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### PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

What a year the 2020-2021 high school sports year was. Battling the Covid-19 virus from start to finish, the fall, winter and spring sports seasons was a challenge for all. From the athletes, to parents, fans, supporters, officials and administrators, the past year has been an unbelievable challenge.

As the spring sports season came to an end, the area had some outstanding performances to send out the season in style. What a run it was for the Owosso softball team! The Trojan softball team thrilled the entire Owosso community and made June a month that will be remembered for years. What an incredible journey by an incredible group of softball players that were determined not to let anything stand in their way.

At Rockford, the girls lacrosse team continued an outstanding tradition of lacrosse excellent as the Rams won an eighth consecutive state title.

On the baseball diamond, the Grand Ledge Comets went on a terrific state tournament run that ended up with a berth in the Division 1 state semifinals.

With the heart of summer upon us, I hope everyone takes some time out and enjoys the beautiful Michigan summer. Take advantage of all that our incredible state has to offer. Everyone can use some down time and rest and relaxation after a challenging school year.

We look forward to seeing everyone later this summer as the football season kicks off and the rest of the fall sports get going.

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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## P-W Girls Track And Field Team Celebrates Another State Title

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Pewamo-Westphalia girls track and field coach Scott Werner brought home his fifth girls track championship when the Pirates got the job done in this season's event.

In a sense, P-W successfully defended

its 2019 title since COVID canceled the 2020 season.

The Pirates tied Grass Lake with 41 points to take the title.

"The girls finished the season undefeated as league champions, regional champions and state champions," Werner said. "This was a tough season to navigate with COVID, but we were thankful to make



it to the finish line. The girls competed at the highest level when it mattered the most.

"We felt that we had a group that could make a run in the championship season. We took nothing for granted and the girls were focused, motivated and put in the work. To have everything come together the way it did was incredible. It was a complete team effort and we couldn't be more proud of the girls."

Sophie Thelen finished as a four-time All-Stater this season. She took third place at state finals in the 100 dash and broke the school record. She took second place at state finals in the 200 dash. She nabbed third place at state finals in the pole vault. And she took fourth place in the 4x200 relay as a key member.

Saige Martin finished second place at state finals in the 100 hurdles and broke the school record. She took third place at state finals in the 300 hurdles. She was fourth and placed in the 4x200 relay as a key member.

Amelia Smith anchored the All-State 4x800 relay and broke the school record in the 1,600-meter run.

Pewamo-Westphalia girls celebrate another track and field title.



Sophie Thelen finished as a four-time All-Stater this season including in the pole vault.

## P-W Boys Also Have Strong State Finals Performance

### John Raffel Sports Scene

It was another impressive season for Pewamo-Westphalia's boys track and field team.

Grass Lake dominated the Division 3 state finals meet with 68 points while Benzie Central was second with 34 and P-W third with 30.

"The boys finished the season as league champions, regional champions and third at state finals," P-W coach Scott Werner said. "We were extremely happy with how the boys finished

down the stretch and how so many on the team stepped up at different times to help get us through different injuries and quarantines. This season was as impressive as we have ever had.

"Given how young our team is and the significant graduation we had the last two years, it was difficult to project where we would be, but the boys really stepped up and their improvements were staggering. We became strong in all 17 events and it was a main reason for our success."

Winning the league and

regional championship were cherished achievements.

"The growth and improvement of each of the boys was so impressive that each meet just got better and better," Werner said.

Ben Arens was state champion in high jump at state finals and broke the school record. Also, he was All-State in long jump at state finals and broke our school record.

Gavin Nurenberg finish second place at state finals in the discus and took third place at state finals in the shot put.



Ben Arens gives an All-State effort in the high jump.



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# Rockford Boys Track Team Posts First State Title

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Head coaching season No. 13 was a lucky one for Andy Martin and the Rockford Rams.

They were 12-0 and matched Fenton with 34 points at the state meet.

"This was a wonderful and challenging year," Martin said. "The team had a spectacular season. We exceeded our expectations this year. We knew we would be strong, but we were not sure of what we even had at the beginning of the season due to missing last season. All of our seniors were sophomores the last time they competed so they were not developed then.

"First and foremost, winning

the OK Red Conference is always a priority for our team. But winning our program's first MHSAA state championship has to take the cake. It was an incredible, culminating event for our season."

Martin admitted keeping kids from being quarantined was one of the most challenging things for the program.

Gage Martin scored 19 points at the state finals.

"He was undefeated in the 110-meter high hurdles and 300-meter low hurdles throughout the season, only losing to one other athlete at the state finals in both events," Martin said. "Additionally, he was instrumental in our 4x200 meter and 4x400-meter relay teams' third-place finishes at the

state finals."

Jacob Peck scored eight points at state finals.

"He placed third in pole vault and on all of our short relay teams," Martin said. "All these guys above were seniors and will be missed."

Key returners include junior Jacob Bissell "who ran well in hurdles all year and came in clutch in the 4x400 at the state finals," Martin said, adding freshman Carter Bissell was ninth in long jump at state finals, and will be the 200-meter, 400-meter guy next year and sophomore Brody Thompson ran on the 4x100-meter relay team at the state finals. "He will be one of our top sprinters



Rockford was on top of the Division I track and field world this season.

next year.

"We had a great group of young guys mix it up with the upper-classmen this year. We should be

solid again. Losing stars like Gage Martin and Jacob Peck will be tough but we will do our best to fill the void left by them."



# Division 3 High Jump Champion Was A Cinderella Story

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Brook Simpson had quite a season for Belding's girls track team.

Her Division 3 state final was very memorable. She picked a fine time to have a personal best of 5-feet, 10 inches in the high jump at the state meet to take first place. She had won the OK Silver Conference meet at 5-2 and the regional at 5-4.

She was also strong in the relays and the 400 meters. She won the league and regional races in this event and took second at the state meet in 58.36 seconds. In the 200 meters she was first in the conference race and second at the regionals and third at the state finals.

Coach John Carlson first met Simpson in the gym last winter.

"She would be working out every day from 2 to 4 p.m. shooting jump shots,"

Carlson said. "Brook is a relentless worker. Every day before high school basketball, I watched her put in an extra couple hours working on her game. I realize this young lady was going places.

"As basketball was winding down, Simpson and I talked about track and field. After a nice tournament run came to an end against Portland, Simpson joined the track team. One of the biggest challenges as a coach for me was being able to balance basketball and running for Brook. Nearly every weekend of track season Simpson would be at AAU basketball tournaments in places like Milwaukee, Chicago, or Indianapolis."

Carlson noted that early in the season, the volume of basketball games on weekends was a challenge on Simpson's shins.

"We want to avoid shin splints at all costs," Carlson said. "Brooke was playing eight or nine basketball games in a week-

end, and the entire high school season only had 15 games. As mid-May came, Simpson and her family had a couple of free weekends from basketball and Brook was able to do a little bit more training for track and field. After the regional meet Simpson, Coach Carlson, and Coach Joel Madsen, the Belding boys coach, who also helps coach high jump, were able to work on one or two things. This paid huge dividends at the state finals.

"As the competition went on at state finals, most of the morning activities were completed at Zeeland. A huge crowd gathered to watch, as Brook made one personal best one right after another. At 5-7, Simpson cleared on her third attempt for the win. She ended up making three additional heights. Her final clearance for 5-10 was a Division 2 state finals record." Carlson noted Brook has already received full-ride offers for Division I college basketball from Pittsburgh and Western Michigan.

Belding's Brook Simpson had an amazing story to share in winning a state title.

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# Long Jumper Leads The Way For Midland Dow

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Midland Dow track and field coach Jim Yanecek won't soon forget the season his team had, especially Noah Reuter-Gushow.

It was the junior season for Reuter-Gushow.

"Noah was easily our best athlete," Yanecek said. "He excelled in all sprints and sprint relays. He was not

only our best long jumper (his teammate Dominic Owen was 6th in the State), he was our best pole vaulter and hurdler. He only competed in these other events a couple of times."

Reuter-Gushow at the Division 1 state finals was second in the long jump at 22-5.5 and lost by a half-inch on his opponent's last jump.

"Also at the Division 1 state finals, he was seventh in the 400 meters in 49.70 seconds."

Both of those were PRs

He anchored the 10th place 4x400 relay with a 49.8 split

"Noah is a year-round track and field athlete," Yanecek said. "He competes in decathlons in the off-season and does indoor track in the winter. He matured into a team leader. He knows so much about many events and helps coach his teammates.

"He was anchoring our 4x400 team that won at the Region. Noah held off Terrence Muex (the state champion in the 400) of Carman Ainsworth down the final stretch for the win by 0.04 seconds."

It was an impressive track season for Dow.

"We had five boys and six girls make it to the D1 State Finals which is the most in my eight years at Dow High," Yanecek said.



Noah Reuter-Gushow led for the way for Midland Dow's track team.

# Frankenmuth Dominates As Track Champions

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Luke Sheppard coached a Frankenmuth boys track and field team which was as dominant of a Division 2 state champion that's ever been seen.

It was his second year as head coach but the first was 2020 and was canceled because of COVID. But he more than made up for it this year.

"Our team went undefeated this year," Sheppard said. "We faced 124 teams in all of the meets that we participated in, so technically, you could say our record was 124-0. We won our TVC invitational as well as all other invites, Regionals, MITCA, and MHSAA state championships. This team was full of competitors. From the varsity to sub-varsity athletes, everyone competed with each other and worked to better everyone around them. It was so much fun watching them compete. No matter what, they always up-seeded.

"At the beginning of the year, I thought that we would be a top 3 MITCA team state championship team with a chance at placing top 10 in the MHSAA state

meet. I was not expecting the domination that followed. We won every meet that we were a part of, which included a few meets with great Division 1 competition (we are small D2). It was evident during our first invitational (Marco Marcet Invitational in Frankenmuth), where we outscored opponents 228-105. Our team became dominant. The boys would not sit back and settle. They always fought for places, points, and scoring more than they should.

"It was almost like they took a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th seed as a challenge, making sure that they would place higher. This continued all the way to the post season, where we became both team and individual state champions. As the season went on, we became the team to beat. The boys did not take that title lightly. If someone was going to beat us, they had to earn it. Our boys competed with guts at every single race they ran throughout the course of the year. This was a very impressive season by all of the athletes, no matter how many meets they participated in."

Frankenmuth was invitational champions at Marco Marcet,

Marauder Lions Club, Clare, Bay City Western, TVC, regional champions, MITCA team state and MHSAA state champions

"COVID was obviously a challenge, but our boys were smart and did their part to make sure that we were always spaced apart, following the protocol that we needed to follow," Sheppard said. "Julie Felten (Frankenmuth Athletic Trainer) was the saving grace behind the scenes. She organized all of the testing, made sure all coaches had protocol to follow, worked as the liaison to the Health Department, and made sure that everything went as well as it could. This season or any season couldn't happen without her."

Senior Ryan Brenner "is an incredible leader," Sheppard said. "He continually performed at his best. More often than not, he won

4 out of 4 events at his meets. He was All-State in the high jump, 300 hurdles, and a key leg in our 4x400 relay (second in state). He has plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University and try his hand at decathlons. His personal bests include: 50.2 (400), 15.73 (110 hurdles), 40.10 (300 hurdles), 6-3 (high jump)."

Senior Daniel Barger "is one of the hardest workers we have ever had," Sheppard said. "As a youngster, he had a few seasons stolen from him because of injury. He worked extremely hard to come back this year and make it unforgettable. He was frequently a four-time winner at all invitationals. He is a four-time All State athlete (100, 200, 4x100, 4x200). He plans to attend SVSU as well to join the Sprint program. His personal bests include: 11.1 (100) and 22.45 (200)."

They are both graduating.

"However, with incredible team depth, we should be able to come close to replacing them," Sheppard said. "MHSAA State returners include Seth Malmo, Ian Stephens, Cole Jankowski, Bryce Smith, Andrew Braman, Dalton DeBeau, Ryan Tutt, Samuel Barger.

"I'm very excited for the next few years of our program. We have an incredible group of sprinters and that's what we won the state meet with this year, really, but we have a very talented group of distance/middle distance kids comprised of underclassmen.

"We are going to take an elite group of sprinters and pair that with a group of distance kids that are also going to compete at the MHSAA level. This young team has an incredible amount of potential."



Frankenmuth relishes a state championship moment.

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Madison Volz posted a championship season for Lansing Christian's track team.

# Lansing Christian Runner Achieves Dream Of Being State Champ

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Lansing Christian coach Mark List will appreciate the efforts of senior Madison Volz for a long time, especially after she won the Division 4 state meet 800-meter run.

"Maddy obviously has an enormous amount of talent, but it is her ability to work hard that allows her to achieve lofty goals," List said. "As a dual sport athlete, Maddy has this

amazing ability to continue to push as much as she can without going past the breaking point. The fact she was able to play soccer and run track, at the level she did, all these years has been incredible.

"Maddy ran six seconds faster at the State Finals this year. In 2019, she posted a 2:24 for the 800 and this year she posted a 2:18. With Maddy we upped her mileage slightly, but really looked at getting some faster reps in during training. We

put her in racing situations where we wanted her to feel fatigued and race with tired legs and she excelled in those moments. Her attention to detail and commitment to her goals really increased from her sophomore to senior year."

This season was special.

"As a coach, watching Maddy achieve her potential of MHSAA champion was about as memorable as it gets," List said. "She has worked so hard for that moment to stand on

top of the podium. There have certainly been trials along the way, but ultimately, she made it happen out on the track at the MHSAA Finals.

"Maddy puts in an incredible amount of work during the off-season. She always tries to go above and beyond in training to do the little things. Maddy runs cross country, plays basketball, and soccer. She has excelled in all three of those sports and really has helped shape the programs as a leader."

# Big Rapids Thrower Wins Two Events Handily

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Big Rapids' Erika Beistle was dominant in winning the Division 2 shot put and discus state championship during the state final at Zeeland High School.

Beistle tossed the shot put 42 feet, 10 inches and the discus 147-5 to easily win both events for two state championships.

"I was just looking to throw as long as I could," Beistle said. "I

didn't want to get too cocky, I guess. I just had a good day."

Beistle's shot put PR was 46-2.

"The shot put is my favorite, but the discus is starting to grow on me a bit," she said.

Her PR in the discus was 150-7.

Temperatures in the 80s were a challenge for Beistle and other throwers

The shot put started early in the morning and her 42-10 was her second throw and one inch longer

than her first toss.

"I hoped I could do better but from watching all the other girls throw, I felt I was going to take first," Beistle said. "My upper body wasn't the greatest but just being quick through the ring got me through that throw."

The second-place thrower, Ellie Adrian of Standish Sterling, was at 40-6, more than two feet shorter than Beistle. one with, and go to the discus relaxed and ready to go."

The discus was in the afternoon with 26 throwers. Beistle's 147-5 was her fifth throw.

"I was very relaxed through the whole thing," Beistle said. "I just wanted to get in there and have fun being smooth, being quick and throwing it out there."

Adrian was in second but 20 feet behind Beistle's throw.

"I've put in a lot of hard work in four years to get to this point," Beistle said.



Big Rapids' Erika Beistle.

# Morrice Jumper Wins State Title

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Emma Valentine got the job done for Morrice in her junior season as a high jumper.

Valentine cleared 5 feet, four inches in the high jump at the Division 4 meet in Hudsonville.

Two other girls, including Montabella's Helena Snyder, also cleared 5-4 but Valentine did it with fewer jumps. It was a good time for her to have a personal record.

Brad Long noted that Valentine was

third her freshman year in the high jump at the state meet. There was no 2020 event because of COVID.

"She exceeded my expectations," Long said. "She got hurt after our first meet. She hurt her foot she jumps off of, and the doctor told us she was out for the year or for at least six weeks. We didn't get her back until May 12. She practiced for a day, went out and won the Fulton Invite with a 5-2. We did nothing with her until regionals. She ended up taking third at regionals with a jump of 5-2 and went to the Lansing meet and won that.

