



**Family Tradition**  
Perrin Continues Family  
Legacy At New Lothrop

**Chippewa Hills**  
**In Control**  
Warriors Finding Success

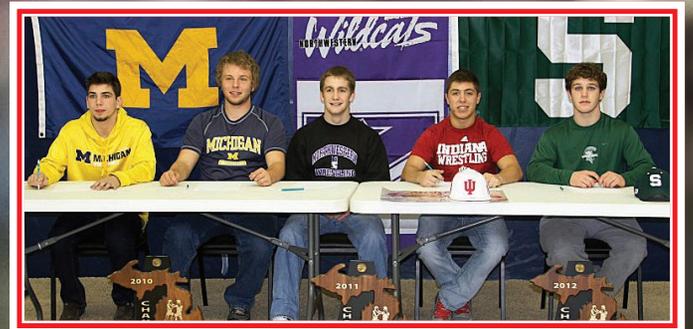



**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SPORTS SCENE**  
IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Vol. 4, Issue 39a



**ST. JOHNS**  
**SETS BAR**  
**HIGH**



**Redwings Sending**  
**Five Wrestlers To**  
**Big 10; Eyes 4-Peat**

**Rise Up**  
East Lansing Girls  
Basketball Finding  
Success



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



## Staff Directory

### Publisher

**Randy Miniard**  
517-202-1808

randy@highschoolsportsscene.com

### Sports Editor

**Scott Keyes**

scott@highschoolsportsscene.com

### High School Liaison

**Paul Hornak**

paul@highschoolsportsscene.com

### Photographers

**Don Goostrey, Chuck Prikasky, Mike Schutt, Alan Holben, Nathan Bootz, Paige Bennett, Bob Campbell, Jamey Conn, Reyna Widman, Gary Williams, Jordan Oster, Anne Russ, Jeff McGinthy, Kevin Gregory, Chip DeGrace**

### Editorial

**John Raffel, David Cook, Jeff Chaney, Ben Murphy, Greg Tunnicliff, Butch Harmon, Dan Stickrad, Geoff Mott, Bill Khan**

If you have a story idea or suggestions please contact Randy Miniard at 517-202-1808. or randy@highschoolsportsscene.com.

Thanks again for your support.

## Publisher's note

**H**

ello Sports fans... It's another great day at Sports



**Randy Miniard**

Scene!

The championship season is almost upon us. Are you ready?

The most hectic time of the year is almost here, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Between wrestling matches, basketball games, cheer competitions, bowling tournaments, and hockey games, things can be pretty overwhelming sometimes, but Sports Scene can handle it all. Having such a great staff on board this time of year shows our dedication to making Sports Scene the No. 1 news source for high schools sports in mid-Michigan.

Make sure you check out the revamped www.highschoolsportsscene.com website. With more than 90,000 photos and great stories, it is a must for high school sports enthusiasts.

Also, please send us a note or comment with your thoughts on the new design of the magazine. We like the direction the magazine is heading, and we hope you feel the same way, too.

If you have a story idea or suggestion, please don't hesitate to contact us at your earliest convenience.

Thanks again for all of the support of our fans and sponsors. If it wasn't for them, this wouldn't be possible.

**Randy Miniard**

**Publisher**

517-202-1808

randy@highschoolsportsscene.com

## Leading Off

**Pg. 3:** Meet our Athletes of the Month. East Lansing's Piper Tucker and Corunna's Mikhail Myles

**Pg. 5:** Chippewa Hills and coach Nate Etheridge continue their winnings ways this season

**Pg. 8-9:** The St. Johns wrestling team is sending five wrestlers to the Big 10 next season

**Pg. 11:** The Lansing Sexton boys basketball team is coming together at the right time

**Pg. 15:** Alma's Madison Seeley is the Panthers silent Leader

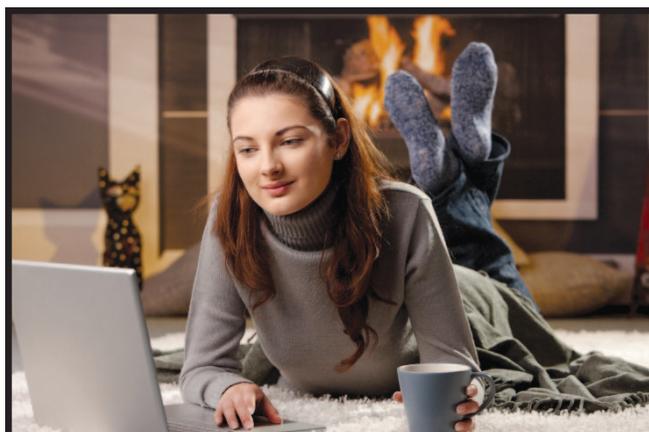
**Pg. 24-25:** Saginaw Arthur Hill's Jalen Adams is Mr. Excitement.

**Pg. 30:** The Midland Dow girls basketball team is focused on winning another Saginaw valley League title

**Pg. 31:** Swan Valley's Leontay White is pulling double duty



Dewitt lost a heartbreaker to Detroit Country Day during the 18th Annual Motor City Round Ball Classic held over the holidays. (Scott Keyes Photo)



## Bank the way you want to bank.

Online, on your phone, or at any of our 26 convenient locations. Visit us today.

Now Open in Freeland

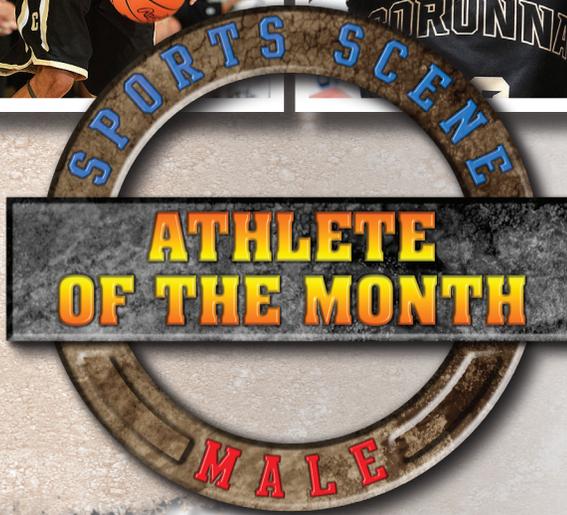
399 S. Main St.



www.facebook.com/isabellabankmi



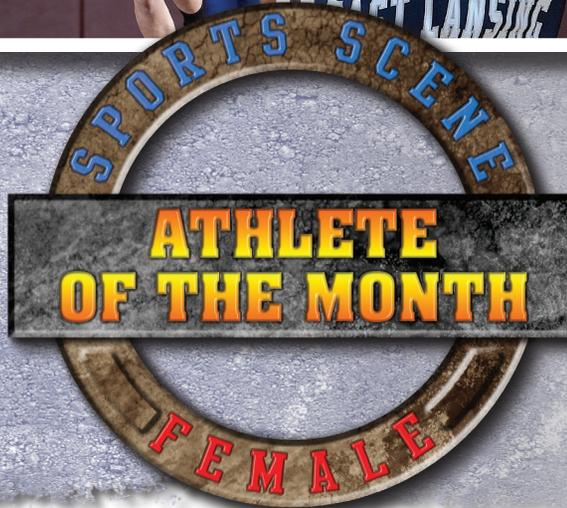
www.isabellabank.com



**The Mikhail Myles File**

Corunna High School

- A sophomore guard who is helping lead the resurgence of Corunna basketball, Myles is leading the team in scoring at 13 points per game. He also leads the Cavaliers in steals and is third in rebounds.
- Myles scored 27 points in a win against Valley Lutheran and also scored 22 points in wins against rival Owosso and against Stockbridge.
- "Mikhail has developed into a quality leader for us, and his work ethic continues to grow," said Corunna coach Kyle Clough. "The sky is the limit for that kid, and he truly has the potential to be a high level college basketball player."
- A two-year varsity player, Miles is also a member of the track team and the football team. He earned all-conference honors as a wide receiver this football season. He also plays AAU basketball in the spring, along with running track.
- In the classroom, he has a 3.77 grade-point average and lists math and English as his favorite subjects.



**The Piper Tucker File**

East Lansing High School

- A senior guard and three-year varsity player, Tucker has helped the Trojans girls to 11-1 record to start the season and a No. 4 ranking in Class A.
- A two-time all-conference player, Piper is averaging double digits in scoring and is shooting 80% from the free-throw line.
- Tucker has helped East Lansing to three conference, district, and regional championships, while also helping the team reach the state quarterfinals her sophomore and junior seasons.
- A member of the Trojan track team, Piper is a three-time all-stater who is a member of two relay teams. A middle hitter in volleyball, she earned all-conference and all-regional honors.
- A sharp-shooting three guard, Piper will continue her career in college at Grand Valley State University.
- In the classroom, Piper has a 3.8 grade point average. She lists physics and art as her favorite classes and has earned academic all-state honors in basketball, track, and volleyball.
- In her spare time, Piper helps out the East Lansing girls' youth basketball program.

**NCG offers 10 regional locations including:**  
Alma, Auburn, Courtland, Coldwater, Grand Blanc, Greenville, Owosso, Lansing, Lapeer & Midland



**Private showings and group rates are available by contacting your local NCG Cinema location or by e-mailing Groupshows@NCGmovies.com**



# Carrying on family name

## Perrins about to make MHSAA history; Jake eyes second state championship for Hornets

Jeff Chaney  
Sports Scene

NEW LOTHROP – Jake Perrin is about to put the Perrin family name in the Michigan High School Athletic Association record book.

