



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE
KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

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

www.highschoolsportsscene.com

- **Publisher**
Randy Miniard
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com
517-202-1808
- **High School Liaison**
Paul Hornak
plhornak@gmail.com
989-331-1168
- **Editorial**
John Raffel
john.raffel@gmail.com
616-894-2936
- Butch Harmon
616-655-9058
- Dave Cook
- **Photographers**
Russ Pierce, Skip Traynor,
Dana McCann, Kim Larner,
Eric Sawatzki, Marvin Hall,
Jaymee Beard, Lynn Munger,
John Raffel, Jason Barden,
James Traylor,
Gary Williams

Vol. 13, Issue 131 - September, 2021

CONTENTS

- 3** | Davison Wrestling Coach Roy Hall Leaves District
- 4** | Golf Round Up
- 6** | HSSS Seaso Golf Scores
- 7** | Ithaca Girls Golf Team Making Steady Progress in 2021
- 8** | Seniors Fuel Chippewa Hills' Volleyball Hopes
- 9** | Alma Volleyball Team Has Sights On Championship Season
- 10** | HSSS Top Volleyball Teams, Players
- 11** | Dow Volleyball Coach Has High Expectations
- 12** | Football Round Up
- 14** | HSSS Football Stats
- 15** | DeWitt Soccer Team Building Off Last Year's State Finals Appearance
- 16** | Okemos Soccer Team Building On Last Season's Success
- 17** | Strong Team Effort, Coaching Has Laingsburg Soccer Off To A Winning Start
- 18** | Frankenmuth Sophomore Expects To Have Another Huge Season
- 19** | Breckenridge Runners Eye Another Banner Season
- 21** | Cross Country Round Up
- 22** | Bloom Having Championship Start For Ithaca
- 23** | Rockford Field Hockey Team Expects Banner Season

COACHES:
To publish your results on our free website
Highschoolsportsscene.com
send your results after every event to jraffel@gmail.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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

What a great fall we are having!!! With nice, sunny and warm temperatures, area athletes are turning in some sizzling performances on the football fields, golf and cross-country courses.

Friday nights have been special this fall. What about the thrilling performance the Portland football team turned in against a powerhouse DeWitt squad! That was Friday Night Lights at its best. Portland has been one of the teams to watch this season as the Raiders have turned in a 5-0 record.

How about that DeWitt squad? With one of the best quarterbacks in the state in Tyler Holtz and Wisconsin-bound wide Tommy McIntosh, the Panthers are lighting up scoreboards across mid-Michigan.

Outstanding seasons are also being turned in by Mt. Pleasant, Carson City-Crystal, Pewamo-Westphalia, Lansing Catholic, Frankenmuth, Rockford, Gladwin and Millington who have all started the season with 5-0 records.

Area volleyball teams are heating things up indoors. Rockford is ranked in the top ten in the state in Division 1 while Lakewood-Lake Odessa, Essexville-Garber and Lansing Catholic are ranked in the top ten in Division 2. Saginaw Valley Lutheran is ranked in the top ten in Division 3 with Lansing Christian and Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart ranked in the top ten in Division 4.

Our area is blessed with some outstanding runners and area cross country teams are off to sizzling starts. Teams from Ithaca, Pewamo-Westphalia, Carson City-Crystal, Shepherd, St. Louis, Breckenridge, Okemos, Freeland, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, Fowler, St. Johns, Mason and Lansing Catholic are having outstanding seasons.

With some more nice weather ahead and some big games and matches coming up in all the different fall sports, don't miss out on a chance to get out and take in some great high school sports action.

See you at the games!



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

Era Comes To An End At Davison As Legendary Wrestling Coach Roy Hall Leaves The District

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

When it comes to coaching wrestling, there are few high school coaches in the state of Michigan who have done it as well as Davison's Roy Hall.

Hall turned in a memorable career coaching the Davison wrestling team but the era came to an end this summer when Hall resigned as a teacher and left the district to take a position coaching physical education in the Kearsley school district as he transitions into retirement.

During his time as Davison's head varsity wrestling coach, which he took over in 1997 until 2020, Hall led the Cardinals to six state team championships and six state runner-up finishes.

"I've led a fairytale life," Hall said. "I've had unbelievable support from the administration, co-work-

ers and the community. I will always be Davison and I will always carry this place with pride. They say you get to write one masterpiece and I did."

Hall had a major impact on wrestling in Davison and touched the lives of hundreds of wrestlers who came through the Davison program for over 20 years.

"Coach Hall has had a tremendous positive impact on the district and our students as both a teacher and a wrestling coach over the past 23 years," said Davison Superintendent Kevin Brown. "Roy put Davison on the map and built a wrestling dynasty that earned him well deserved recognition as one of the top high school wrestling coaches not only in the state but in the nation. I completely understand Roy's desire to move on and

support his decision but he will be sorely missed."

Not only was Hall a successful coach and teacher at Davison, he was also a successful student athlete during his high school years at Davison and then in college at Michigan State University.

While a student at Davison from 1985 to 1988, Hall was a two-time state champion and four-time state placer. Hall was also a 1988 Dream Team All-American. He also placed second and fourth at the junior nationals and seventh at the junior world championships. At Michigan State Hall was a four-time Big Ten placer and four-time NCAA placer. Hall was also a team captain for two years at Michigan State. In 1990 Hall also earned a bronze medal at the United State Olympic Festival.

Hall transformed the Davison wrestling program after taking over as head coach in the fall of 1997. Prior to taking over as head coach, Davison hadn't had a winning season in eight years or an individual state champion since he graduated in 1988.

Along with his assistant Kent Elliott, Hall established a freestyle and Greco-Roman state regional training facility and steered youth wrestlers to the Junior and Cadet National programs.

In 2000 Davison won its first state championship with a school record 38 wins. After a second-place finish in 2001, Davison then won five consecutive Division 1 team titles.

Throughout the years Hall

has coached a number of state champions and future college wrestling standouts. One of the best was Brent Metcalf, a four-time, undefeated state champion who wrestled in college at Iowa.

"Coach Hall was the foundation of my career," said Metcalf during his career at Iowa. "He built me into who I am, built my attitude, the way I approach wrestling and the way I approach life. He set expectations high for me and was able to get across high standards that I set for myself."

Jon Reader was a three-time state champion for the Cardinals who wrestled in college at Iowa State.

"Coach Hall's philosophy is basically refuse to lose," Reader said when Hall was inducted into the Flint Area Sports Hall of Fame, "and that works well for me and a lot of guys."

Current Davison head wrestling coach and former St. Johns standout Zak Hall led Davison to a state championship this past season in his first year as head coach at Davison and credits coach Hall with his success.

"Coach Hall is a legend," said Zak Hall, in an interview after winning this year's team state title. "He coached me in my younger years and what I learned most from him is how to be a person who is resilient and takes responsibility for his own life. In many ways, I have come full circle. He taught me, and here I am taking over for him and continuing the very same lessons."



Former Davison head wrestling coach Roy Hall led the Cardinals to six state championships during his career as head coach.

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



1661 Ramblewood Dr.
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-332-5046
www.mhsaa.com

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

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

989-426-2151
2441 W. M-61
Gladwin, MI 48824

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

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

Monday-Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

989-681-2577

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

Weichert Realtors

Broadway Realty Mount Pleasant

989-775-3800
WeichertBroadway.com

MPM MICHIGAN PAVING & MATERIALS CO
A CRH COMPANY
Serving All Your Asphalt & Emulsion Needs

Michigan Paving & Materials - Alma (989) 402-5932
Michigan Paving & Materials - Monroe (734) 241-9189
Michigan Paving & Materials - Spartan Asphalt Division .. (517) 482-9611
Michigan Paving & Materials - Jackson (517) 787-4200
Michigan Paving & Materials - Kalamazoo (269) 343-4659
Michigan Paving & Materials - Grand Region South (616) 459-9545

www.michiganpaving.com



Area golfers will be hoping to be playing golf when the leaves turn color at the state golf finals.

Area Golfers Taking Advantage Of Good Weather With Impressive Scores

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The girls golf season has enjoyed some outstanding golfing weather this season and that great weather has produced some outstanding rounds. Following is a look at some of the impressive efforts turned in by area golfers and teams this season.

LANSING CATHOLIC A FORCE IN D4

The Lansing Catholic girls golf team is again one of the premier teams in the state in Division 4.

The Cougars turned in a big effort last year at the Division 4 state finals where they took second place. With the four top players off that team returning, the Cougars are again a team to watch when it comes to winning the D4 state championship.

The Cougars showed they can play with any team regardless of class size when the totaled a 364 to place fourth as a team at the St. Johns Redwing Invitational.

Senior Amanda Melling led the way for Lansing Catholic at the Redwing invite as she placed fourth overall with a round of 81. Melling turned in a strong effort at last year's state finals as she placed in the top ten with an 86.

Fellow senior Sailor Somerville placed in the top 20 individually at last year's state finals. Somerville placed in the top ten at the Redwing invite as she shot a 90 to place ninth overall. Three other Cougar golfers placed in the top 30 at the tournament as Julie Sambar shot a 95 to place 21st while senior Maya Blonshine and sophomore Sophie Hauser both carded rounds of 97 to place 27th.

OKEMOS AMONG TOPS IN STATE

After finishing third in the state in Division 2 last fall, the Okemos girls golf team is back among the top teams in the state this season.

Led by senior Allison Cui, who won the Division 2 individual state championship last season, the Chiefs have turned in several outstanding performances this season.

Okemos was the class of the field at the St. Johns Redwing Invitational as it won the tournament with a team score of 341. Cui led the way for Okemos as she captured individual medalist honors with a 76. Alena Li followed in third place overall as she shot a 78. Senior Audrey Chen placed 11th with a 91 while senior Ashley Cho placed 21st overall with a 96. Chen and Cho both placed 35th overall at last year's state finals as they each carded rounds of 93 at the state finals.

Okemos turned in an even more impressive showing when it won the team title at the Holt Invitational with a 321 score. Li captured the individual medalist honors at Holt as she fired a 74. Cui claimed third place with a 78. Chen placed sixth with an 82 while Cho placed 11th overall with an 87.

MIDLAND DOW ROUNDS INTO FORM

After qualifying for the state meet last season, the Midland Dow girls golf team is rounding into form for what they hope is another strong post-season run.

Dow opened the season with a solid effort at the Saginaw Valley League pre-season tournament where it placed third. Junior Abbey Wilson and senior Abbey Leuter both placed in the top ten individually as they carded rounds of 91 and 96 respectively.

Dow took fifth place at the Frank Altimore Invitational led by Leuter who carded an 81. The Chargers also placed sixth as a team at both the Flint Powers Charger Invitational and the St. Johns Redwing Invitational. Leuter shot a 93 and Wilson shot a 97 at the Altimore invite while Leuter shot a 91 and Wilson a 92 at the Redwing invite.

FREELAND REBUILDING ON SCHEDULE

After graduating the top two players off a team that placed in the top ten at last year's Division 3 state meet, the Freeland golf team had some retooling to do heading into this season. That retooling effort is running smoothly as the Falcons have another solid squad.

Freeland turned in a strong effort at the Frank Altimore Invitational in Midland where the Falcons placed fourth as a team at the event that was won by Division 1 Traverse City Central. Averie Pumford led Freeland as she shot a 77 to tie for first place individually. Junior Zoey Markey shot a 90 to place 14th while senior Sophie Argyle shot a 91 to place 15th.

Freeland placed eighth at the competitive Midland Dow Invitational that was played at the Midland Country Club which played host to the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour stop over the summer. Pumford led Freeland as she fired an 80 to place 11th overall while Argyle shot a 98.

Freeland has also dominated league play this season as Pumford, Argyle and Markey are the top players in the conference along with Abbie Phillips.

HASLETT TURNING IN STRONG SEASON

After placing fourth at the Division 2 state finals last season, the Haslett girls golf team is picking up where it left off.

Led by junior Sydney Dausman and sophomore Mina Yoo, the Vikings are one of the premier teams in the Lansing area as well as the state. Yoo and Dausman both placed in the top 20 individually at last year's state finals and are turning in strong seasons this year.

Dausman turned in a big effort at the Redwing Invitational as she helped lead Haslett to a second-place finish. Dausman shot a 77 at the invite to place second overall as an individual. Senior Prabhleem Pawar placed ninth with a 90 followed by Lucy Fortier who took 16th with a 93 and Yoo who shot a 96.

Haslett also took second place at the Holt Invitational with a team score of 341. Dausman led the way with a 78 to place third while Yoo took fifth place

with an 80. Fortier shot an 89 to take 14th while Pawar placed 22nd with a 94.

KELLY SETS THE PACE FOR GRAND LEDGE

With Isabel Kelly leading the way, the Grand Ledge girls golf team is turning in solid efforts this season.

Kelly and her Comet teammates turned in a strong effort as they placed fourth overall with a 361 score at the Holt Invitational. Kelly placed in the top ten individually as she shot an 86 to place ninth. Gracia Patterson and Josie Parrish both finished in the top 20 with rounds of 90 while Aubrie Parrish shot a 95.

Grand Ledge also placed fifth as a team at the St. Johns Redwing Invitational. Kelly shot an 89 to place seventh overall while Josie Parrish shot a 94 to place in the top 20. Aubrie Parrish added a 97 and Patterson shot a 99.

DEWITT GOLFERS SHOW PROMISE

The DeWitt girls golf team is turning in a number of strong efforts this season.

Led by senior Kaitlyn Lawver, who qualified for the Division 2 state meet as an individual last fall, the Panthers placed in the top ten at both the St. Johns Redwing Invitational and the Holt Invitational.

Lawver, who shot an 85 to place 11th at the state finals last season, shot a 91 at the Holt Invitational to help Grand Ledge place sixth as a team. Cate Piesko added a 94 while Addison Spagnuolo shot a 99 at the invite.

DeWitt placed seventh as a team at the Redwing Invitational. Lawver placed in the top 20 with a 93 at the invite while Jordyn Crawley shot a 96 to place 21st.

BALANCE KEY FOR ST. JOHNS

A balanced lineup has the St. Johns girls golf team turning in solid performances this season.

The Redwings placed eighth at the Holt Invitational. Leea Gorman led St. Johns at the tournament as she placed 12th with an 88. Elizabeth Remus added a 98.

