazing. I thought we had a great chance. We had pretty much the same team as we had last year. It helped us to

be able to grow as a team."

From November to February, when the season was on hold because of COVID, "was hard on us," Bower said. "We had to do whatever we could just to have a season."

The key behind the team's success "was our chemistry," Bower said. "Everyone gets along with each other great. We know how each other plays and the role we have. My role this year, is offensively I had to find ways to

score and help other people score. Defensively, I was guarding the other team's best player.

"My best shot is the 3-pointer or attacking and getting to the basket. A goal this year was to attack the basket more and go up stronger, and I feel I was able to accomplish that."

She hopes to play college ball after she graduates in 2022. Bower also plays soccer and golf.



Ashley Bower drives to the basket against Fowler during the regular season. Fowler was the Division 4 state champ.

# 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 Koenigsnecht and

Emma Halfmann were All-Conference.

Key graduates are Kalani Koenigsnecht and Josie Koenigsnecht

"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



Fowler celebrates its state title at the Breslin Center.

# Riley Sisters Enjoy Championship Magic With Fowler

## John Raffel Sports Scene

The Riley sisters are unique off the basketball court. They also proved to be unique on the court as evident by their contributions to Fowler as the Division 4 state champions for girls basketball.



Mia is a junior and was the Associated Press Division 4 player of the year. Emma is a sophomore and also drew all-state honors.

Their contributions were extremely impressive to the Eagles. Mia averaged 15 points, 7 rebounds, 13 assists and 3 steals per game.

"I met my goals of winning the state and conference title," she said. "I met my personal goals of becoming a better scorer and a better leader. All the time I have put in the offseason and even in season has helped me get to where I am today."

"I believe I have improved greatly from last year and will continue to improve more next year. I have

become a better shooter than last year and when my shots started to fall, I gained more confidence in my game. I have also become a better leader. Now that I am older and have a lot of varsity and tournament experience, I am able to step up and help lead my team."

Being able to have a season was gratifying for Mia.

"Last year, right before regional finals, basketball season was called off," she said. "That feeling will forever be my motivation to never take anything for granted. I will also never forget the feeling of winning states."

She expects to hit 1,000 career points next year and hopes to win a conference and state title.

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 (25) was a state player of the year for Fowler

"I play for Michigan's finest AAU team in the spring and summer," Mia said. "We practice about three times a week and play tournaments on weekends."

Mia also played varsity volleyball for three years as starting setter.

"I met all my goals this year, winning the state title and our conference title," she said. "They are all things I have looked forward to since I was a freshman. Next year, I hope to go undefeated and have a perfect record."

Her sister Emma, a point guard and shooting guard, shares these goals.

It was her second year on varsity and she averaged 13 points, 4.4 rebounds and 4 steals, plus 2.1 assists per game while shooting 60.8 percent in free throws.

"Masks were a challenge but that didn't stop me from trying to reach my goal of winning a state championship," Emma said. "My ball

handling and shooting got better."

Joining all her teammates to grab the state title trophy was a thrill for Emma.

"We lost four games outside our conference and won all of the ones in conference," Emma said. "We kept growing and improving as the year went on so we'll be prepared for next year."

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# Nouvel Enjoys Another Regional Championship

### John Raffel Sports Scene

It was incredible season for coach John Wilson and his Saginaw Nouvel girls basketball team.

In Wilson's fourth year on the job, and the team was 18-2.

"This team's season continued where they left off last year before the Pandemic shut down where they were set to play in the regional final vs. Uby," Wilson said. The senior captains Buko and Patel put together a summer workout program that the team committed to Monday through Friday five days a week. Beginning the season and throughout, Nouvel was ranked No. 1 for Division 4 in the state and they had a 19-game winning streak going from last year. We beat Fowler the eventual (Division 4) state champs in a regular-season game. We lost the conference championship by three points

and lost quarters in overtime (to Bellaire) by one.

"As a coach, you like to see your team accomplish their goals they set individually as well as team goals. I am proud to say we exceeded our expectations for every player individually and as a team we accomplished many of the goals set which every player should be proud."