The New Lothrop senior wrestler is on the verge of winning his 200th career match. When he accomplishes that, he will join brothers Zach and Luke in the 200-win club.

And when that happens, the Perrins will be just the second set of three brothers to each win at least 200 career matches, joining the Zeerip brothers (Justin, Brandon, and Collin) of Hesperia High School.

Currently, Zach holds the Perrin family lead with 214 wins, followed by Luke with 208. At print time, Jake's record was 194-21.

"I've always wanted the most wins in the family," Jake said. "Along with winning a state title, that was my biggest goal as a wrestler."

He accomplished the first goal last year, when he won the Division 4 130-pound state title.

If he stays healthy this year, he's on pace to overtake Zach's 214 wins.

No matter which Perrin brother is on top, having over 600 wrestling wins from one family is an incredible feat.

"Honestly, my parents (Scott and Lori) are a big reason for that," Jake Perrin said. "They've always taught us that working hard in everything we do will pay off. And when I was little, my dad use to take us all over to wrestle. All that helped a lot."

New Lothrop coach Jeff Campbell echoes those

sentiments.

"Their parents have installed a strong work ethic in the boys," Campbell said. "They really have a solid approach for life – no shortcuts."

Campbell never had a chance to coach Zach and Luke, as they wrestled at Corunna High School. Jake transferred to New Lothrop after his freshman year, giving Campbell a chance to see that great work ethic.

"He's been a really good fit for our program," Campbell said. "When he came in, he wrestled at 112 pounds for us. He could have wrestled at 119, but knew we had a hole at 112 and went down there for the team. That probably cost him a state title his sophomore season, because he was cutting too much weight. But he made a sacrifice for the team, and that really allowed him to fit in."

Being part of a strong winning tradition is why he decided to leave Corunna for New Lothrop.

"That decision was made by both me and my parents," Jake said.

"We came over for the academics and the winning. Coach Campbell is a great coach, and the team is always chasing state titles, and I wanted to be a part of that."

Since being at New Lothrop, Perrin and the Hornets have not won a team state championship. That could change this year, as the Hornets are the second-ranked team in Division 4 behind four-time defending state champion Hudson.

"I think we have a great shot," Perrin said.

"We have to capitalize on bonus points here and there, because it always comes down to a point here or there at state."



New Lothrop's Jake Perrin will look to win his second straight Division 4 championship this season for the Hornets. (Jamey Conn Photo)

**CityLimits**  
Sports Grill

There Is  
No Limit To  
The Fun You  
Will Have!

Pizza • Burgers • Grinders  
Steaks • Salads • Ribs

To Go Orders Welcomed  
**517.244.1090**

801 N Cedar St  
Mason, MI 48854  
citylimitssportsgill.com

**I Have The Trailer U Need!**

**BECK'S!**  
Trailer SUPERstore & Service Center

800 Trailers, Low Prices & E-Z Financing

Ask For Fred - Get A MMSS Discount

**1-888-336-0271** 7607 N US-27  
St. Johns  
MI. 48879

www.BecksTrailerStore.com

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SPORTS SCENE**

Like Us On

**facebook**

# Ethridge, Warriors enjoying another solid season

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

The Chippewa Hills wrestling team is at it again. An overwhelming amount of success probably was not predicted for the Warrior program this year. It had lost wrestlers from last year, including state champion Zack Cooper, who after compiling a 60-2 record, transferred to another school. Damien Curtice and James Leiter, two state place finishers, had graduated. The only returning state placer was Zach King, who was 41-12 last year and who took sixth at 103 pounds. But led by King and 152-pound Jason Peacock, the Warriors have been enjoying another banner season, highlighted by a stunning victory over Central State Activities Association rival Hesperia, a Division 4 power.

As a team, Chippewa Hills has started out 17-2 and is undefeated in the league. The win over Hesperia was a first for the Warriors.

"That's the first league loss they've ever had," coach Nate Ethridge said. "We knew there would be seven matches that could go either way, swing matches. We needed to win a majority of those. We knew we had a shot of getting them. We wound up getting one more of those swing matches than I actually thought we would get."

"There were great individual matches, and it was a great match to watch. It's been a great rivalry, and we finally got one."

It's Ethridge's 13th year as coach, and he doesn't think that the team has "completely peaked yet. We're under the radar more than we've been the last couple of years. People didn't think we were the strongest we have been. We don't have that true superstar. It's more like a blue collar team. It's the kind of team we put out a solid kid in very weight and go to work."

Peacock, a senior, is off to a 30-0 start, his best record ever. He qualified for state a year ago but did not place, something Peacock hopes to overcome this season.

"He was 40-1 going into the state meet last year and was cutting too much weight, and it eventually got to him," Ethridge said. "He couldn't maintain what



The Chippewa Hills wrestling team is led by coach Nate Ethridge, who is in his 13th season as the Warriors' head coach. Chippewa Hills stunned Division 4 power Hesperia earlier this season." (John Raffel Photo)

he was doing. It was a good lesson for him. He's at a happy and healthy weight and wrestling well. He's a real competitive kid. He wrestles very hard."

It's Peacock's fourth year of wrestling at Chippewa Hills.

He was not happy with last season, despite his impressive record.

"I didn't end it the way I wanted to," he said. "When I got beat out at state, at first I was doubting myself," he said. "The next day, I was back in the room wrestling again. I didn't even take a break. It really motivated me. I wasn't satisfied with just being a state qualifier. You don't want to set that as your only goal, because once you get there, then your goals are over. That motivated me to get better in the off-season."

Peacock noted that he didn't score off his feet a lot last year.

"I was more of a defensive person," Peacock said. "This year, I lead the team in takedowns because my offense is more aggressive. Last year, I was scared to shoot. This is my last year and I have to do something. I concentrate a lot more on the little things like where my hand should be when I finish a shot."

Peacock figures he'll be at 152 for the postseason. He is avoiding targeting wrestlers he feels will be his

stiffest competition.

"Everyone for me is tough competition," he said. "I overestimated my first match at state and lost in overtime to a kid I beat earlier in the year. I never overlook anyone. Anyone can win. I'm really an underdog. Once I get to the state meet, I'll have tough competition and will hope for the best."

King is 30-3 at 103 pounds.

"I think he's more of a complete wrestler this year," Ethridge said.

"He's a competitive kid and is good in all three positions now. He's come a long way. He had a great spring and summer. He worked hard. It has definitely paid off for him."

Lateer Dukes, a senior and returning state qualifier, is 26-6. Rick Ostrander is 32-4 at 103, while senior John Lynch at 119 is 30-5. At 215, senior Cole Thielen is 29-6.

"I have a group of young kids; we pride ourselves in taking kids no one has heard of," Ethridge said. "I have two sophomores that are doing a good job for us; with Mason Dey at 135 is 29-9 and Kevin Briscoe is 28-8 at 140."

Chippewa Hills has gone to the team state finals five times.

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

**GRATOT COMMENTY CREDIT UNION**  
(989) 463-8321  
A great place to join  
see how we can help you

**Firestone BRIDGESTONE**  
**BOLAND TIRE OF BRECKENRIDGE** The Leader in the Field.  
120 S. PINE STREET  
BRECKENRIDGE, MI 48615  
989-842-5855  
24 Hour On The Road Service  
Large Selection of Farm Tires - Semi  
Light Truck - Passenger - ATV - Lawn & Garden

Good Luck Panthers! **DLP**  
DLP FINANCIAL GROUP  
of  
**RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
Member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC  
989-463-5052 Toll-Free: 888-846-7895 Fax: 989-463-1989  
dlpfinancialgroup.com

**Daniel R. De Jong, AAMS**  
Vice President, Investments  
**Randy Lewis**  
Associate Vice President, Investments  
**John W. Pobanz**  
Financial Advisor

**KRAPOHL** "Our Winning Team to Yours" See One of our Sales Leaders today!!

**Ford LINCOLN**

MT. PLEASANT 772-2991 • 1-800-772-5974

<b>CHERYL WEEKLEY</b> 24 Years Experience 21 Years at Krapohl's	<b>STAN MILLER</b> 42 Years Experience 21 Years at Krapohl's	<b>BOB MIHALYFI</b> 33 Years Experience 20 Years at Krapohl's	<b>RICK O'SHAY</b> 35 Years Experience 5 Years at Krapohl's	<b>JEREMY SKELTON</b> 19 Years Experience 4 Years at Krapohl's	<b>JAMES YUN</b> 5 Years Experience 2 Years at Krapohl's	<b>Jeremy Haskel</b> Sales Associate

Visit Our Website for Entire Inventory: [www.krapohlford.com](http://www.krapohlford.com)

# Eagles flying high



## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Led by a hard-working group of wrestlers, coaches, and parents, the Carson City-Crystal wrestling team is working its way back to the upper echelon of Division 4 wrestling in the state of Michigan.

During the 1990s and early 2000s, Carson City-Crystal was the class of Division 4 wrestling in mid-Michigan. From 1990 to 2006, the Eagles captured 12 district and six league championships. The program was at its peak from 1999 to 2003, as it won five regional titles in a row, reached the state semifinals in 1999, and was state runner-up in 2000 and 2001.

After a few lean years, Carson City-Crystal wrestling is well on its way to regaining its place among the best Division 4 wrestling programs in the state. Led by head coach Kacy Datema and assistant Trent Ward, the Eagles have worked their way into the top ten state rankings and have risen to No. 8 in the state in the latest rankings.