"We knew she was going to be good. But with her getting hurt, we didn't know if we'd have her back. Her doctor said because her foot wasn't bothering her, she was good to go."

Valentine started high jumping in high school.

"She's tall," Long said. "She can jump really good. She's a pretty good volleyball player, too. She's very coachable. You can point something out to her and she'll do it."

"The school record is 5-5 and she has a good shot at that."

Emma Valentine high jumps at the Lansing Honor Roll meet.



Emma Valentine high jumps at the Lansing Honor Roll meet.

# Sacred Heart Track And Field Girls Grab First Ever State Title

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart's girls track and field team ruled the Division 4 world on June 5 with a first-place finish. It's the girls first state title in track.

Sacred Heart posted 51 points to edge second-place Hillsdale 51-45.

Other key performances for Sacred Heart came from Nicole Olivieri (57.47), who was first in the 400-meter dash, the 4x200 meter relay team of Olivia Middleton, Anna Plum, Lily Deja and Nicole Olivieri which was first, (1:49.52), Plum, (27.8), third in the 100-meters, sixth in the 100-meter hurdles (17.17) and fourth in the 300-meter hurdles (48.95). In the

final event of the day, Plum, Deja, Spencer and Olivieri were first (4:10.74) in the 4x400 relay.

Adam Grifka was coach for Sacred Heart.

"Going into it, we changed a lot in terms of training stuff," Grifka said. "This is my first year as head coach. The girls really trusted me. We changed a lot and people get uneasy sometime with change. But they trusted me with that. Going into the state finals, we knew it was going to be super hot similar to what it was at regional. And we did pretty good there."

"I told the girls whoever shows up and competes well will win. I knew it would be close between us and Hillsdale. Every point matters.



Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart girls secured the school's first state title.

It was a six-point difference."

Middleton, a sophomore, Grifka noted, was our leadoff leg for the 4x200 meter relay.

"We weren't sure 36 hours

before if she would even be able to compete," Grifka said. "But she was ready to go."

Plum was the team's only senior and ran in races with prelims included.

Olivieri also came through in a major way.

"She's only a junior," Grifka said. "Those three girls helped us out for sure."

# Freeland Girls Crowned MITCA State Champs

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Freeland truly had a remarkable year in girls track.

The Falcons emerged as the MITCA state champion.

Freeland was sixth at the MHSAA meet. For the Falcons, Mara Longenecker was eighth in the 800 meters (2:20.28), Whitney Farrell was eighth in the 3,200 meters (11:39.32). Lydia Klopff was eighth in the 100-meter hurdles (16.78), the 4x400 relay was third in 4:10.46 with Longenecker, Lily Hileman, Erin Collier and Kiera Hansen; Whitney Farrell, Kiera Hansen, Caityln Mieske and Mara Longenecker was second (9:42.68) in the 4x800 relay. Kirsten Spegel was fourth on the long jump (39 1/2)

George Drown is Freeland's girls

coach.

"Any coach you interview this season is going to tell you it was a special one since we didn't get one last year," Drown said. "I think the girls were motivated by that alone. Our season was unique in the sense that the MHSAA came out with rules and regulations. You couldn't have your typical invitational. It was a mad dash for all of your coaches to fill a schedule and see what meets you could go to."

"What that meant is we were competing against a lot of Division I schools mainly because that was the competition in our area with Midland Dow and Midland High, Saginaw Heritage Bay City Western, those types of schools. We saw Traverse City West, Traverse City Central whom we never see during



Freeland girls track team enjoy a MITCA team title moment.

a normal season. What was interesting is at the start of the season we may have been second on the girls side and fifth on the boys side. We kept telling all the kids we're going up against bigger schools. Later as the season went on, we

started winning invitationals and the end result was the girls in the power rankings at the team state final, were ranked first for three weeks in a row."

At one time, regional champs automatically made the MITCA

meet. It's now based on power rankings.

"The way it works is everyone scores. You can have three persons in every event," Drown said. "We took 22 girls and they all scored at least one point."

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# Ithaca Distance Runner Wins Two Events At State Meet

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Ithaca's Lani Bloom ended the 2021 outdoor track and field season the right way.

Bloom claimed a pair of first places for the Yellowjackets during the state finals

The Ithaca junior won the 800-meter run in 2 minutes, 13.67 seconds. She also won the 1,600-meter run in 4:48.89 for a personal record, and was anchor of

the 4x800 meter relay which was fifth in 9:46.66 with Grace Weburg, Rachael Sierakowski and Josie Morrow.

"She was remarkable," Ithaca coach Daryl Dawe said. "It was nice to see all of her hard work come together at the end there. She performed as well as I think she absolutely could. It was something to see."

Next season should be a promising one for Bloom.

"She's a remarkable kid," Dawe said.

"It's nice to have your best worker be your hardest athlete and that kind of filters to the rest of the team. She is the hardest worker on the team. She's not going to be satisfied with this. She's going to want more.

"Her mile run was poetry. She had a plan and she executed it perfectly. It was truly amazing to watch."

Bloom's best time during the 800-meter season was a 2:11.60 at the Mid Michigan Meet of Champions.

Lani Bloom was not to be denied at the state meet for Ithaca.



# Saginaw Sprinter Concludes Fine Career

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Raphell Cooper is the head coach for Saginaw High's girls track and field team, and enjoyed watching senior Aidia Adams who was fifth in the 100-meter dash in 12.59 seconds and also fifth in the 200-meter dash (26.24).

"She did as well as expected," Cooper said. "Going into the state meet, she was ranked fifth. She didn't run her best but I'm pleased with how she competed. I was hoping she could have gotten as high as third. The girls seeded higher than her ran some fast times.

"I'm looking forward to next

season and hoping COVID 19 does not resurface. I'll be able to go into the school and recruit them."

She won two events in the Division 3 regional with a time of 12.790 for the 100 and 26.62 for the 200.

Earlier this year, she had a 12.50-second clocking for a personal record in the 100.

Her coach is Raphell Cooper.

"She's had a great season," Cooper said.

Adams has also been in the sprint relays.

"She's good in building up her speed," Cooper said, adding that despite not having a 2020 season, "she's picked up where she left off. She runs summer track with a track club. She has run indoor also with a track club."

She is planning on going to a college track program at a Big 10 school but will announce later which school she is attending, Cooper said.



Saginaw's Aidia Adams is now looking to run at a Big Ten school.

# CC-Crystal Boys Land First State Boys Track Title

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Carson City-Crystal boys have enjoyed boys cross country state titles in the past.

Now they have a boys track and field state championship to enjoy.

When the Division 4 meet ended on June 5 at Hudsonville, Carson City-Crystal had 68.50 points compared to 58 for second-place Saugatuck.

Point producers for the Eagles included:

Zane Forist, first in the discus (196 feet, 5 inches, new state record) and shot put (62-4, new state record); Coleman Clark first in the 3,200-meter run (9:52.53); Clark second (4:24.99).

Collin Farmer sixth (4:31.73), and Ashton Keiffer eighth (4:33.71) in the 1,600-meter run; Clark, seventh, in the 800-meter run (2:0408), Brayden Clark, tied for fourth, pole vault (12-0); Matthew Emelander, fifth, 400 dash (52.55), sixth, long jump (21-1), the 4x800-meter relay team of Ashton Keiffer, Collin Farmer, Cole Stone, Coleman Clark, fourth (8:33.85); Cavanaugh Barker, sixth (16.10) in the 110-hurdles; and Farmer fourth in the 3,200-meter run (19:03.27).

"It was a great team effort," CC-Crystal coach Grant Woodman said. "We had a total of 16 all-state certificates."

There were some athletes the Eagles expected to have do well, including Forist and Coleman Clark as state champions.

"As far as the other guys, some of them overexceeded," Woodman said. "We weren't expecting to get points from them, but we did; plus

Matt Emelander in the 400 and Ashton Keiffer in the 1,600. He was in the slow heat of the 1,600 and snuck in eighth."

Woodman noted the boys have won three state titles.

"We've always been a little title heavy in cross country," Woodman said. "We recently scratched the surface in track. It's a big deal for us.

"Coleman Clark and Zane Forist had phenomenal seasons. Zane has been ranked top three in the nation in discus and in the top 10 in the shot put all season. He set records every time he went out whether it be a state or school record. He kept rewriting the school record every meet. His PR in the discus is 206. He never lost. There was nobody within 30 feet of him in the discus all year. In shot put, it was similar. What he threw in both events at the state meet would have won all classes. And he's a junior."

As for Clark, "he capped a really good career," Woodman said. "He repeated his 3,200 state championship. He recently broke the school record in the 3,200 which is an awesome feat at Carson City. He capped a pretty good career. He won the cross country title in the fall as an individual!"

### CC-Crystal Thrower Is Double National Champ

A few weeks after the state finals, Zane Forist, a junior from Carson City-Crystal, became the 2021 High School national champion in the shot put with a throw of 19.69 meters (64 feet, 7 1/4 inches). He threw the discus 62.52 meters (205 feet and 1.42 inches) for first.

Forist competed at Hayward Field on the campus of the University of Oregon and returned home a national champion in both events.



CC-Crystal boys enjoyed their first state title.



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# ALL-STATE TRACK ATHLETES

## DIVISION 1 BOYS

400-meter dash: 7-Noah Reuter-Gushow, Midland Dow, 49.70.  
800-meter dash: 3-Titus Bretzke, Greenville, 1:54.67.  
1,600-meter dash: 2-Corey Bowers, Cedar Springs, 4:17.51.  
400-meter hurdles: 2-Gage Martin, Rockford, 14.57; 3-Joshua Rau, Lowell, 14.8.  
300-meter hurdles: 2-Gage Martin, Rockford, 38.57.  
4x200-meter relay: 3-Rockford, 1:29.07; 4-East Lansing, 1:29.48.  
4x400 meter relay: 3-Rockford, 3:23.84.  
High jump: 4-Jackson David, Okemos, 6-4.  
Pole vault: 2-Rockford, 14-9.  
Long jump: 2-Noah Reuter-Gushow, Midland Dow, 22-05-50; 6-Dominic Owen, Midland Dow, 21-04-5  
Shot put: 4-Nolan Berg, Midland, 54-0; 8-Justin Doty, Bay City Western, 50-08.75.  
Discus: 3-Justin Doty, BC Western, 178-7; 8-Nolan Berg, Midland 146-8.

## DIVISION 1 GIRLS

100-meter dash: 3-Comari Hawkins, East Lansing, 12.10.  
200-meter dash: 8-Kate Zang, Rockford, 25.33.  
400-meter dash: 7-Morgan Dheretherington, 58.15.  
1,600-meter run: 7-Abboe Draheim, East Lansing, 4:48.21.  
4x100-meter relay: 6-Rockford, 48.91.  
4x200-meter relay: 3-East Lansing, 1:42.04.  
4x400-meter relay: 3-Rockford, 3:55.47.  
4x800-meter relay: 8-Grand Ledge, 9:32.75.  
High jump: 3-Kaylee Diamond, Lowell, 5-6.  
Long jump: Onome Oghor, Holt. 18-9 1/2

## DIVISION 2 BOYS

100-meter dash: 4-Daniel Barger, Frankenmuth, 11.20.  
200-meter dash: 5-Sam Barger, Frankenmuth, 23.30; 6-Daniel Barger, Frankenmuth, 23.30.  
3,200-meter run: 8-Ryan Brown, St. Johns, 9:46.71.  
110-meter hurdles: 3-Josh Harrison, Mason, 15.49.  
300-meter hurdles: 5-Bo Brandt, Charlotte, 41.20; 6-Ryan Brenner, Frankenmuth, 41.57.  
4x100 relay: 1-Frankenmuth, 43.28.  
4x200 relay: 2-Frankenmuth, 1:30.58.  
4x400 relay: 2-Frankenmuth, 3:26.16; 3-Lansing Catholic, 3:26.63; 4-Mason, 3:26.79.  
High jump: 5-Noel Spence, Lansing Catholic, 6-2.  
Pole vault: 3-Justin Converse, Charlotte, 13-10; 5-William Ribby, Eaton Rapids, 13-7; 8-Jacob Duncel, 12-10.

## DIVISION 2 GIRLS

100-meter dash: 1-Chaniya Madison, Bridgeport, 12.36; 2-Trinity Greer, Alma, 12.52  
6-Jenna Bentley, Frankenmuth, 12.88.  
200-meter dash: 1-Chaniya Madison Bridgeport, 25.96; 2-Trinity Greer, Alma, 26.18; 3-Brook Simpson, Belding, 26.26.  
400-meter dash: 2-Brook Simpson, Belding, 58.36; 6-Emma McIlhargie, Birch Run, 1:00.47.  
1,600-meter run: 4-Mary Richmond, Frankenmuth, 5:09.19; 6-Sarah Storey, Chippewa Hills, 5:10.50.  
3,200-meter run: 3-Meghan Ford, Mason, 11:14.67; 4-Mary Richmond, Frankenmuth, 11:16.59; 8-Whitney Farrell, Freeland, 11:39.32.  
100-meter hurdles: 7-Lydia Klopf, Freeland, 16.55.  
4x100-meter relay: 3-Bridgeport, 50.63.  
4x200-meter relay: 5-Alma, 1:49.03.  
4x400-meter relay: 3-Freeland, 4:10.46; 6-Chippewa Hills, 4:12.76.  
4x800 meter relay: 2-Freeland, 9:42.68; 4-Frankenmuth, 9:52.95; 5-Mason, 9:53.48; 6-Lansing Catholic, 9:54.07.  
High jump: 1-Brook Simpson, Belding, 5-10; 8-Haley Hunt, Essexville-Garber, 5-2.  
Pole vault: 8 (tie)-Claire Agnew, Owosso, 29-9; 8 (tie)-Mallory Wright, Belding, 9-9.  
Long jump: 3-Lauren Walker, Essexville-Garber, 16-10.  
Shot put: 1-Erika Beistle, Big Rapids 42-10; 4-Kirsten Spegel, Freeland 39-00.50; 8-Kaydence Richardson, Eaton Rapids, 37-0

## DIVISION 3 BOYS

100-meter dash: 3-Ignatius Jackson, St. Louis, 11.22.  
200-meter dash: 3-Andre Plichta, Sanford-Meridian, 23.57; 7-Garrett Schafer, P-W, 24.66.  
800-meter run: 5-Caron Brunk, Pottersville, 1:58.70; 6-Lucas Woodruff, Laingsburg, 1:59.08.  
1,600-meter run: 3-Carson Hersch, New Lothrop, 4:24.57; 7-Braxton Lamey, Ithaca, 4:28.38.  
3,200-meter run: 5-Parks Allen, Ithaca, 9:59.03.  
110-meter hurdles: 3-Jacob Orweller, Perry, 15.65; 8-Will McPherson, Saranac, 16.43.  
300-meter hurdles: 2-Jacob Orweller, Perry, 41.98; 4-Deven Pawlowski, Clare, 43.55; 7-Corey Schafer, PW, 42.56.  
4x200 meter relay: 1-Sanford Meridian, 1:31.96; 2-Clare, 1:32.63; 7-Shepherd, 1:33.41.  
4x400-meter relay: 7-Laingsburg, 3:37.55.  
8x400-meter relay: 7-Ithaca, 8:30.19; 8-Reese, 8:30.69.  
High jump: 1-Ben Arens, Pewamo-Westphalia, 6-8; 2-Jalen Nelson, Dansville, 6-5/  
Pole vault: 4-Aidan Paisley, Clare, 12-9; 5-Jack Borgman, Laingsburg, 12-9; 6-Joshua Warner,

Shepherd, 12-9; 7-Carson Voss, Dansville, 12-3.  
Long jump: 1-Jack Murphy, Sanford-Meridian, 22-5.5; 2-Jalen Nelson, Dansville, 22-4; 4-Carson Voss, Dansville, 22-0; 7-Ben Arens, 21-1 1/4.  
Shot put: 3-Gavin Nurenberg, PW, 49-1; 6-Hemlock, 45-2 1/2; 8-Hudson Maddox, Bath, 46-10.75.  
Discus: 2-Gavin Nurenberg, PW, 142-8; 3-Brogan Dodge, Leslie, 142-8.  
Long jump: 4-Noel Spence, LC, 21-3.  
Shot put: 2-Connor Williamston, Mason, 51-2; 3-James Horn, Mason, 50-8; 6-Michael Hosey, Alma, 48-11.  
Discus: 5-Dalton DeBeau, Frankenmuth, 149-4.