Winning the districts at Michigan Lutheran Seminary and getting back to the regional final game in Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart and winning the championship were major highlights.

There were some major down moments.

"It was very disappointing getting a call from our principal telling me that Molly Wilson would not be able to play in the quarterfinal game," Wilson said.

Top athletes included Madi-

son Looby, who made first team all-conference and averaged 15 points, 4.1 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 3.0 steals per game and shot 75 percent in free throws, 46 percent in field goals and 38 percent in triples.

"Madison is a gifted athlete with tremendous speed and quickness which she can use to her advantage on offense and defense in order to help her team," Wilson said. "Madison improved in all of her statistics from last year. The most impressive improvements were her shooting percentages in all three categories of field goals, threes and free throws, which all improved.

"Madison takes pride in guarding the other team's best player and because of her ability to limit the other team's best player helps give her team a chance to win each game."

Catherine Buko was also a first-teamer and averaged 8.0 points, 4.3 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 2.8 steals per game and shot 71 percent from the floor and 34 percent in threes.

Sterling Solek made second team all-conference and averaged



Saginaw Nouvel secured championship trophies this season.

8.0 points, 2.2 rebounds, 1.8 assists and 2.3 steals per game and shot 40 percent from the floor and 32 percent in threes.

Honorable mention all-conference picks were Grace Chacon, Grace Buckingham, Sara Wilson and Iris Patel.

# East Lansing Falls Shy Of Title Bid

### John Raffel Sports Scene

East Lansing's girls basketball team made up for the disappointment of not finishing in the 2020 season with a strong finish in 2021.

East Lansing was 23-1, ranked No. 1 in the state, and in the hunt for a 2020 state title as it prepared for a showdown against Holt. But COVID canceled the rest of the playoffs.

This season, coach Bob Smith's team was 16-0, won the regional title and was in the quarterfinal with just three

wins away from a state title. But the Trojans lost 56-42 to Hudsonville, which went on to take the state crown.

"We didn't know what to think going into the season," Smith said. "With the COVID relays it was hard to put together a process. Prior to the Hudsonville game, we had not had a game closer than 13 points. Unfortunately for us, we lost two of our starters to injury prior to the game. We had one other kid hurt. We had a short bench. When your lineup is shaken like that, you have to do things you don't

normally do."

Hudsonville hurt the Trojans with 3-point shooting.

"I'm proud of the kids," Smith said. Leading scorer was Annelise Lebeda, who averaged 11.3 points per game. Other players averaged eight points or less per game. Soraya Timms was also a top notch player.

"Corinne Jones was our top defender," Smith said. "She did a wonderful job on the other team's best player. Payton Baker was our most improved player. Ella Miller was our leading rebounder."



The East Lansing girls celebrated a regional title this season.

# Lansing Catholic Girls Post Championship Season

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Kacee Reid was Lansing Catholic's girls basketball coach for her eighth season and it was a good one.

The team was 13-4 overall and regional finalists.

"We weren't sure what to expect of our season this year," Reid said. "We graduated seven seniors from last year's team and about 80 percent of our playing time, returning only two players. Our team this year was made up of five freshmen, one sophomore and five juniors, three of which came from our JV team.

"Due to COVID, we were unable to have a summer program, no scrimmages and no contact practices up until our first game vs. Portland, which left us never actu-

ally playing together until that day. I had not witnessed our freshmen play vs actual competition ever, other than one AAU game that summer."

Lansing Catholic ended up starting three freshmen and a sophomore for most of the season. For a good stretch of our season we started four freshmen and a sophomore when one of my juniors was out with sickness for over two weeks.

"We felt we exceeded our expectations of the season by winning a district title and making it to the regional final game," Reid said. "Our entire tournament experience was a highlight. So was winning a district title, and beating a good Chelsea team to make it to the regional final game where we battled Parma Western in a close game."

Anna Richards, a 5-foot-9 fresh-

men point guard, started every game for LC and ran the show.

"She led the Lansing State Journal area in 3-pointers made, many of which were made well beyond the 3-point arc," Reid said. "It's really hard to believe she's a freshman. She handled pressure with ease, having very limited turnovers even when being guarded by the other team's best defender many times.