The team has wins over state-ranked Division 4 teams Pine River Area (No. 10) and Montabella (No. 9), and it finished third at the

## Carson City back in familiar territory; Eagles among top teams in Division 4, peaking at right time of season

Ithaca Invitational behind Hesperia (No. 3) and Decatur (No. 5).

The key to CC-C's success has been old-fashioned hard work.

"We've been working hard in the wrestling room," Coach Datema said. "We have built our lineup and made sure our kids our spread out appropriately, and that has made us a pretty tough lineup."

The lineup is especially tough starting in the lower weights, where it has two-time state champion Kenneth Dittenber leading the way.

"Kenneth is having a real good year," Datema said. "He has only one loss, and he will have the opportunity to see that kid again. Kenneth is a tough, aggressive wrestler who gets after people. He does not look past anyone, and his goal is to win a third state title. He will probably be at 112 pounds, and it will be a dogfight to get three in a row."

At 103 pounds, the Eagles have sophomore Alex Baker, who was a state qualifier last season.

At 125 pounds, freshman Dallas O'Green has stepped into the lineup.

"Dallas actually wrestles at 119 from time to time, so he is going up in weight class," Datema said. "He has four losses as a freshman at 125, so he more than holds his own. He moves well and is aggressive on his feet."

Junior Garner Cusack is at 130/135. Cusack is ranked ninth in the state at 130 and is a returning regional qualifier.

"Garner has a few losses, but he has wrestled some good kids," Datema said. "He is an aggressive wrestler."

Sophomore brothers Darren and Dillan Decker anchor the middle of the lineup. Dillan is ranked fifth in the state at 145 pounds, while Darren is ranked fifth at 152.

"The sophomore twins are solid kids," Datema said. "They are tough and physical, and when they see opportunities they capitalize on them."

The Eagles have a full lineup of wrestlers, something that could not be said just a few years ago.

"We've built a pretty good lineup," Datema said. "In past years our numbers were way down. Three years ago, we just had seven kids on the team. Coach Ward joined me three years ago, and since then we've built a pretty decent lineup."

The coaching duo of Datema and Ward has changed the fortunes of the Carson City-Crystal wrestling program.

"Coach Ward coached the team when they went to state in the early 2000s," Datema said. "He took a few years off, but now he's back."

"We've had a lot of community support, also. We are trying to get kids re-interested in the sport and trying to rebuild our youth program so we can sustain success. It's been a lot of hard work in the wrestling room and making sure the numbers are up."

The goal now is to get the team back to Battle Creek for the team state finals.

"Our goal is to get to Battle Creek and possibly win a match," Datema said. "I think we are a team that can wrestle with the top five teams in the state. We are pretty solid all the way through."



**Weichert, Realtors**  
Michael D Ward  
The Name You Have Grown To Trust Just Got Better

**BROADWAY REALTY**  
614 E Broadway, Mt Pleasant  
www.Weichert.com  
(989) 854-9711-CELL-MI  
www.homes.com/Agent/6237191/Broadway-Realty-And-Associates

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

1000's Of Photos Available For Purchase At Our Website. Custom Team And Individual Posters Also Available!

www.HighSchoolSportsScene.com

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

Zoom  
Internet Publishing  
ZoomPubs  
Greenville, MI  
1-866-262-4449  
www.zoompubs.com

**Good Luck All Area Sports Teams**

**PROPANE GAS**  
RESIDENTIAL • FARM • INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL

**GAS PRODUCTION COMPANY, INC.**  
989-268-5079  
800-991-7477

**Gas Production Co. Inc.**  
www.gasproductioncompany.com

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

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

**TIM'S BODY SHOP**  
Domestic and Foreign

Most Deductibles Waived Or Reduced

Tim & Adam Musselman

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

Relaxations Therapeutic Massage and Day Spa

**MASSAGE SERVICES**  
Swedish  
Deep Tissue  
Hot Stone  
Prenatal  
Sports  
Couples

30 minutes.....\$30  
60 minutes.....\$55  
90 minutes.....\$75

**SPA MENU**  
Facials.....\$50 and up  
Seaweed wraps.....\$75  
Cellulite Treatments.....\$65

-Also- Waxing Facial & Body

Kristy Reed Certified Medical Massage Therapist  
Kris DeMull, Owner Certified Massage Therapist 18 yrs Certified Personal Trainer  
Teddie Sikora Skin Care Specialist



Carson City-Crystal's Kenny Dittenber is vying for his third straight Division 4 title this season. (Jamey Conn Photo)

# Chaney breaks down MHSAA wrestling team finals; Who will bring home the hardware?

Jeff Chaney  
Sports Scene



Jeff Chaney

## Our -View

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

That's the phrase that best describes the high school wrestling landscape in the state of Michigan nowadays.

Faces change in lineups, state champions graduate and move on to college wrestling, but a handful of programs in the state continue to be the dominant forces in the state.

February is almost here, and the fun will begin when the Michigan High School Athletic Association team and individual state tournaments start.

I've been covering the sport of wrestling in the state for 17 years now, and this is my favorite time of the year. And my favorite state tournament is the team finals, which will take place February 22 and 23 at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

Kellogg Arena is the perfect venue to bring together 32 communities from around the state for two days of wrestling, which will crown four champions.

In the past three or four years, four programs have walked away with plenty of hardware and have labeled their programs as dynasties, or as dynasties in the making.

In Division 1, Detroit Catholic Central has won two of the past three state championships, and in the one that the Shamrocks didn't win, they finished second to Oxford in a match that went down to the last weight class.

In Division 2, St. Johns has made it look easy winning the past three state titles, while Richmond has done the same in Division 3, bringing home three straight state championship trophies.

And in Division 4, coach Scott Marry and the Hudson Tigers are on the verge of tying the great Davison

team of the mid-2000s, a team that was led by NCAA champions Brent Metcalf, Jon Reader, and Paul Donahoe, and won five straight state titles.

All four of these teams look good to win again in a month. Detroit Catholic Central has been ranked No. 1 all year, and the same can be said for St. Johns and Hudson.

The only returning state champion that is not ranked No. 1 is Richmond. The Blue Devils are No. 2 to Dundee - a team that has finished runner-up in Division 3 in four of the past five years.

In Division 1, I can't bet against coach Mitch Hancock and his Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks. This team is loaded with talent, with the likes of Ken Bade, Malik Amine, Logan Marcicki, Drew Garcia, and Bob Coe. The only team that I think may be able to beat DCC is Davison. The Shamrocks have already beaten coach Roy Hall and his Cardinals in an assembly dual at DCC that rocked, thanks to a full house. I also like Hartland, which looked solid in beating Lowell in a dual earlier this month, but this division is shaping up to be a two-horse race between DCC and Davison.

With five seniors who will continue their wrestling at the college level in the Big Ten, this may be the easiest pick of all four Divisions. St. Johns

has something special going on, and the Redwings are as strong as ever with Jacob Schmitt (Northwestern), Brant Schafer (Indiana), Ben Whitford (Michigan), Josh Pennell (Michigan State) and Payne Hayden (Michigan) leading the way. Throw in underclassmen Ian Parker, Zac Hall, and Logan Massa, and that's eight weight classes that are almost unstoppable. The only thing that could derail this runaway train are injuries and illness, two things that have hurt the team this year.

Division 3 could be the most entertaining division when the eight qualifying teams hit Kellogg Arena. Three-time defending Richmond and Dundee are definitely the favorites, but teams like Whitehall and Birch Run are also very good. And there are other good teams in the division like Shelby, Allendale, and Grand Rapids Catholic Central. As is true every year, some of those teams will be knocked off in districts, while other less-worthy teams will advance to the finals. There could be upsets in this division, but I feel Dundee is going to break its string of runner-up finishes and win. The Vikings have placed second in four of the past five years but should win their first state title since the 2007 season.

Hudson is a small town some 40 miles south of Jackson. Every year in late February, nearly the whole town migrates to Battle Creek to cheer on its Tigers. That will happen again this year, and I do believe Hudson will match that storied Davison team of last decade and win its fifth straight title. With wrestlers like Cole Weaver, Roddy Hamdan, Issac Dussea, and Zach Rieger, this Hudson team is as strong as ever. However, don't count out a New Lothrop team that may be just as talented. Josh Wendling, Jake Perrin, and Taylor Krupp are wrestlers who can go toe-to-toe with the Tigers.

**Daily Living HomeCare**  
Helping people stay home with dignity and independence.  
Non-Medical In-Home Services  
**We Care Enough To Make A Difference**  
Serving Gratiot, Isabella, Montcalm and Clinton Counties  
Locally owned by Kimberly Hodge  
2826 N. State Rd., Ithaca, MI 48847  
Phone: (989)-875-7405  
Toll Free: (800)-834-1915  
Fax: (989)-875-8685  
[www.dailylivinghomecare.com](http://www.dailylivinghomecare.com)

**MIDSTATE SALES AND SERVICE**  
Outdoor Power Equipment  
Simplicity, Ingersoll, YAMAHA, STIHL, ECHO, SCAG, SNAPPER  
3251 W. M-21  
St. Johns, MI 48879  
(989) 224-2711  
(800) 582-8152  
(989) 224-1781 Fax  
email: [mehney@verizon.net](mailto:mehney@verizon.net)  
Clearance sale on all Lawn Mowers  
Rebates up to \$300

**Pat's Auto, Inc.**  
"Quality Of Our Work Guaranteed"  
Spraybake Booths  
Phone (989) 681-5334  
FAX # (989) 681-3855  
1501 West Monroe Rd. (M-46)  
Saint Louis, MI 48880  
[www.patsautoinc.com](http://www.patsautoinc.com)

WE TAKE THE DENT'S OUT OF ACCIDENTS

**Schmitz Service & Party Store**  
**SUBWAY** Mobil  
Downtown Fowler!  
Like Us On Facebook!

**MAYAN**  
INSURANCE SINCE 1915  
THE MAYAN AGENCY  
Merrill, MI 48637  
(989) 643-7207  
(800) 646-2926  
[www.mayanagency.com](http://www.mayanagency.com)

Alan Holben Photography  
Alan@AlanHolbenPhoto.com  
517.896.9837

# COLLEGE BOUND

## Jeff Chaney Sports Scene

St. Johns wrestling coach Derek Phillips has had one of the best seats in the house to witness the building of a wrestling dynasty.