## DIVISION 3 GIRLS

Girls 100-meter dash: 3-Sophia Thelen, PW, 12.5; 4-Emma Kribs, Laingsburg, 12.53; 5-Aidia Adams, Saginaw, 12.57; 8-Lexi Wheeler, Pottersville, 12.91.  
200-meter run: 1-Lani Bloom, Ithaca, 2:13.67; 3-Amelia Gouin, Shepherd, 2:18.26; 5-Libby Munderloh, St. Louis, 2:24.55; 8-Mikenna Borie, St. Louis, 5:14.08.  
1,600-meter run: 1-Lani Bloom, Ithaca, 4:48.89; 8-Mikenna Borie, St. Louis, 5:14.67.  
100-meter hurdles: 2-Saige Martin, PW, 15.49; 5-Lexie LaPoe, Clare, 16.61; 7-Holley Gilmore, Clare, 17.05.  
300-meter hurdles: 3-Saige Martin, PW, 48.33.  
4x100 meter relay: 1-St. Charles, 50.62; 3-Perry, 51.25; 6-St. Louis, 51.78.  
4x200 meter relay: 2-St. Charles, 1:48.80; 3-St. Charles, 1:48.80; 4-PW, 1:49.61; 5-St. Louis, 1:49.93; 6-Clare, 1:50.45.  
4x400 meter relay: 1-Shepherd, 4:10.48; 3-St. Louis, 4:12.59; 6-Sanford Meridian, 4:15.36.  
4x800-meter relay: 2-St. Louis, 9:39.8; 3-Shepherd, 9:46.55; 5-Ithaca, 9:54.23; 7-Pewamo-Westphalia, 10:09.45.  
High jump: 5-Kendell Wilcox, Shepherd, 5-1.  
Pole vault: 3-Sophie Thelen, PW, 10-9; 7-Teagan Russell, Clare, 8-6.  
Long jump: 2-Hailey Lewis, Perry, 17-5.5; 7-Hope Kushion, St. Charles, 16-1.

## DIVISION 4 BOYS

Discus: 1-Zane Forist, CC-Crystal, 196-5; 3-Todd Nanasy, Morrice, 136-9; 7-Bryce Middleton, Coleman, 122-1.  
Pole vault: 4 (tie), Brayden Clark, CC-Crystal, 12-0  
Shot put: 1-Zane Forist, CC-Crystal, 62-4; 5-Brett McGowen, Morrice, 44-7 1/2; 6-Todd Nanasy, 44-2; 8-Garner Akin, Fulton, 43-7.  
Long jump: 6-Matthew Emelander, CC-Crystal, 21-1.  
4x800-meter relay: 4-CC-Crystal, 8:23.85;

8-Breckenridge, 8:36.5.  
110-meter hurdles: 6-Cavanaugh Barker, CC-Crystal, 16.10.  
100-meter dash: 5-Charlie Steinhaus, Breckenridge, 11.45; 7-Camren Valliere, Breckenridge, 11.5; 8-Jacobe Hayes-Dunning, Portland St Patrick, 11.51.  
4x200: 2-Breckenridge, 1:31.12.  
1,600-meter run: 2-Coleman Clark, CC-Crystal, 4:24.75; 4-Matthew Nowak, MP Sacred Heart, 4:26.42; 6-Collin Farmer, CC-Crystal, 4:31.75; 7-Brock Lynch, MP Sacred Heart, 4:32.19; 8-Ashton Keiffer, CC-Crystal, 4:33.71.  
4x100 meter relay: 1-Breckenridge, 43.74; 8-Beal City, 45.70  
400-meter dash: 5-Matthew Emelander, CC-Crystal, 52.55.  
300-meter hurdles: 2-Luke Predum, MP Sacred Heart, 40.53.  
800-meter run: 7-Coleman Clark, CC-Crystal, 2:04.08.  
200-meter dash: 6-Camren Valliere, Breckenridge, 23.47; 8-Charlie Steinhaus, 24.11  
3,200-meter run: 1-Coleman Clark, CC-Crystal, 9:52.53; 4-Collin Farmer, CC-Crystal, 10:03.27.  
4-x400-relay: 8-MP Sacred Heart, 3:38.13.

## DIVISION 4 GIRLS

Discus: 7-Emily Emmendorfer, Merrill, 100-3.  
Pole vault: 6-Cami Baker, Fulton, 8-9; 7-Macy BeGole, Morrice, 8-3.  
High jump: 1-Emma Valentine, Morrice, 5-4; 2-Helena Snyder, 5-4.  
Long jump: 4-Angela Kotecki, Beal City, 16-6; 5-Leah Wieber, Fowler, 16-4 1/2; 7-Katie Steinhaus, Breckenridge, 16-0 1/4.  
4x800 meter relay: 3-Fowler, 10:33.58; 6-Portland St. Patrick, 10:43.83  
100-meter hurdles: 4-Allison Wichert, Vestaburg 16.91; 6-Anna Plum, MP Sacred Heart, 17.28.  
100-meter dash: 3-Angela Kotecki, Beal City, 12.87; 5-Sara Wilson, Saginaw Nouvel, 13.25.  
4x200 meter relay: 1-Sacred Heart, 1:49.04; 4-Beal City, 1:50.19.  
1,600-meter run: 8-Riley Hacker, Sacred Heart, 5:47.32.  
4x100 meter relay: 3-Michigan Lutheran Seminary, 52.31; 4-Beal City, 52.60.  
400-meter dash: 1-Nicole Olivieri, MP Sacred Heart, 57.47; 5-Ashley Plum, Sacred Heart, 1:01.83.  
300 hurdles: 1-Allison Wichert, Vestaburg, 47.30; 4-Anna Plum, Sacred Heart, 48.95.  
800 run: 1-Madison Volz, Lansing Christian, 2:18.88; 3-Grace Epkey, Fowler, 2:24.68; 7-Lily Deja, Sacred Heart, 2:26.95.  
200-meter dash: 3-Ashley Plum, Vestaburg, 27.18.  
4x400 relay: 1-Sacred Heart, 4:10.74; 5-Fowler, 4:19.0; 6-Portland St. Patrick, 4:19.18.

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# Grand Ledge Baseball Team Caps Thrilling Season By Reaching State Quarterfinals

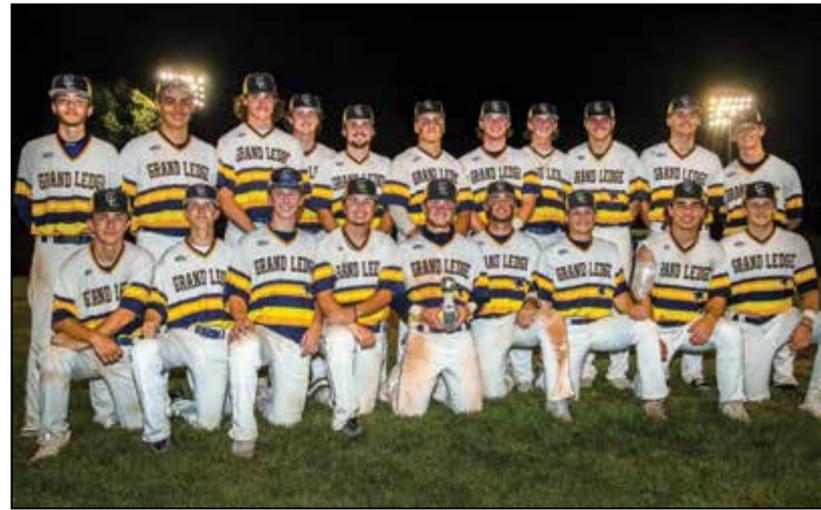
## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Grand Ledge baseball team has a history of excellence and this year's edition of the Comets added to that impressive legacy with another memorable season.

Ranked number one in the state in Division 1 this season, Grand Ledge finished the season with a 37-3 record after falling short against Portage Central in the state quarterfinals. Along with reaching the final eight in the state, Grand Ledge won a Capital Area Activities Conference title, won the title at the Diamond Classic and added both district and regional titles before falling to a talented Portage Central team led by a pair of players who will be playing baseball

in the Southeastern Conference at Louisiana State and Tennessee next season.

"The hardest part in coaching is knowing that the journey will at some point come to an end," said Grand Ledge baseball coach Grant Householder. "This 2021 group never wanted that to happen. The fight, trust, drive and ability to embrace the moments led to countless memories for everyone who was along for the ride. I couldn't be more proud of a group and honored to lead an incredible team on an unforgettable run. The 2021 team is one that I will look back on and smile because they truly bought into what we were teaching, not just on the field but in life. I love each and every one of them and they deserve all the



The Grand Ledge baseball team poses with the trophy it won by defeating DeWitt in the title game of the Diamond Classic.

success they achieved." Grand Ledge provided their fans with a host of memories during the season. One of the most dramatic moments came in the regional championship game against Ann Arbor Pioneer. That was when the Comets came from behind to defeat the Pioneers 3-2. Trailing

2-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning, senior Aiden Alspaugh, delivered a two-out, two-run single to plate the winning runs setting off a mob scene on the field. Grand Ledge reached the regional title game by defeating Howell 8-5 in the regional semifinals. The game against Howell was a marathon affair as the Comets needed to wait through three weather delays and a Howell rally in the final inning that saw the winning run come to the plate.

Grand Ledge also hooked up with DeWitt for a pair of thrilling baseball games with high stakes on the line. In the district championship game against DeWitt, Noah Warren hit a three-run, walk-off home run to give the Comets an 11-8 win and the district crown. Two days later Warren came through with another three-run home run, this time against DeWitt in the championship game of the Diamond Classic giving Grand

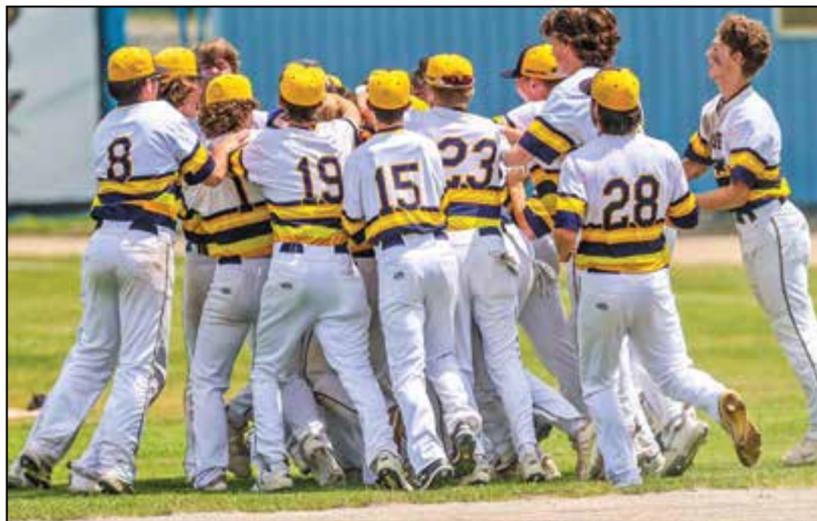
Ledge an 8-6 lead that proved to be the final score of the game.

The home run capped a big Diamond Classic for Warren who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the classic as he went 6-for-12 with five runs batted in during three Diamond Classic games.

Grand Ledge reached the finals of the Diamond Classic by defeating Okemos 3-2 in the semifinals. Aiden Alspaugh provided the key hit as his walk-off single plated Warren with the game-winning run.

Grand Ledge closed out the regular season in dramatic fashion when it defeated Midland on senior day. Trailing by three runs in the seventh inning, the Comets rallied for a 5-4 win. The game marked the final home game for Grand Ledge seniors Aiden Alspaugh, Jack Franco, Kaden Kowak, Logan Todd, Noah Warren and Dillon Pfau.

The Grand Ledge baseball team mobs Aiden Alspaugh after his single drove in the winning runs during the regional title game against Ann Arbor Pioneer.



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# Rebuilding Season Results In Conference Title For Breckenridge Baseball Team

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Led by a pair of talented seniors, the Breckenridge baseball team turned what looked on paper to be a rebuilding season into a championship season.

Led by Ashton Thrush and Drew Cole, the lone seniors on the roster, Breckenridge turned in a 19-4 overall record and won the Mid State Activities Conference championship with a 15-1 record this spring.

"The season went well," said Breckenridge coach Sebastian SanMiguel. "We took the league title and made it to the district finals before being knocked out by Beal City. It ended up being a pretty good season after it started out tough with four kids being out due to Covid protocols."

Having a pair of standout players like Thrush and Cole certainly helped the Huskies.

Thrush, a four-year varsity player, earned first-team, all-conference honors this season as he hit .393. A middle infielder, Thrush scored 31 runs while adding four triples, four doubles and a home run along with 19 RBI.



Breckenridge senior Ashton Thrush wrapped up his career in a big way and helped a young Huskie squad win a conference championship.

"I think the season went better than people thought it would," Thrush said. "Half the team was freshmen and sophomores and we still won the conference. It felt pretty good because our rival Merrill took second."

One of the top players in the area, Thrush is not planning on playing college baseball at this time but those plans could change.

"Ashton could play college baseball if he wanted to," SanMiguel said. "He was one of our dominant players. He gave us good at bats all year and is a strong fielder. He's just an overall great player."

Cole, also a middle infielder and pitcher, formed a solid one-two punch with Thrush. A first-team, all-conference player, Cole hit .531 this season while winning eight games as a pitcher with a 1.27 earned run average. Cole also scored 36 runs, drove in 23 runs and added 15 doubles and a home run.

"Drew has a good, strong arm," SanMiguel said. "He is a good all-around player who can play anywhere in the field. He runs like a deer, can throw hard and hits the ball very hard. He will be playing college baseball at Mid-Michigan Community College."

Having Cole and Thrush lead the team was a luxury that helped the young Huskies.

"Ashton and Drew were my top guys," SanMiguel said. "They have played baseball together for a long time, all the way from little league to travel ball and high school. They are both very good athletes and great all-around players."

A solid nucleus of up-and-coming players stepped up and provided Breckenridge with plenty of support.

Junior catcher Landen Aldrich earned both all-conference and all-district honors. Aldrich hit .471 this season and drove in a team-high 25 runs. Junior infielder Tyler Chovanec earned all-conference and first-team, all-district honors as he hit .421 with 25 runs scored, 23 RBI, four doubles and a home run. Sophomore Ryan Wolfgang hit .354 with 24 runs scored and 12 RBI as he earned second-team, all-conference honors. Breckenridge also received strong contributions from juniors Jacob Gillis and Cramer Laurenz.

While Thrush and Cole will be missed next season, the progress made by the younger players this year has the future looking bright for Breckenridge.

"We should be in pretty good shape next year," SanMiguel said. "The boys played very well this year. We lose Drew and Ashton but we have a pretty good group of guys coming back next year. We had a good group of kids this year and I couldn't have asked for more from them."