St. Johns took ninth place at the Redwing Invitational it hosted. Kenzie

Eccleton shot a 100 and Gorman shot a 103.

Gorman came up with a strong showing at the Tulleymore Invitational as she placed in the top ten individually with a 93. Karissa Greider shot a 99 to help St. Johns to a fourth-place finish.

St. Johns turned in a strong with a 187 at the CAAC Jamboree at El Dorado. Eccleton and Gorman both shot rounds of 44 while Greider shot a 48 and Remus shot a 50 at the nine-hole event.

ROCKFORD GEARS UP FOR STATE RUN

After placing fifth in the state at last year's Division 1 state finals, the Rockford girls golf team is gearing up for another lofty finish at the state meet.

The bulk of last year's year team returns led by sophomore Jessica Jolly who placed ninth as an individual last year. Junior Mackenzie Davidson finished in the top 25 at the state meet while sophomore Aubrey Wilson and junior Bridget Parmler also return to the starting lineup.

The Rams started the season fast and have only improved since then. Rockford turned in a big effort in winning the title at the Big Rapids Invitational. Jolly led the way at Big Rapids as she captured medalist honors by shooting a 70. Wilson also finished in the top ten as she carded an 86 to place eighth. Davidson carded a 90 while senior Marley Haeberle shot a 91.

Rockford turned in one of its most outstanding efforts of the season as the second OK Red Conference jamboree of the season at Stonewater Country Club. A school record six Rams placed in the top ten individually as Rockford shot a school-record round of 156. Jolly led the way for Rockford as she claimed medalist honors with a 35. Davidson shot a 39 followed by Wilson and Haeberle with rounds of 41, Parmler with a 43 and sophomore Carly Samson with a 45.

MASON GIRLS TURNING IN SOLID SEASON

The Mason girls golf team has turned in a number of solid efforts this season.

The Rockford girls golf team placed fifth in the state in Division 1 last season. The Rams appear to be even stronger this season with a number of impressive efforts including winning the title at the Big Rapids Invitational.



The Lansing Catholic girls golf team took second in the state at the Division 4 state finals last season and with several starters back the Cougars will again be a major factor in the postseason.

Mason placed third at the Jackson County Western Invitational. The Bulldogs were led by Claire Heathman who fired a 92 for 18 holes to finish seventh as an individual. Catherine Ehresman finished with a 98 and Kortney Osborn added a 100.

Mason is looking to a strong finish this season after placing sixth at last year's regional tournament.

AMIN LEADS THE WAY FOR HERITAGE

Samha Amin is turning in a big season for the Saginaw Heritage golf team.

Amin has played consistent golf for the Hawks this season beginning at the Ithaca Fall Swing where she shot an 82 to help Heritage finish second at a team.

At the Saginaw Valley League pre-Valley meet Amin carded an 82 to place fourth as an individual. Amin also placed fifth at the Frank Altimore Invitational as she shot an 83.

CHARLOTTE REBUILDING BEHIND ROBINSON

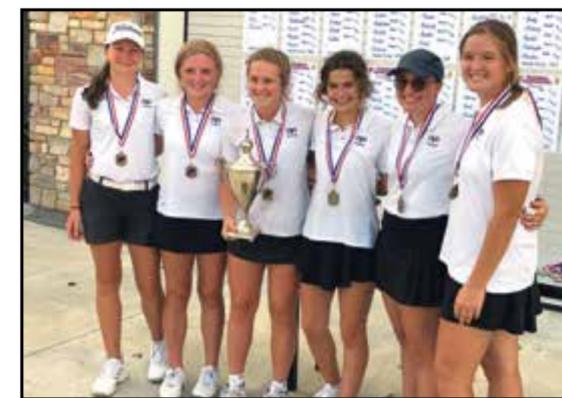
With a number of starters graduated, the Charlotte girls golf team does have the luxury of rebuilding around standout junior Hannah Robinson.

Charlotte placed second in the CAAC White last year and won the regional title but with four-year starter and all-state golfer Sarah Owens now playing at Hope College the Orioles have been doing some rebuilding.

The Orioles do have the luxury of returning junior all-state golfer Hannah Robinson who is the number one player in the league.

"We are young and inexperienced besides Hannah," said Charlotte coach Brent Crossman.

The Orioles do return senior Elise Crossman along with junior Logan Gingrich who is still rehabbing from an ACL injury suffered during the soccer season.



COME TRY OUR NEW MENU!

NORTH STAR
Public Welcome

The North Star Golf Course

(989) 875-3841

4550 S. BAGLEY (US 27) ITHACA

Friday 2-Person Scramble - SKINS & PROXIMITIES

Gratiot Towing

(989) 875-8484

BARDEN FUNERAL HOMES

Serving Ithaca for 114 years. 989-875-4715

FOUST
Furnace & Air Conditioning

"CUSTOMIZING YOUR COMFORT"

- FURNACE
- CENTRAL AIR
- WATER HEATER
- POWER HUMIDIFIERS
- MEDIA AIR FILTERS
- DUCT & ATTIC INSULATING
- ALL TYPES OF VENTING
- HANGING UNIT HEATERS
- GAS LOG FIREPLACES

JASON FOUST
LICENSED & INSURED
989-944-1527
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858

Chippewa Hills Girls Golf Team Continue Momentum From A Year Ago

David Cook Sports Scene

Coming off an impressive 2020 season that was highlighted by a trip to the state finals, the Chippewa Hills girls golf team has continued to turn in some impressive efforts this season.

Chippewa Hills came up big at the Ithaca Fall Swing as the Warriors won the team title by 64 strokes. Chippewa Hills totaled a 337 enroute to winning the title. A total-team effort was key to the win as Kerstin Stadtfeld led the team with a 79 and also won individual medalist honors for the tournament. Ryleigh Allen added an 85 to place third as an individual while freshman Madison Allen shot an 86 for fourth place and Hanna Herman followed in fifth place individually with an 87.

The Warriors have dominated play in the Central State Activities Association (CSAA) where they have won every jamboree.

Chippewa Hills won the jamboree that took place at Moss Ridge with a 347 team total highlighted by a 77 from Madison Allen which was the first time she broke 80 all season. Ryleigh Allen added an 81 while Stadtfeld shot an 88.

Chippewa Hills also turned in an impressive effort at the Big Rapids Cardinal Invitational where they placed fourth overall at the tournament that was won by Division 1 Rockford. Stadtfeld led the team with an 85 while Ryleigh Allen shot an 89.

Chippewa Hills is coming off a strong 2020 season that saw the team win the Division 4 regional at Farwell to qualify for the state tournament. Herman led the Warriors at the regional tournament as she placed second individually and Ryleigh Allen took fourth place. Stadtfeld placed 11th at the regional. The Warriors then placed ninth at the Division 4 state finals where Allen and Herman both placed in the top 40 individually.



After qualifying for the state finals last year, the Chippewa Hills girls golf team looks to be even stronger this season.

Veteran Holt Girls Golf Continuing To Make Stride

David Cook Sports Scene

With a solid core of veteran golfers back, the Holt girls golf team is showing plenty of improvement this season.

A trio of returning starters has the Rams turning in a strong season. Angelita Mireles and Claire Williston are both in their third season on the varsity team and give the team a solid one-two combination at the top of the roster. Mireles is also a returning honorable-mention, all-conference golfer. Mireles fired a season-best 97 for 18 holes in the CAAC Open that took place Sept. 16. Mireles also carded a 45 for nine holes in Holt's match with

Grand Ledge.

Junior Rayn Beatty is another veteran back in the lineup. Beatty is showing rapid improvement with the potential to earn all-conference honors. Beatty shot a team-leading 104 at the Holt Varsity Invitational.

"We have experience on the team and are using that experience to make the improvements needed to be competitive and successful this season," said Holt coach Brian Kosloski. "We are looking to improve drastically throughout the season. The team and each of the individual players are going to improve significantly from match-to-match and from week-to-week."

HSSS GOLF SCORES

18 HOLES

- Allison Cui, Okemos 69
- Jessica Jolly, Rockford 69
- Alena Li, Okemos 70
- Hannah Robinson, Charlotte 70
- Isabel Kelly, Grand Ledge 75
- Madison Allen, Chippewa Hills 77
- Sydney Dausman, Haslett 77
- Averie Pumford, Freeland 77
- Nicole Schafer, Williamston 77
- Mina Yoo, Haslett 77
- Allie Sexton, Flint Powers 78
- Kerstin Stadtfeld, Chippewa Hills 79
- Ryleigh Allen, Chippewa Hills 81
- Abbey Leuter, Midland Dow 81
- Amanda Melling, Lansing Catholic 81
- Samha Amin, Saginaw Heritage 82
- Chloe Chen, Okemos 82
- Mackenzie Davidson, Rockford 83
- Lilly Isaac, Flint Powers 83
- Gracin Patterson, Grand Ledge 83
- Aubree Faulkner, Portland 84
- Kenzie Eccleton, St. Johns 86
- Ava Mata, Freeland 86

9 HOLES

- Aubrey Wilson, Rockford 86
- Sophie Argyle, Freeland 87
- Ashley Cho, Okemos 87
- Hanna Herman, Chippewa Hills 87
- Ashley Bower, Portland 88
- Lucy Fortier, Haslett 88
- Leea Gorman, St. Johns 88
- Zoey Markey, Freeland 88
- Jessica Jolly, Rockford 35
- Amanda Melling, Lansing Catholic 36
- Hannah Robinson, Charlotte 36
- Alena Li, Okemos 37
- Allie Sexton, Flint Powers 37
- Nicole Schafer, Williamston 38
- Mackenzie Davidson, Rockford 39
- Sydney Dausman, Haslett 40
- Abbey Leuter, Midland Dow 40
- Aubrey Wilson, Rockford 41
- Marley Haerberle, Rockford 41
- Bridget Parlmer, Rockford 43
- Kenzie Eccleton, St. Johns 44
- Leea Gorman, St. Johns 44

Hannah Robinson Starts Strong For Charlotte Golf Team

David Cook Sports Scene

Last year as a sophomore, Hannah Robinson made a big impact for the Charlotte girls golf team. This season, the talented junior is establishing herself as one of the premier golfers in Mid-Michigan

and on the state level.

Robinson started this golf season strong and has continued to shoot low numbers as the season progresses. In her first three tournaments of the season, Robinson finished seventh, second and first place. Robinson took her first place at the Mason Invitational.

At a tournament that consisted of 15 teams and 90 golfers, Robinson fired a round of 70 which not only won the tournament but set a new school record.

At the Parma Western Invitational, Robinson tied for first place in regulation with a round of 75 before coming up short in a four-hole playoff to place second. Robinson took her seventh-place finish at the East Jackson Invitational.

A three-year varsity golfer, Robinson is coming off a strong showing as a sophomore last year. Along with being the top golfer in the conference, Robinson placed third at the regional last year with a round of 84 as she helped the Orioles win the regional team title and qualify for the state meet. Robinson shot a 91 at last year's state finals. During the season Robinson broke the school record for 18 holes with a 75 and for nine holes with a 36 while receiving honorable-mention, all-state honors.

Charlotte junior Hannah Robinson is turning in a big season for the Orioles after qualifying for the state tournament as an individual last year.



Ithaca Girls Golf Team Making Steady Progress in 2021

David Cook Sports Scene

With a roster loaded with freshmen and sophomores, improvement was the name of the game for the Ithaca golf team heading into this season. So far, the Yellowjackets are right on target as they have been showing steady improvement this season.

"We are very young with a lot of potential," said Ithaca coach Jessie Rayburn. "We are looking to improve drastically throughout the season."

Ithaca has demonstrated plenty of improvement since placing ninth at the Ithaca Fall Swing Tournament to open the season. The

Yellowjackets turned in a 472 team total at the opening tournament led by sophomore Adrianna Rodriguez and freshman Ivy Davenport who led the way by carding a 112 for 18 holes. Senior Abbie Hillman added a 122 with freshman Lakyn Zimmerman shooting a 126.

The Yellowjackets followed up that effort by taking second in a tri-meet at St. Louis. Davenport led Ithaca with a 53 for nine holes at St. Louis while Rodriguez followed with a 55 and Zimmerman a 59.

The players on this year's team are a highly competitive group that want to improve and that hunger to improve leading to the steady improvement.

"The girls are all excited to be on the course and want to get better," Rayburn said. "Some of them are even competing against each other in certain drills."

The squad is also receiving strong leadership from Hillman, one of the few veterans on the squad.

"Abbie Hillman is returning and she is one of our seniors," Rayburn said. "We are looking at her to fulfill the leadership position of our team."

Ithaca continued its early-season improvement with a sixth-place finish at the Freeland jamboree. Rodriguez led the way with a 106 for 18 holes while Hillman shot a 116.



The Ithaca girls golf team has a roster that includes several freshmen and sophomores and has been showing steady improvement this season.

Clare Golfers Among Top Are Teams This Season

David Cook Sports Scene

One of the newest girl's golf programs in the area, the Clare girls golf team is also one of the most competitive squads in the area and this year's Pioneer squad is keeping the momentum going.

In its fourth season under coach Bob Tocco, who started the

program, the Pioneer are building off of last year's success. Clare finished second in the conference last season and placed fourth at the regional tournament. While the team lost some key seniors, the Pioneers are picking up where they left off.

Clare has a strong group of returning players this year led by senior Mara Pomerville,

junior Madison Armstrong and sophomores Ava Harton and Savannah Woods.



"Madison is in her third year and is as consistent as they come," Tocco said. "I see good things with Ava and Savannah this year. They have really improved since last fall."

Mixing in with the veterans are a promising group of new golfers that includes junior Grace Davis and freshmen Jennifer Dietsch and Lyndsie Lemke.

"We have a good balance of experience and some youth," Tocco said. "Overall, we have a good knowledge of the game."

With the blend of youth and experience, the Pioneers are in the mix for the top spot in the Mid Michigan Golf Conference (MMGC).

"Our goal is always to win the MMGC," Tocco said. "Shepherd

will be tough but I think we have good depth to compete with anyone."

Improving each day is a key for the team and will set the team up for post-season play.

"Each girl tries to get better each round," Tocco said. "Mara was one shot away from qualifying for the state tournament at regionals last year and is a returning first-team, all-conference golfer. She is understanding the finer points of the game. Things like putting and chipping that save you so many shots."