For seven years as an assistant, and this year as the head coach, Phillips has been on the edge of the mat to watch the Redwings program develop several wrestlers into state champions and win three straight Division 2 state titles.

The program really began to take off with former state champion Dan Osterman and all-stater Tyler Dickinson, both of whom are wrestling in the Big Ten for Michigan State University.

The Redwings continued that momentum when four-time undefeated state champion Taylor Massa and all-stater Travis Curley led the team to three state titles. Massa now wrestles for the University of Michigan and Curley at MSU.

And this year, as St. Johns goes for a four-peat, it's led by five seniors who will move on to the Big Ten next year.

Ben Whitford and Payne Hayden will be wrestling at Michigan next year, Jacob Schmitt at Northwestern University, Josh Pennell at MSU, and Brant Schafer at Indiana University.

It's an incredible run of talent.

"It is nice to see all the work these kids

put in pay off," Phillips said. "Seeing kids so dedicated to a sport and then have it pay off with success and to get some college paid off has been nice to be a part of. All I can say is that all of these kids have worked hard for what they have achieved, and it's been special to be a part of all of it."

It doesn't hurt to have all these wrestlers in the same practice room, whether it's after school or Sunday nights at Dr. Rodger Massa's practice room, which was built just for that extra work it takes to become a champion.

"We are a huge family and are very friendly amongst ourselves," Schafer said. "But we are also very competitive in practice and beat the crap out of each other. We all want to win."

Phillips sees that every day and every match.

"They feed off each other," Phillips said. "They work hard in practice, but they are always the first ones on the edge of the mat to cheer when they know the other has a very difficult match ahead of them."

But wrestling is an individual sport, and wrestlers must be self-driven at times. Like Osterman, Dickinson, Massa, and Curley before them, Schmitt, Schafer, Pennell, Whitford, and Hayden have turned wrestling into a lifestyle.

"These kids have put so much time into this sport, that sometimes they have missed out on other things," Phillips said. "So yes,



## MEET

## THE



**N**  
Jacob  
Schmitt

Schmitt will be taking his talents to Chicago and Northwestern University next year. Currently, he is the most decorated St. Johns wrestler, with two individual state titles and three team state championships to his credit. This three-time all stater won his first state title as a freshman at 103 pounds. He was second as a sophomore and came back to win the 125-pound state title last year with an 11-1 major decision victory over Holly's Mason Cleaver. Right now, Schmitt is the top-ranked wrestler at 130 pounds in Division 2 in the state, as well as being the fifth-ranked wrestler in the nation at 132 pounds, according to Win Magazine. Before finishing his high school career, Schmitt has the chance to win four team championships and three individual state championships, a feat only surpassed by the likes of Davison's Brent Metcalf and Jon Reader, both of whom went on to win NCAA National Championships.



**Ψ**  
Brant  
Schafer

Schafer will head south after graduation to continue his career at Indiana University next year. He has done what every wrestling coach asks of his athletes - continue to improve as his career progresses. Schafer took fifth as a freshman, was runner-up as a sophomore, and won his first state title last year with a tight 10-8 overtime win over Reeths-Puffer's Cody Stenberg in the 135-pound final. Currently, Schafer is the top-ranked wrestler at 152 pounds in the state and is ranked 18th nationally at 138 pounds, according to Win Magazine. Schafer has also had great success wrestling across the nation in the off-season, earning FILA Junior Freestyle All-American status.

Although he has yet to win an individual state title, Schafer has come close in each of his three years, advancing to the semifinals of the Auburn Hills. His first year there, he finished runner-up, and then on that with two third-place finishes. In the state, and that's only because he was not known if Pennell and Whitford were in the state. Pennell was also close at the prairie state. He finished runner-up in the Roman. Pennell will follow former Redwings coach Travis Curley to East Lansing and wrestle for Michigan State.



**J**  
Pen

# VID

## St. Johns Continues To Build On Tradition Of Excellence

they do put a lot of time in, but they are as good as they are mostly because they are all incredible athletes."

Right now four of the five seniors are ranked first in their respective weight classes, and the fifth, Pennell, is ranked second only because Whitford is ranked one spot ahead of him.

The team is ranked No. 1 in Division 2 and is a strong bet to win a fourth straight state title.

The only problem that Phillips has had this season is dealing with health. Only recently has St. Johns been at full strength.

The first time was January 18, when the Redwings avenged an earlier-season loss

to Detroit Catholic Central and beat the Shamrocks 31-22 right before the University of Michigan and Iowa dual meet at Cliff Keen Arena at Michigan.

But February is the time you want to be healthy, and that appears to be happening.

"We know nobody is going to hand us anything," Phillips said. "All of us need to go out and wrestle as hard as they can, and hopefully it ends in wins."

The good thing for Phillips is that this run is not about to end, as St. Johns still has talented wrestlers Ian Parker, Zac Hall, and Logan Massa on the roster for the near future.

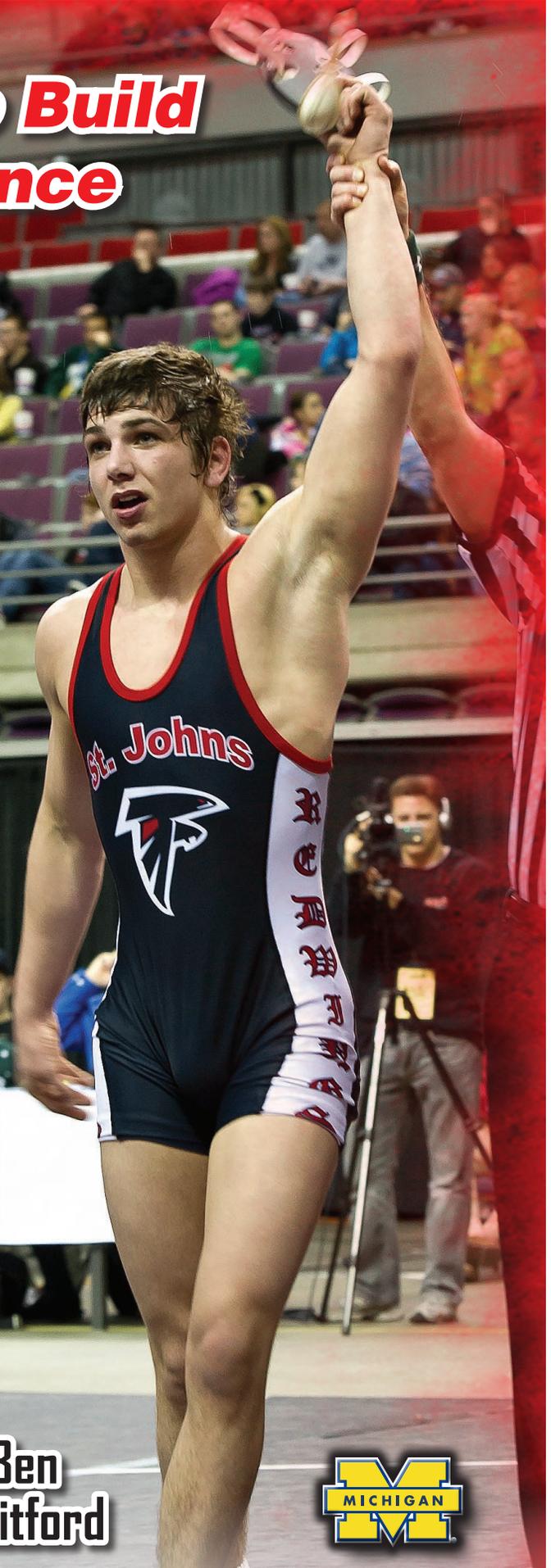


Josh Pennell



Payne Hayden

# FIVE



Ben Whitford

individual state championship, Josh Pennell has been going to the individual state finals at The Palace. He was runner-up at 103 pounds. He followed up. Right now, he is ranked second at 145 pounds. Teammate Ben Whitford has the top spot. It is expected he will be in the same weight class when post-season prestigious FILA Nationals held in Fargo, North Dakota. Cadet Division in both freestyle and Greco-Roman. Dan Osterman, Tyler Dickinson, and Ben Whitford will compete for the Michigan State University Spartans.

Like Whitford, Payne Hayden didn't start his career at St. Johns, but he was a welcome addition to the Division 2 dynasty. Hayden began wrestling at Lakeshore High School and transferred to St. Johns after his freshman season. Incredibly, Hayden took third at 135 pounds as a freshman, was third at 140 pounds as a sophomore, and then came back to take second at 215 pounds last year. He lost a tight 3-1 decision to Holly's Shawn Scott in the final. At this time, he is ranked No. 1 at 189 pounds, and it is uncertain if he will wrestle at 189 or at 215 when the post-season begins. Hayden has done well nationally, taking third at the prestigious Super 32 Tournament. He is also very good in the classroom and will continue to try to thrive on the mat and in the classroom next year at the University of Michigan.