## AREA ALL STATE BASEBALL PLAYERS

### DIVISION 1

#### First Team

Noah Warren, of, Grand Ledge  
 Grant Uyl, c, DeWitt

#### Second Team

Logan McCoy, inf, Midland Dow  
 Alex Money, inf, Midland  
 Joe Botello, 1b, Lansing Waverly  
 Lucas Rick, utl, Rockford

### DIVISION 2

#### First Team

Carter Campau, c, Midland Bullock Creek

#### Second Team

Tommy Szczpanski, p, Essexville-Garber  
 Brady Gawne, p, Lakewood-Lake Odessa  
 Tyler McKinstry, inf, Frankenmuth  
 Tanner Sonntag, inf, Bay City Glenn  
 Nathan Ball, inf, Bay City Glenn  
 Logan Hugo, of, Essexville-Garber

### DIVISION 3

#### First Team

Trent Reed, inf, Beaverton  
 Camden Orr, 1b, New Lothrop  
 Tanner Wirth, of, Pewamo-Westphalia  
 Brady Birchmeier, utl, New Lothrop

#### Second Team

Tyler Nurenberg, p, Pewamo-Westphalia  
 Brock Thelen, inf, Pewamo-Westphalia  
 Leyton Mays, inf, Millington  
 Carson Oldani, of, Beaverton

### DIVISION 4

#### First Team

Shane Cook, inf, Portland St. Patrick  
 Max French, 1b, Lansing Christian  
 Wade Wilson, of, Beal City  
 Chase Pung, c, Fowler  
 Logan Heath, utl, Merrill

#### Second Team

Brendan Martin, p, Beal City  
 Kaiden Andrew, inf, Beal City  
 Brayden Haynes, 1b, Beal City  
 Cameron Lynch, c, Beal City

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The Beal City baseball team relied on solid pitching this season as they were ranked in the top ten in the state and won a fourth straight district title.

## Area Baseball Teams Cap Their Seasons With Impressive Efforts In State Tournament

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

#### St. Johns Wins League And District Title

The St. Johns baseball team capped a big season by winning both conference and district titles.

St. Johns won its first district baseball title since 1996 as it won the Forest Hills Eastern district. The Redwings defeated Ionia 12-2 in the semifinals and then won a thrilling district title game with a 3-2 win against host Eastern.

St. Johns won its first league title since 2014 as it captured the CAAC Red title. Earning all-conference honors for the Redwings were Brody Kusner, Logan Dunham, Alex Owen, Logan Keilen and Landon Mikula. Redwings who earned honorable-mention, all-conference honors were Brennan Feldpausch, Grant Armbrustmacher and Murray Palmatier.

#### Midland Dow Reaches State Quarterfinals

Midland Dow finished a memorable baseball season by reaching the state semifinals in Division 1.

The Chargers began their state tournament run by winning the title at the Bay City Western district. Dow defeated Saginaw Heritage 5-3 in the district semifinals and then won the district crown with a 6-3 win against Western.

Dow moved on to the regional at Central Michigan University where it won a pair of thrilling games. In the semifinals against Traverse City West the Chargers won a 2-0 pitcher's duel. Offense was the name of the game in the regional title game as Dow defeated Zeeland West 9-6 in an eight-inning marathon.

The Chargers won another slugfest in the D1 state quarterfinals with an 8-7 win against Hudsonville before falling to Portage Central in the state semifinals.

#### Corunna Wins District Title

The Corunna baseball team turned in a big state tournament run that included a district championship and advancing to the regional title game.

Corunna won the title at the Owosso district. The Cavaliers opened district play with a thrilling 5-4 win against Lansing Catholic in the district semifinals. Corunna then broke out the bats in a big way with an 8-3 win against Haslett in the district championship game.

At the regional tournament, Corunna claimed a thrilling semifinal win by a score of 3-2 against Eaton Rapids. The tournament run came to an end in the regional finals when the Cavaliers fell to Trenton.

#### Alma Wins Fourth Consecutive District Title

The Alma baseball team kept their successful tournament history going this season as it won a fourth consecutive district championship.

Hosting a division 2 district, the Panthers made it an even more special time as they won a fourth straight district trophy. Alma hitters made solid contact in the semifinals with a 9-3 win against Tri-County. Pitching was

the name of the game in the district title game as the Panthers blanked Fremont 3-0. Brayley Munro led the Panthers on the mound in the semifinal game while DJ Thompson came up with a big pitching performance in the district title game.

The tournament trail came to an end in the regional semifinals as the Panthers dropped a 6-4 decision to Muskegon Oakridge. David Apple led the offense for Alma with a pair of hits and two stolen bases as the Panthers wrapped up the season with a 13-15 record. Munro added a pair of hits and a RBI while Thompson had a hit, a RBI and scored a run.

Brayley Munro wrapped up the season for Alma by being named second-team, all-conference. Munro was part of a four-player senior class that included David Apple, JJ Brown and Ryan Faching that led the Panthers this season.

#### Hemlock Ends Season In Regional Finals

The Hemlock baseball team ended a strong season playing in the regional title game.

The Huskies finished the season with a 29-5 overall record after dropping a 10-2 decision to Richmond in the regional final.

Hemlock reached the finals after defeating Laingsburg 9-2 in the semifinals. Dylan Lagrow, Shane Renas and Blake Stockford led the offense with two hits apiece while Stockford drove in three runs and Max Dinnenger and Renas added two RBIs.

Hemlock reached the regional by winning the Saginaw Valley State district. Brayden Green paced Hemlock with three hits and three RBIs with a pair of doubles. The Huskies defeated Carrollton 8-4 in the semifinals and then won the district title with a 6-0 win against Chesaning. Jake Shelagowski led the Huskie offense with three hits and a RBI while Corbin Larkin added two hits and two runs. Dinnenger picked up the win for Hemlock as he allowed three hits and no runs over seven innings.

#### New Lothrop Wraps Up Big Season In Elite Eight

The New Lothrop baseball team capped a productive baseball season with conference, district and regional titles and a final record of 31-6.

New Lothrop won the Mid-Michigan League title with a perfect 14-0 record. The Hornets added a district title with a 15-2 win against Perry in the district title game. New Lothrop won the regional title with a 13-0 win against Mt. Morris in the semifinals and a 5-3 win against Reese in the title game.

Junior infielder Brady Birchmeier led the New Lothrop offense this season as he hit .595 with 15 home runs, 26 doubles and 76 RBIs. Cam Orr had a big senior season as he hit .519 with 24 doubles, two home runs and 47 RBIs. Fellow senior Avery Morse hit .441 with 13 doubles, two home runs and 43 RBIs while

sophomore Ty Kohlmann hit .464 with four triples and 31 RBIs. Senior Matt Kieffer led the team in stolen bases with 20 along with a .388 batting average, 45 runs scored and 20 RBIs. The Hornet pitching staff was led by Birchmeier who went 11-0 with a 1.04 ERA and senior Julius Garza who went 8-0 with a 2.98 ERA.

#### Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Wins First Regional Title

The Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary baseball team finished the season with an outstanding tournament run that led to winning a first-ever regional title and an appearance in the Division 4 state quarterfinals.

Offense was a key for Lutheran Seminary as the team scored double-digit runs in four of its six playoff games.

Lutheran Seminary won three district games enroute to the title. The Cardinals opened the district with a 6-2 win against Saginaw Nouvel Catholic. The Cardinals defeated Mayville 16-1 in the district semifinals and then won the title with an 11-7 win against Bay City All Saints.

The Cardinals kept up the torrid hitting at the regional tournament. In the semifinals Seminary outlasted Mio 14-4 in eight innings. The regional title game against Mesick was a true slugfest as the Cardinals came from behind to claim a 10-9 win. Mark Vogel led the Cardinals with three hits while Eli Slangor and Tobias Edgett had two hits apiece.

Seminary finished the season with a 15-19 record after dropping a 7-6 battle to Marlette in the quarterfinals.

#### Beal City Extends District Title Streak

The Beal City baseball team continued its run of district baseball titles as it won a fourth straight district crown this season.

Beal City won the district title with a 13-1 win against Breckenridge. The Aggies opened district play with a 11-2 win against Merrill in the semifinals.

Offense was a big part of Beal City's success this season. The Aggies featured a potent offense led by Kaidan Andrews, Brayden Haynes, Cam Lynch, Hunter Miles and Terrell Zuker who all hit over .400 this season.

Beal City's season came to an end in the regional semifinals when it dropped a 4-0 decision to Muskegon Catholic.

#### Pewamo-Westphalia Turns In Memorable Season

The Pewamo-Westphalia baseball team capped a big season with an impressive tournament run in Division 3.

The Pirates began their state tournament run by winning the Saranac district in impressive fashion by scoring 48 runs in the two wins.

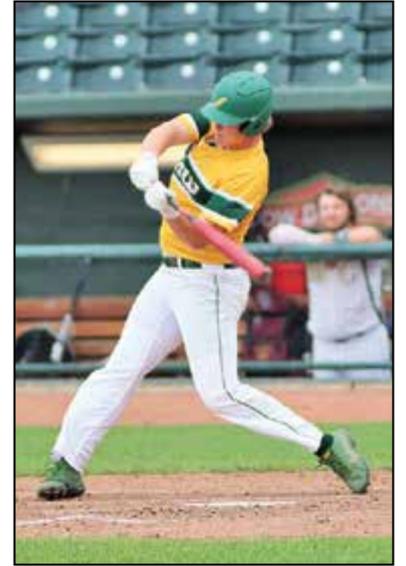
Pewamo-Westphalia moved on to the regional at Cornerstone University where it opened

play with a 10-0 win against Calvin Christian. Brock Thelen led the Pirate offense as he went 4-for-4 with three RBIs while Tanner Wirth and Caleb Stopczynski added two hits each. Ty Nurenberg (12-0, 1.08 ERA) pitched the first four and two-thirds innings while Conner Russell (4-0, 0.31) finished the game.

Pewamo-Westphalia clinched the regional with a 4-0 win against Schoolcraft. Zach Simon pitched five and two-thirds scoreless innings while Russell came on in relief to close out the shutout. Brock Thelen led the offense as he went 3-for-4 with an RBI while Simon had two hits and three RBIs.

The tournament trail came to an end at the quarterfinals where Buchanan topped the Pirates 10-3. Pewamo-Westphalia finished the season with a 30-4 record.

A total of eight Pirates earned all-conference and all-district honors including Tyler Nurenberg, Conner Russell, Nate Simon, Zach Simon, Brock Thelen, Connor Thelen, Ashtin Wirth and Tanner Wirth. Tanner Wirth was named first-team, all-state while Tyler Nurenberg and Brock Thelen were both named second-team, all-state and Nate Simon was named honorable-mention, all-state.



The Midland Dow baseball team used some timely hitting to reach the state quarterfinals in Division 1.



The St. Johns baseball team won its first district title since 1996 and its first conference championship since 2014 this season.



The Alma baseball team extended its tournament legacy by winning a fourth consecutive district championship.



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# Owosso Softball Team Makes School History By Bringing Home State Championship

## David Cook Sports Scene

Led by one of the premier pitchers in the state along with a never give up attitude, the Owosso softball team made history this season by winning the first team state title in school history.

Trailing by three runs in the Division 2 state championship game against Marysville, Owosso rallied to earn an 8-5 win to claim the title.

Coming from behind to claim victory was nothing new for the Owosso team that needed to rally several times during the season and the state tournament run.

"It hasn't sunk in," said Owosso coach JoEllen Smith. "From the beginning, some of the games that we came back and won, it really hasn't sunk in."

A four-run, fourth inning was key in the win against Marysville. Trailing 5-2 entering the bottom of the fourth inning, Owosso scored four times to take the lead and control of the game. A two-run double by junior Macy Irelan was a key hit in the inning as Irelan's hit tied the game at 5-5.

Irelan, who has committed to play college softball at Kent State University, picked up the win for the Trojans and her pitching has been the backbone of the team the entire season. Irelan won all 37 games for Owosso this season as the Trojans compiled a 37-3 record this year. Irelan entered the championship game with an 0.55 earned run average.

Owosso took the lead for good later in the fourth inning on a RBI groundout by Reyn Tuttle.

"We fell behind, but we wanted to come back to show we deserve this," said Irelan. "It was a good team win. How the game

worked out and how it went, we were going to do our best."

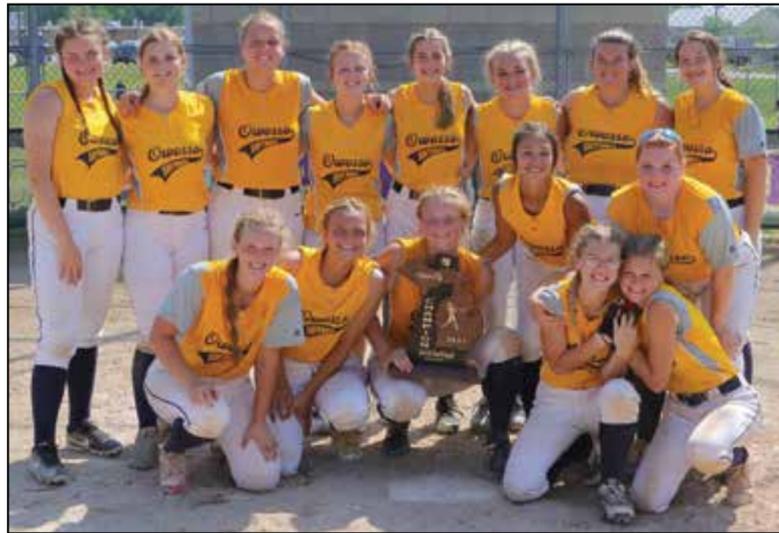
Owosso added a pair of insurance runs in the fifth inning. Owosso sophomore Sydney Somers delivered an RBI single that drove in Kendall Anderson who reached on a double. Somers came in to score the second run of the inning on a throwing error.

"We've worked so hard, I don't even know what to say," said Somers. "It's just an amazing feeling. It's an honor to be a part of this team and do that, and our community is just amazing."

Owosso took an early 2-0 lead in the title game with single runs in the first and second innings. Reyn Tuttle drove in a run with a double in the first inning while sophomore Jaimie Maier added a solo home run in the second inning.

"I can't tell you how many years this game took off my life," said Smith. This was a huge emotion. We had a couple of plays that went against us but our kids muscled through it. The postseason has been huge for us. They never gave up."

Owosso reached the title game by defeating Gaylord 2-1 in the Division 2 semifinals. Owosso scored all the runs it would need in the second inning. Maier and senior Karley Kincaid set the table for the Trojans as they opened the inning with back-to-back singles. Maier eventually came in to score the first run on a wild pitch while Somers plated the second run with an RBI single.



The Owosso softball team turned in a memorable state tournament by winning district and regional titles and then capping the season off with the Division 2 state championship.

The Trojans then turned the game over to their defense and the pitching of Irelan. Irelan struck out eight Gaylord batters and allowed just three hits as she went the distance for the win.

Owosso needed all its comeback skills in the state quarterfinal game against Wayland. Falling behind 4-1, Owosso rallied for a 5-4 win in 8 innings.

"These girls are resilient," Smith said. "That's the only word you can use for them. They're down and they come back every time through the whole postseason."

While Owosso needed to go eight innings to win the quarterfinal game, they needed to go 10 innings to win the regional title. That was where the Trojans outlasted Lakewood-Lake Odessa 6-1 in the finals of the Fowlerville regional.

Irelan turned in an epic pitching performance in the regional title game as she recorded 21 strikeouts in the win.

Owosso needed some late dramatics to earn the win and continue its tournament run. Trailing 1-0 in the seventh inning, the Trojans were down to their final out when Neveah Ginger came up with a double that brought home Kendall Anderson with the game-tying run.

The game remained tied until the 10th inning when Owosso erupted for five runs. A bases loaded single by Reyn Tuttle brought home two runs and broke the tie. Jaime Maier added another RBI single that upped the Owosso lead to 4-1.

Owosso reached the regional title game by defeating Haslett 12-0 in the regional semifinals. Irelan struck out 12 batters in the regional semifinal win.

Owosso began the state tournament run by defeating Fowlerville 4-1 in the district championship game.

# Shepherd Softball Team Reaches State Quarterfinals In Thrilling Tournament Run

## David Cook Sports Scene

With a powerful group of sophomore sluggers leading the way, the Shepherd softball team capped the season by going on a thrilling state tournament run.