IN YOUR HOUR OF DARKNESS LET US BE YOUR LIGHT

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

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

www.luxfuneralhomes.com

Lux Funeral Homes, Inc.
Funeral Directors

Paul C. Lux Nicholas P. Lux
Scott Kilgo Laura E. Krebs
Chris Krebs

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

Dodge Funeral Home
404 S. Newton
Middleton, MI 48856
Phone: 989-236-7270

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

Assistant Directors
Carl Cecil
Mike Krebs

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

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

Pine River DENTAL CARE

Where excellent care, the latest technology, and friendliness live

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

Seniors Fuel Chippewa Hills' Volleyball Hopes

John Raffel Sports Scene

Chippewa Hills volleyball team, with six seniors, is expected to be a potential powerhouse this season.

Coach Hali Williams' team is coming off a strong 2020 season.

"Our season went well," Williams said. "We had some major learning moments and really great teamwork. There were some great wins and a lot of very close games. Unfortunately, with the close games we came out on the bottom. I have very high hopes

for the girls this year that we can come back even stronger and that can prove to themselves that they are more than capable of having a winning team."

The senior leadership is special as far as Williams is concerned.

"This year we have six seniors that have been on varsity since their sophomore year and one senior that has been on varsity all four years," she said. "We are switching it up slightly this year so I am really excited. We have our top hitter Kassie Yuncker playing outside and our second top hitter Madison Wrisley playing middle. We then

have Shelby Fall, Macy Blanzky and Addison Fate playing both outside and right side. Kendra Ray has been a setter since her freshman year on varsity."

Yuncker is considered one of the area's top hitters.

Last year "I felt went pretty good, but this year I think will be a lot better," she said. "We have a lot of people back from last year. We're a good team. We work together well.

As an outside hitter, "I think I know how to place the ball," she said. "I know if I need to hit it as hard as I can and or if I need to place it somewhere."



Chippewa Hills volleyball team gathers for a preseason practice.

Reese Volleyball Strong

John Raffel Sports Scene

Reese volleyball coach Angie Compton likes her team's prospects in the Greater Thumb West Conference this season.

"We had a great season last year," Compton said. "We shared the conference title with USA and fought to the end with a very strong Valley Lutheran team in districts. We lost Audrey Nelson and Madelyn Wojdula, along with three other players. Madelyn made a huge difference as a right outside hitter, coming up big for us on a really consistent basis. Audrey provided a strong middle block that we will miss."

As for top returnees, senior setter Aydan Dalak "is a very aggressive setter that knows the court very well," Compton said. "I will expect her to run our side of the court and provide more of a defensive and attacking presence than she did last year."

Maddi Osantowski, senior outside hitter, "is expected to be an all-around force-passing solid and attacking smartly night in and night out," Compton said.

Josie Johnson, senior defensive specialist and junior defensive specialist Jerzie VanOchten, "is expected to provide the voice of our back row and lead our defense," Compton said, adding senior middle hitter Andi Reinert "is in a new position for her, but her competitive nature has made her a very aggressive middle."

"We have a team full of great energy and work ethic. I expect us to maintain that all season long in order to keep getting better. Our leadership is definitely our strength. Our seniors value everyone on our team and in our program and are really setting a super positive tone but at the same time are pushing each other to be better. We need to be more confident with our attacks, and communication is always an area to improve upon."



Reese's volleyball team is ready for a championship season.



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



isabellabank.com 800.651.9111 isabellabankmi

BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value



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

Montabella Hopes To Be A Factor In The Mid-State Activities Conference

John Raffel Sports Scene

Montabella volleyball Stephanie Hoyt expects to have a special season in 2021.

Last season, "we struggled greatly to finish out the game," Hoyt said. "However, when it comes to team atmosphere and basic skills, as we went through the season things began to start clicking for the girls. I saw more kills and digs on the stats and a better point differential in the book as time went on."

"This is only my second year as varsity coach, however I remember quite a few girls that were great assets to the team and have even come back throughout the summer to work with girls on their strength areas. Jordan Rose was a fantastic hitter and even stepped into the setting role at one point as well. She had an extremely high jump and a great wrist snap that put the ball in the deep corner. "Brooklyn Knopf also was a middle hitter and an asset when it came to blocking. She is a tall one that got many touches on the ball to help slow down the play for the girls in the back row. Last year, we graduated one senior, Makenna Jensen. She was an all-around player that did a great job digging the ball and going through and getting the ball in play. "Madison Jordan is mainly a middle hitter for the Mustangs, "but has been

our setter lately as she is out with a concussion," Hoyt said. "Madison is a sophomore this year and this is also her second year on varsity. Now that she is not the low man on the totem pole, I expect to see her continue to thrive and be more aggressive in the front row, while not being shy to communicate with her peers."

"She is learning multiple different hits in the front row and playing with much more confidence and I only expect that she will continue to make growth in these areas."

Sara Courser is an outside hitter.

"She is a senior this year and has improved tremendously," Hoyt said. "She has come out of her shell a lot and has gained quite a bit of height to her jumps for blocks and hits. Although she may be a lefty, hitting from the outside, she comes in and gets the job done with a nice hard hit to the corners. We know that she is one of the few people that we can count on to hit the ball over regardless of what the set looks like."

Bralynn Clark is a defensive specialist.

"She is a junior this year and has stepped into the role of being one of our 'professional' passers," Hoyt said. "She is the one we look to for help with the corner hits and tips and gets the ball up and is ready to hit it back from the back row. I expect her to be

able to get some of those tough balls and to have good communication with the libero."

Kiana Nickerson is a setter.

"Kiana is a sophomore and she is one of our main setters," Hoyt said. "She is tiny, but extremely mighty and not only does she play the back row as a setter, but also is able to play the front row as a hitter. She does a great job at getting up off the floor and has a decent reach to be able to block the ball."

"I expect that she will continue to grow and learn more of the setting placements for the ball, but also that she gets higher up there to get better attacks to the other side of the court with stronger arm swings."

Alexis Jordan is an outside hitter.

"She is a junior and one of the most experienced varsity players on the team," Hoyt said. "When she is on, she is on, and it is tough for other opponents. My expectation is that she doesn't put too much pressure on herself and that she is able to stay out of her head and in the moment, as that is when she plays the best."

Kalia Adams is a middle hitter.

"Kalia is a sophomore who was pulled up to assist at the middle of the season with injuries and sicknesses," Hoyt said. "She has had a tremendous amount of growth and commitment throughout the off season to where she has earned herself a starting spot in the front row."

"She reads the ball well and does her best to get it from one point to another. I expect that she maintains good showmanship in herself and her team and that she works hard to overcome some of the obstacles that get thrown her way such as a bad set

and late reaction."

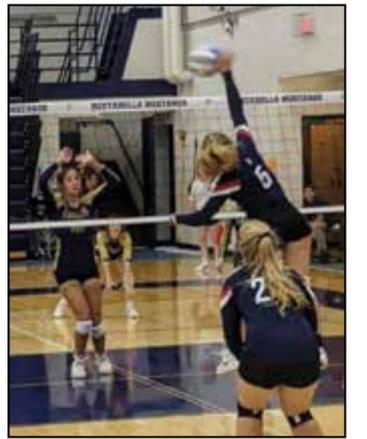
Hoyt has high expectations for this team.

"I really want to start winning some trophies and bringing home the hardware," Hoyt said. "I expect my girls to come to practice every day ready to play as if it were the district final game and we are down by five points. I always bring those reminders back to the girls when we are struggling to keep it together."

"My team has a great dynamic of talent this year. We have some high numbers that we are able to work with and use to our advantage. I believe that our strength is our aggression at the net and each girl wanting to get the block and hit. As we start the season and play more games, I realize that we need more work on adjusting to the hitters and covering the middle. We need more work on being able to know when it is a hit versus a tip and what we should look like when that happens."

Montabella hopes to be a factor in the Mid-State Activities Conference. "We have a lot of great and talented teams in our conference," Hoyt said. "I would say that St Charles, Breckenridge, and Sacred Heart are the top three teams in the conference. But in order to fit in with the rest of them and be able to come out on top, we really have to do our best not to play it safe and continue to hit the ball versus just sending it over."

Montabella hopes to be a factor in the Mid-State Activities Conference. "We have a lot of great and talented teams in our conference," Hoyt said. "I would say that St Charles, Breckenridge, and Sacred Heart are the top three teams in the conference. But in order to fit in with the rest of them and be able to come out on top, we really have to do our best not to play it safe and continue to hit the ball versus just sending it over."



Montabella is looking to control the net during volleyball action this season.

The lessening of COVID-related restriction compared to a year ago has been a bonus. "I expected with preseason that more girls would have come to the open gyms and the weightlifting, since restrictions have been lifted," Hoyt said. "However, that wasn't necessarily the case. Don't get me wrong, I did have girls show up and we were able to get a lot of basic foundational skills out of the way in the beginning."

"It was certainly a breath of fresh air being able to be on the court and in the gym with my girls without having to worry about all of the other components of social distancing, sanitizing, and masks. I am truly excited to coach this group of girls and I cannot wait to see how the rest of the season begins to unfold."

Alma Volleyball Team Has Sights On Championship Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Alma's volleyball team displayed its potential to coach Kristi Lippert with a second-place effort on Sept. 11 at the Big Rapids Invitational.

The Panthers were 6-0 in pool play and won its semifinal match

to advance to the title contest against Morley Stanwood, which the Mohawks won 2-0. But it was close enough for Alma to make a serious championship bid.

"We've had a little bit of a roller coaster in the beginning," Lippert said. "We've had kind of a young team, and we're getting our feel for

each other and our systems and things. We've had ups and downs. I think we played better volleyball today than we did all season.

"We want to take it one Wednesday at a time in the conference and try to improve. Our goal is to peak at the end when it matters the most."

The two outside hitters are Avery

Holmes and Jada Munro, and the libero is Stephanie Bielaga. "My setter (Adison Green) is only a sophomore," Lippert said.

Other Alma players are Ava Hutchinson, Julia Cena, Nora Watson, Gracie Mellinger, Avreigh Holmes, Emma Bailey and Zoe Jackson.



Stephanie Bielaga will be among the key players for Alma this season.

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

Carman's Tree Service & Stump Removal
Gary Carman Owner/Operator
8426 N. Wheeler Wheeler, MI 48662
(989) 330-9782 cell 25yrs. Experienced
Free Estimates License/Insured
Taking Pride in our Exceptional "Clean up!"

BettenBaker Where Michigan Shops
Carl Rummer General Manager
1031 E. Center Street Ithaca, MI, 48847
www.bettenbakerrithaca.com
P: (989) 875-4181 crummer@bettenbaker.com

Okemos Volleyball Set To Be League Contenders

John Raffel Sports Scene

Okemos volleyball coach Jamie Ianni's volleyball team was 15-6 last year and 3-2 in the league for second place, but the highlight, considering the various COVID 19 restrictions, was being able to have a season.

"We graduated three starters with Chloe Krumm (setter), Lily Gorman (middle) and Niya Patel (opposite hitter)," Ianni said. "They were all valued players and teammates."

This year's team will be led by returning starters Taylor

Stephens, Kayla Ozanich, Bethany Hartman, Sarah Hamel and Ella Woodward.

Stephens is a junior hitter, Kayla Ozanich a junior middle blocker, Hartman a senior outside hitter, Hamel a senior defensive specialist and Woodward, a senior libero.

Other contributor will be Ali Pignataro, a junior setter; Kennedy North, a junior middle; Mia Mardsen, a sophomore opposite and Sue Flores, a junior outside hitter.

"We are striving to meet our goal of winning a league and district championship," Ianni

said, adding that strengths "will be passing and serving which will result in a strong offense."

Ianni is confident of having a league contender.

"Dewitt and Grand Ledger are very strong this fall and all three of our programs will be challenging for a conference championship," Ianni said. "Just knowing what our schedule and routine is for the girls and parents has been such a relief. It has been easier to navigate practice without worrying about temperatures and COVID forms; however we are still wearing masks in our district."



Okemos' 2021 volleyball team expects to have a championship season.



Mount Pleasant Girls Eye Another Huge Volleyball Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Julie Maxon is coaching Mount Pleasant's volleyball team in what she is hoping will be a banner season.

Mount Pleasant won its third straight district championship last

Mount Pleasant's volleyball team is hoping for championship success this season.

season led by senior Mackenzie Egger, middle hitter, and senior Matilda Graham.

Key players in 2021 are Maddi Molyneux, a senior middle hitter who is explosive for her size and will hit fast and block tough. Katie Schell, a junior middle hitter, is a powerful blocker and hitter.

"She is quicker than she was last year and will provide a strong block pin to pin," Maxon said. "Senior

Kannyn Boyd Libero digs balls fearlessly. She won't let the ball hit the floor and is serving tougher every game. Senior Abbie Dziuk is setting and competes with her defense and her tough serves."

Hitters include juniors Hailey Reid and Aubree Garcia, seniors Carly Dole and Kyleigh Sizemore and freshman Finley Helm "who will give Mount Pleasant more blocking and hitting opportunities

to support our goals," Maxon said. "Junior Ellie Beltinck, senior Avary Wheeler and sophomore Jenny Sun provide serving and defense to round out the team.

"Our goal is to compete with everyone in the conference and improve our game every week. We serve well and need to serve tough in order to compete. We are blocking well and just need to improve our serve pass game and improve our attack efficiency. Grand Blanc, Davison, Flint Powers are two of the top teams in our conference. Whether we play them or any school in our conference, we have to be at the top of our game to win."

Cedar Springs Volleyball Team Eyes Improvement

John Raffel Sports Scene

Marie Kellow is the assistant varsity volleyball coach at Cedar Springs and is encouraged with her team's prospects this season. The Redhawks play in the very competitive O-K Gold Conference. "As we entered this conference last season, we continued to build the program at Cedar Springs, while competing in a well-established, multi-ranked conference," Kellow said. "2020 brought immense honor to our program. Our athletes work ethic, steady improvement, versatility and willingness/ability to successfully perform in various positions due to illness or injury laid the foundation not only for success during the season but also as a role model to all athletes within the volleyball program.

"Our capability was competitive with amazing teams in conference, challenging them into tight matches that resulted in set victories (Wayland and South Christian) and a thrilling five-set victory over ranked nonconference team North Pointe Christian."