Whitford could have been a four-time team and individual state champion, but he didn't arrive in St. Johns until after his sophomore season. His first two years of high school wrestling took place at Marmion Academy in Illinois, where he won two Illinois individual state titles. Last year, he could have been the top wrestler in the state of Michigan if not for St. Johns teammate Taylor Massa, whom Whitford will join next year at the University of Michigan. Whitford won his third individual title with an 11-4 win over Lowell's Gabe Morse, the returning state champion, in the 140-pound final. At this time, Whitford is the top-ranked wrestler at 145 pounds in Michigan, even though he has been wrestling at heavier weight classes. He's also ranked second nationally at 145, according to Win Magazine. The son of former Holt state champion Pat Whitford, Ben has been dealing with a concussion this year, but it's hard not to see him atop the podium at the end of the season if he is healthy.

# Cavaliers on move

**Butch Harmom  
Sports Scene**

The CAAC is home to some great races for league basketball titles this season. One of the closest battles is taking place in the CAAC White, where a young Corunna squad is flexing its muscles.

After making a deep run in

## CAAC Report

the Class B state tournament last March, the Cavaliers are challenging Lansing Catholic and Portland for the CAAC White title this season. Corunna opened the season by winning eight of its first ten games and was a game behind Lansing Catholic in the league standings.

"The team is playing good basketball right now," Corunna coach Kyle Clough said. "Our goal of winning the CAAC White division is still intact. This year's team has great chemistry and are really starting to buy into the importance of playing great defense and being unselfish on the offensive end."

That unselfishness on the offensive end is evident, with four players (Mitch Poirier, Josh Fattal, Mikhail Myles, and MJ Myles) all averaging nine points or more per game.

"Those guys give us great balance in scoring, and each of those guys has the potential to have a big night each game," Clough said. "Johnny Fattal (who is averaging 5.1 assists per game)

has really controlled our offense and been a tenacious defender for us that has given opposing point guards fits trying to get comfortable in the course of a game."

The Cavaliers are also a solid outside-shooting team. As a team, Corunna is averaging 6.9 three-point makes per game and is shooting 44% from the field overall.

"Both of these areas have been because of hard work and unselfish play," Clough said. "The season is still young and there is much work to be done, but I believe our guys will continue to work hard, and I expect great things from them going forward."

● The East Lansing girls basketball team continues to add to its impressive streak that has spanned five seasons. With its 57-43 win over Okemos on January 25, the Lady Trojans extended their CAAC Blue conference winning streak to 56 games.

"We feel honored to be a part of the winning streak," said East Lansing senior guard Piper Tucker. "A lot of East Lansing teams are part of it. Five different teams have contributed to it and it's an honor to be a part of it."

Experience has been a big key to success for the Lady Trojans, as eight seniors form the core of this year's squad. East Lansing also has a tall team, with a pair of 6'1" starters and a pair of 6'0" players who give the team great length both inside and on the perimeter.

East Lansing faced a major threat to its conference winning streak in mid January when it

took on Grand Ledge in a battle of top 10 teams. East Lansing entered the game with a 9-1 record and ranked 4th in the state in Class A, while Grand Ledge was 10-1 and ranked 9th in the state in Class A. East Lansing took control of the game early and went on to post a 58-34 win.

● The CAAC Red has a pair of girls' basketball teams ranked in the state. League-leading DeWitt is honorable mention in Class A, while Haslett is honorable mention in Class B.

● The Williamston girls basketball team has enjoyed a big turnaround this season. The Hornets are challenging Portland for the top spot in the CAAC White. Williamston is ranked honorable mention in Class B, while Portland is ranked 9th in the state in Class B.

● The Holt boys have taken command of the CAAC Blue conference race. The Rams have a two-game lead over a trio of teams. Holt is ranked 9th in the state in Class A while Lansing Sexton is ranked 5th in Class B, and Okemos is honorable mention in Class A.

● While St. Johns is again favored to capture the Division 2 state team wrestling championship, the Division 2 team state finals may very well have a pair of CAAC teams in attendance. Fowlerville (6th) and Mason (10th) are both ranked among the top 10 in the state in Division 2 and will be on opposite sides of the bracket at the Fowlerville regional. The two teams could meet in the regional final with the victor heading on to Battle Creek.

Corunna's Seth Faketty (No. 40) battles Valley Lutheran's Josh Appold (No. 24) for a rebound during a recent game in Saginaw. (Scott Keyes Photo)



**RICH & LOUANNE KINGSLEY**  
THE EDUCATED CHOICE®  
Auto - Home - Boat - Umbrella  
Life - RV's - Motorcycles

**KINGSLEY INSURANCE GROUP**

1000 E. Sturgis, Suite 1  
St. Johns, MI 48879  
Office: (989) 224-3505  
Toll Free: (888) 224-3505  
Fax: (989) 224-0395  
richard.kingsley@meemic.com

116 W. Superior, Suite 1  
Alma, MI 48801  
Office: (989) 463-5347  
Toll Free: (800) 783-0817  
Fax: (989) 466-9981  
louanne.kingsley@meemic.com

www.KingsleyInsuranceGroup.com

**FIRST CONTRACTING  
INCORPORATED**

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

**GA General Agency Company**  
Insurance since 1915  
Knowledgeable. Committed. Trusted.

(989) 773-6981 (800) 589-6982  
www.ga-ins.com

**WINTER COOLANT FLUSH**  
Coolant Flush Only  
**\$119.95**  
Diesel Trucks Extra

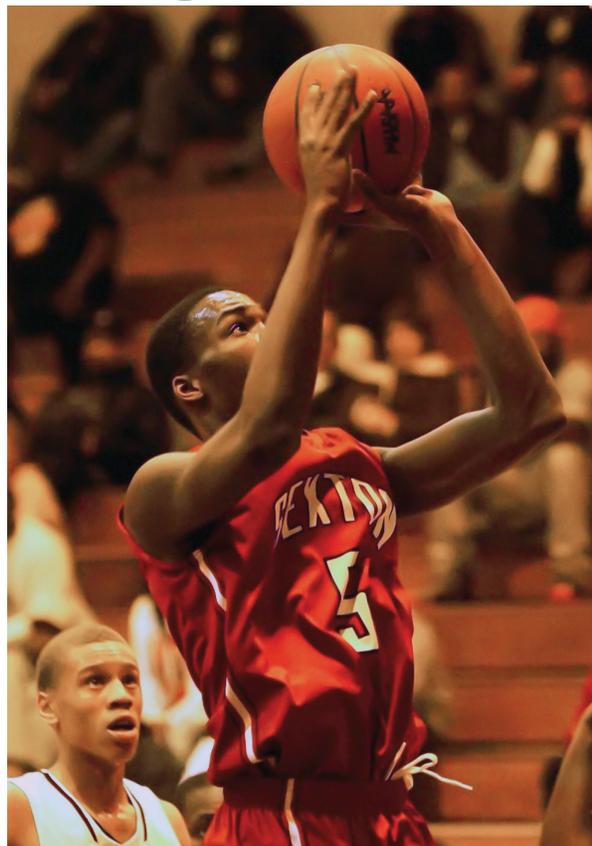
**Sundance**  
BUICK GMC WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADES®  
1205 N. US-27, St. Johns, MI 48879  
(989) 224-3900

Sale Hours  
Mon-Thurs: 8am-9pm; Fri: 8am-6pm  
Sat: 12pm-5pm

Service Hours  
Mon: 7am-7pm; Tues-Fri: 7am-6pm

Accepted Credit Cards: VISA, MasterCard, DISCOVER, AMERICAN EXPRESS

# Big Reds continue to improve



Lansing Sexton is looking to win its third consecutive Class B title in March. The Big Reds are coached by Carlton Valentine. (Butch Harmon Photo)

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

After winning the past two Class B state championships, the Lansing Sexton boys basketball team wants to know how to make it three in a row.

So far this season, the Big Reds have made steady progress toward that third championship, with a young team that has been improving every game. As the season reached the halfway mark, the Big Reds were 7-3 overall and 4-2 in the CAAC Blue.

"We're learning and growing everyday," coach Carlton Valentine said. "We've been doing ok. It's been a couple steps forward and a step backward or three steps forward and one step back. We've been making steady progress and getting better every day."

With just four seniors on the roster, Sexton has a young team that brought back little experience from last season. One veteran who is back is senior forward/center Jalen Hayes. The 6'7" senior is one of the top players in the state, and he will be playing college basketball at Oakland University next season.

"Jalen has been unquestionably our leader," Valentine said. "He has been on our back-to-back state championship teams, and he is an outstanding player. He has just been having an outstanding season for us. He is a hard worker and a great leader for us."

The Big Reds have also been getting outstanding play from sophomore big man Trevor Manuel. The 6'9" sophomore, who is already being recruited by Michigan State University, has been developing his game all season and is one of the premier big men in the state.

"Trevor is learning and is getting better and better

everyday," Valentine said.

Junior Austin Johnson has also been logging some major minutes up front. At 6'5", he gives the Big Reds one of the taller front lines in Class B basketball.

In the backcourt, the Big Reds have been getting strong guard play from juniors Girard Lewis, Javon Cooney, and Shalory Clark and from senior Tyson Thomas. While the guards may not be in the same class as last year's standouts, Anthony Clemmons, now at Iowa, and Denzel Valentine, now at Michigan State, they all play hard.