Shepherd featured a sophomore-heavy lineup this season and those sophomores were a big part of the Bluejays setting a new record for home runs hit in a season with 31 homers in 30 games. That power played a key role in Shepherd's post-season run that included both district and regional titles before falling to eventual Division 3 state champion Richmond in the state quarterfinals.

"The season was a lot of fun," said Shepherd coach Steven Loonsfoot. "It was a good season. We had covid issues and at one point we had to quarantine, but the girls really came out and responded. I was really pleased with how they did. We had

a lot of real close games and the girls showed a lot of grit."

The Bluejays showed plenty of grit during the state tournament. Shepherd opened the tournament by defeating a Sanford-Meridian team 3-2 that it had dropped a pair of conference games to during the season. Shepherd then claimed the district title with a 10-5 win against Ithaca.

Shepherd opened the regional tournament with a 10-0 win against Saginaw Valley Lutheran in the semifinals. That set the stage for a dramatic regional championship game against Laingsburg that went eight innings. Tied 12-12 after seven innings, Laingsburg scored six runs in the top of the eighth inning to take an 18-12 lead. The daunting deficit didn't intimidate the Bluejays as Shepherd scored seven runs in the bottom of the inning to win a 19-18 thriller.

Abby Robinson delivered a key double in the inning that cut the deficit to 18-15 and the Bluejays

eventually won the game with two out when Kendra Walch drew a bases-loaded walk with two out to force in the game-winning run.

"At that point of the game we became more disciplined at the plate," Loonsfoot said. "We were patient at the plate and got into some pitches really nice. Scoring seven runs in the bottom of the eighth to win that game was special."

Scoring runs was a trademark of this year's Shepherd team that finished the season with a 24-12 record. What is even more special is that fact that many of Shepherd's sluggers are sophomores that will be around the program for two more years.

Walch, a sophomore, led the team with a .475 batting average and drove in 24 runs. Sophomore Abby Robinson hit .470 with a team-high 10 home runs and 53 RBI. Sophomore Isabelle Robinson hit .414 with four home and 32 RBI while sophomores Liv Regenfuss hit .411 with five home runs and 23 RBI. Cadence Shigwadja



The Shepherd softball team set a new school record for home runs on its way to winning district and regional titles this season.

whit a team-high 10 home runs with 49 RBI and Adria Reed hit two home runs with 26 RBI. Junior Ali Tupper hit .425 with two home runs and 27 RBI and senior Brooke Faber hit .441 with 22 RBI.

In the pitching department, Shepherd was paced by Shigwadja who was 10-6 with a 3.62 ERA and 116 strikeouts and Isabelle Robinson who was 8-2 with a 3.52 ERA and 49 strikeouts.

While this season was full of excitement, the future offers even more

potential for Shepherd that will move up to Division 2 next season.

"It was a fun season all around," Loonsfoot said. "We made it to the final eight in Division 3 and lost to the eventual state champions. We have a really special group of sophomores who have a lot of talent. We have been anticipating this group and they would've been on the varsity as freshmen last year if not for covid taking out the season. Next year we move up to Division 2 and the girls are excited for the challenge."

# DeWitt Softball Team Hits Stride In Mid-Season On The Way To D1 State Quarterfinals

## David Cook Sports Scene

Playing its best softball of the season down the stretch, the DeWitt softball team finished the year on a memorable run.

DeWitt won both a district and regional title before falling to the eventual Division 1 state champion South Lyon in the state quarterfinals. The tournament run capped a special season for a young team coming off the disappointment of losing last season due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The season began with a lot of unknown," said veteran DeWitt softball coach Adam Nolen. "Like many other teams in the state, we missed out on building skills and experience after the 2020 season was cancelled, and we had many new players or players with only one season of varsity experience. It was exciting to play again and challenging to see what kind of team we were going to be."

DeWitt challenged itself with a rugged early-season schedule that

included strong teams like Fowlerville, Rockford, Sterling, Heights Stevenson and Lake Orion.

"In the beginning of the season we competed with strong competition and suffered some close losses," Nolen said. "Defensively, we hung in there and gave ourselves a chance to win, but struggled at the plate to score and hit consistently. Having patience early on was key because it took time for our players to get reps and consistency, especially on the offensive side of things."

DeWitt turned in an impressive mid-season tournament win as it won DeWitt's Larry Baird Softball Classic. DeWitt gained more confidence in playing league champion Holt strong in a doubleheader. DeWitt began a 16-game winning streak after the games with Holt that included a title at the St. Johns invitational and ended in the state quarterfinals against Division 1 state champion South Lyon.

"We left Holt know we could compete with anyone and that our

best softball was yet to come," Nolen said. "From that point on, our season became very special. Throughout that stretch, we excelled at timely hitting, good defense, baserunning and playing small ball. Our confidence soared and things finally came together."

DeWitt won its 19th district title in school history and the fourth for coach Nolen. The Panthers also won a sixth regional title in program history, the first in 17 years and the first for Nolen as coach.

"Our players believed in each other and our teamwork and chemistry was outstanding," Nolen said. "Winning the district and regional titles this year was really special for a group of kids who were young and missed out on the 2020 season. With the way we were playing at the end of the season, I knew we had a chance to win the district title. We focused on good baserunning, small ball, tough defense and timely hitting. Players embraced their roles and continued to believe in each other."

Among the team leaders for DeWitt this season was centerfielder and leadoff hitter Cassie Sustrich. Sustrich hit .500 this season with 63 runs scored, 40 stolen bases and a .917 fielding percentage.

"Cassie competed every time she stepped on the field and put a ton of pressure on teams with her exceptional speed," Nolen said.



The DeWitt softball team went on a 16-game winning streak that included district and regional championships.

Kyra Shaddock was a key for the Panthers both at the plate and as a pitcher. Shaddock hit .339 with a team-high 43 RBIs. As a pitcher Shaddock went 19-6 with a 1.66 ERA and 123 strikeouts.

At third base and DeWitt's cleanup hitter, Hannah Grewe hit .458 with 10 doubles, two triples, two home runs and 41 RBIs while also winning six games as a pitcher. At second base, Gabbie Brya hit .366 with five doubles, two home runs, two triples and 31 RBIs. At first base Corina Hernandez hit .339 with eight doubles, four triples, 17 stolen bases and 28 RBIs. DeWitt also received key contributions from Emily Brandell who had a grand slam home run against Fowler in the Larry Baird Classic and Katilyn Lawver and

Kyleigh Simon who provided outstanding defense in the outfield.

Several DeWitt players earned post-season honors led by Cassie Sustrich who was honorable-mention, all-state and academic all-state along with all district, conference and regional honors. Kyra Shaddock was academic all-conference along with all conference, district and region. Hannah Grewe was honorable-mention all-conference and all district and region. Gabbie Brya and Sunny Pochert were named academic all-conference along with all-conference and all-district. Corina Hernandez was all conference and all district while Kara Anderson and Kyleigh Simon were academic all-state. DeWitt was earned academic all-state as a team.

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# Coleman Softball Team Wraps Up Rebuilding Season By Winning District Championship

## David Cook Sports Scene

What a difference a year makes. Last year, a veteran Coleman softball team saw their season and post-season aspirations swept away by the Covid-19 virus. This year, a young Comet softball team was able to get the season in and ended the year with a district trophy.

"This season was a completely new adventure," said Coleman coach Chad Klopf. "With only one returner from 2019, this team was young. They lacked the experience that the past few groups had when it to how we do things in practice, in the dugout and on the field. There was a lot of teaching going on each and every day. We knew that we had some talented kids on this team but it was getting them to come together as a team that took some work."

Mental toughness was a strong point of this year's team and went a long way to the team achieving success this year.

"We made a lot of mistakes early and often in the season that put a lot of stress on the coaching staff,"

Klopf said. "Once we realized that this group's best asset was that they were mentally tough and could bounce back from mistakes and errors, us as coaches stepped back and focused more on basics and we started to see the little successes build into bigger successes."

The teaching paid off as Coleman finished the season strong. The Comets won a district title at the district it hosted by defeating Merrill in the semifinals and then outlasting Breckenridge 5-3 in nine innings in the district championship game. The win against Breckenridge was even more impressive considering the Comets lost to them just days earlier.

"We faced Morgan Westall and Breckenridge on Tuesday that same week and lost 3-6, and only had success in the seventh inning," Klopf said. "To face them again just four days later on our home field, I didn't know what to expect from the team. This again was where their mental toughness showed. To come back out and beat an all-state pitcher who just had your number a few days earlier, and to do it in a game that took nine innings in the heat was very impressive. Not hav-

ing a season in 2020 and watching seven seniors not be able to finish their careers the way they wanted too, along with the trials and errors this season made this district title one of the sweetest we have won."

The win was the sixth consecutive district title and sent Coleman on to the regional where the Comets defeated Hale in the semifinals before falling to Portland St. Patrick in the regional title game.

During the season, the Comets added a highlight by defeating Anchor Bay, ranked seventh in the state in Division 1 at the time.

Leading the way for Coleman this season was the lone returning starter from 2019, junior Katelyn Pnacek. The team's catcher, Pnacek earned all-state honors this season as she batted .604 with 16 doubles, 12 home runs and seven triples along with 64 RBI. Pnacek also stole eight bases and scored 60 runs.

A pair of freshmen also turned in impressive debut seasons. Maddy Miller, who played shortstop, second base, third base the outfield and pitcher, earned honorable-mention all-state honors.



The Coleman softball team ended the season strong by winning a district championship and advancing to the regional title game.

Miller hit .490 with 10 triples and six doubles while driving in 36 runs and stealing 24 bases in 26 attempts. As a pitcher Miller went 8-7 with 108 strikeouts. Fellow freshman Nevaeh Chaffee played shortstop and hit .450 with 10 doubles, three triples and two home runs along with 11 stolen bases and 13 RBI.

By the end of the season Coleman was starting seven freshmen. Along with Miller and Chaffee, the Comets received contributions from freshmen Ava Gross, Harley Lattimer, Autumn Hess, Makyah Rogers and Timea Middleton. Gross started in centerfield and hit .365 while Lattimer hit .360 with 32 RBI.

"The freshmen all made huge strides this season," Klopf said. "They got better as the year went on."

Coleman also had a number of first-year players step up including junior pitcher Madysin Croslin, sophomore first baseman Brooklyn Lattimer who recorded 17 RBI, junior outfielder Jordin Peek and sophomore infielder Katie Cozat.

"Seeing these girls after not having a jv season last year improve week in and week out was a highlight for our coaching staff," Klopf said.

Along with having a pair of all-state players, Coleman had several players earn all-conference honors in the Mid State Activities Conference. Pnacek and Miller both earned first-team, all-conference honors while Gross and Chaffee were named second-team, all-conference and Lattimer and Croslin were honorable-mention, all-conference.

# Holt Softball Team Claims Both Conference And District Titles This Season

## David Cook Sports Scene

The Holt softball team turned in its finest season since 2016. With a mixture of talented veterans and skilled newcomers, the Rams won both conference and district titles and finished as the runner-up at the Diamond Classic in a season that was up in the air at times due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We were really worried that we would not even have a season," said veteran Holt coach Kim Reichard. "With the covid we were worried each week if we were going to play or not. It was very stressful."

Holt overcame the challenge both on and off the field. The Rams were undefeated in the Capital

Area Activities Conference Blue Division and added a Division 1 district title before falling to DeWitt in the regional semifinals. Holt also took second place to Eaton Rapids at the Diamond Classic.

"I was pretty pleased with our season," said Reichard. "It was one of the best groups I've had at Holt in my 16 years."

Overall, Holt turned in a 28-7 record this season. The Rams also tested themselves against the best competition they could find as they played six state-ranked teams during the season.

Heading into the season, the Rams had the potential for success with the return of a number of veterans including a veteran pitcher

and catcher.

Pitching was a strong point for Holt this season. Senior pitcher Elyse Brittain turned in a 13-5 record and struck out 142 batters while sophomore Katie Lackman turned in a 15-2 record.

"We had two solid pitchers," Reichard said. "Having two, solid ace pitchers was one of the keys to our success this year."

Brittain, who earned honorable-mention, all-state honors this season, was also a force at the plate as she hit .492 with 47 singles along with 52 RBI.

Holt also boasted a strong group of juniors who bolstered the offense. Junior first baseman Eva Curtis earned all-state honors as



The Holt softball team turned in a big season highlighted by both conference and district titles and a runner-up finish at the Diamond Classic.

she hit .559 with eight home runs and a team-high 59 RBI.

Junior shortstop Jady Joseph, the team's leadoff hitter, hit .516 with four triples. Joseph has already committed to play college softball at Ferris State University. Junior third baseman Jady Joseph turned in a strong season as she

hit .388.

With a strong core of players due back next year, the future is bright for the Rams.

"We are looking forward to next season," Reichard said. "We will have a lot of returning players next season."

# Area Softball Teams Finish Seasons With Strong Efforts In State Tournament

## David Cook Sports Scene

### Lakewood-Lake Odessa Wins District In Thriller

It took the best in the state to put an end to Lakewood-Lake Odessa's state tournament run this season.

The Vikings saw its season come to an end when it fell to the eventual state champion Owosso 6-1 in extra innings in the regional championship game. Lake Odessa reached the regional finals after defeating Olivet 2-0 in the semifinals.

The Vikings won the district title at Middleville in thrilling fashion. Lake Odessa edged Portland 2-1 in the district opener. In the district semifinals the Vikings outlasted Ionia 1-0 in a tense pitching duel. Lake Odessa then claimed the championship in another classic battle by outlasting host Middleville 6-5 in 13 innings.

### Central Montcalm Reaches State Quarterfinals

The Central Montcalm softball team wrapped up a big season by advancing to the Division 3 state quarterfinals before falling to Buchanan.

The Hornets advanced to the quarterfinals by claiming a pair of thrilling wins at the Calvin Christian regional. Central Montcalm edged host Calvin Christian 5-4 in the semifinals before defeating North Muskegon 11-7 in the regional title game.

Central Montcalm relied on pitching and

defense to win the title at the district it hosted. The Hornets opened the district with a 16-0 win against Lakeview and then won the district title with a 1-0 win against Kent City in the finals.

### Portland St. Patrick Reaches Final Eight

The Portland St. Patrick softball team made it to the final eight in the state in Division 4 before falling to Holton in the quarterfinals.

St. Patrick advanced to the state quarterfinals by winning the Beal City regional. The Shamrocks defeated Beal City 6-3 in the semifinals and then won the regional title with a 14-3 win against Coleman.

St. Patrick relied on pitching to win the district title it hosted by defeating Fulton 5-1 and Fowler 4-1 in the district title game.

### Haslett Wins District Title

The Haslett softball team came up strong in the post season as it won the title at the Lansing Catholic district.

Haslett opened district play with a 16-1 win against St. Johns and then claimed the district title with a 14-4 win against Lansing Catholic. Haslett ended the season falling to eventual Division 2 state champion Owosso in the regional semifinals.

The Vikings were led this season by Jayna Henry, Caitlyn Traviglia and Kira McManus who were all named to the all-conference team and Trinity Ashbaugh who was named honorable-mention, all-conference.



The Lakewood-Lake Odessa softball team won the district title in thrilling fashion with a 6-5 win in 13 innings against Middleville.

### Midland Captures District Crown

Pitching and defense was the name of the game for the Midland softball team at the Bay City Western district.

The Chemics won all three of their district games by shutout. Midland opened the district with a 10-0 win against Saginaw Heritage and then defeated rival Midland Dow 10-0 in the semifinals. Midland then defeated Bay City Western 10-0 in the district title game.

### Beal City Wins District Title

The Beal City softball team turned in a pair of strong efforts enroute to winning a district title. The Aggies opened district play with a 9-0 win against Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart and then claimed the district title with a 20-2

win against Blanchard-Montabella.