Key graduated athletes included Arianna

Rau middle blocker/outside hitter. "Arianna was a varsity player since her freshman year," Kellow said. "She was one of our captains, led our program in blocks and was always cheerful. Her positive attitude, hard work and encouragement were contagious. She was a voice you always heard, whether she was on or off the court. She brought consistency to the offense." Libero Elizabeth Fettig "was an incredibly driven athlete working tirelessly on her position skills," Kellow said. "Ibby expected only the best from herself and was a stronghold for our defense."

Senior setter Makenna Outwin is in her second year on varsity "as our setter, but is also one of our strongest servers," Kellow said. "Makenna grows in her talent every time she steps on the court; she is focused and has a great court sense."

Alyssa Detweiler, a senior middle hitter/blocker "is

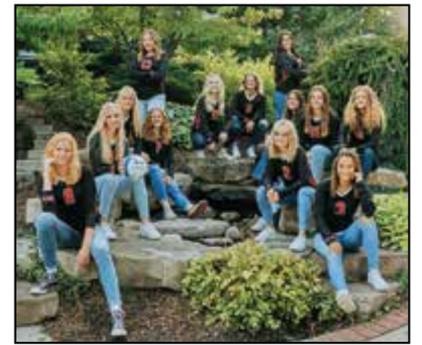
our leading blocker and one of our top kill scorers," Kellow said. "She is the 'wall' to opposing team offenses, resulting in our ability to generate more offensive plays."

Junior outside hitter Kennedy Jager "is one

of the most versatile athletes a coach could hope for," Kellow said. "She is a six position player who is a top scorer, gets great touches on the ball, and is one of our best passers. We can put her in any position, including setter, when the need arises, and she succeeds in the role we ask of her."

Senior libero Brandy Singleton "is our defensive rock," Kellow said. "She leads our team in both serve receive and digs. Brandy plays smart, is reliable for consistent coverage, and puts down tough placed serves. We expect to continue the growth we have achieved over the past few years, building on the hard work from in and off season through the past few years. We expect to be a tough competitive team, improve on our win/loss record, and be athlete/student/community role models. Above all else, we expect to play our game and have fun.

"We have a very talented group of athletes that bring distinct strengths to our program. We are proud of our team chemistry and bond. Our team is positive, hard working, competitive and united. In volleyball, you can always improve in every area. As the sport grows, more athletes playing in the off season and getting those extra touches on the ball, skill level rises. If I had to pick



Cedar Springs volleyball team expects to have an exceptional season.

one, I would say we will continue to work on mental toughness.

"Volleyball can be a game of runs of points and it is easy for a sense of discouragement to set in when you lose several points in a row. The mental game is hard to teach, and as with most athletes, they are driven and competitive people that expect the best from themselves. Having the ability to overcome the last point is critical in the game of volleyball. Also, with the rise in skill, comes the demand to regularly work on all areas and determine the needs of each game based on the opponents strengths and weaknesses."

Dow Volleyball Coach Has High Expectations

John Raffel Sports Scene

The Midland H.H Dow High Chargers varsity volleyball expects to have a strong season under coach Ali Taylor.

The Chargers compete in the Saginaw Valley League.

Midland was 13-7 last year.

"It was a tough year for us because of COVID," Taylor said. "We only got one day to practice inside prior to our season starting. Once we had a few games under our belt and practices inside we started to come together and play very well. I believe if we had a regular summer, we would have had a better record."

Some key players graduated from the program.

Cheka Queary "was an outside hitter and someone that played all around," Taylor said. "She dominated in all aspects of the game and we will miss her being our go-to person. Gabby Wilson, was another outside hitter and played all around at times. She was another key factor to our team's success."

Alli Miller is a senior libero.

"Alli is one of the hardest workers you will ever meet," Taylor said. "She will out hustle anyone on the court to get to a ball. Alli has been a great leader and floor general on our court. I have very high expectations for Alli as a libero this season."

Summer Luick is a senior middle hitter.

"Summer will also out hustle anyone at the net," Taylor said. "She will be a lot of middles' worst nightmares. She has the

ability to predict where the ball will go before the other team does. She always gets her hands up and touches almost every ball that comes near her. I have very high expectations of Summer this season."

She also has high expectations for the team.

"My expectations for this season is to come out and shock a lot of teams," Taylor said. "We have unbelievable chemistry and have put many hours in the gym this summer. Now, we are working to decrease silly errors and have both our offense and defense perform well for each game. My girls have great chemistry with one another and we plan to use this to our advantage this season.

"Some things that this team needs to work on are: silly errors and not let momentum changes impact how they play on the court. Our conference is a very strong and competitive league. I believe that the league favorites would be Davison, Grand Blanc, and Mount Pleasant. If we show up every



Midland Dow is looking to be tough at the net this season.

day and play our best I believe that we will also be towards the top of the league."

It's fun been for Taylor and her team to have a normal summer.

"It has been wonderful to have less COVID restrictions," she said. "Like I said, last year we had one practice and then we started to play. It has been great to actually have a preseason. It has done wonders for our team."

HSSS TOP VOLLEYBALL TEAMS AND PLAYERS

TOP TEAMS IN ALL DIVISIONS

1. Rockford (Division 1)
2. Lowell (Division 1)
3. Lakewood (Division 2)
4. Lansing Catholic (Division 2)
5. Saginaw Valley Lutheran (Division 3)
6. Pewamo-Westphalia (Division 3)
7. Morley Stanwood (Division 3)
8. Lansing Christian (Division 4)
9. Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart (Division 4)
10. Fowler (Division 4)

RETURNING ALL-STATERS

Division 1

- Emily Struckmeyer, senior, Lowell, outside hitter
- Mackenzie Delacher, senior Rockford setter
- Alina Anderson, senior, Rockford, libero
- Ava Horton, senior, Rockford, middle blocker

Division 2

- Maradith O'Gorman, senior, Lakewood, all-around
- Skylar Bump, junior, Lakewood, setter
- Madison Gebhardt, Flint Powers Cath., senior, outside hitter

Division 3

- Braelyn Berry, senior, Morley Stanwood, outside hitter
- Ashlyn Martin, senior, Saginaw Valley Lutheran, middle blocker
- Maddi Osantowski, senior, Reese, outside hitter
- Aydan Dalak, junior, Reese, setter

Division 4

- Maddie Munley, senior, MP Sacred Heart, middle blocker
- Annaliese Rotman, senior, Lansing Catholic, outside hitter
- Mia Riley, junior, Fowler, setter
- Madison Wirth, junior, Fowler, outside hitter

MERCHANT EXCAVATING INC

- Septic Systems
- Foundation Work
- Demolition Work

Now A Commercial Trucking & Heavy Equipment Licensed Repair Facility

989.875.3691
4040 N. State Road, Alma, MI 48801

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

ST. JOHNS - FOWLER - OVID
989.224.9511
www.JourneyFCU.org

Serving Clinton, Gratiot & Shiawassee Counties

ECOWATER SINCE 1925. ISO 9001

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

KEVIN EAREGOOD
Certified Water Specialist

COMMERCIAL BANK
Your Hometown Community Bank

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

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

105.9FM / 1520AM
WMLM
Real Country

Your Voice For Local High School Football & Basketball Games!

The New **Z 92.5** THE CASTLE
KROL COMMUNICATIONS INC.



Ithaca junior quarterback Bronson Bupp has put up some big numbers for an improving Yellowjacket team.

Area Football Teams Putting Up Impressive Numbers As Season Reaches Halfway Point

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The high school football season has hit the halfway point of the regular season and area teams and players have been putting up some amazing numbers and outstanding performances. Following is a look at some of the outstanding teams and standout performances by area football players.

ZAC AHERN LEADING EXPLOSIVE ROCKFORD

Led by standout dual-threat quarterback Zak Ahern, the Rockford Rams are one of the premier teams in the state in Division 1.

Ahern and the Ram offense was clicking on all cylinders when they defeated league rival Grandville 53-46 in an overtime thriller in week four. Ahern put up Lamar Jackson-type numbers as he ran the ball 22 times for 99 yards and five touchdowns while completing 11-of-19 passes for 154 yards and a touchdown. Through four games this season Ahern has passed for 563 yards and six touchdowns while rushing for 476 yards and 13 touchdowns. Ahern, along with standout wide receivers Tyler Vroman and Alex McLean, are key parts of an offense that is averaging 45 points per game.



GRAND LEDGE PUTTING UP BIG NUMBERS

The Grand Ledge football team has been one of the bigger stories in the Lansing area this year. Led by quarterback Jeff Kolb, the Comets opened the season with four straight wins.

Offense has been a big part of the story for Grand Ledge with quarterback Jeff Kolb leading the way. Kolb has completed over 56% of his passes this season for 688 yards and 12 touchdowns through the first four games of the season.

PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA ROLLING

The 2019 Division 7 state champions, the Covid-19 virus kept the Pirates from getting back to Ford Field last season. This season the Pirates are rolling again with a state title their main goal.

Pewamo-Westphalia began the season in a big way with a 33-6 win against Redford Union. A Division 4 school, Redford Union is one of the largest schools the Pirates have played in their history and is a quality team having won three straight games after the loss to the Pirates.

The Pewamo-Westphalia recorded a landmark win when it defeated Dansville in week three. The win was the 400th in program history, giving P-W a 400-184-6 record since earning its first win with a 20-13 win over Portland in 1962. Pirate quarterback Cam Cook tied a school record with four touchdown passes in the win. Brock Thelen showed off his versatility in the game as he caught a pair of touchdown passes, ran for a touchdown and returned a kick for a touchdown.

MT. PLEASANT OFF TO STRONG START

The Mt. Pleasant football team reeled off four straight wins to start the season by using a combination of strong defense and an efficient offense.

Oiler quarterback Ryan McIntyre is a big part of the efficiency on offense. Through the first four games of the season McIntyre has completed 29-of-39 passes (74.4%) for 385 yards with six touchdowns against just one interception. McIntyre is also a productive runner as he has rushed for 196 yards (4.7 avg.) and two touchdowns.

Mt. Pleasant features a potent rushing attack led by senior Kory Davis and junior Max Humphrey. Humphrey has rushed for 318 yards (8.2 avg.) with seven touchdowns while Davis has added

Rockford senior quarterback Zak Ahern is having a big season for the Rams who opened the season with a 4-0 record.



PAT'S
Auto Inc.
COMPLETE COLLISION REPAIR
1501 West Monroe Rd
Saint Louis, MI, 48880
989-681-5334 • patsautoinc.com

Gratiot County's People's Choice winner for the last ten years! Pat's Auto, Inc is a certified collision repair shop and is a member of the Automobile Service Association (ASA). We know what it takes to do a quality repair on your automobile!

286 yards (7.5 avg.) and five touchdowns.

PORTLAND MEETING ALL CHALLENGES

The Portland football team has met all challenges put in its way this season including taking down defending Division 3 state champion DeWitt in a week two thriller.

Coming in as a big underdog against a loaded DeWitt squad, Portland surprised DeWitt and came away with a 20-17 win. Portland also took down a 3-1 Ovid-Elsie team 21-14.

Big plays on both offense and defense keyed the DeWitt win. An 80-yard touchdown run by Caden Galey on the first play from scrimmage staked Portland to an early 6-0 lead. Trailing in the third quarter, an interception by Ethan Patrick set up a 74-yard scoring strike from Haden Getchell to Patrick that regained the lead for Portland. Down 17-13 late in the fourth quarter, Portland won the game when Getchell hit Patrick with an 11-yard touchdown pass with 22 seconds remaining in the game.

FREELAND SOARING IN EARLY GOING

The Falcons of Freeland are flying high in the opening weeks of the season. In week one, Freeland defeated Clare 24-14 in a marquee matchup to open the season. Clare has reeled off three wins since that matchup. In week four, Freeland upended Essexville-Garber in a battle of unbeaten teams with title aspirations in the loaded Tri-Valley Central.

A balanced running game is a big part of Freeland's offense. Bryson Huckleby, Garrett Pistro, Jacob Kundinger, Cole Fournier and Brayden Petre have all rushed for over 100 yards this year and have combined for 10 rushing touchdowns. The Falcons have also torched opposing defenses through the air as Huckleby has passed for 644 yards and seven touchdowns.



The Freeland football team opened the season with a big win against Clare and have continued to pile up the wins.

DEWITT OFFENSE IN HIGH GEAR

Let by record-setting quarterback Tyler Holtz and Wisconsin-bound wide receiver Thomas McIntosh, the DeWitt Panthers are again putting up some impressive numbers.

Through the first four games of the season DeWitt is averaging 41 points per game. Holtz, last year's Division 3-4 Offensive Player of the Year, has already passed for 983 yards through four games with 10 touchdown passes. McIntosh has been Holtz's favorite target as he has hauled in 16 passes for 367 yards and four touchdowns.

Those numbers are even more impressive considering the competition the Panthers have gone up against. DeWitt defeated a 3-1 Traverse City Central team to open the season and has wins against Holt and East Lansing with the lone loss of the season coming against undefeated Portland.

CARSON CITY OFF TO SIZZLING START

The Carson City-Crystal Eagles opened the season in a big way with four straight wins.

The Eagles kicked off the year with a 38-19 win against Fowler. Carson City quarterback Mason Smith put on a dazzling passing display connecting on 16-of-21 passes for 318 yards and five touchdowns. Bryce Stanley was Smith's favorite target in the game as he hauled in 11 passes for 257 yards and four touchdowns.

BAKER PACES EXPLOSIVE LANSING CATHOLIC

With quarterback Joey Baker filling the air with footballs, the Lansing Catholic football team opened the season with four consecutive wins.

The senior touchdown slinger passed for 982 yards and nine touchdowns in Lansing Catholic's first four games as the Cougars averaged 35.5 points per game.

Baker has a pair of standouts receivers to throw to in speedster Brandon Lewis and the versatile Alex Watters. Lewis caught 18 passes for 511 yards and four touchdowns through the first four games of the season. Watters added 19 catches for 288 yards and four touchdowns. The versatile Watters has stuffed the stat sheet in a variety of ways this season as he has also thrown a touchdown pass, ran the ball for 155 yards and five rushing touchdowns and intercepted a pass on defense.

NEW LOTHROP ROUNDING INTO FORM

After opening the season with a tough road loss at Jackson Lumen Christi, defending Division 7 state champion New Lothrop roared back with three consecutive wins.