"This team has a lot of fighters and scrappers," coach Valentine said. "They go out and play hard and find a way to win."

The backcourt received a big boost January 22 when senior Jeremy Williamson, a transfer from Jackson High School, became eligible to play. Known as one of the best outside shooters in the state, Williamson will only boost Sexton's tournament chances once he is fully integrated into the team.

"Oh yeah, he [Williamson] can shoot it," Valentine said. "He is a great outside shooter that will help our guard play."

With the second round of the conference season due up in February and the state tournament in March, the Big Reds will be looking to battle it out with Holt for the league title and to get ready for another tournament run.

"We are getting better inch by inch and yard by yard," Valentine said. "We have to do a better job of playing defense and a better job on the boards. We also have to make sure we execute on offense. This team has a lot of potential, and it's all a matter of working hard and getting better."



When injuries happen, you can rely on our team of orthopedic specialists to help you navigate the road to recovery.

Mid Michigan Orthopedics  
113 E. Williams - Owosso  
989-725-6101

Get Up  
AND Go

TO THE ORTHOPEDIC SPECIALISTS  
AT MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE



Memorial  
Healthcare

[memorialhealthcare.org/orthopedic](http://memorialhealthcare.org/orthopedic)

# Rockford swimming reloads

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

When it comes to water sports, few schools can boast of the success that Rockford can.

This winter, the Rockford boys swim team has reloaded and has its sights set on adding to its impressive list of conference titles and strong finishes at the state swimming and diving finals.

Led by a strong senior class, the team is closing in on a fifth straight O-K Red Conference championship. The Rams have won the league title every season since 2009.

They are also gearing up for another high finish at the state meet. Last year, the Rams finished second in the state in Division 1.

A big key to Rockford's success is that it is a large team, and its depth makes it tough to beat.

The depth also enables the Rams to reload from year-to-year instead of rebuild. This season, for example, the Rams are re-tooling after losing a number of key swimmers from last year's team.

"We still do have a lot of talent back this year, but we lost many great sprint freestylers to graduation last year, and that has been a huge adjustment," said coach Tom Parks. "Sprint freestylers are featured in five of the 12 events, so while we have all the other bases covered, that is where we are trying to fill the holes. We're getting there, including experimenting with one of our best IMers in the 50 free. A couple of the other guys in the event are showing promise."

Another key to Rockford's success is the unity that the squad has.

"We also have a very close group of guys," Parks said. "In fact, one of our senior swimmers had to stop swimming due to an injury. Rather than give up his swim and polo friends, he will be



Rockford's Justin Hulsebus gets set to attempt a dive during a recent meet this season. Hulsebus is one of many Ram swimmers that are also members of the water polo team. (Butch Harmon Photo.)

diving for the first time tonight, just so he can still be part of the team."

The swimmer in question, Justin Hulsebus, suffered a shoulder injury during the water polo season. When it did not improve during the swim season, he faced missing the remainder of the season before he decided to take up diving so that he could continue to compete.

Hulsebus is one of many Rockford swimmers who are also members of the Ram water polo team that is coached by Dave McWatters. The water polo team has dominated the sport in Michigan, winning state titles in 2009, 2010, and 2012. McWatters also assists Parks with coaching the swim team, and many athletes are members of both teams.

"I would say 75% of our team also plays water polo," Parks said. "Dave works them hard. All that work and that success carries over into swimming. Many of our kids are involved in swimming or water polo year round. That

really helps both programs continue to be successful."

Along with training hard in the pool, the swimmers and water polo players do a lot of dry-land training. One area where they do a lot of work is the weight room.

"I think we are doing more weight work than is typical for most swim teams," Parks said. "We are very happy with its impact. The team does love lifting."

That work is again paying dividends this season. Rockford is ranked third in the state in Division 1 in the latest rankings. Individually, the Rams have six swimmers who have already qualified for the state meet - Mike Arend, Craig Wasberg, Nick Willison, Trenton Babcock, David Newberger, and Timmer Hoffmeister.

With the combination of depth, individual talent, and hard work, the Rams are on pace for their third top-three finish in the state meet in the last three years.

The CAAC Conference will look to continue its strangle hold on next months gymnastics state finals. Grand Ledge has dominated the sport over the past decade and should be tough to beat this season. (Alan Holben Photo)



**Simmet Insurance Agency**  
Since 1920  
"Protection For You & Yours"

**Auto - Home - Farm**  
**Business - Life**

Agents:  
Bradley M. Simmet  
Cindy L. Watson  
Autumn Robbe

117 West Center  
Ithaca, MI 48847  
Ph. (989) 875-3580

Independent Insurance Agent

**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

Best In Service

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

**RPC**  
Roslund Prestage & Company  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

DAVID RAYBURN

308 Gratiot Avenue  
Alma, Michigan 48801  
www.rpccpas.com

Ph. (989) 463-6123  
Fax (989) 463-4055  
e-mail: dave.rayburn@rpccpas.com

**JIM NAVARRE**  
Central Michigan's Fastest Growing Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealership

Supporting Gratiot County's Youth for Over 25 Years!

- Our Hard Working Sales Staff.  
Bob Bechill Jim Britting Wayne Taylor Deb Saenz

M-46 • Alma • Between Alma & St. Louis • (989) 681-5776 • www.jimnavarreford.com

We Service What We Sell, Just Ask Our Many Satisfied Customers!!!

Ford LINCOLN Mercury

# Huntesy returns to Michigan; will attend Ferris

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Alexis Huntesy is back home playing sports, and she couldn't be happier.

Neither could her new volleyball coach and teammates.

Huntesy, the volleyball and girls' basketball all-stater who led Morley Stanwood to Class C state titles in both sports last year, has transferred to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, only eight miles from her former high school. After one season of Division I volleyball at George Washington University, Huntesy will have three years of eligibility to play at Ferris, which has been a Division II power in the Great Lakes Conference.

Huntesy's older sister, Ashley, was a standout Ferris volleyball player for four seasons after ending her sports career at Morley Stanwood.

Alexis Huntesy finished as the runner-up in Michigan's Miss Volleyball voting for 2011. The team's overall record with her in the lineup was 142-22-2. She was named to the Prep Volleyball.com All-American Third team after collecting 930 kills, 106 aces, and 748 digs as a senior. She posted 30 kills to

lead her team to the 2011 state title. She was also the 2011-12 High School Sports Scene Female Athlete of the Year.

Huntesy had originally committed to play volleyball at Central Michigan University and then decided to sign with George Washington. She sustained a broken foot in June playing volleyball prior to attending GW. She wound up filling in as a setter in a substitution role and ended the season with 300 assists. George Washington, in the nation's capital, finished 10-18 overall.

Huntesy said, "It was a good season. It was a tough one because we had a lot of injuries. I thought it was a good experience, but it was too far away from home for me. That's the main reason I came back."

Huntesy admitted that she was originally attracted to GW "because it was different. I liked the team and it's a good school. But being away from home for so long, it was too hard for me."

Huntesy figures that playing at the Division I level in the Atlantic 10 conference for a year will give her valuable experience for her three anticipated seasons at Ferris.

Huntesy got her release from George Washington a few weeks after the season. Her thoughts about a new school focused mainly on Ferris.

When she was in high school, Ferris had discussions with Huntesy. "I knew the program really well because my older sister played there," she said. "I knew the girls, I knew the program and the coaches."

Huntesy has enrolled in Ferris for the winter term in elementary education, but she has already gotten involved in the volleyball program.

"We have spring season workouts every day, and I've been working out with them," she said.

Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, Ferris' coach, said she became aware of Huntesy's interest in transferring to Ferris, and after she was officially released from GW, the Bulldog staff started contacting her. The school had been interested in Huntesy when she was still in high school but realized that Huntesy was looking at Division I.

Ferris had six seniors graduate last season and had six freshmen on the roster. Five recruits are coming in. The team was 24-8 and lost in the semifinals of the NCAA Division II Midwest Regionals.



Alexis Huntesy

## Despite new coach, Davison girls eye another state title

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

The Davison girls bowling team is having a strong start, according to coach Andy Torok.

It got off to an 8-0 start and won the John Glenn Tournament at the beginning of the year and took fifth in another Bay City tournament.

"It's been very successful," Torok said. "We've maintained a good average in our Baker games. I have five girls in the top 24 in conference and two of the top three."

Brooke Wood is averaging 206 to lead the league and Brooklyn Greene has a 203 average. The team is averaging 168 in Baker scoring.

"I'm pretty satisfied with my girls," Torok said. "We have a lot to work on. We faced a strong opponent, Bay City Central, but beat them in the first Baker match. They were 6-0 going into the weekend. We beat them 168-136 in the first Baker match and 145-129 in the second Baker match. In the first individual it was 897 to 785. In the final game we beat them 972 to 788. We took 28 out of 30 points off of them."

Wood and Greene have bowled a lot during their careers, Torok noted.

"Brooke Wood has had several 700 series. She and Brooklyn Greene, during the summer time, bowled in tournaments through Michigan and Indiana," Torok said. "Prior to Christmas, Brooke Wood had a 300 in one of our practices."

Heather Baur is averaging 187. "She's been consistent," Torok said. "She hit a dry spell. She bounced back solid with a 246."

Torok likes his team's prospects. "We want to finish as Saginaw Valley Conference champs," he said. "It's our first year. We came from the Big Nine. First year in the conference, we want to be the champs. We have a strong team. At practice time, they know what it's all about. They know what it takes to get it done."