### Laingsburg Softball Reaches Regional Final

Laingsburg wrapped up a big softball season by reaching the regional finals.

Featuring one of the most productive offenses in the area, Laingsburg put up some big numbers enroute to winning the district title. The Wolfpack scored in double digits in district wins against Bath, Byron and Ovid-Elsie and scored a total of 46 runs in the three wins.

Laingsburg won its regional semifinal game with a 6-4 win against New Lothrop before dropping a 19-18 decision in eight innings to Shepherd in the regional final.

# AREA ALL STATE SOFTBALL PLAYERS

## DIVISION 1 First Team

Eva Curtis, 1b, Holt  
Honorable Mention  
Taylor Huschke, of, Midland Dow  
Cassandra Sustrich, of, DeWitt  
Gabby Schloop, ss, Midland  
Elyse Brittain, of, Holt

## DIVISION 2 First Team

Hannah Slater, dp, Lakewood-Lake Odessa  
Madyson Rainey, dp, Owosso  
Honorable Mention  
Kira Patrick, of, Corunna  
Emily Cline, ss, Eaton Rapids  
Sarah Basket, p, Essexville-Garber  
Olivia Bell, utl, Swan Valley

## DIVISION 3 First Team

Shelby Kunkel, 1b, Eaton Rapids  
Magie Thiel, 3b, Frankenmuth  
Macy Irelan, p, Owosso  
Morgan Stahl, p, Lakewood-Lake Odessa

## DIVISION 4 First Team

Ashley Ziel, p, Millington  
Honorable Mention  
Hailey Bila, of, Laingsburg  
Hailey Rolfe, of, Chesaning  
Madelyne Thrush, ss, Farwell  
Brynne Birchmeier, 2b, New Lothrop  
Makayla Lienau, 3b, New Lothrop  
Lilly Sherman, 3b, Millington  
Izzy Doyle, p, Central Montcalm  
Lydia Davenport, p, Ithaca  
Cadence Augustine, p, Beaverton  
Madison Martinez, ut, Hemlock  
Claylee Veitengruber, dp, Clare

Honorable Mention  
Laura Goerner, of, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart  
Carly Scheurer, of, Portland St. Patrick  
Katelyn Pnacek, c, Coleman  
Morgan Westall, p, Breckenridge  
Honorable Mention  
Natalie Antcliff, of, Beal City  
Emily Thelen, ss, Merrill  
Summer Smith, ss, Breckenridge  
Kelsey McDonald, 2b, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart  
Laney Wiley, 3b, Merrill  
Paige Antcliff, c, Beal City  
Karly Smith, p, Beal City  
Madison Miller, ut, Coleman

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IN YOUR HOUR OF DARKNESS LET US BE YOUR LIGHT

# Area D1 And D2 Golfers Turn In Strong Efforts At Season-Ending Tournaments

## David Cook Sports Scene

Area golfers completed the season by competing for state titles. Following is a recap on how Division 1 and Division 2 area teams and golfers performed during the regionals and at the state tournament finals.

### DIVISION 1

#### Rockford Places Fifth At State

The Rockford golf team placed fifth at the Division 1 state finals with a score of 617. Ann Arbor Skyline won the Division 1 state title with a two-day total of 594. Rockford was led at the state meet by seniors C.J. Stephan and Oliver Haerberle who both ended the tournament with a two-day total of 149. Junior Ty Marchlewski added a 160 while senior Joshua Poot followed behind with a 161.

Rockford qualified for the state tournament by winning the Kalamazoo regional by a total of 14 strokes with a team total of 295. Stephan led the Rams with a 72 at the regional while Marchlewski finished a stroke behind with a 73. Haerberle and Poot both carded 75.

#### Saginaw Heritage Finishes Season At State Meet

The Saginaw Heritage golf team wrapped up a strong season by earning a trip to the Division 1 state finals.

Heritage recorded a two-day total of 672 at the finals. Junior Daniel

Gladki led the way for the Hawks as he carded rounds of 74 and 80 to finish with a 154 total. A total of four juniors and one freshman made the trip to the finals for a young Hawk team that has a bright future. Junior Andrew Gladki finished the tournament with a 170 while junior Stuart Spence shot a 173 and junior JR Afante shot a 175.

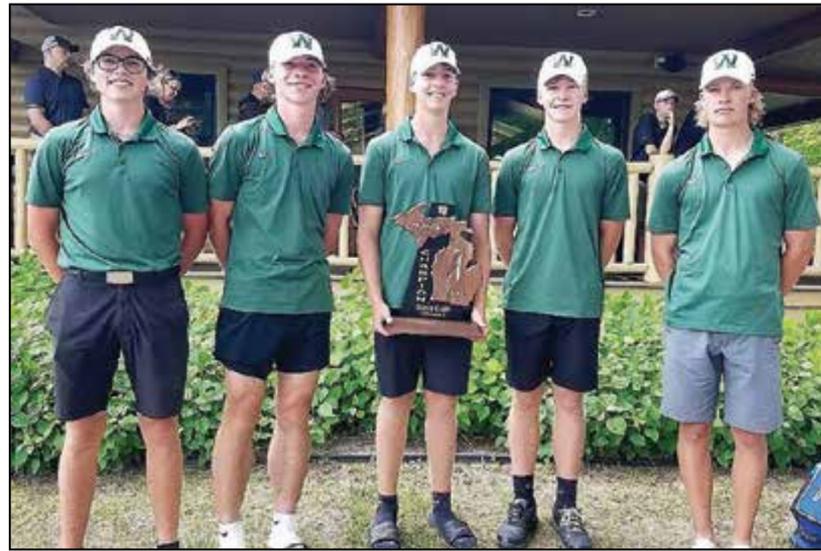
Heritage qualified for the state tournament by placing third at the Saginaw regional. The Hawks totaled 318 to edge Lapeer and East Lansing who both placed one-stroke behind. Traverse City West won the regional with a 313.

Daniel Gladki placed second as an individual with a 73 to lead the way for Heritage. Andrew Gladki placed sixth with a 76 while JR Afante placed 12th with a 79.

Heritage golfers recorded a number of highlights during the regular season including a championship at the Saginaw County Golf Invitational. Daniel Gladki led the Hawks at the county tournament as he won medalist honors with a one-over par 71. Andrew Gladki placed fourth at the tournament with an 80.

#### East Lansing's Andrew Miller Earns Trip To State

East Lansing freshman Andrew Miller turned in some strong performances to wrap up the season and served notice he is a golfer to watch for in the future. While East Lansing placed fourth as a



The Owosso softball team turned in a memorable state tournament by winning district and regional titles and then capping the season off with the Division 2 state championship.

team at the regional meet and missed out on a trip to the state finals, Miller earned a trip to state as an individual by carding a 76 as he placed sixth overall. Miller turned in a solid effort at the state meet by placing 22nd overall. After shooting an 80 on the first day, Miller came back with a 71 on day two to finish with a 151.

### DIVISION 2 Williamston Places In Top Three At State Meet

The Williamston golf team finished the season strong by placing third at the Division 2 state finals. The Hornets recorded rounds of 300 and 311 to finish with a 611 total, 31 strokes behind state champion Birmingham Brother Rice.

Senior Wyatt Vogel and junior Sam Havey led the way for the

Hornets as they tied for ninth place individually with two-day totals of 147. Havey shot a 71 on the first day while Vogel recorded a 72 on day two. Junior Caleb Bond finished just one stroke behind in 11th place as he totaled 148. Bond shot a round of 70 on the first day of the finals. Junior Brendan McPharlin finished with a 169.

Williamston earned a trip to the finals by winning the Mt. Pleasant regional. The Hornets totaled 228 to edge second-place Flint Powers Catholic by one stroke.

Bond led the way for Williamston as he earned medalist honors by shooting a 71. Havey placed 11th overall with an 82.

#### Haslett Turns In Strong Rounds At State Finals

The Haslett golf team turned in a consistent effort at the Division 2 state finals by recording rounds of 320 and 322 to place in 13th

place overall.

Haslett was led at the finals by senior Joshua Tuley who shot rounds of 74 and 80 for a 154. Senior Korben Leung totaled a 156 as he fired rounds of 79 and 77. Junior Justin Dixon totaled a 161 with rounds of 78 and 83.

Haslett qualified for the regional by placing third at the Mt. Pleasant regional with a 230. Tuley led the way for Haslett as he placed third individually with a 76 while Leung placed seventh with an 80. Dixon finished in the top 20 with an 85.

#### Logan Kuhn Of Freeland Takes Second At Regional

Freeland senior Logan Kuhn turned in a big effort at the Mt. Pleasant regional as he placed second individually with a round of 75. The score earned Kuhn a trip to the state finals as an individual.

# Area Teams Finish Season Strong At D3 And D4 Golf Tournaments

## David Cook Sports Scene

Lansing Christian led the way as several area golf teams ended their seasons by competing for state titles. Following is a recap on how teams in Division 3 and Division 4 performed during the regionals and at the state tournament finals.

### DIVISION 3

#### Swan Valley Takes 11th At State

The Swan Valley golf team finished the season strong by placing 11th at the Division 3 state finals with a score of 681. Grand Rapids Catholic Central won the Division 3 state title with a two-day total of 623.3

Sophomore Ashton DiBlasi turned in a big state tournament as he placed fifth as an individual with a two-day total of 148. DiBlasi shot rounds of 73 and 75 at the state meet. Senior Mitch Benson totaled 163 while sophomore Owen Galsterer totaled a 176.

Swan Valley qualified for the state meet by winning the St. Louis regional with a score of 341. DiBlasi led Swan Valley as he placed second with a 74 while Benson placed fourth with a 77.

#### Portland Golfers Finish Season At State Finals

The Portland golf team finished the season by placing 12th overall with a score of 695 at the Division 3 state finals.

Portland was led at the finals by sophomore Isaac Honsowitz who shot rounds of 79 and 76 for a 156 total. Senior Josh Rutkowski totaled 173 while senior CJ Miller totaled 182.

Portland qualified for the state meet by taking third place at the Laingsburg regional at Timber Ridge Golf Course. Miller led Portland at the regional as he placed seventh overall with an 84. Senior Luke Nobis and Honsowitz both added rounds of 88.

#### Lakewood-Lake Odessa Golfers Earn Trip To Finals

The Lakewood-Lake Odessa golf team capped the season by competing at the Division 3 state finals where it placed 13th with a 711 total.

Junior Trevor Simon led the way for the Vikings as he shot rounds of 82 and 84 for a 166.

Lakewood qualified for the state meet by winning the regional title at South Haven with a score of 331. Simon led all golfers as he earned medalist honors with a 75. Sophomore Drew Marquait added a 83 and junior Liam Cavanaugh an 86.

#### Shepherd Earns Trip To State Golf Finals

Shepherd ended the season in solid fashion as it qualified for the Division 3 state finals. The Bluejays placed 15th at the finals with a total of 722.

Senior Zach Bendele led the charge for Shepherd as he carded rounds of 85 and 73 to finish 21st with a 158 total. Owen Morey was second for Shepherd with a 185.

The Bluejays earned a trip to the state finals by placing second at the St. Louis regional with a score of 354. Zach Bendele placed third individually with a 76 while sophomore Joel Bendele and Morey both shot rounds of 90.

#### Hemlock qualifies for D3 state finals

The Hemlock golf team wrapped up a strong season by earning a trip to the D3 state finals. The Huskies totaled 767 at the finals.

Junior Carson Countegan led Hemlock with a total of 187 while senior Carter Miller totaled a 188.

Hemlock punched its ticket to the state finals with a third-place finish at the St. Louis regional. Senior Anthony Hagerty led the Huskies with an 84 while Countegan added an 87.

#### Zach Koerner Of Laingsburg Finishes Season Strong

Laingsburg senior Zach Koerner ended the season with strong efforts at both the state meet and the regional tournament.

Koerner finished in the top ten at the state meet as an individual with a two-day total of 151 to place in a tie for eighth place. Koerner carded rounds of 70 and 81 at the finals.

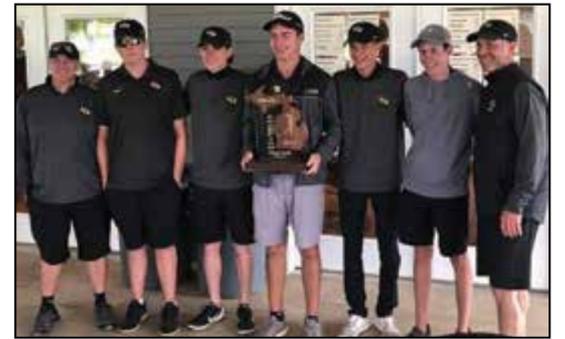
Koerner earned a trip to the state meet by placing second individually at the Laingsburg regional as he fired a 73.

#### Ethan Swenson Of Bath Qualifies For State

Ethan Swenson of Bath wrapped up his junior season with a strong effort as he placed 23rd as an individual at the D3 state finals. Swenson shot rounds of 76 and 83 at the state finals for a two-day total of 159. Swenson qualified for the state meet by shooting an 81 at the regional tournament where he placed fifth individually.

### DIVISION 4 Lansing Christian Takes Second In State

The Lansing Christian golf team



The Lansing Christian golf team qualified for the state finals for a fourth consecutive year and placed second in the state in Division 4.

capped off the season by taking second in the state in Division 4. The Pilgrims totaled 646 to finish six strokes behind Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic.

Junior Davis Garrett led Lansing Christian as he placed third overall with a 150 as he carded rounds of 73 and 75. William Combs placed eighth with a 156 as he shot rounds of 76 and 80. Junior Caden Kinna added a 167 and sophomore Baylor Brogan finished with a 173.

Lansing Christian qualified for the state meet by winning the Grass Lake regional by 29 strokes with a total of 322. Combs earned medalist honors with a 73 and Garrett placed second with a 77.

#### Saginaw Nouvel Finishes In Top Ten

The Saginaw Nouvel Catholic placed eighth at the Division 4 state finals with a team total of 730.

Junior Luke LeBourdais led the way for Nouvel Catholic as he placed fourth individually with a total of 153. LeBourdais carded rounds of 76 and

77. Freshman Giorgio Fabiano totaled a 176.

Nouvel qualified for the state meet by taking second at the Elkton-Pigeon-Bayport regional with a total of 342. Fabiano placed second individually with a 79 while LeBourdais placed fourth with an 82. Senior Graham Domine placed eighth with an 88.

#### Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Competes At State

The Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart golf team ended the season by taking 10th at the Division 4 state meet with a two-day total of 361.

Senior Michael Zanonni led Sacred Heart as he placed seventh overall. Zanonni shot rounds of 76 and 79 for a 155 total.

Sacred Heart qualified for state by winning the Fremont regional by one stroke over Pentwater with a 375 total. Zanonni won medalist honors with a 77 while Wilson placed sixth with an 86.