The Hornets dropped a tough 27-14 loss at Lumen Christi in week one. Since then, the Hornets averaged 56 points per game in their next three wins which included a pair of shutouts by the defense.

Hornet quarterback Jack Kulhanek has hit his stride with 544 passing yards and 12 touchdown passes this season. Senior Rafael Woods has also been a big part of the offense. Woods has rushed

for 236 yards and two touchdowns while catching eight passes for 220 yards and three touchdowns. Senior Garrett Mangino is also turning in a big season with four rushing touchdowns and three receiving touchdowns.

BEAL CITY HUNTING FOR LEAGUE TITLE

The Beal City football team is on the hunt for another league title in the Highland Conference.

After opening the season dropping a one-point decision to Ravenna in a non-conference game, the Aggies opened league play with three consecutive wins. One of the wins was a 33-14 win against McBain. The win against McBain snapped a four-year winless streak against their rival. In week four the Aggies defeated an undefeated Lake City team 48-8 to improve to 3-1 for the season.

HASLETT ON A ROLL

After coming up short in its season opener, the Haslett football team reeled off three consecutive wins.

Haslett improved its record to 3-1 for the season with a 21-8 win against Mason. Haslett running back Nakai Amachree led the way for the Vikings as he rushed for 148 yards and a touchdown. Amachree also added 48 receiving yards. Viking quarterback Isaac Pavona passed for 95 yards and added a rushing touchdown. The Haslett defense also came up with a number of big plays during the win. Defensive back Ben Waters intercepted a pair of passes while Nate Polston and Keith Whitfield both recorded two tackles for loss. Polston also added a quarterback sack.

OIDV-ELSIE STARTING STRONG

The Ovid-Elsie football team has started the season strong with wins in three of its first four games while facing a rugged early schedule.

Ovid-Elsie's lone loss this season came in week one when it dropped a 21-14 decision to unbeaten Portland. The Marauders also have wins against one-loss teams Montrose and Durand.

Balance has been a key for the Marauders who have been getting steady play at quarterback from Axel Newell who passed for 172 yards and two touchdowns in the win against Montrose. Dylan Carman passed for a pair of touchdowns in the win against Durand while running back Eddy Evans rushed for 102 yards and two touchdowns against Durand.

BUPP PUTTING UP BIG NUMBERS FOR ITHACA

After starting the season with a pair of tough losses, the Ithaca football team rebounded for a pair of impressive wins behind some outstanding play by junior quarterback Bronson Bupp. In a week three win against Saginaw Valley Lutheran, Bupp ran for 148 yards and three



With quarterback Ryan McIntyre leading a potent offense the Mt. Pleasant football team opened the season with four consecutive wins.

touchdowns while passing for a touchdown. Bupp followed that up with a big effort in a 43-8 win against Saginaw Nouvel in week four. Bupp rushed for 215 yards and three touchdowns in the win against Nouvel and added 103 passing yards.

GLADWIN PUTTING UP IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS

Few teams in the state are putting up the type of numbers that Gladwin is putting up both on offense and defense.

Through the first four games of the season, the Gladwin offense has totaled an amazing 238 points (59.5 avg.). The Flying G defense has been impressive in its own right allowing 18 points with three shutouts to its credit.



The Beal City football team rebounded from a tough opening-night loss to Ravenna by winning three straight Highland Conference games.

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

- Lawn Mowing and Trimming
- Trees and Shrub Care
- Spring and Fall Clean-Ups

DAN SEELEY
Serving Mid-Michigan • Fully Insured

HSSS FOOTBALL STATS

Coaches, statisticians, High School Sports Scene Magazine wants to be the source for high school football stats this season. Feel free to contact us with any updates or statistics you have. Send any updates to greg102300@yahoo.com. HSSS will be updating the football stats page on a daily basis.

Ty Klopff, Coleman 3
Jacob Recker, Clare 3

RUSHING YARDS

Evan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 734
Kahleel Brown, Birch Run 602
Robert Knapik, Hemlock 555
Zak Ahern, Rockford 476
Ignatius Jackson, St. Louis 441
Preston Wallace, Ewart 1,018
Tyler Holtz, DeWitt 983
Joey Baker, Lansing Catholic 982
Tommy Szezepanski, Essexville-Garber 906
Drew Barrie, Midland 790
Jeff Kolb, Grand Ledge 688
Braylen Himmelein, Davison 669
Jack Bakus, Midland Dow 659
Bryson Huckleby, Freeland 644
Seneca Moore, Holt 641
Brevin Jackson, East Lansing 616
Jake Townsend, Crosswell-Lexington 602
Parker Edwards, Saranac 572
Zak Ahern, Rockford 563
Jack Kulhanek, New Lothrop 544
Brandon Green, Linden 505
Jacob Recker, Clare 478
Max Dinninger, Hemlock 468
Ty Klopff, Coleman 437
Reece Giles, St. Louis 418
Jacen Torres, Birch Run 386
Ryan McIntyre, Mt. Pleasant 385
Carter Campau, Bullock Creek 327
Bronson Bupp, Ithaca 319
Ty Randall, Laingsburg 294
Nick Wheeler, Gladwin 277
Daylen Adams, East Lansing 244
Axel Newell, Ovid-Elsie 233
Hans Ross, Saginaw Valley Lutheran 224
Noah Coffey, Beaverton 204
Kaleb Hall, Swartz Creek 201

PASSING TOUCHDOWNS

Preston Wallace, Ewart 16
Tommy Szezepanski, Essexville-Garber 113
Jeff Kolb, Grand Ledge 12
Jack Kulhanek, New Lothrop 12
Tyler Holtz, DeWitt 10
Drew Barrie, Midland 10
Joey Baker, Lansing Catholic 9
Seneca Moore, Holt 9
Bryson Huckleby, Freeland 7
Brevin Jackson, East Lansing 7
Jake Townsend, Crosswell-Lexington 7
Zak Ahern, Rockford 6
Jack Bakus, Midland Dow 6
Ryan McIntyre, Mt. Pleasant 6
Nick Wheeler, Gladwin 6
Ty Randall, Laingsburg 5
Jacen Torres, Birch Run 5
Carter Campau, Bullock Creek 4
Dylan Carman, Ovid-Elsie 4
Reece Giles, St. Louis 4
Braylen Himmelein, Davison 4
Bronson Bupp, Ithaca 4
Chase Burggren, Montabella 3

RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS

Zak Ahern, Rockford 13
Evan Wakefield, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 11
Ignatius Jackson, St. Louis 9
Kahleel Brown, Birch Run 8
Brendan Hocquard, Grand Ledge 7
Max Humphrey, Mt. Pleasant 7
Reece Giles, St. Louis 4
Beau Welden, Clare 7
Robert Knapik, Hemlock 6
Conner Shrank, Coleman 6

Peyton Brooks, Bullock Creek 5
Bronson Bupp, Ithaca 5
Bryant Calderon, Ewart 5
Kory Davis, Mt. Pleasant 5
Bryce Eliuk, Linden 5
Asher Gregory, East Lansing 5
Austin Hillabrandt, Ionia 5
Ty Holtz, DeWitt 5
Cole Hopkins, Ewart 5
Garrett Pistro, Freeland 5
Rayce Sackett, Montabella 5
Trevor Tooker, Ionia 5
Alex Watters, Lansing Catholic 5
Drew Barrie, Midland 4
Bryce Debbri, DeWitt 4
Eddy Evans, Ovid-Elsie 4
Tristan Hinkley, Swartz Creek 4
Andy Liu, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 4
Garret Mangino, New Lothrop 4
Caleb Theisen, Montabella 4
Al Warner, Clare 4
Jack Bakus, Midland Dow 3
Caleb Christie, Essexville-Garber 3

RECEPTIONS

Mason Woods, East Lansing 24
Alex McLean, Rockford 21
Logan Anthony, Essexville-Garber 19
Alex Watters, Lansing Catholic 19
Teon Armstrong, Davison 18
Kory Davis, Mt. Pleasant 18
Nick Wheeler, Gladwin 281
Eddy Evans, Ovid-Elsie 275
Andy Liu, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 273
Mitchell Hall, Beaverton 270
Noah Coffey, Beaverton 267
Ryan Dabe, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 256
Caleb Theisen, Montabella 252
Carter Smedley, Clare 248
Bryce Eliuk, Linden 238
Rafael Woods, New Lothrop 236
Jack Byrnes, Laingsburg 233
Jay'len Flowers, Davison 227
Bryson Huckleby, Freeland 227
Jack Bakus, Midland Dow 208
AJ Hill, Davison 204
Bruce Jones, Bridgeport 192
Dayshawn Bowman, Laingsburg 188
Espin Miller, Hemlock 169
Ryan McIntyre, Mt. Pleasant 162
Carter Campau, Bullock Creek 160
Devlin Laninez, Swartz Creek 142
Travis Fieck, Beaverton 126

RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS

Max Fellows, Essexville-Garber 6
Mason Woods, East Lansing 6
Logan Anthony, Essexville-Garber 5
Kellen Reed, Holt 5
Bryant Calderon, Ewart 4
Caden Chrutz, Midland Dow 4
Cos Davis, Birch Run 4
Bryce Kurtz, DeWitt 4
Brandon Lewis, Lansing Catholic 4
Tommy McIntosh, DeWitt 4
Alex Watters, Lansing Catholic 4
Marcel White, Ewart 4
Teddy Williams, Grand Ledge 4
Dawson John, Clare 10
Jalen Brown, Midland 3
Jason Davenport, Midland 3
Alex Duley, Freeland 3
Cole Hopkins, Ewart 3
Dorijan Jackson, East Lansing 3
Dawson John, Clare 3
Kaden McDonald, Gladwin 3
Saige Slanec, Crosswell-Lexington 3
Tyler Vroman, Rockford 3
Rafael Woods, New Lothrop 3

RECEIVING YARDS

Brandon Lewis, Lansing Catholic 511
Mason Woods, East Lansing 495
Logan Anthony, Essexville-Garber 412

Jalen Brown, Midland 370
Tommy McIntosh, DeWitt 367
Alex Duley, Freeland 299
Bryant Calderon, Ewart 298
Caden Chrutz, Midland Dow 290
Asher Gregory, East Lansing 288
Cole Hopkins, Ewart 285
Saige Slanec, Crosswell-Lexington 285
Max Fellows, Essexville-Garber 278
Bryce Murphy, Hemlock 277
Bryce Kurtz, DeWitt 273
Teon Armstrong, Davison 265
Kellen Reed, Holt 255
Cos Davis, Birch Run 250
Dawson John, Clare 249
Jason Davenport, Midland 244
Rafael Woods, New Lothrop 220
Dorijan Jackson, East Lansing 218
Teddy Williams, Grand Ledge 212
Marvel White, Ewart 210
Parker Grzegorzcyk Bullock Creek 209
Michael Baysah, St. Louis 203
Shawn Foster, Grand Ledge 199
Tyler Vroman, Rockford 193
Mitch Jackson, Saranac 190
Al Warner, Clare 178
Bryce Eliuk, Linden 168
Alex McLean, Rockford 168
Michael Baysah, St. Louis 165
Kaden McDonald, Gladwin 164
Ethan Hull, Ithaca 153
Bryce Debbri, DeWitt 137
Jaden Bovee, Coleman 105
Gavin Espinoza, Crosswell-Lexington 105
Zion Douglas, Midland 100

SACKS

Michael Baysah, St. Louis 4
Wyatt Gocha, Linden 4
Cole Hopkins, Ewart 4
Ben Dousuah, St. Louis 3
Nick Flegler, DeWitt 3
Mason Knippen, Lansing Catholic 3
Kade Kostus, Rockford 3
Landon Miller, Midland Dow 3
Anthony Zechmeister, Hemlock 3
Bryce Debbri, DeWitt 2.5
Seth Doble, Michigan Lutheran Seminary 2.5
Nick Kruger, Midland 2.5
Landon Butler, Crosswell-Lexington 2
Bryant Calderon, Ewart 2
Joshua Collins, Hemlock 2
Cade Coquillard, Essexville-Garber 2
Tony Groppi, Crosswell-Lexington 2
Kieren Jackson, East Lansing 2
Jake Punchedes, Clare 2
Alex VanSumeren, Essexville-Garber 2
Kirk Wilson, Crosswell-Lexington 2

INTERCEPTIONS

Max Fellows, Essexville-Garber 3
Zach Pappadakis, Davison 3
Preston Wallace, Ewart 3
Josiah Buford, Swartz Creek 2
Ethan Burrows, Essexville-Garber 2
Evan Chronowski, Midland Dow 2
Ben Dousuah, St. Louis 2
Gavin Espinoza, Crosswell-Lexington 2
Carter Kohitz, Midland Dow 2
Brandon Lewis, Lansing Catholic 2
Tommy McIntosh, DeWitt 2
Wisdom Zanguo, St. Louis 2

TACKLES

Ben Dousuah, St. Louis 58
Kanye Jackson, East Lansing 51
Kory Davis, Mt. Pleasant 44

Cole Hopkins, Ewart, 42
Dawson Studebaker, Midland Dow 42
Rick Beison, Rockford 39
Cade Coquillard, Essexville-Garber 39
Kevin Tanner, Clare 39
Carmelo Works, East Lansing 38
Mason Knippen, Lansing Catholic 37
Kirk Wilson, Crosswell-Lexington 37
Clay Wittenberg, Ovid-Elsie 37
Wyatt Goncha, Linden 35
Westyn Bryant, Clare 34
Wyatt Ervin, Mt. Pleasant 34
Tony Groppi, Crosswell-Lexington 34
Max Humphrey, Mt. Pleasant 33
Dawson John, Clare 249
Ayden Ruhle, Coleman 32
Tanner Szezepanski, Essexville-Garber 32
Landon Taber, DeWitt 32
Robert Knapik, Hemlock 31
Caleb Christie, Essexville-Garber 30
Carter Herriman, Davison 30
Merrick Hocking, Midland 30
Manmit Singh, Clare 30
Jesse Henrie, Mt. Pleasant 30
Noah Risner, Ithaca 30
Jake Punchedes, Clare 26
Landon Love, Beaverton 21
Peyton Brooks, Bullock Creek 18

TACKLES

Ben Dousuah, St. Louis 58
Kanye Jackson, East Lansing 51
Kory Davis, Mt. Pleasant 44

DeWitt Soccer Team Building Off Last Year's State Finals Appearance

David Cook Sports Scene

One of the top soccer programs in the area year in and year out, the DeWitt boys soccer team is coming off one of the finest seasons in school history. While a number of key players have graduated from last year's squad, the Panthers have a strong core returning making the Panthers a team to watch again this season.