### OTHER TEAMS

- Heritage boys and girls continue to bowl well. The girls defeated the Flint Southwestern Knights

28-2 at Alert Lanes in Bay City in late January. Taylor Hare and Taylor Sonnenberg have been leading Heritage, which has started at 6-3.

The Heritage boys improved to 8-1 with a 30-0 victory over Flint Southwestern. Derrick Norman and Adam Frost have been top bowlers for Heritage.

- Ovid-Elsie bowling coach Matt Fabus' varsity girls are 4-0 in conference and have placed second and third in tournaments.

Top bowlers are Makaylin Palatka, Tori Huss, and Hannah Orweller.

Highlights include coming from behind to win a conference match, doing well in tournaments, and getting ready for regionals.

The boys are 2-2 in the conference and are a young team, with four juniors and two freshmen.

Top bowlers are Alex Donnert, Zane Zwick, and Aiden Courtney.

"Just like girls, we're getting them ready for regionals," Fabus said. "The main thing is to focus at picking up spares."

- Kyle Woodcock, St. Louis' girls coach, said a highlight was taking second place at the Jimmie K. tournament. Casey Monroe, Hannah Shelton, and Candice Woodcock lead the St. Louis attack.

### Bowling Report



Andy Torok

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

**DIRECT SATELLITE**  
6440 Bay Rd. Saginaw Mi. 48604  
Phone: 877-230-3390

Mention This Ad Get A Free DVR Upgrade!

DIRECTV NFL SUNDAY TICKET

**AARON WALDRON TRUCKING, LLC**  
7480 West Polk Road, Alma, MI 48801  
Local 989-466-2300  
Or Toll free 866-507-2300

Haulers of Agricultural Commodities  
• Van and Flatbed Hauling

Temporary Dumpster Service  
• 10, 15, 20 & 30 Yard Containers

**True Value**  
START RIGHT. START HERE.™  
PAINT SPECIAL

**WeatherAid** Exterior FLAT FINISH  
**EasyCare** Interior SEMI-GLOSS FINISH

**ALMA**  
Alma True Value  
102 W. Superior Street  
Phone (989) 463-4921

**EDMORE**  
Edmore True Value  
418 E. Main Street  
Phone (989) 427-5637

**CARSON CITY**  
Barnes True Value Hardware  
132 W. Main Street  
Phone (989) 584-6411

# Familiar face back in St. Louis

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Anita Castellon is back in St. Louis to coach her alma mater, and she is loving every minute of it.

So are her players.

Castellon graduated from St. Louis in the 1980s and returned to be girls' basketball coach this season. In her first year at the helm, the Sharks have started out 5-3.



**A. Castellon**

Castellon was also at Lansing Sexton as a coach many years ago and was an assistant coach at Lansing Community College.

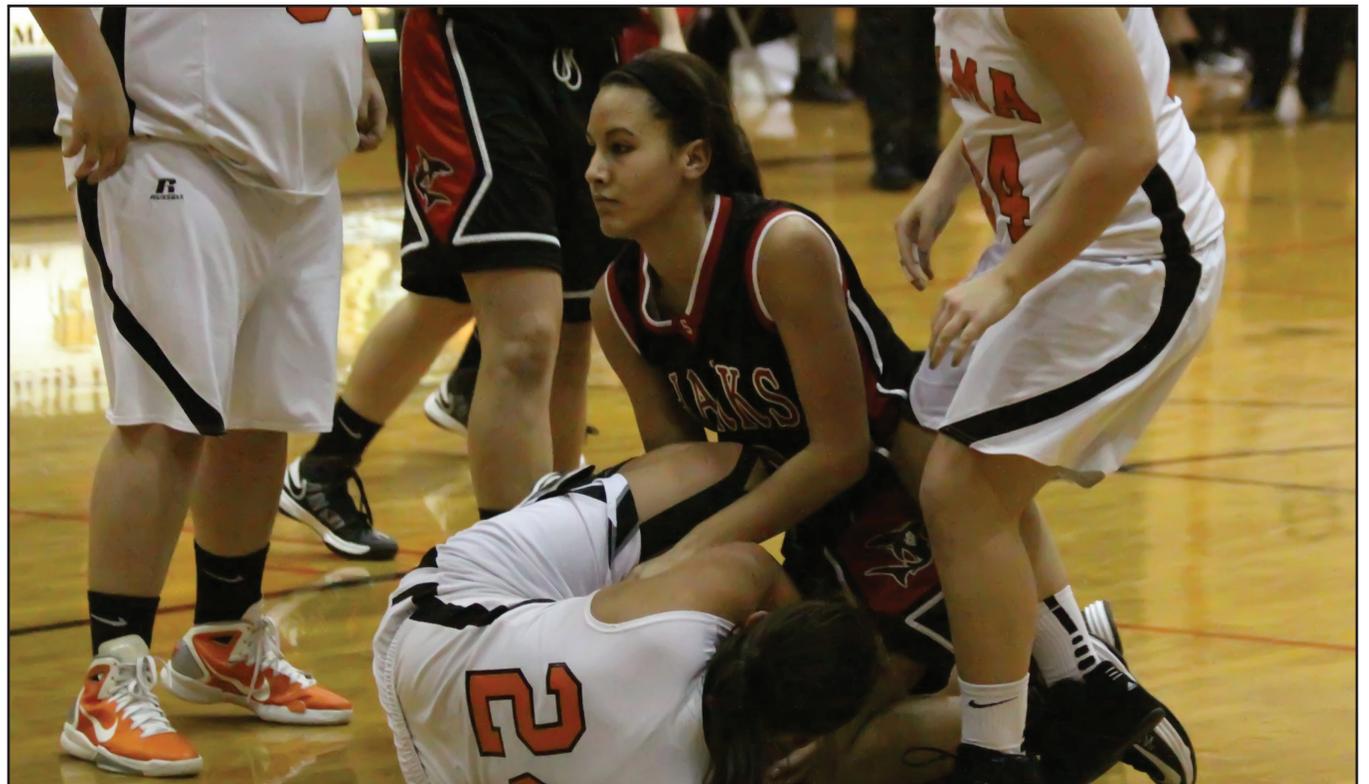
She lives in DeWitt, but being a St. Louis alumna, she couldn't resist the chance to return to her school to be its new coach. She had been assisting the previous coach, Walter Berry, and when he decided to retire, he suggested tht Castellon apply for the position because of her familiarity with some of the girls.

"Hopefully the girls are ready to move forward and win districts," Castellon said. "I'm hoping this group of girls break some of the [school girls' basketball] records."

Compared to 1984 when she was a player, "the caliber of ball has increased tremendously and has improved since then," Castellon said.

The Sharks have been blessed with some top-notch talent this season. Kayla Baxter, a 6'2" senior, is bringing some key leadership to the program.

Bri Alspaugh, a 6'1" junior, is averaging about nine points and 10 rebounds per game. She "has improved her game each year, with her inside game, overall shooting, rebounds, and putbacks. The last game we had, she had 14 points and 12 rebounds. She's



Anita Castellon is back in St. Louis coaching the same team that she used to play for during her high school days. As of press time St. Louis was 6-5. (Scott Keyes and Jamey Conn Photos)

definitely a threat against other teams when they play us."

Five of the key team contributors are juniors, with Michaela Austin and Brogan Holmes among them.

"Both of them are my point guards and my leaders on the floor," Castellon said. "Brogan has outstanding, unbelievable speed. She has some track records she's trying to break. It's tremendous speed with her. They both pretty well set the tone on the floor. They're both good shooters. We like to see a lot running. We have a group of girls that like to fast break a lot."

The lineup also includes juniors Taylor Smith, Amanda Corder, and Ashtyn Capen.

"They're tremendous outside

shooters," Castellon said. "I changed the style of play because last year and years past, they used to set up, bring the ball, and set up offense. We have a running and fast pace just due to the speed we have on the floor."

Ryan Fagins is a first-year varsity player, who as a junior, has been a major contributor, especially in getting rebounds. "She brings down a lot of rebounds and averages eight rebounds when she plays," Castellon said.

The Sharks have had some nice efforts all season, but Castellon especially liked the way her team played against Merrill and St. Charles.

"We did move the ball very well overall as a team," Castellon said.

"We passed the ball and got everyone

involved in those two games. If we had played that way all season long, teams would have a difficult time against us."

So far, it's going well for Castellon at St. Louis.

"It's my home school and the biggest thing about coming back to coach is to be able to get this group of girls that are currently playing to the next level, so they can have something to leave high school with and memories like, 'hey we won a district,'" she said. "They came very close last year to winning the district. It was very disappointing for them."

"I can tell them 'you know what it takes. You know that feeling of losing.' This group of girls is determined to win a district and and get to the next level."

**Mid Michigan Bone and Joint Center**

**James Ware D.O.**  
**Joseph Yacisen D.O.**

**"Bones and Joints are Our Specialty"**  
**989-466-BONE (2663)**

**Larry's** The Fun Place for Kids to Shop!

Full Service **IGA**

Groceries Meats Produce

724 E. Superior, Alma 989-463-5576  
7 Days - 7am to 9pm

**300 BOWL**  
All You Can Bowl!  
Regular Or Laser **\$5.00**  
Great Food, Great Fun!

**BOOK YOUR PARTY NOW**  
**LASER BOWL - CHRISTMAS - BIRTHDAY - ANY BIG EVENT**

**300 BOWL** 3000 WEST MONROE (M-46)  
ALMA, MI 48801 • (989) 463-3000  
SAT. NOON-11PM • SUN-FRI. 4PM-11PM



SEALS • TACIA  
• BARTZ •  
• WHITMORE •  
Comprehensive Optometry

## Good Luck to All Area Teams !!

<b>Alma</b> 1321 Pine Avenue Alma, MI 48801 989-463-1139	<b>Carson City</b> Suite 400 102 South Third Carson City, MI 48811 989-584-6868	<b>Mt. Pleasant</b> Pleasant Optics 500 South Mission St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 989-773-7747
---	---	---

# Madison Seeley takes charge on court

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

As a junior, Madison Seeley is averaging around 20 points a game for the Alma Panthers, and she has obviously made a name for herself as one of the area's top players.