"She led our team in many categories including assists, points, 3-pointers made. Anna is only at the beginning of her impressive career. She's going to be a lot of fun to watch these next three years."

Leah Richards is a 6-footed freshman forward, who started every game for LC. "Leah is an inside/outside threat that can play with her back to the basket or step out and hit a long-range shot," Reid said. "She is an excellent passer and has a high basketball IQ. She averaged close to a double-double in points and rebounds for most of the season which is even more impressive



It was a championship season for the Lansing Catholic girls.

considering she's only 15 and was many times battling in the key with much older, more experienced post players.

"Gabby Halliwill is a 5-5 freshman guard that started every game for us. Gabby is such a fun player to watch with her dynamic style. She is one of the best ball handlers I've coached and probably top five ball handlers I've seen play in high school. She is quick and has unlimited range from the 3-point line, many times hitting shots 2-to-

3 feet off the line. She got better and better throughout the year and by the time tournament hit, she was our biggest outside offensive threat."

Hannah Pricco, a 5-7 sophomore guard, "started every game for us," Reid said. "She's a kid that some teams will sleep on and at the end of the game when you look at the stats, you see she's led us in steals and rebounds and often times assists and points."

# Brooke Wenzlick Leads Championship Effort For New Lothrop

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Jim Perry's New Lothrop girls basketball team was among the best in the state for Division 3.

It was his 12th year at New Lothrop and the team was 13-4 overall.

"I thought we had a pretty good season considering the circumstances," Perry said. "Not having an offseason or time in the fall to play together made it pretty tough. We also had a 10-day shutdown during the season due to COVID so it was a little different. But I thought our girls handled it well and made the most of the season. We would have liked to win the conference but hats off to Byron who had a very good team this year. A district championship was nice for this group and winning a game in

regionals was a good step.

"We beat some teams that beat us last year like Fowlerville, Chesaning, and PW. Beating Beecher in districts was a highlight, good moment for our seniors. Just being able to have a season with everything going on was a highlight for us.

Brooke Wenzlick, senior guard, finished a fabulous career at NL. "She went over the 1,000-point mark in her career and finished as the third overall scorer in NL all-time (1,254 points)" Perry said. "She is a two-time captain for us and has been a great leader. She led us in scoring at 20.7 points, assists with 4.1, steals at 4.8. Brooke managed to have an amazing season even though every team paid extra attention to her sending double teams or playing box-and-1 de-

fense. She is a great basketball player but also a great individual who will go on to do great things. She is playing college basketball at Trine University in Indiana next year."

Wenzlick, Perry added, "has gotten better each season she has played here. She receives a lot of attention from the other teams defense as she was the only player back averaging more than 5 points per game from last year. This year, she shot the ball better from three-point range which helped open up getting to the basket and finishing or getting to the free-throw line. She also helped bring along three freshmen this year and get them comfortable at the varsity level." Senior center Makayla Lienau will be a senior center. "She will be a key graduate," Perry said. "She played bigger than she is and is a very smart basketball player. She is terrific on defense and led our team in rebounding. She also had some big games scoring the ball inside, 5.2 points and 6.4 rebounds per game."

Key returners include junior guard Madison Wheeler. "Maddie tore her ACL this



New Lothrop girls enjoyed that true championship feeling.

season but will hopefully be back and ready to go for her senior year," Perry said. "She has varsity experience as she was up as a sophomore."

Freshman forward Alexis Miller "had a great freshman season," Perry said. "She was second on our team in scoring and has great inside/outside ability. She also takes great pride in her defense and rebounding."

Junior forward Amya Brown "has played two years of varsity

basketball and I look forward to her taking on a bigger role next year as a senior. She is long and athletic and is up for any challenge," Perry said. "Hopefully we get to have a somewhat normal off-season and improve as individuals and as a team. We lost a lot, four seniors, who all played good minutes and attributed to a lot of our scoring. But we bring back some girls with varsity experience and our young girls should take a big step now that they have a year under their belt."

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# Rockford Gymnastics Finishes Another Banner Season

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Michelle Ankney wrapped up her fourth season as Rockford gymnastics coach, and it was another good one.