# AREA ALL-STATE GIRLS SOCCER

### DIVISION 1

#### First Team

Chloe Rajewski, Midland, midfielder

#### Second Team

Tobi Whitmore, Grand Blanc, defender

Emma Morrison, Grand Blanc, defender

#### Honorable Mention

Kennedy Caldwell, Midland Dow, forward

Rachel Landie, Rockford, defender

Jackie Brown, Midland, defender

Megan Baker, Rockford, midfielder

### DIVISION 2

#### First Team

Kennedi Pugh, DeWitt, keeper

Teresa Ashbrook, DeWitt, forward

Meagan Lukowski, Bay City Western, forward

Emma Campbell, Haslett, forward

#### Second Team

Riley Krause, DeWitt, defender

Abby Buttermore, Cedar Springs, forward

### Third Team

Katie Goss, Mason, keeper

Audrey Archambault, Haslett, midfielder

Kaelyn Colsiature, Cedar Springs, defender

#### Honorable Mention

Alaina Graham, Mason, midfielder

Lauren Pekrul, Mason, forward

Ally Maloney, Haslett, keeper

Elly Madill, DeWitt, midfielder

Carly Doran, Haslett, midfielder

Mara Lynch, DeWitt, midfielder

Elizabeth Fettig, Cedar Springs, keeper

Olivia Sherman, Cedar Springs, midfielder

Madison Borrelli, Lowell, defender

Lillian Kooistra, Lowell, forward

### DIVISION 3

#### First Team

Abby Pieper, Williamston, keeper

Maddie O'Farrell, Lansing Catholic, midfielder

Liz Bellingher, Williamston, forward

Ella Kleiver, Williamston, midfielder

### Second Team

Kaley Douglas, Williamston, forward

Ariana Costie, Big Rapids, midfielder

Teagan Betzold, Essexville Garber, forward

Sydney Herring, Freeland, midcafielder

#### Third Team

Julia Waltz, Big Rapids, forward

Rochelle Maxson, Williamston, defender

Blair Wright, Birch Run, midfielder

#### Honorable Mention

Lauren Walker, Essexville-Garber, midfielder

Megan Fischette, Lansing Catholic, defender

Ashley Bower, Portland, forward

Sophie Casey, Williamston, midfielder

Morgan Wilcox, Lansing Catholic, forward

Emma Gorsline, Williamston, midfield

Megan Hemgesberg, Freeland, forward

Hannah Bees, Millington, keeper

Caton Walker, Clare, midfielder

Emily Morrone, Big Rapids

### DIVISION 4

#### First Team

Grace Graham, Laingsburg, forward

Mid Kidd, Lansing Christian, midfielder

#### Third Team

Sterling Solek, Saginaw Nouvel, forward

#### Honorable Mention

Abby Kirkbride, Laingsburg, keeper

Ashley Myall, Dansville, midfielder

Lorna Streiff, Laingburg, forward

Mackenzie Sprague, Saginaw Nouvel, forward

Audra Usiak, Lansing Christian, defender

Sophia Sanfillippo, Laingsburg, forward

Emma Schmidt, Midland Calvary Baptist, keeper

Emily Ahearn, Ithaca, midfielder

Hannah Schmidt, Midland Calvary Baptist, midfield

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# Williamston Girls Soccer Team Is State Semifinalist

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Steve Horn had to admit how much he enjoyed the 2021 season with his Williamston girls soccer team advancing all the way to the Division 3 state semifinal.

The Hornets lost a tough 2-1 semifinal game to Detroit Country Day, which handily won the title match 3-0 over Boyne City.

Williamston advanced to the state semifinals by winning the regional with a 1-0 overtime topping of Flint Powers Catholic in

played high school soccer before.

"It was interesting coming into the year. You didn't really know what to think when you only have three girls who have played varsity soccer before and five total who played high school soccer. I think it was a nice surprise to do as well as we did given that lack of experience. I also knew we had a very talented team so it's not too surprising. We definitely exceeded with what I thought we would do."

Liz Bellinger is a junior forward, who had 16 goals and 18 assists and was first-team All-State.

Ella Kleiver had 18 goals and 15 assists and was also first-team all-state. Abby Pieper was the goalkeeper and first team all-state as a sophomore. Ellie Maxson is a



Williamston's girls soccer team was regional champions.

junior defender who was second team All-State.

Kaley Douglass was a junior forward with 11 goals and nine assists and was second team all-state.

"Next year is very promising. We didn't start any seniors. We return a lot of quality."

# Midland Calvary Baptist Academy Girls Soccer Team Posts Championship Season

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Paul Reece has been coach for six seasons of a Midland Calvary Baptist Academy girls soccer team which had a spectacular spring.

"We finished 12-1," Reece noted. "We had a very successful season for our first appearance in the MHSAA tournament. As one of the smaller schools in Division 4 and with a very young team, we were able to end our season at the regional finals."

"Our team definitely met, if not exceeded, my expectations as we were able win the school's first MHSSA District Championship. We then were able to come out on top in the regional semi-final game. To be one of the top eight teams in Division 4 out of almost 100 teams was an honor."

There were plenty of memories.

"One highlight for me was a game against Laker High that took place earlier in the season," Reece said. "It was this 2-1 win against an older, faster, and more experienced team that really showed me as the coach just what kind of players I

really had. I don't think I have ever coached a team with as much heart and pure grit as this group."

"Another highlight of the season would've been our win in the regional semi-finals, which was a very similar game to Laker, which also resulted in a 2-1 win for us. As a coach, I live for the close game, the battle that has everyone on the edge of their seat, the inner fight that requires players to push through the pain, the resolve that pours out of a team who works and finishes together. These moments build maturity and unity."

"A final highlight for me was to witness the individual growth of each player throughout the season. Every player made strides both in skill and character."

Reece added: "The regional finals was a challenging game. Obviously we would've liked to move on in the tournament, but the loss wasn't so much a disappointment as it was a new challenge for our team. We got to observe the quality of play right in front of us that we hope will one day be a reality in our future."

"As a 6-year old program, we

are excited for how far we've come, but also excited to push to where we hope to be in another six years. North Muskegon is a team we can look to in style of play, player development, and depth of skill as we seek to grow our program."

Caroline Holdeman was a senior defense/center back who had six goals and three assists.

"Caroline Holdeman is our lone senior and the anchor of our young team," Reece said. "She is a quiet leader, phenomenal defensive player, and our MVP of the season. She is our 'go-to' for free kicks/set pieces. Several of her goals have come off of beautifully placed free kicks just outside the opposing keeper's reach. Her control in the back and ability read the opposing attack eliminated numerous offensive scoring opportunities throughout the season. She is the complete player and No/ 1 in the district."

Emma Schmidt was the sophomore goalkeeper and actually scored a goal. She only allowed three all season.

"Emma Schmidt is an exceptional keeper who has come up with

some phenomenal saves in our biggest games," Reece said. "She holds the No. 1 keeper slot in the district. She has great lateral movement and has completely changed the outcome of our closets games this season."

"Against higher division teams, she has made several diving tip saves that put us at a 2-1 win instead of a 4-2 loss. She is definitely one of the top division 4 keepers in the state. Without her we would have a few more numbers in the loss column this season."

Junior Hannah Schmidt was a right midfielder with nine goals and three assists.

"Hannah Schmidt is one of the best outside midfield players I've had the privilege of coaching," Reece said. "She has great speed and creative play moving the ball into the attacking third of the field. Hannah regularly creates goal scoring opportunities for our team, as very few defenders can handle her



Caroline Holdeman was a senior defense/center back who had six goals and three assists for Midland Calvary Baptist.

speed and fight on the outside.

"She is also our second leading scorer, finding the back of the net almost every time on the field. Hannah is one of the most resilient players I've ever worked with and it shows up in every practice and every game."

Ila Tomko is an actual eighth-grader who scored 15 goals and had three assists.

"Ila Tomko is a very mature player for her age," Reece said. "Being our leading scorer as an 8th grader is quite an accomplishment."

# DeWitt Girls Lacrosse Team Caps Big Season With Regional Championship

**David Cook Sports Scene**

With just two returning varsity players, the DeWitt girls lacrosse team entered the season with a number of question marks. Thanks to a total-team effort, the Panthers turned those question marks into a memorable season.

Despite 20 of the 34 players never having played a game of high school lacrosse, DeWitt achieved a number of milestones. The Panthers won a first-ever league championship this season and then added a regional championship in the state tournament as they reached the Division 2 state semifinals.

"Heading into the season we had a lot of unknowns," said DeWitt coach Marvin Hardy. "Our main focus for the season was the team. Having so many new players, we knew we would have to really support and encourage each other to have a successful season. The girls did an amazing job of doing

that. The veteran players went out of their way to make the new players feel welcome and help them get better. That was a key to our success this season."

DeWitt played some of its best lacrosse of the season during the state tournament. The Panthers opened regional play at the Okemos regional by defeating Grand Ledge 16-5. DeWitt turned back East Lansing 20-14 in the regional semifinals and then won the regional title with an 18-6 win against Okemos.

"Winning the regional title was the result of all of the hard work from the athletes and assistant coaches," Hardy said. "The girls pushed each other every day in practice and in games. They truly enjoyed being around each other. There was always a lot of energy at practice. This came from the athletes as well as the assistant coaches. Reo Rodriguez, Joe Johnson and Brad Hillard were always upbeat and encouraging."

Whether it was new players or veteran players, they were always encouraging them to do their best and not worry about making mistakes. Just play hard and celebrate the little successes. The entire team from freshman to senior, junior varsity to varsity carried the same philosophy.

Offensively, the Panthers had several players step up and produce consistent offense. Kerrigan Brown scored 93 goals and added 37 assists. Caleigh Randall totaled 85 goals and 27 assists. Sawyer Gustafson tallied 34 goals and 16 assists while Kiley Ward scored 19 goals and added 10 assists and Isabelle Gilmore totaled 20 goals and eight assists.

Defense was also a key to DeWitt's success this year. One of the top defensive efforts came in the regional semifinal win.

"The way our defense played was one of the highlights of the season," Hardy said. "From day one of practice Karah Preston was the leader



The DeWitt girls lacrosse team won both a conference and a regional championship this season.

of the defense. She was the only defensive player that had played varsity lacrosse before. Four of the other defenders had never played high school lacrosse before. Karah worked diligently with them to make them one of the best defensive units in the state. Karah taught them all of the fundamentals and team philosophies. Without her leadership our team wouldn't have been able to win the league or regional championship."

Preston led the team with 40 groundballs and 22 takeaways. Morgan Bethard added 26 groundballs and 12 takeaways and Carmen Connelly added 19

groundballs and 14 takeaways. The defense also received strong efforts from Addie McNamara, Olivia Behovitz and Alli Schubert.

Several DeWitt players capped the season earning post-season honors. Kerrigan Brown was named first-team, all-state and all-conference. Karah Preston also earned first-team, all-state and all-conference. Morgan Bethard earned second-team, all-state and Isabelle Gilmore earned honorable-mention, all-state and all-conference honors. Galeigh Randall and Sawyer Gustafson both earned honorable-mention, all-state honors and all-conference honors.

# Area Lacrosse Team Cap Season With Strong State Tournament Performances

**Butch Harmon Sports Scene**

**Rockford Girls Extend Title Streak**

About the only thing that can stop the Rockford girls lacrosse dynasty is Covid-19. This spring, even the pandemic failed to keep the Rams from extending their streak of state championships.

While the 2020 lacrosse season was cancelled due to Covid-19, the 2021 season was completed and the Rockford girls wrapped up the season by defeating Brighton 19-16 to win its eighth straight Division 1 lacrosse title and ninth title in program history.

Rockford took control of the match during the first half and went into halftime with an 11-7 lead and held off a determined Brighton squad in the second half.

Chloe Dunham led Rockford with six goals while Isabelle Osborn added five goals and Chloe Holmes and Katherine Rodriguez scored three goals apiece. Mackenzie Delacher added four assists.

"This is just a special group of young ladies," said Rockford coach Mike Emery. "They've been through so much with the off-field stuff, Covid and the protocols. We lost our season last year, no spring sports. To be able to finish our season this year is just incredible. We've had a lot of great teams and this one stacks right up there with them."

Chloe Dunham, Katherine Rodriguez and Karsyn Broderick were named first-team, all-state this season while Chloe Holmes was second-team, all-state and Mackenzie Delacher was honorable-mention, all-state.

Rockford reached the final game by defeating Midland 19-10 in the semifinals.

**Midland Girls Fall In Semifinals**

The Midland girls lacrosse team ended an outstanding season by falling to eventual Division 1 state champion Rockford in the state semifinals.

The loss was the lone defeat of the year for Midland which finished the season with a 19-1 overall record.

Midland opened the state tournament with



The Rockford girls lacrosse team celebrates its eighth straight state championship and ninth state title in school history.

a thrilling 17-15 win against Hartland. The Chemics then defeated Clarkston 24-6 in the first round of the regional and Fenton 19-9 in the regional semifinals. Midland won the regional title with a 16-8 win against White Lake Lakeland.

Emma Murphy earned first-team, all-state honors for Midland while Grace Wilson and Gabrielle Wilson both earned honorable-mention, all-state honors.

**Okemos Boys Lacrosse Reach State Quarterfinals**

The Okemos boys lacrosse team wrapped the season by reaching the quarterfinal round in

Division 2.

Okemos reached the quarterfinals by defeating Tecumseh 17-3 to win the title at the Okemos regional. Okemos also defeated Dearborn Divine Child (18-3) and Ypsilanti Lincoln (19-0) in regional action.

**Midland Dow Boys Win Regional**  
The Midland Dow boys lacrosse team concluded a solid campaign by winning a regional championship.

Dow defeated Clarkston 17-9 to win the regional title at Oxford. Dow also claimed wins against Grand Blanc (22-7) and Linden (22-1) at the regional.

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# Area Tennis Teams Turn In Strong Showings At State Tournaments

## David Cook Sports Scene

Area girls tennis teams capped off the season with solid efforts at the four state tournaments. Following is a breakdown of the performances of area teams at the state tournaments.

### DIVISION 1 Dow Finishes In Top Five In D1

The Midland Dow tennis team finished the season strong as it placed fourth at the Division 1 state finals with a total of 16 points. Ann Arbor Pioneer and Bloomfield Hills tied for the state title with 30 points.

Dow was led by its singles lineup as all four singles players reached the semifinal round. Reaching the semifinals for the Chargers were Zoe Angell (No. 1 singles), Savannah Matuszewski (No. 2 singles), Laura Leiti (No. 3 singles) and Claire Earley (No. 4 singles). The No. 2 doubles team of Salma Elsaadany and Olivia Cross reached the quarterfinals.

Dow qualified for the state tournament by winning the regional title. The Chargers were led by the singles lineup of Angell, Matuszewski, Leiti and Earley who all won regional titles. The No. 1 doubles team of Emily Telgenhoff and Mallory Matthews also won a regional title.

### DIVISION 2 Okemos Places In Top Ten At State

The Okemos tennis team turned in a top-

ten performance at the Division 2 state finals. Okemos placed ninth overall with nine points at the meet that was won by Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern.

Okemos was led by its doubles teams. The No. 3 doubles team of Jyothika Kallatturu and Angie Zhu and the No. 4 doubles team of Gabrielle Ronan and Kavya Tumbalem both reached the quarterfinal round. In singles play, Leila Booncharoen-Jelassi reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles.

Okemos reached the semifinals by winning the Mason regional with 24 points.

The Chieftains had a trio of flights win regional titles including Leila Booncharoen-Jelassi at No. 3 singles and the No. 3 and No. 4 doubles team. Emily Wang reached the finals at No. 2 singles while the No. 2 doubles team of Aadya Dhar and Niya Patel reached the semifinals.

### East Lansing Competes At State Finals

The East Lansing tennis team capped off the season by competing at the Division 2 state tournament. The Trojans placed 12th at the finals with 12 points.

East Lansing was led at the finals by a pair of doubles teams that reached the quarterfinals. The No. 2 doubles team of Emma Mae Baker and Leah Wronikowski



The Okemos girls tennis team won the regional championship and placed ninth at the Division 2 state finals.

and the No. 3 doubles team of Annelise Lebeda and Ella Miller both reached the quarterfinal round.

East Lansing earned a trip to the state finals after placing second at the regional tournament at Mason. The No. 2 doubles team of Baker and Wronikowski led the way at the regional by winning a regional championship. The No. 1 doubles team of Mary Kate Swords and Jillian Rowan and the No. 3 doubles team of Lebeda and Miller both reached the finals. The No. 4 doubles team of Erika Stokstad and McKenzie McGill reached the regional semifinals. In singles action, Soussana Kimbouris (No. 2) and Shems Hamdan (No. 4) both reached the semifinals.

### Mason Tennis Team Finishes Season Strong

The Mason tennis team finished the season with solid efforts at both the state

finals and the regional tournament.