Last season saw DeWitt reach the state championship match for the first time in school history. This year, the Panthers are building on that success. Making the transition smoother is a strong group of veteran returnees.

"We have a strong core of returners from last year's state finalist team but lost several major

contributors," said DeWitt coach Joe Ishraidi. "Guys will need to step up into roles, but we should compete well in our league and district."

The Panthers gained valuable experience in some rugged non-league matches to start the season. DeWitt opened the new season with a 3-2 win against Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern and a 2-2 tie against Grand Rapids Northview.

"Ishraidi points to team chemistry, experience and depth as being strong points that this year's squad is building around.

The Panthers have several experienced veterans to build around led by senior center midfielder Avery Dreasky. A four-year, varsity player, Dreasky

is a two-time, all-conference player and honorable-mention, all-state selection last season.

Junior center mid Lucas Perez is a three-year varsity player who earned all-district and all-conference honors last year. Senior center back Rory Kauffman and senior center mid Andrew Simmons are both two-year, varsity players.

The Panthers also return a pair of talented junior veterans. Caiden McDonald is a left back in his third year on the varsity who earned all-district honors last season. Sam Aeschliman is a midfielder and two-year varsity player who also earned all-district honors last



After reaching the state finals last season, the DeWitt boys soccer team is regrouping and ramping up the intensity for another strong season.

season. DeWitt also returns sophomore midfielder Aiden Aldrich who is in his second season on the varsity.

Blending in with the veterans are a promising group of newcomers. How quickly the new group jells is a key to success this season.

"It will be important for this team for players to step up into new roles," Ishraidi said. "There are a lot of returners who need to step up into leadership and key contributor

roles and also a lot of newcomers we need to step up into support roles. We have a big roster this year so it will be key that guys compete throughout the season for playing time and push each other."

Bringing the same type of intensity as last year will also be a key.

"Coming off our school's first state finals appearance it will be important to stay hungry," Ishraidi said, "and play with a chip since we will be a target for other teams,"

Hemlock Soccer Team Relying On Seniors In Season Of Transition

David Cook Sports Scene

The Hemlock soccer team is experiencing a season of transition. With a new coach and a number of new players, the Huskies have a different look.

Jay Reidsma is the new coach of the Huskies. The Huskies also have a new look on the field as five starters have moved on from last year's squad including a pair of all-state players. In their place are a number of new but promising players who have been working hard in practice and matches.

"We have a lot of youth on the team and being a smaller school, we only have enough players to field one team this year," said Reidsma. "We do not have a strong depth chart due to the youth and inexperience at the high school level. This is also my first year as head coach on the varsity level so there is some learning and growing pains there too."

With a number of first-year players on the team, the Huskies are relying on the seniors they have to lead the way.

"Our success is based on our senior leadership and ability to gel as a team," Reidsma said, "and bringing in the younger players to buy into everything. Teamwork, communication and commitment are keys to success for the team this season."

Among the senior leaders are Sander Reidsma. A team captain, Reidsma is a

senior and a returning starter who is an anchor of the defensive from his center back position. Senior Evan Knoll is also a returning starter. Knoll also returns to the defense as a win.

Providing the last line of defense is junior goalkeeper AJ Light.

Sophomore Jake Funka is one of the young veterans on the team. A returning starter, Funka is a midfielder and is a team captain.

This year's squad is a home-grown group that takes a lot of pride in their community and in growing the game of soccer in Hemlock.

"This team is composed of boys that have played in our local rec leagues through their years up to high school," Reidsma said. "They continue to support the community and youth program even while they are focused on their season."



The Hemlock soccer team is led by Jay Reidsma who is in his first season as head coach of the Huskies.

Okemos Soccer Team Building On Last Season's Success

David Cook Sports Scene

The Okemos soccer team turned in a strong season last fall and with a talented core of players back from that squad, the team is picking up where it left off.

Okemos captured a district soccer title last fall and even more success is the goal this season.

"We have set some very lofty goals for this group," said Okemos

coach Keith Miller. "We have the core of a district championship team all back, with several two-year varsity players. Winning a league, cup, district and regional are all goals for this team."

Having experience both playing together and playing against high-level competition has resulted in a well-rounded squad capable of competing against the best teams in the state.

"This is a group of players who

have played together for a long time, and many have played on some high-level club team," Miller said. "We should be able to keep the ball and generate scoring opportunities while featuring a very stout defensive group."

Okemos has a core of talented veterans leading the way on the field. Senior Jack Guggemos is a four-year varsity player and a three-year starter.

"Jack does a lot of the offensive heavy lifting with some very creative play and scoring," Miller said. "He commands the attention of most teams."

Senior forward Owen Brewer is a three-year varsity player and gives the team another option on offense at his forward position.

"Owen is a gifted possession forward who is almost impossible to take the ball off of and is a fantastic player in the air," Miller said. "He is a handful for most defenders and is not easy to defend with one player."

In the midfield, junior Leo Arana is a three-year varsity player that leads the way.

"Leo is a silky-smooth midfielder with great touch, creativity, vision and toughness who is a difficult mark on the pitch," Miller said.

The Okemos defense is paced by another veteran in Aiden Antcliff who is a three-year varsity player and defender.

"Aiden is the anchor of our defense and dis also a next-level player," Miller said. "He is nearly impossible to beat one-on-one and has a fantastic knowledge of the

Aiden Antcliff (3) is a three-year varsity player and anchor of the Okemos defense.



Senior Jack Guggemos (10) is a four-year varsity player who provides plenty of scoring punch for the Okemos soccer team.

game."

Along with a strong group of starters, Okemos enjoys the luxury of a deep and talented roster.

"Not only do we have a good first 11, but we have several quality

contributors who can make plays and come off the bench. Staying healthy and staying focused on the details are keys to our success along with playing within ourselves and knowing our roles."



GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS!

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

TACIA • WHITMORE • BARTZ
LARK • ZAINEA • LARK • NEAR

New Patients Always Welcome!

1321 Pine Avenue • Alma, Michigan • 989-463-1139

miyedocor.com •

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

Ready For Your Service Needs!

101 Hidden Oaks Dr, St Louis, MI 48880 | 989-463-AUTO (2886) | seeleycars.com

Strong Team Effort And Coaching Has Laingsburg Soccer Off To A Winning Start

David Cook Sports Scene

The soccer season has been one of transition for the Laingsburg Wolfpack but thanks to a total-team effort the squad is posting a winning record.

Laingsburg opened the season with a 5-1-1 record under new coach Natalie Elkins who took over the program after the former coach moved to Florida. The Wolfpack also lost all-area players Cade Clone and Cam Salas who graduated.

Despite the losses, the Wolfpack are turning in a winning season with the coaching staff and players all buying in. Elkins, who assisted the girls team last year and headed the junior varsity team, is being assisted by assistant varsity coach Jeremie Wilson, head boys junior varsity coach Jackson Wilson,

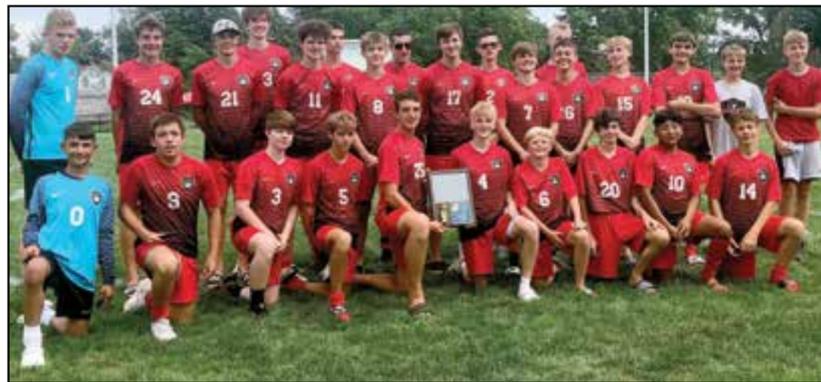
assistant junior varsity coaches Mike Salas and Chase Rodriguez and keeper coach Brad Kramer.

"We have a coaching staff that works very well together," said Elkins, "so that every player can find one coach that speaks their soccer language. We have strong, patient and skilled leaders that bring this team together."

On the field, Laingsburg features a strong core of players at every position.

The defense is led by Luke Snider who is a returning starting goalkeeper. Junior Dylan Hulliberger earned honorable-mention, all-area honors last season and anchors the defense at the defensive midfield position.

Junior Brayden Thomas is one of the best ball handlers on the team. A team captain, Thomas plays the



The Laingsburg soccer team has a new coach this season and graduated some key players but a total-team effort has the Wolfpack turning in a winning record.

attacking midfield position. Junior Adam Myers is also in the midfield at the center midfield position. The Laingsburg defense is solid with senior Addison Goff a returning starter at center back, junior Alex George a team captain who plays center defense and junior captain Aaron Willoughby at right back. Freshman Mitchell George, younger brother of Alex, is at the left back position. On offense, senior newcomer Miguel Fajardo leads the attack at striker.

Laingsburg also has solid players

in reserve.

"We have a decent bench," said Elkins, "and boys who have the stamina to run the winger spots."

Laingsburg also has the added benefit of having a junior varsity team this season.

"For the first time in 11 years we've fielded a junior varsity team," Elkins said. "The best players on that team double roster to play for the varsity in most games and that helps to build their skills. We have a team of six seasoned coaches

working together at every practice and game to support the growth in the program and to retain talent for next year."

Playing solid defense and possessing the ball have been keys for the Wolfpack.

"We have a strong defense," Elkins said. "We also have excellent mid field possession and passing and that leads the offense to shot opportunities. We have five groups of brothers on the team so our bonds are pretty strong."

East Lansing On Championship Journey

John Raffel Sports Scene

Pat Murray is coaching an East Lansing boys cross country team, which is looking to go for championship honors this season.

East Lansing will be competing in the CAAC Blue.

Last season, "We were 6-0. We won our league and qualified for the state meet for the first

time since we were moved up to Division I," Murray said. "We lost a great team leader in Nathan Faust who is now at the Naval Academy."

Some key athletes will be Matthew Zeleke, Sr, one of the top runners in Mid-Michigan, and Jayden Page, Sr. another leader in the area. CAAC Blue Jamboree, Zeleke was first (16:31.4) for East Lansing's Evan Necombe in ninth (17:35.6), Gabe Benavides in 18th (18:06.4), Eden Lampi in 21st

(18:25.7) and Michael Cyrul in 29th (18:57.3).

Page has had three races so far. He had a personal record of 15 minutes, 59.7 seconds at the Saranac invitational for third; 16:11.9 at the West Ottawa Bredeweg Invitational for fifth and 16:28.6 for third at the Holly Duane Raffin Festival of races.

Zeleke was first at the Saranac Invitational in 15:24 for first place.



East Lansing runners expect to have another strong season.

He also took first at the 39th West Ottawa Bredeweg Invitational in 16:08.2.

He was first in 15:52.9 at the Holly Duane Raffin Festival of Races.

When protecting your Auto, Home, Life, Business, Farm and more, the **EXPERIENCE MATTERS.**

Call **Scott Allen** today!
(989) 875-2200
FarmBureauInsurance.com

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Blackford Concrete

Licensed **FREE** And Insured **ESTIMATES**

• Residential, Commercial & Agricultural Poured Walls & Laser Flat Floors
• Decorative Stamped Concrete

168 E Deerfield Rd, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
Office (989) 773-7898

www.traynorphotos.com
all sports all ages

GCCU
GRATIOT COMMUNITY
GRATIOT UNION

Alma - (989) 463-8321
Ithaca - (989) 875-6184
gratiotcu.org

Chippewa Hills Runner Off To Impressive Start

John Raffel Sports Scene

Chippewa Hills' Sarah Storey's final cross country season is expected to be a very good one.

"As a senior, she will push to be one of the best distance runners in the state," Warrior coach Zach Hatfield said. "Her lofty goals are only outshadowed by her work ethic and attention to detail."

Storey has been very good in early season races. She won her home Warrior Early Season Invitational in 19 minutes and 37.4 seconds and was sixth

in the Shepherd John Bruder Classic last week in 18:58.89.

"I just want to go and leave it all out there," Storey said. "Last year, the end of the season didn't go the way I want it to. I'm still going for that all-state mark and sub-19 minutes."

She hopes to get into the 18:30s.

"It will take consistency and a lot of hard work," she said. "That's nothing new."

Storey hit a very impressive feat at the Michigan State Invitational. She won her division, becoming only the

third runner in Chippewa Hills cross history to win at MSU. The other runners are Jared Kelsh, currently the coach at Ferris State, and Megan O'Neil, who ran collegiately at Wisconsin and Central Michigan University.

Storey won the bronze division in Friday's Spartan Invitational at Michigan State Invitational.

"It was a good competitive race," Hatfield said. "It's cool to see this since there are 30 teams there. Jared Kelsh and Megan O'Neil are the only two runners from our school who have won it. So that's good company."

Sarah Storey, also a Chippewa Hills relay standout, was a bronze cross country division champ at the Michigan State Invitational.



Breckenridge Runners Putting Together Another Stellar Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Kurt Gulick is back for another season coaching Breckenridge's cross country team in the MSAC.

Last season, Breckenridge was boys conference runners-up, boys regional champions and boys state runner-up.

The Breckenridge girls, sent three to the state finals with Megan Goward, Kiera Goward and Tori Most.

Breckenridge boys will have two key losses from the lineup.

"Coltton Vine graduated," Gulick said. "Trent Carter didn't graduate but was killed in a car

accident and was a big part of our team and will truly be missed in more than one way."

Kiera Goward graduated for the girls. Key boy runners will be senior Mason Sumner, junior Ondray Thorton, sophomores Isaac Humm, Sawyer Stoneman, Jaden Ostrander, Ryan Tinson, Thomas Cochran and Preston Foster and freshman Aimon Humm.

Thorton, Cochran and Foster are first-year runners and Tinson hasn't run since the seventh grade.

Top girls runners are junior Calista Goward, sophomore Tori Most and Megan Goward and

freshmen Avery Westall, Natally Vine and Kayla Goward.