"We were undefeated in our conference, regional champs, and state runner-up," Ankney said. "We had a great season, and we will use this season as a stepping stone into next season. After graduating six seniors last year, all of which would have represented our team at state, we knew we were going to have a tough hill to climb ahead of us. These girls exceeded expectations and really stepped up to fill the missing gaps of the six seniors from last year.

"Winning regionals was a highlight for sure. The other highlight at regionals was almost every girl had a season high score that meet. It showed how much all 18 girls on the team had improved throughout the season."

Rockford again has a bevy of strong

talent.

"Lacey Scheid is a first-year athlete for Rockford, and she is a force," Ankney said. "She is willing to try new skills, and she is continually trying new things. She finished the year as regional champ (Division 1) on bars, beam, floor, and all-around and state champ (Division 1) on bars, and runner up on floor and all-around.

"Anna Tracey is one of the most consistent gymnasts I have ever seen. She goes out and performs what she practices all the time, and it is amazing to watch. She ended her season as regional (Division 2) champ on Beam and All Around and State Champ (Division 2) on beam and runner up on floor and all around. Joey Gair is also returning again next year. Joey has been a consistent performer for Rockford-Sparta for three years. She is dependable and is there to lift the team up and get us back on track all the time. She finished the season as regional champ on floor and

state fourth place finisher on beam in Division 2."

There are some key graduates and returners.

"We will be graduating Caleigh Kusmierski and Avery Labbe," Ankney said. "They have both been extraordinary leaders for the team this year and really helping a group of girls (nine returners and nine new athletes) really come together and bond even through all the challenges of COVID. They will be missed. The exciting thing for us is that most of the girls that represented us at state will be returning. We will be welcoming back Lacey Scheid, Maya Anderson, Joey Gair, Anna Tracey, and Olivia Schubert, who were all major contributors at the state meet this year.

"At this point, I am hoping this year is just a stepping stone into next year. All these girls just got state experience for the first time, and they placed second. I am hoping to keep this momentum going forward, and use this experience to better ourselves, learn some new skills in the off season, and to come back even stronger for next year."

It was a unique season for Rockford's

Lacey Scheid.

"Lacey had an amazing season," Ankney said. "This is her first year doing high school gymnastics, and it can be a hard transition from club. She took on the transition head on, and she continued to push herself to learn new skills. She is constantly setting new goals for herself, and I know her well enough to know that she is already dreaming about what to add to her routines for next year. She was all around conference champ, regional champ, and runner up at state.

"She is willing to dream of new things in her routine. She doesn't get caught up in the rut of always doing the same thing, but she is willing to see what else she can learn. I'm looking forward to hopefully having a full off season and a full season next year to have even more time to work through new skills and ideas. Lacey is always looking for ways to have fun on the team. She is a bright light. She goes



These Rockford gymnastics girls competed at the state finals.

beyond just performing skills, but she looks to bring her team up by having lots of fun whenever she can. Lacey will practice as often as she can in the off season. She loves this sport, and she will put in the time and effort in the off season. Anna Tracey also finished runner up in the all around this year for Division 2. Anna is an extremely hard worker and someone to watch. With Lacey and Anna leading the way into next year, we will continue to dream big as a whole team for what the future could bring."

# Alma Cheerleaders Place Seventh At State Meet

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Alma's cheerleading capped off a memorable competitive cheer season by competing in the Division 3 state finals in late March at the Breslin Center.

The Panthers were seventh out of eight teams.

Kelly Gibson was coaching this year's team.

At the state finals, "it's always important we put out our best performances toward the end of the season

when it's the most important. The girls have been conditioned to have that mindset. They did an

absolutely fantastic job of showing up when it mattered and putting out their best performance as the season went along. At regionals, we had flawless performances in all three rounds. At state finals, it was important for them to go out and have fun and it showed in their performances."

She said the best round at the state meet was round 1, which focuses on motions and jumps.

"We had eight girls in that round," Gibson said. "Six of which were gradu-

ating seniors. So it was fun to get them on the floor together one last time. It's so exciting to get them to come off the floor so emotional and so proud of their own performance."

In November, when practices were set to start, it seemed highly doubtful if there would even be a season.