Mason placed 12<sup>th</sup> overall at the Division 2 state finals. The No. 1 doubles team of Olivia Hines and Ellen LeFleur and the No. 4 doubles team of Emily Hauser and Haley Beck both reached the quarterfinal round.

At the regional that is hosted, Mason finished in second place with 17 points. Mason claimed a pair of regional champions. Avery Walta won the regional title at No. 1 singles while Hines and LeFleur won the No. 1 doubles title. The No. 4 doubles team of Hauser and Beck reached the finals.

Reaching the semifinal round for Mason were the No. 2 doubles team of Mary Barnhart and Ashley Anderson and the No. 3 doubles team of Chasey Ramey and Lauren Bliesner along with Sydney Cross at No. 2 singles.

# Local Tennis Squads Turn In Strong Efforts At D3 And D4 State Tourneys

## David Cook Sports Scene

Area girls tennis teams turned in some solid performances to end the season at both the Division 3 and Division 4 state tournaments. Following is a breakdown of the performances of area teams at the D3 and D4 state tournaments.

### DIVISION 3 St. Johns Places In Top Ten At State

The St. Johns tennis team finished a strong season by placing in the top ten at the Division 3 state finals. The Redwings totaled eight points at the finals where Detroit Country Day took the championship with 30 points.

St. Johns had a pair of flights reach the quarterfinal round. Isabella Perry reached the quarterfinals at No. 4 singles while Ella Heystek and Caroline Pope reached the quarterfinal round at No. 4 doubles.

St. Johns earned a trip to the state finals after placing second at the Haslett regional. The Redwings were led at the regional by their singles players who all reached the finals including senior Teagan Sanders at No. 1 singles, junior Lexi Maloney (No. 2 singles), junior Bailee Thelen (No. 3 singles) and freshman Isabel Thelen (No. 4 singles). In doubles play, the No. 2 team of junior Liv Kudwa and senior Maddie Palmatier and the No. 4 team of senior Ella Heystek and junior Caroline Pope both reached the final round. The No. 1 doubles team seniors Morgan Eiseler and Lindsey Myers and the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Ruby Dush and Paige Weber both reached the semifinals.

### Williamston Competes At State Finals

Williamston ended a strong tennis season by qualifying for the Division 3 state finals. Williamston earned a trip to the state finals by placing third at the Haslett regional.

The Hornets were led at the regional by a pair of doubles teams that advanced to the regional finals. The No. 1 doubles team of junior Kennedy Carson and sophomore Morgan Harkema and the No. 3 doubles team of seniors Olivia Newberry and Molly Bowling both reached the final round. The No. 2 doubles team of senior Katherine West and junior Lauren Kersten and the No. 4 doubles team of sophomores Annelise Jeitschko and Maggie Sinke both reached the semifinal round.

All four of Williamston's singles players reached the semifinal round including senior Ashley Moulton (No. 1), sophomore AnnaSophia Stone (No. 2), freshman Jazmyn Pon (No. 3) and junior Carly Clos (No. 4).

### DIVISION 4 Portland Posts Top-Five Finish At State

Portland capped off the girls tennis season in strong fashion by finishing in a tie for third place at the Division 4 state finals. The Raiders totaled 18 points to placed third behind state champion Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart who totaled 29 points.

Portland was led at the finals by Adriana Krieger who was a finalist at No. 3 singles and the No. 1 doubles team of Maura Lufkin and Corey Smith who reached the semifinals. The balance of Portland's singles players reached the

quarterfinal round including Kayla Weller (No. 1 singles), Alyssa Jack (No. 2) and Autumn Shimer (No. 4). Also reaching the quarterfinals were the No. 2 doubles team of Kara Kraczon and Bella Virk and the No. 4 doubles team of Allyson Logel and Alexa Weber.

Portland qualified for state by winning the regional it hosted. Portland swept all four doubles flights led by the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Maura Lufkin and Corey Smith along with the No. 2 doubles team of junior Kara Kraczon and freshman Bella Virk, the No. 3 doubles team of junior Elazabeth Seavey and senior Xanthe Cross and the No. 4 doubles team of freshmen Allyson Logel and Alexa Weber.

### Frankenmuth Wins Regional

The Frankenmuth tennis team closed the season strong by winning a regional title and finishing just outside the top ten in 11<sup>th</sup> place at the Division 4 state tournament.

At the state finals, a pair of Frankenmuth singles player reached the quarterfinal round including Grace Gaspar at No. 1 singles and Brooke Carnahan at No. 3 singles. Frankenmuth punched its ticket to the state meet in a big way by sweeping all eight flights at the Essexville-Garber regional. Winning regional titles in singles play for the Eagles were senior Grace Gaspar at No. 1, senior Ella Smith at No. 2, junior Brooke Carnahan at No. 3 and junior Haley Watchorn at No. 4 singles.

Capturing regionals doubles titles were the No. 1 doubles team of Hailey Campbell and Hunter Warack, the No. 2 doubles team of Sarah Hauck and Katie Hetzner, the No. 3 team of Macie Jacob and



The St. Johns tennis team placed second at the regional meet and followed that with a top-ten finish at the Division 3 state tennis finals.

Ashlee Walz and the No. 4 team of Michelle Mossner and Alyse Notter.

### Chesaning Tennis Team Finishes Season At State

Chesaning finished a solid tennis season by competing at the Division 4 state meet. Chesaning qualified for the state meet by placing third at the Portland regional.

### Saginaw Nouvel Qualifies For State Meet

The Saginaw Nouvel tennis team wrapped up the season with a trip to the Division 4 state finals. Nouvel earned the trip to the state meet by placing third at the Essexville-Garber regional. A trio of Nouvel doubles teams reached the regional finals including the No. 1 team of seniors Kate Lewis and Karissa Ferry, the No. 2 doubles team of seniors Hilee Vance and Mary Ireland and the No. 3 team of junior Alexia Mugate and senior Alexis Brown.

### Hemlock Earns Trip To State Finals

Hemlock capped the tennis season with a trip to the Division 4 state finals after taking second place at the Essexville-Garber regional.

Hemlock was paced at the regional by freshman Sophia Hauffe who reached the finals at No. 1 singles. The No. 3 doubles team of seniors

Sophia Burns and Jackie James also reached the finals. Freshman Reilie Netzley reached the semifinals at No. 2 singles as did the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Hope McGregor and Cassidy Peake and the No. 4 doubles team of senior Isabella Atkins and sophomore Sarah Stein.

The Saginaw Nouvel tennis team wrapped up the season with a trip to the Division 4 state finals. Nouvel earned the trip to the state meet by placing third at the Essexville-Garber regional.

A trio of Nouvel doubles teams reached the regional finals including the No. 1 doubles team of Sophia Groya and Autumn Skowronski, the No. 2 doubles team of Emma Adelman and Ava Yatch and the No. 4 doubles team of Lexi Kuligowski and Briana Mauch. The No. 3 doubles team of Ashley McDonald and Ella Spence reached the semifinal round. All four of Nouvel's singles players reached the semifinal round including senior Jelina Murad (No. 1 singles), senior Jenna Kiss (No. 2 singles), freshman Viviana Fabiano (No. 3 singles) and senior Sara Schwind (No. 4 singles).

## DIVISION 1 & 2 TENNIS STATS

- No. 1 singles**  
Zoe Angell, Midland Dow 25-2  
Avery Walta, Mason 21-6  
Iris Hwang, Mt. Pleasant 17-6
- No. 2 singles**  
Savannah Matuszewski, Midland Dow 24-2  
Leah Fetzer, Mt. Pleasant 15-8  
Emily Wang, Okemos 14-7  
Soussana Kimbouris, East Lansing 12-4
- No. 3 singles**  
Laura Leiti, Midland Dow 26-1  
Madison Reinking, Mt. Pleasant 15-7  
Leila Booncharoen-Jelassi, Okemos 13-9

- No. 4 singles**  
Madi Yonkman, DeWitt 22-4  
Claire Earley, Midland Dow 21-4  
Shems Hamdan, East Lansing 10-5
- No. 1 doubles**  
Olivia Hines/Ellen LaFleur, Mason 22-5  
Emily Telgenhoff/Mallory Matthews, Midland Dow 21-5  
Elena Sermak/Ella Vostrizansky, DeWitt 17-11
- No. 2 doubles**  
Alaina Wheeler/Ivy Little, Mt. Pleasant 19-4  
Niya Patel/Andya Dhar, Okemos 15-8  
Emma Mae Baker/Leah Wronikowski, East Lansing 15-4  
Isabelle Fink/Sarah Bowes, DeWitt 15-10

- No. 3 doubles**  
Kallatturu/Angie Zhu, Okemos 17-6  
Lauren Bliesener/Chasey Ramey, Mason 16-11  
Annelise Lebeda/Ella Miller, East Lansing 15-3  
Dana Winslow/Andrea Vargas, Midland Dow 12-1
- No. 4 doubles**  
Gabrielle Ronan/Kavya Tumbalam, Okemos 17-4  
Emily Hauser/Haley Beck, Mason 16-11  
Jaydin Rühle/Isabel Goodrich, Mt. Pleasant 15-7  
Isabella Brown/Addison Bethard, DeWitt 15-11



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## DIVISION 3 & 4 TENNIS STATS

- No. 1 singles**  
Kayla Weller, Portland 28-3  
Meghan Florian, Chesaning 22-4  
Grace Gaspar, Frankenmuth 19-5  
Teagan Sanders, St. Johns 18-7  
Sophia Hauffe, Hemlock 16-7  
Ashley Moulton, Williamston 15-9
- No. 2 singles**  
Ella Smith, Frankenmuth 22-1  
Lexi Maloney, St. Johns 22-2  
Alyssa Jack, Portland 22-7  
Lily Skaryd, Chesaning 20-7
- No. 3 singles**  
Adriana Krieger, Portland 25-6  
Bailee Thelen, St. Johns 22-4  
Brooke Carnahan, Frankenmuth 18-3

- Jazmyn Pon, Williamston 17-8  
Ellie Feldpausch, Owosso 14-3
- No. 4 singles**  
Haley Watchorn, Frankenmuth 22-2  
Isabel Thelen, St. Johns 22-4  
Sydney Dausman, Haslett 12-5
- No. 1 doubles**  
Maura Lufkin/Corey Smith, Portland 28-2  
Hailey Campbell/Hunter Warack, Frankenmuth 21-3  
Alexis Chartrand/Cate Woods Essexville-Garber 18-7  
Karissa Ferry/Kate Lewis, Chesaning 18-9  
Sophie Groya/Autumn Skowronski, Saginaw Nouvel 16-4  
Kennedy Carson/Morgan Harkema, Williamston 16-10  
Lindsey Myers/Morgan Eiseler, St. Johns 15-9
- No. 2 doubles**  
Kara Kraczon/Bella Virk, Portland 24-6

- Sarah Hauck/Katie Hetzner, Frankenmuth 22-3  
Maddie Palmatier/Liv Kudwa, St. Johns 20-5  
Jocelyn Talaga/Kassidy Ulman, Essexville/Garber 17-6  
Mary Ireland/Hilee Vance, Chesaning 17-10
- No. 3 doubles**  
Elizabeth Seavey/Xanthe Cross, Portland 23-7  
Macie Jacob/Ashlee Walz, Frankenmuth 22-4  
Raegan Taylor/Julia Burk, Durand 17-5  
Ruby Dush/Paige Weber, St. Johns 16-7  
Ella Spence/Ashley McDonald, Saginaw Nouvel 15-6
- No. 4 doubles**  
Ella Heystekan/Caroline Pope, St. Johns 21-4  
Michelle Mossner/Alyse Notter, Frankenmuth 19-5  
Alexia Mugate/Alexis Brown, Chesaning 14-9  
Lexi Kuligowski/Briana Mauch, Saginaw Nouvel 13-6

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# Dow Tennis Team Caps Off Strong Season

**John Raffel  
Sports Scene**

It was another amazing season for coach Garrett Turner and his Midland Dow girls tennis team. Dow was 8-1-4 in Turner's 17th season as coach and placed fourth in the state. "We had a great season," he said. "We placed fourth in the state which is right where we were ranked. We won the conference for the 23rd year in a row and won our sixth straight regional. We have placed fourth or better the last six seasons, while playing up a division." The key, Turner said, "was having all four of our singles players

seeded top four and making it to the semifinals of the state tournament. Another key was tying third place (Birmingham) Seaholm in two duals during the season, and only losing to state champion Bloomfield Hills 5-3. "Many of our doubles played up two spots from the last season, and two of the flights were first-time varsity players. There was a lot of learning that occurred throughout the season. It was a very rewarding season to be able to work with the girls on doubles strategies throughout the season." For Dow, Zoe Angell and Savannah Matuszewski were All-State in singles and Emily Telgenhoff and Mallory Nathews were All-

State in doubles. Zoe Angell was the Division 1 nominee for Miss Tennis, but lost out to Country Day's player. "We have never before had a player nominated for that recognition," Turner said. "Our singles made it to the semifinals on Saturday and played well, but all lost that match. We tied Troy and Grosse Pointe South who are always strong competition in the state." Looking ahead, "we are losing Zoe and Emily, as well as Salma Elsaadany and our three doubles and one of our four doubles girls. We have a couple newcomers and some reserves who will be able to step up next year.



It was another championship season for Midland Dow girls tennis. "We will have a strong core of girls with a lot of experience to help out the newcomers. It was a terrific season, and a team who was a ton of fun to coach and be around. They handled the adversity that COVID brought with true greatness."

# Portland Girls Tennis Team Posts High State Finish

**John Raffel  
Sports Scene**

Crystal Lowe is the coach for a Portland girls tennis team which had quite a season. Portland was 12-1-1 overall and won the CAAC White league titles back-to-back. "The team had a phenomenal season, despite not being able to have a season in 2020," Lowe said. "The returners came into the season determined to make up for what they missed out on last year. I am extremely proud of the examples they made of themselves and how they encouraged their new teammates. They ended the season as back-to-back CAAC White League Champions, back-to-back regional champions, and tied for third place at the state tournament with North Muskegon.

"I was hoping for a top 10 finish this season and this team broke the record for highest state tournament finish ever, boys or girls tennis, with a third-place finish tied with North Muskegon. Highlights were sweeping the league tournament with eight-flight champions and setting a new school record for highest finish at the state tournament (boys or girls tennis). There were no disappointing moments as this team did everything they possibly could to create success. We did have a challenging moment when we were faced with three players having injuries leading up to the state tournament. But those three players pressed on and should be proud of their contributions." Lowe said it was difficult to narrow down top athletes.

"They all contributed in remarkable ways," she said. "No. 1 singles, Kayla Weller, finished her 4-year PHS tennis career with a season record of 28-3. No. 1 doubles, Maura Lufkin and Corey Smith, both seniors, ended their four and three-year respectively careers also with a season record of 28-3, dropping their final Portland tennis match in the state semifinals. That is phenomenal as leaders at one singles and one doubles. "Other flights that should be mentioned, especially due to their state tournament runs, are three singles, Adriana Krieger. She finished the season as a state finalist. In addition, two doubles, Kara Kraczon and Bella Virk, who were the No. 5 seed at the state tournament, went three sets in their quarterfinal match, all while Kraczon was playing with a broken finger, which she thought was only bruised)." There some key graduates and key returners. Key graduates are No. 1 singles,



It was another championship season for Midland Dow girls tennis. Kayla Weller and No. 1 doubles, Maura Lufkin and Corey Smith. Key returners are Alyssa Jack, Adriana Krieger, Kara Kraczon, Bella Virk, Elizabeth Seavey, Allyson Logel and Alexa Weber. "Even with losing our top singles and doubles players, we are optimistic to have another successful season next year," Lowe said. "The returning players are all dedicated to continue the success that Portland tennis is known for and will work hard in the off-season to get the team where it needs to be. "The team really maintained their focus all season. The returners who missed out on having a season in 2020 put forth a lot of effort in pushing the team to meet expectations. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves. They really proved why they are one of the top tennis teams in the state."

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