The goal for the boys will be getting back to the podium at the state finals for the third straight year and have the girls send the whole team to the state finals.

"Having depth on the boys' side will be key," Gulick said. "On the girls side adding three freshman will give us a better shot to make state finals as a team. We want to grow as a whole and get better each and every day. In the boys, it will be another year of going back and forth with Carson City. Both of our teams are very similar in strength and will be fun to see all three races unfold."

"For the girls, Mount Pleasant

Sacred Heart will again be the favorites."

The preseason has been much better without COVID related things going on. "The athletes seem to have a better sense of well-being and are having fun again," Gulick. "It's just a heavy heart with one of our guys being gone, but we seem to be doing better each and every day. It has been a heartwarming feeling with the amount of support we have been given from other schools in the state and we want to say a huge thank you for that. The cross country family that is our great state is forever thankful for all support."



Trent Carter's memory will be cherished by the Breckenridge cross country team this season.



Frankenmuth is led by sophomore Mary Richmond, who is on the varsity for her second year.

Frankenmuth Sophomore Expects To Have Another Huge Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Frankenmuth coach Mike Snyder has reason to be excited over the prospects of sophomore Mary Richmond, who is on the varsity for her second year.

"This is Mary's second year on the high school cross country team," Snyder said. "In her first year as a freshman, Mary has accomplished a great deal as she earned the top spot on our FHS all-time record board that has been around for over 30 years. Mary's top time last season was 18:05.25.

She also placed fourth in the Division 2 MHSAA state finals.

"Mary is a very polite, humble, hard working, great teammate type of student/athlete. Her best time last year was 18:05.25. Her time this year after only the second meet was 18:33.9. She is the No. 1 runner on our Frankenmuth girls team. Her initial goal this season is 17:50 and I believe she will do better than this."

The keys to Richmond's success, Snyder said, is she is a "dedicated student/athlete, has great work ethic, is coachable, is a great teammate, very

supportive, is humble and very competitive. Her best time is 18:05 set last year (2020). I can see her around 17:30 this season which will be asking a lot, but I believe she can get there. "She is working on cadence and foot strike and is much stronger than last season with weight room and running. It's a culmination of many things as she continues to work hard and support her teammates on the way to being a top runner. The everyday supporting nature of Mary is something that sticks with me."

Richmond's fourth-place

appearance at the state meet last season was very memorable.

"I expect her to "simply to continue to do what she has been doing," Snyder said. "Mary was our top mileage athlete over the summer and has always been very dedicated to her training plan. Mary is dual sporting in varsity volleyball this season. Cross country is her primary sport, but volleyball is very important to her as well. She is balancing both and will add academics to this mix as soon as school begins."



Reese Runners Eye Championship Glory

John Raffel Sports Scene

Reese cross country coach Brandon Gnatkowski is in his first year, but is very confident in his program which runs in the Greater Thumb West.

Last year, the boys were third in the conference and regional and 26th in the state meet. The girls were first in the conference, first in the regional and seventh at the state meet.

"2020 was an interesting year with all the COVID protocols, but the team did what was asked of them and we achieved our team goals of getting both teams to compete at the state finals," Gnatkowski said. "The girls finished seventh at the state meet which tied for the best team finish

in the school's history.

"Macey Hawken, Jack Sirianni, Jake Nierode and Sam Spencer were our four seniors from last year's team. All four of those athletes put in the time, effort and lead by example. They will be missed, but they passed along their leadership roles to this year's team.

For the boys: seniors are Wilbert Haines, Roderick Rigby and Isaak Wurdock-Swift.

Juniors are Brandan Hopp, Cooper Shores and Wyatt Wojdula. Freshmen are Phineas Houghtaling, Dominic Putman, Nathaniel Seney and Owen Wurdock-Swift.

Girls are seniors Grace Brown, Allison Galsterer, Aubrey Putman and Brooke Sweeney.

Juniors are Ellymae McCoy

and Nicole Raymond. The lone sophomore is Jenna Sweeney.

"Both teams have a great amount of experience," Gnatkowski said. "Everyone of these kids are hard workers and they hold each other accountable and that makes them work harder each day. Both teams are aiming to contend for a conference title. These kids show up daily to work hard and get better. Their determination to be their best makes coaching them so much fun.

"The Greater Thumb Conference has talented runners on both sides for boys and girls. Our teams are looking to be in contention for the conference title. It was nice to be able to meet up with kids throughout the preseason. The kids enjoyed being able to run together."

Reese will be strong in both boys and girls cross country this season.

Committed to our Future ...

Village of Breckenridge

Inspired by our Past.

BOLAND'S BEST ONE TIRE *The Leader In The Field*

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

General • Cooper Firestone • Bridgestone Goodyear

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

Daniel R. De Jong, CFP® AAMS Senior Vice President, Investments

John W. Pobanz Financial Advisor

Christopher K. Lewis, AAMS Financial Advisor

RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.

989-463-5052 Toll-Free: 888-846-7895 Fax: 989-463-1989 dljfinancialgroup.com

VALET AUTO CARE, INC.

- FIRE Pickup Toppers
- Truck Accessories
- Tonneau Covers
- Detailed Auto Cleaning

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

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

989-773-3477

Protection you need, service you deserve.

BRECKENRIDGE INSURANCE AGENCY

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

Auto-Owners INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Beal City Girls Look To Contend For State

John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Griffin Bohannon expects to have another strong cross season at Beal City.

The boys were led by Matthew Kolb, 28th, at the Division 4 finals.

The girls took third place at the state championship and were regional champions.

The Aggies had three individual All-State athletes with Rachal Weber fourth, Tailor Onstott 13th and Kaylee Locke 14th.

"We lost Matthew Kolb, Matt Clark, Nathan Coston, Derek Gross, and Michael Hopkins to graduation," Bohannon said.

"These five were a huge part of the Beal City cross country family and were a tremendous class. Matthew was an individual All-Stater and each of the other four regularly appeared in the scoring lineup throughout their careers

which included three trips to MIS including a top 10 finish in 2017.

"For the girls, we lost one senior, Angela Kotecki, to graduation last year. Angela only ran one season of high school cross but made a huge impact on the program. She consistently finished as the sixth and seventh runner on last year's team which won Highland and Regional titles en route to a third-place finish at the MHSAA State Finals. She provided great leadership for the group and brought in a wealth of knowledge about competing at the highest level thanks to her legendary track exploit."

As for the 2021 boys, "we have a young team led by junior Owen Gross and senior Logan Mishler," Bohannon said. "Owen has been the No. 1 or No. 2 runner for us his entire high school career and Logan has consistently been in the varsity lineup. Both boys had

strong summers of training and are looking to set personal bests this fall. If all goes well, Owen could be competing for all-conference and All-State accolades while Logan will be right in the mix for all-conference as well. Junior Richard Duynslager also comes in as a third-year runner who has been running very well in the early season. Freshmen Austin Gross, Joseph Wernette, and Eli Zeien along with sophomore Oliver Zeien round out the roster and all are first-year varsity athletes.

"Our girls have 7 of the 8 runners from last year's team returning with junior Kaylee Locke, junior Tailor Onstott, senior Rachal Weber, junior Hadyn Armstrong, sophomore Gen Pappas, junior Lilly Block, junior Addy Zuker, and Tailor were each All-State and All-Conference last season while Armstrong and Pappas also picked up All-Conference honors. Licari was second in the Highland for the middle school two mile and should make an immediate impact."

Bohannon has high expectations.

"Our boys are a young team and we have two primary goals: To finish in the top half of the Highland Conference and the region," Bohannon said. "Further, we will look to improve each and every week. Our girls hope to defend their Highland and Regional crowns and fight for another high finish at the MHSAA Finals.

"For the boys, our biggest strength will be in our low stick, Owen Gross. He should get our team scoring started on the right foot in every meet that we compete in. We also have a hard working and positive group whose mindsets will take them a long way. Our girls biggest strength is our front runners, but we should also have solid depth. Every girl on the team has high expectations this year and



Lauryn Licari is among Beal City's top runners.

is willing to work"

Bohannon adds: "Our boys are inexperienced and will need to learn how to really race and compete for team placement. This is a new sport, at least at the varsity level, for four of our athletes and learning to execute a 5k race takes time. Our girls need to keep their focus on staying healthy. This is a competitive group that likes to push the envelope, but we need everyone running to have a chance to accomplish our goals."



CC-C Boys Hope For Another State Cross Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Coach Grant Woodman's Carson City-Crystal boys took a state title in Division 4 last year and hope to contend again.

Key runners lost from last year were Coleman Clark, Jared Shepler and Calvin Clark. Five starters are returning from last year including captains Ashton Keiffer and Cavanaugh Barker.

Key runners this year are Ashton Keiffer, Cole Stone, Brayden Clark, Deegan Bodell, Gavin Gage and Matt Emelander.

"Ashton, Cole, and Brayden are the key returners from the state championship team," Woodman said. "Keiffer will work with Stone and Brayden Clark to fill the void left by Coleman Clark while junior Deegan Bodell and seniors Gavin Gage and all-state track man Matt Emelander will provide some

spark and depth to help fill the shoes of Jared Shepler and Calvin Clark.

"You cannot replace a Coleman Clark. His on the field leadership and ability to win races was huge. The goal is to do everything we can to repeat the feats of 2020. We are definitely a different team, but I believe we can be just as strong as the 2020 team and achieve the same success."

The girls will be led by seniors Emily Delong, Paige Ewalt and Lyvia Halfman.

Key runners are Mary Beth Hyatt, Ewalt, Delong, and Paige Fleisher.

"Their experience at the varsity level will be key in how far the team goes this year," Woodman said. "We need to find someone to fill the shoes of Molly Dailey not only as a scorer, but as a leader. The girls were very close to making it as a team last year (missed it by 17 points) and I believe that they can contend for the MSAC and get back to Brooklyn. After making it to state the previous 4 years as a team, they didn't like it much that they narrowly missed going and had to stay at home and watch Molly from the livestream. That hunger will determine if they make the return trip."

Carson City-Crystal's cross country team is looking to be a power again this season with runner Ashton Keiffer for the boys.

Bloom Having Championship Start For Ithaca

John Raffel Sports Scene

Lani Bloom couldn't complain about the season she had for the Ithaca cross country team in the fall of 2021.

The Ithaca girls wound up in second place at the Division 3 state meet.

Now they are shooting for top five.

Bloom, a senior, was in 14 races last season and won 11 of them, including the regional. She was second at the Orange and Gold Town Crier Invitational and third at the Shepherd Invitational where she had a personal record of 17:22.5. She was fourth at the Division 3 state meet in 18:32.3.

This season, Bloom won the Michigan State Spartan Invitational in Division 3 with a first-place time of 18:15.5.

"My season's going really well," Bloom said. "I'm really excited about it. (At MSU), it was more important for my team that I won that race. I'm thinking we can be top five."

"I'm looking for have some big meets and I want to compete on the national level."

GIRLS TEAMS TO WATCH

Okemos (1), Shepherd (2), Frankenmuth (2), Ithaca (3), Pewamo-Westphalia (3), Reese (3), Lansing Christian (4), Beal City (4), Sacred Heart (4)

BOYS TEAMS TO WATCH

Rockford (1), East Lansing (1), St. Johns (2), Alma (2), St. Louis (3), Ithaca (3), New Lothrop (3), Carson City Crystal (4), Breckenridge (4)

GIRLS RUNNERS TO WATCH

Emma Neitzel, Holt (1); Meghan Ford, Mason (2); Kiera Hansen Freeland (2); Any Bloom, Ithaca (3); Mikenna Borie, St. Louis (3); Libby Munderloh, St. Louis (3); Rachel Weber (4), Beal City; Ashlyn Kephart, Lansing Christian (4); Olivia Ervin, MP Sacred Heart (4).

BOYS RUNNERS TO WATCH

Matthew Crowley, Midland (1); Braydon Honsinger Freland (3). Aaron Bowerman, St. Louis (3), Espen Lehnst, Ithaca (3); Parks Allen, Ithaca (3), Mason Sumner, Breckenridge (4); Trenter Carter, Breckenridge (4); Brock Lynch, MP Sacred Heart (4).



Lani Bloom celebrates the Michigan State Invitational title.



THE LAURELS
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center



Your Small Town Rehabilitation Center



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

No Limit to the Fun You'll Have



Pizzas Burgers Steaks Ribs

801 N. Cedar St. • Mason
517-244-1090
www.citylimitasmason.com

Voted Best Insurance Agency
9 Years Running!



JACOBS INSURANCE.com

(989) 725-7117 Owosso • Waterford

BEN & NOAH JACOBS

1 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
11 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
4 ALL-AMERICAN AWARDS



PIONEER STATE MUTUAL

AMERICA'S CHOICE REALTY L.L.C.



Marci Browne/Broker Cheryl Reeves/Realtor
989-620-1027 989-388-3121
1212 E Center Street, Ithaca



Helping You To Build Your Future

Knopf Custom Carpentry takes pride in creating your dream home. From foundations to custom cabinets and everything in-between. Our talented team specializes in additions, remodels, custom woodwork, elegant bathrooms, kitchen designs, commercial real estate and more.






We Do It All! Residential Construction, Remodeling, Additions, New Homes, Commercial Construction, Custom Carpentry



**414 Prospect Ave
Alma, MI 48801**
Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm



Dream up your custom home or project. We'll help you make it a reality. Serving Michigan and the surrounding states for over 25 years.

Visit Us At: knopfcustomcarpentry.com

Area Swimmers Hit The Pools As Swim Season Moves Into High Gear

David Cook Sports Scene

The girls swim season is shifting into overdrive with conference meets in full swing and swimmers looking to improve their times for the state tournament. Following is a look at some of the impressive efforts turned in by area golfers and teams this season and a list of some of the top individual times by area swimmers and divers.

EAST LANSING SWIMMERS EDGE OKEMOS

The East Lansing girls swim team picked up a key league win by edging Okemos 96-90 in CAAC Blue action.

Sarah Bergdolt led the way for the Trojans as she took first place in both the 100 butterfly and the 200 freestyle. Rachel Capriotti took a first place in the 200 IM and a second in the 100 backstroke.