"Everything was so much open in the air," Gibson said. "I tried to make it a point that I was mentally preparing them because the season could be over at any point."

Alma was in the state finals for the first time since 2019, Gibson's first as coach.

Alma had the following on the academic all-state list:

Christa Formusek, Madison Da-



Alma's cheerleaders celebrated an appearance at the state finals.

vidson, Emma Eling, Victoria Gotaas, Shelby Irvin, Kendal Malarney, Hannah Miller and Embree Smith.

"As a team, we were honorable

mention with a GPA of 3.680," Gibson said. "It's good work to my girls putting in tough work in the classroom and on the mat."

# Cedar Springs Cheerleaders Sixth At State Meet

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Anne Olszewski of Cedar Springs was happy to have a competitive cheer season.

She was even happier her team qualified for the state finals.

Cedar Springs wound up sixth in Division 6 in the state.

"We have been OK Conference champs the last five years in a row," Olszewski said. "This season ended way differently then I imagined it would. There was a time when we were sure we would not have a season at all with all of the restrictions by

MDHHS. When we were finally opened to play and start stunting, I had six girls get contact traced for the first week. So, we were unable to even put around three out on the mat for our first competition. We made it to state finals, in masks, in 40 days, with contact tracing. I would say, I am pretty happy with what we accomplished.

"We were first in conference, second in districts and third in regionals, all with a ton of absences from teammates due to contact tracing and work schedules. We were constantly reworking rounds to play to strengths. Also, the first two weeks of stunting, we had 20 girls that had not stunted in over

two months. They were out of shape and had a ton of doubts if we would even have a season. Then our season is typically 120 days long. We had 40 days. We learned material.

But there was no time to work on jumps execution, landings and increase height and width."

Olszewski said her top performing athletes would be those athletes that were in all three rounds all season.

"We had six all-conference athletes and two honorable mentions," Olszewski said. "Sophie Dault is a senior and a four-year varsity starter in all three rounds. She was point for us in round 1 and 2 and she is an awesome back spot. She is animated and you can tell she enjoys her rounds. It's an easy selling point for the front. She sells her performance and has some of the best jumps and tumbling on the team. Kate Roth will be leaving us at graduation. Kate

fought through a hip flexor pull all season long. She never gave up, pushed through even though I know it was killing her."

Abbey Salisbury is a junior and three-year starter on varsity in all three rounds, another all-conference selection.

"She has nerves of steel and solid jumps and tumbling as well," Olszewski said. "She is a quiet leader but a true competitor. She is also a national champion in the BMX circuit here in the U.S. Paige Castor is a junior and another all-conference selection. She is also in all three rounds. She is an awesome base, great



Cedar Springs cheerleaders were a state contender this season.

jumps and definitely understands the sport and what is needed for successful rounds. She is a real leader and is helpful with underclassmen who are just learning the sport.

"We will lose some key girls to graduation."

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# Mason Girls Celebrate State Cheer Meet Appearance

## John Raffel Sports Scene

It was a season Mason competitive cheer coach Angela Boerkoel and her girls will fondly remember for a very long time.

Boerkoel has been coach nine seasons. This year's team was league champions, regional qualifier and state qualifier. "It was an amazing season filled with exciting accomplishments and many firsts in over a decade,"

Boerkoel said.

She said the team exceeded its expectations. It placed third at districts but this was good enough to qualify for the state finals from where Mason made it to the state meet on March 27 at the Breslin Center. The team wound up in an eighth-place finish at the state meet.

Practices were to start on Nov. 16, but because of the COVID pandemic rise in numbers, the starting date for

and it was amazing, as they brought everything they had to each practice and competition.

"They got better with each practice and raised their scores each weekend.

We were beyond proud with everything they performed, and they amazed us with everything they did. We could not have been more excited with the outcome and so thankful we got this opportunity with this crazy year.

My girls exceeded all our expectations and handled this year with grace and a smile no matter what was thrown at them."

An exciting moment for the Pirates was the week which led up to the regionals.