East Lansing also turned in an

impressive 129-57 win against Holt. Emmah Howard led the Trojans with first-place finishes in the 50 and the 500 freestyle. Bergdolt also took first in the 100 butterfly and 200 freestyle. Sophia Fickies took first in the 100 freestyle and second in the 200 freestyle.

OKEMOS OFF TO STRONG START

The Okemos girls swim team has turned in some strong early efforts this season.

The Chiefs picked up a 128-58 win against Grand Ledge. Faye McInerney led Okemos with wins in both the 200 freestyle and 100 freestyle. Elena Isabelle Garbaccio took first in the 100 backstroke and second in the 50 freestyle. Maria Smet won the 200 IM and placed second in the 100 butterfly.

Okemos diver Caroline Li is off to a strong start winning the diving

competition in meets against Grand Ledge and East Lansing.

BALANCE A KEY FOR DEWITT SWIMMERS

Balance has been a key in the early going for the DeWitt girls swimming team. In a win against Haslett the Panthers were led by Alana Rose who took first place in both the 100 breaststroke and 200 IM while Jane Thomas won both the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle. DeWitt also received wins from Elizabeth Hall (100 backstroke), Kylee Dinninger (100 freestyle), Luna ALdarese (50 free) and Anya Hopek (100 butterfly).

ST. JOHNS SWIMMERS SHOWING PROMISE

The St. Johns swimming team has turned in some solid efforts this season. The Redwings picked up a 108-72 non-league win against Gaylor. Sophomore Ella Schafer won the 200 free in the meet while fellow sophomore Ellie



Area swimmers and divers are diving into the season head first with the goal of making it to the state finals in November.

Vance won the 100 breaststroke. Senior Ashlee Smith won the diving competition while freshman Lindsey Smith placed third in the diving. The St. Johns quartet of

senior Laney Voisin, sophomores Katrina Schaefer and Ella Shafer and freshman Natalie Ott teamed up to win both the 200 free relay and the 400 free relay.

HSSS SWIMMING TIMES

50 FREESTYLE

Ashley Lund, Rockford 23.74
Ella Roberson, Midland Dow 24.98
Gwen Eisenbeis, Williamston 24.98
Margaret Monroe, Eaton Rapids 25.24
Ella Schafer, St. Johns 25.25
Anya Hopek, DeWitt 25.51
Madeline McGee, Ionia 25.51
Avery Rottier, Rockford 25.65
Taylor Scott, Rockford 25.69
Macy Irelan, Owosso 25.98

100 FREESTYLE

Laura Brown, Mt. Pleasant 46.18
Ashley Lund, Rockford 53.00
Ella Roberson, Midland Dow 53.54
Gwen Eisenbeis, Williamston 54.37
Margaret Monroe, Eaton Rapids 54.93
Ella Schafer, St. Johns 55.47
Madeline McGee, Ionia 55.86
Anya Hopek, DeWitt 55.89
Cambell Quijano, Rockford 56.83
Alyssa Rainsberger, Grand Ledge 56.91

200 FREESTYLE

Ella Roberson, Midland Dow 1:55.73

500 FREESTYLE

Gwen Eisenbeis, Williamston 1:56.94
Emily Thackery, Midland Dow 2:01.94
Oliver Harmsen, Rockford 2:02.01
Cambell Quijano, Rockford 2:02.08
Alyssa Rainsberger, Grand Ledge 2:03.51
Sarah Bergdolt, East Lansing 2:03.81
Bella Nole, Rockford 2:04.60
Faye McInerney, Okemos 2:05.63
Katelyn Iordanou, Flint Powers 2:06.64

500 FREESTYLE

Ella Roberson, Midland Dow 5:09.86
Margaret Monroe, Eaton Rapids 5:24.70
Cambell Quijano, Rockford 5:25.18
Katarina Schaefer, St. Johns 5:29.95
Sarah Bergdolt, East Lansing 5:32.43
Bella Nole, Rockford 5:34.93
Alyssa Rainsberger, Grand Ledge 5:35.27
Emily Thackery, Midland Dow 5:35.62
Maia Smet, Okemos 5:42.48

100 BUTTERFLY

Ashley Lund, Rockford 57.93
Gwen Eisenbeis, Williamston 58.44
Lauren Taylor, Flint Powers 59.97
Emma Sower, Midland Dow 1:00.35

200 IM

Katarina Schaefer, St. Johns 2:20.31
Maelys Bonafe, Ionia 2:20.57
Chloe Stafford, Midland Dow 2:21.78
Taylor Scott, Rockford 2:21.82
Josie Geers, Rockford 2:23.00
Megan Unger, Rockford 2:23.33
Maddy Flynn, Davison 2:23.44
Bella Nole, Rockford 2:23.72
Madeline McGee, Ionia 2:24.74
Alea Casipit, Midland Dow 2:24.87

100 BACKSTROKE

Ashley Lund, Rockford 1:00.31
Emma Sower, Midland Dow 1:02.26
Ella Banning, Saginaw Heritage 1:02.83
Taylor Scott, Rockford 1:03.10
Macy Irelan, Owosso 1:03.15
Allison Flannery, DeWitt 1:03.20
Madeline McGee, Ionia 1:03.20
Chloe Stafford, Midland Dow 1:04.68
Maelys Bonafe, Ionia 1:04.79
Megan Unger, Rockford 1:04.97

100 BREASTSTROKE

Josie Geers, Rockford 1:10.46
Ella Schafer, St. Johns 1:13.24
Maelys Bonafe, Ionia 1:13.39
Jane Thomas, DeWitt 1:13.55
Amanda Brainerd, Owosso 1:13.64
Lauren Taylor, Flint Powers 1:13.72
Devin Fisher, Rockford 1:13.83

200 IM

Lauren Burgard, Midland Dow 1:13.99
Katarina Schaefer, St. Johns 1:14.75
Madelyn St. Charles, Rockford 1:14.99

DIVING

Caroline Li, Okemos 272
Gwen Petrie, East Lansing 235.10
Makayla Houlihan, Holt 232.55
Siara Goodnoe, Okemos 213.7
Bella Emery, Holt 211.4
Kate McCloskey, Haslett 203.3
Cailey Mills, Mason 195.05
Alicia Viaches, Haslett 193.9
Jade Friedlis, Grand Ledge 188.4
Chloe Chen, Okemos 187.23

PREMIER COMPONENTS, INC.

YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR MILL ACCESSORIES

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

3984 W. Monroe (M-46) Alma, MI 48801

Ph.: (989) 463-4532
Fax: (989) 463-4560
Toll Free: 1-877-681-3064

www.premier-com.com

WIDEMAN APPRAISAL SERVICE

Full Line Of Appraisals

1002 E. Center St. Ithaca, MI 48847

Office: (989) 875-4544
Fax: (989) 875-4838

James J. Wideman Owner

www.widemanappraisal.com
E-mail: jim@widemanappraisal.com

Good Luck All Area Sports Teams

PROpane GAS

RESIDENTIAL • FARM • INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL

GAS PRODUCTION

Gas Production Co. Inc.

989-268-5079 8152 East M-46 Vestaburg 800-991-7477

ISN'T IT TIME YOUR CUSTOMERS CAN READ YOUR PUBLICATION ON THE INTERNET?

Zoom.com
ZoomPubs
1-866-262-4441

Rockford Field Hockey Team Expects Banner Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Rockford Field Hockey coach Mark Neumen is excited with Rockford's sophomore season in field hockey.

In its rookie 2020 season, "We started the year with just 26 girls but by our first game we had increased to 31," Neumen said. "We were able to field both a varsity and JV team in our first year. Though it took us seven games to score our first goal, we finished our year with two wins and one tie. The improvement as the year went on was tremendous. We had some fantastic seniors and without these four to lead these very young teams, we would not have made the progress we did."

"Our first senior class, Aislynn Aulhbach, Peyton Kerr, Macy Ruchty and Kelsey Neill, are really what kept this team focused. As any first-year team there is much adversity to overcome, frustration with learning particular skills, learning the game and overcoming losing. These girls really kept everyone positive and encouraged each to work harder. These young

ladies will always have an impact on our program."

Senior defender Macey Palmer is like the quarterback for this team.

"Everything really starts with our defense and Macey has been such a great leader for not only our defenders, but also our young goalie Olivia Hewitt and the midfielders," Neumen said. "Macey is assisted on defense by two other seniors Reese Black and Lauren Huber and Tessa Gregory, a sophomore, who really as a unit help protect the cage and keep us in the game. Sophomore goalie Oliva Hewitt has really worked hard and has done an outstanding job transitioning from a lacrosse goalie to field hockey and we look forward to watching her play as the season progresses."

"We have a lot of young talent in our midfield group which has been a blessing so that it provides us much needed depth. This group of midfielders is led by two seniors Piper Riley and Ava White. Much like our seniors from last year, they will be the catalyst for our team on keeping us positive and focused throughout the season. Senior Maddy Mill



Rockford's field hockey team is ready for a banner season.

will also get considerable playing time at midfield and we look to her leadership and energy on the field as well. We are really excited with our juniors and sophomore midfielders who continue to learn and improve each day."

The Rams have good experience with juniors Issi Osborn, Mckinley Collins and Alexis Neumen. They played a year at Forest Hills prior to the Rockford team being formed. "We are really looking forward to these three on our improved play in transitioning and their ability to score and create

scoring opportunities," Neumen said. "In our forward positions we are looking to juniors Myah Schultz, Avery Schueller and Jordan Kerr along with sophomore Hope Deuel to add to our scoring totals this year."

"This outlook for this year is really promising. We have some great leadership and a very athletic team that continues to improve each day. We look to improve against our higher division opponents and strive to finish in the top two in our Division."

Neumen likes his team's

athleticism and depth.

"We have grown in just one year from having 31 girls play at the high school level to 41 girls this year, 23 on varsity," Neumen said. "There is a lot of excitement within the program, which is translating to our energy at practice. These girls may be still learning but that are a super hard-working group. Being only our second year we are really still learning field hockey IQ. Our stick skills are improving but really understanding the game and how it's played is the area we are looking to improve upon the most."

Young Midland Girls Swim Team Excited About New Season

David Cook Sports Scene

After having the Covid virus disrupt last year's swimming season, the Midland girls swimming team is excited to hit the pool this season.

This year's Midland swim squad

is a young team but has plenty of potential. The Chemics did graduates some key swimmers led by Natalie Hoefer who is currently a freshman at Notre Dame where she is on the rowing team. Hoefer was very active last fall as she also ran cross country and was a drum major along with swimming.

Midland has a deep group of young swimmers eager to get into the thick of the swim season.

"We have a young team," said Midland coach Mari Beth Hall. "Our hope for the season is to complete the season. We look forward to the Tri-Cities and Valley meets. Last year Tri-Cities was canceled and Valleys was timed finals. No meets were held at Saginaw Valley State. We look forward to swimming at

Saginaw Valley State this year." Midland has a total of 33 swimmers on this year's squad. While the number seems large, it is a little small for Midland.

Midland will need contributions from all its swimmers as the conference has a number of strong swim team.

"Midland Dow and Grand Blanc are the strongest," Hall said. "Heritage, Bay City Western and Midland always have good competition."

Blake Hollenbeck Auto Sales Inc.

W. M57 Greenville, MI

www.Blakehollenbeckinc.com

CHECK OUT OUR INVENTORY

Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9 to 8 Tuesday, Thursday Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-3

Ph. (810) 754-5588
Toll Free (888) 358-7473

SPORTS SCENE

KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

Like Us On **facebook**

CAMPUS LIFE

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Give life to your story.

HIGH SCHOOL: Mondays 7-9 pm
6TH GRADE: Tuesdays 4-7:30 pm
FULTON ALTERNATIVE: Wednesdays 3-5 pm
MIDDLE SCHOOL: Thursdays 7-9 pm

2550 W. Chassanow Rd., Alma | 1611 S. Isabelle Rd., Mt. Pleasant | LANSING

Kingsley Insurance Group

Rich and Louanne Kingsley 800-783-0817

Alma: 116 W. Superior Street Suite 1 989-463-5347
St. Johns: 1000 E. Stugis St Suite 12 989-224-3505
Lansing: 526 S. Creyts Rd. Suite C. 517-489-2257

Auto / Home Boat / Umbrella

www.KingsleyInsuranceGroup.com

GI-TEC Students

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

ICCU Student-Run Credit Union Branch

ICCU Isabella Community Credit Union

ICCUonline.com *One prize per person

Downtown Auto Services Inc.

Scott Nevins President

110 W. Newark St. Ithaca, MI 48847

Shop Hours M-F 8-5:30

989-875-4261

Auto Value CERTIFIED SERVICE CENTER

PLAY TOGETHER

A historic opera house becomes a one-of-a-kind meeting place for friends, fans, and newcomers. Taste international street foods, sip curated drinks, and be dazzled by a competitive esports stage where teams face off and live-stream the action. Grab a bite. Kick back. And be thrilled.



YOUTH LEAGUES

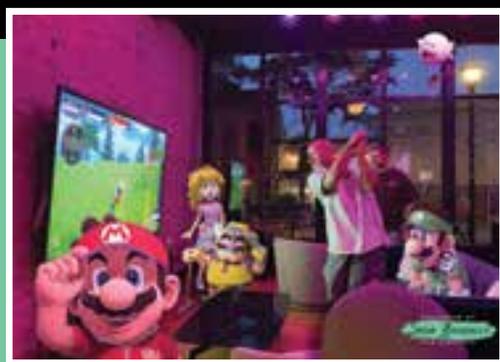
Elementary to high school players take the stage, team up, and show off some incredible skills to the cheers of parents, friends, and fans. Fornite BEL competed this past summer every Sunday

PERSONALIZED COACHING

Whether you're just starting out or already playing professionally, our coaching staff can tailor a plan to help you take your game to the next level. With multiple years of competitive gaming experience, Block House's certified coaches offer customized lessons and practices across a wide variety of titles including League of Legends, Apex Legends, Rocket League, and Super Smash Bros. Appointments available online or in person.

MENU

Street foods and small plates from around the world crafted by Chef Ethan Smerdon.



FRIDAY NIGHT MARIO GOLF

Play in a miniature tournament at Block House between 9pm and 11pm to compete for a \$100 cash prize. Take your chance to win while everyone is learning the game!



**107 East Superior Street
Alma, Michigan 48801**

phone: (989) 444-8889

email: thehouse@blockhouseesports.com

www.blockhouse.live