"We have been striving to add our back handspring into round 2," Myers said. "Just when we thought we'd be heading into regionals with the routine we had done since the beginning, not just one, but three of our seniors came

contact did not begin until Feb. 8. "It was challenging the first 2 1/2 months of the season learning all material for rounds online and Zoom," Boerkoel said. "Not being able to stunt for many months put us behind in being ready to go."

Top athletes for Mason cheer included seniors Maryssa Adaway (base, 3 rounds), Alexandra Erbe (tumbler/flyer, 3 rounds), Kierstin Kilpatrick (back spot, 2 rounds), Lauren Spencer, back spot, 2 rounds) and Alexis Taylor (flyer, 3 rounds).

Key juniors were Karissa Burns (base, 3 rounds) and Brianna Judkins (base, 3 rounds) Key graduates will be Maryssa Adaway, Alexandra Erbe,



Mason's competitive cheer squad enjoyed appearance at the state finals.

Kierstin Kilpatrick, Lauren Spencer and Alexis Taylor.

Next year "It looks very bright as we have only five graduating and have

no longer practice, our seniors stepped into the leader role. Cheer runs in their blood. Watching them continue the PW Cheer legacy has been really rewarding. All our seniors will be greatly missed: Ella Smith, Ella Simon, Ellie Pohl, Miya Beech, Miranda Platte."

"Ella (Smith) was very focused and driven this year," Myers said. "She worked very hard to get her jumps even better this year, and she was a main flyer in round 3 for us and towards the end of the year she ended up getting her back handspring that allowed us as a team to put them in round 2.

"Ella has cheer in her blood, her mom was a PW cheerleader along with her aunts. I think this led to her passion and drive for the sport. She saw all the joy and memories that they all made and she wanted to be a part of that legacy as well.

"Ella has grown tremendously from last year, just when you think someone is exactly where they need to be they surprise you and get even better. She has always put the work and time

into this year and it has shown. Ella overcame a huge mental block with throwing her back handspring. She has always had this fear to throw it even though it was one of the most beautiful back handsprings on the team."



Ella Smith had another outstanding season for Pewamo-Westphalia's competitive cheer team.

by side with some of the best athletes in the state this year. We will be looking forward to it."

Among the standouts was Gabrielle Cooney, a senior, in her fourth year of cheer.

"It's been hard with the pandemic and limitations on what we're able to perform but our team has come together to make the best of it," Cooney said. "We improve weekly and it shows in our rounds as the season goes on.

"She took on a different role going from a main flier last year to a base for the team's needs this year," Heskitt said. "A move like that going into her senior year can be a very difficult one, especially being in the air since freshman year. Gabby has been one of the most consistent, strong and solid athletes I've ever coached. She is mentally tough, knows the grind of being a student athlete and hasn't missed a beat in four years. I am holding to watch her continue cheer in college (at MSU)."

Paige Smith was another key senior.

"This year we felt more like a family than ever, probably because of all the uncertainty we had to face with COVID ended up bringing us together," Smith said.

"Paige's running tumbling was something she stayed committed to improv-



DeWitt's competitive cheer team.

ing and her flexibility," Heskitt said.

"My most memorable is taking the state's floor in round 2 my freshman year after being pulled up and challenging for the spot as well as taking state runner up this year," Smith said. "Also getting to see my choreography all come together in the end at states. I worked out 5 to 7 days a week and took private stunting and tumbling lessons about 10 or so times while our season was paused."

"Paige was a heavy hitter with our team this year," Heskitt said. "She is an outstanding leader, as well as extremely talented with choreography. Due to COVID and the team not able to physically meet, she with a couple other teammates headed up the creation

of our material in rounds 1 and 2. It can be an extremely time consuming process, so for those girls to virtually take that on when coach couldn't be physically present really set us up for success."

Hilary Ballard was a third-year junior for DeWitt.

"This team has really brought out the best in me, everyone is so supportive and they help encourage and motivate me to be the best I can be," she said.

"I would say the key to my success is having such an amazing team. They are really the ones who help me improve everyday and push me to keep going even when I am tired. I'm very thankful to have such a close knit team that I can trust."

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# Area Swimmers And Divers Cap Season With Strong Efforts At State Finals

**David Cook Sports Scene**

## DIVISION 1

Ann Arbor Pioneer ran away with the Division 1 boys state swimming and diving championship. The Pioneers totaled 369 points to out-pace second-place Holland West Ottawa which took second with 233 points.

The top area finisher was Rockford which placed 21st as a team with 27 points. Rockford was led by a talented group of divers. Julian Cardenas placed seventh overall in the diving while Joshua Vickery placed ninth and Benjamin Giera placed 11th.

## DIVISION 2

Birmingham Seaholm took home top honors in Division 2. Seaholm totaled 267.5 points to outlast Grosse Pointe South which placed second with 222 points.

Midland Dow was the highest finisher among area teams. The Chargers placed 18th overall with 49 points. The Chargers were led by Louie Sun who earned all-state honors by finishing seventh in

the 100-yard butterfly. Sun also finished ninth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Saginaw Heritage finished in 19th place with a total of 34 points. The Hawks were led by the 200-yard free relay team of sophomore Wilson Borello, junior Andrew Gladki, junior Daniel Gladki and senior Nick Taylor who placed eighth. The same quartet also placed 12th in the 400 free relay.

## DIVISION 3

The West Side of the state dominated the Division 3 swimming and diving finals as East Grand Rapids captured the top spot with 308 points while Holland Christian finished second with 218.5 points.

A pair of local teams placed in the top ten as Mason placed fifth overall with 162 points and DeWitt finished 10th with 83 points.

Mason swimmers turned in a number of outstanding efforts at the finals. Bulldog swimmers captured the state title in the 200-yard freestyle as the team of senior Gabe Williams, junior Tommy Hebert, junior Liam Boomer and senior Jonas Cantrell brought home the



Andrew Gladki of Saginaw Heritage competes in an event for the Hawks at the Division 2 state swimming and diving finals.

title. Cantrell was also an individual state champion as he took first place in the 500-yard freestyle. Cantrell turned in a big day at the state finals as he also placed third in the 200-yard freestyle. Mason junior Liam Boomer placed eighth in the 200-yard freestyle. Mason senior Gabe Williams placed third in the 50-yard freestyle while Boomer took third place in the 100 butterfly.

DeWitt was led by its relay

teams. The 400-yard free relay team of senior Dillon Blair, sophomore Lucas Busch, senior Zach Young and senior Nate Schluckebier led the way as they earned all-state honors with a sixth-place finish. The 200-yard medley relay team of seniors Ellis Davison, Young, Schluckebier and Blair placed 10th. Blair also placed sixth in the 100 butterfly and 11th in the 200 IM. Schluckebier added an eighth-place finish in the 100 freestyle.

Bay City John Glenn placed 21st with 28 points, Eaton Rapids finished 23rd overall with 21 points while Williamston placed 24th with 19 points.

John Glenn was led by a pair of divers that both earned all-state honors. Senior Trevor Post placed fourth in the diving and junior Jamie Miller placed sixth in diving.

Eaton Rapids was paced by senior Alden Ehrhardt who took eighth in the 100-yard butterfly.

# Mason Senior Jonas Cantrell Leads Swim Standouts From Greater Lansing Area

**Butch Harmon Sports Scene**

The Michigan Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association released their Greater Lansing All-Area Team for 2021.

Mason senior Jonas Cantrell was named the Swimmer of the year. Joining Cantrell on the first team were DeWitt senior Nate Schluckebier, Mason junior Lia Boomer, DeWitt senior Zach Young, Charlotte senior Aidan Hammons,

Mason senior Gabe Williams, East Lansing senior Josh Bergdolt, Williamston senior Ky Ritenour, Eaton Rapids senior Alden Ehrhardt, Okemos sophomore Evan Singletary, Williamston sophomore Brodey Millerov, Eaton Rapids

sophomore Avery Jones, Okemos freshman Alex Huang and DeWitt senior Dillon Blair.

Mason senior Gavin Sutton was named the dive of the year. Haslett freshman Gryffin Porter and Grand Ledge senior Luke Huisken

were named to the all-area dive team.

Brock Delaney of DeWitt was named the coach of the year while Cole Hughes of Mason was named the diving coach of the year.

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