It's Seeley's third year on the team. As a freshman, she averaged around nine points, and she upped that to 14 points last season. Her improvements going into her sophomore season were very significant.

"It wasn't so much leading the team [as a sophomore], because there were some seniors," she said. "I think I've improved a lot."

Seeley was happy playing for the varsity as a freshman and sophomore and felt she handled herself okay.

"For a few games I was a little intimidated, but I got through it quick," she said. "Then I saw my role."

Second-year Alma coach Jennie IntVeld appreciates contributions that Seeley has made to the team. "Maddy came in last year after having a pretty solid freshman

season," she said. "She entered her sophomore year on a team with six seniors and a lot of leadership, but not a lot of scoring ability. So she really had to step into a leadership role at a really young age. She does a wonderful job of evolving into that position."

"She also plays year-round and is constantly working on her game. She makes good choices when it comes to knowing when to take it to the hole and taking the shot or set up the teammates and get her open. She's also an incredible vocal leader. That was one thing last year that was a tough position for her. Ability-wise, she was the best kid on the floor."

Seeley is a point guard this season.

"I think I'm taking more control of the offense and just getting to the hoop when I can, and making my passes when I can, and doing my thing when I can," she said. "I think I've gotten more confident and am confident in taking the drive or the three and getting stronger and quicker."

IntVeld said Seeley has a quick release and

a quick shot. "If she has a step from a defender on the perimeter, she knows how to get her body set and shoot a quick shot. She doesn't rush. She knows when to shoot, and she knows when to take it off the dribble. She recognizes situations well, because she's played a lot of basketball."

Seeley acknowledges her leadership abilities this season. "I think my strengths include getting to the hoop and being a team player when I can and knowing when I should take the shot," she said.

In a game against Ithaca, Alma won and Seeley scored 27 points. She netted 28 points against Bullock Creek in a loss.

She's especially been able to score on the drive. "In our last game against Bullock Creek, I think I had one or two outside shots, and the rest were from drives and free throws," Seeley said. "I'm still working on my shot and to be a strong passer and control the ball as well as I can."

The Panthers are young, are getting better, and are around .500, Seeley noted.

"Our current team goals are to get stronger with the ball and to beat teams we've beaten before again, do the best we can, and be mentally and physically tough," she said.

Seeley plays volleyball in the fall, but basketball is her best sport. She plays on a travel team during the spring. "I've been on the travel team from Mount Pleasant since I was in the fourth grade," she said.



Alma's Maddy Seeley is a standout player for the girls' basketball team. Seeley netted a season-high 28 points in an earlier loss to Bullock Creek this season. (Jamey Conn Photo)

## SEELEY AUTO SALES

7625 N. Alger Rd., Alma - Between Walmart & K-Mart Center



**99 Ford F-150 Lariat**

4.6L V8,  
Dual Front Airbags

**\$4,995**



**00 Chevy Impala LS**

3.4L V6,  
Keyless Entry

**\$5,595**



**02 Chrysler PT Cruiser**

Dream Cruiser,  
2.4L I4

**\$4,995**



**03 Saturn Vue**

3.0L V6,  
Automatic

**\$5,995**



**05 BMW 325xi**

2.5L I6,  
5 Speed Manual

**\$12,995**



**01 Buick Park Avenue**

3.8L V6,  
Dual Front Air

**\$5,995**

Ask About Our  
**BUY HERE, PAY HERE PROGRAM**

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOMERS WITH SSI,  
DISABILITY AND SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME

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

### What can we help you with?

You Are Only 1 Person!

Why not have ArrowSwift Printing help on all of your printing & copy needs?

Arrow Printing offers:

Full Color Copies  
B&W Copies  
Custom Printing  
Self Inking Stamps  
Ink Cartridges  
Booklet Making-comb binding  
Laminating

We also print your own custom designs  
CALL FOR DETAILS

Specialty Papers  
Business Forms  
Letterheads  
Envelopes  
Business Cards  
Folders  
Custom Design

Stapling-Folding-Scoring-Perfering Services

**ARROW SWIFT**

PRINTING OF ALMA, INC

M-F 8am-5pm 207 E. Superior

"Your Full Service Printer"

Good Luck To All  
Area Teams

989-463-4797

FAX 989-463-1584

And A Full Line of  
Wedding & Special Occasion Invitations

Your local agent insures your

# Auto



Monte Reichard

mreicha@fbinsmi.com  
FarmBureauInsurance.com

989-681-6000  
308 W. Washington, St. Louis

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE®**

Michigan's Insurance Company



Committed  
to our  
Future ...



**B**  
Village of Breckenridge



Inspired by our Past.



# 877-786-3262

## TAX & PLATES INCLUDED IN ALL PAYMENTS!

**EXIT 99 OFF US-127 ST. JOHNS FOR SAVINGS**

<p><b>2010 BUICK LUCERNE CX</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$10,900</b></p> <p><b>\$209/DOWN \$209/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2011 CHEVY SILVERADO LT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$28,900</b></p> <p><b>\$436/DOWN \$436/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2007 CHEVY UPLANDER LT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$8,500</b></p> <p><b>\$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2000 CHEVY IMPALA LT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$21,500</b></p> <p><b>\$359/DOWN \$359/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2006 CHEVY K2500 HD LT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$13,900</b></p> <p><b>\$189/DOWN \$189/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>
<p><b>2011 CHEVY IMPALA LT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$13,500</b></p> <p><b>\$233/DOWN \$233/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2011 CHEVY AVEO LT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$9,900</b></p> <p><b>\$199/DOWN \$199/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2011 CHEVY EQUINOX LT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$19,900</b></p> <p><b>\$333/DOWN \$333/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2007 DODGE CHARGER</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$12,900</b></p> <p><b>\$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2001 GMC YUKON SLT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$6,900</b></p> <p><b>\$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>
<p><b>2006 BUICK TERRAZA</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$9,900</b></p> <p><b>\$197/DOWN \$197/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2010 GMC SIERRA SLE</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$24,900</b></p> <p><b>\$376/DOWN \$376/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2010 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$28,500</b></p> <p><b>\$429/DOWN \$429/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2003 BUICK REGAL LS</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$6,900</b></p> <p><b>\$176/DOWN \$176/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2012 DODGE RAM</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$19,900</b></p> <p><b>\$343/DOWN \$343/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>
<p><b>2009 GMC SIERRA</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$21,900</b></p> <p><b>\$365/DOWN \$365/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2003 PONTIAC GRAND AM GT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$6,900</b></p> <p><b>\$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2006 CHEVY HHR LS</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$7,500</b></p> <p><b>\$189/DOWN \$189/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2010 CHEVY AVALANCHE LTZ</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$35,900</b></p> <p><b>\$539/DOWN \$539/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2007 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$19,500</b></p> <p><b>\$335/DOWN \$335/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>
<p><b>2004 CHEVY MALIBU LS</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$4,900</b></p> <p><b>\$126/DOWN \$126/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2006 CHRYSLER SEBRING</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$8,900</b></p> <p><b>\$181/DOWN \$181/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2005 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$6,900</b></p> <p><b>\$176/DOWN \$176/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2011 FORD TAURUS</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$14,900</b></p> <p><b>\$257/DOWN \$257/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2010 CHEVY MALIBU LTZ</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$15,900</b></p> <p><b>\$279/DOWN \$279/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>
<p><b>2012 CHEVY SONIC</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$13,900</b></p> <p><b>\$239/DOWN \$239/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2005 CHEVY IMPALA LS</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$6,900</b></p> <p><b>\$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2005 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$6,900</b></p> <p><b>\$176/DOWN \$176/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2003 GMC ENVOY SLT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$7,500</b></p> <p><b>\$184/DOWN \$184/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>	<p><b>2008 FORD F-350 XLT</b></p>  <p><b>SALE PRICE</b> <b>\$29,900</b></p> <p><b>\$450/DOWN \$450/MONTH</b> TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</p>

**OPEN SUNDAYS NOON - 5PM!**

# 877SUNDANCE.COM

\*New & Used Vehicles: All Payments are with approved credit, see dealer for details.

<p><b>SUNDANCE</b></p> <p>BUICK • GMC In St. Johns</p> <p><b>We Take Anything In On Trade</b> <b>We Pay A Mile To Shop &amp; Buy</b></p>	<p><b>2013 GMC TERRAIN FWD</b> # 32 MPG</p>  <p><b>\$225/DN.</b> <b>\$225/MO.</b></p> <p><b>MSRP \$27,100</b> <b>SAVE \$3,863</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$23,267</b></p> <p><small>39 MO 10K LEASE, ALLY BANK, GM CARD, CONQUEST, TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</small></p>	<p><b>2013 GMC ACADIA FWD</b> # 24 MPG</p>  <p><b>\$289/DN.</b> <b>\$289/MO.</b></p> <p><b>MSRP \$34,945</b> <b>SAVE \$5,165</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$29,780</b></p> <p><small>39 MO 10K LEASE, ALLY BANK, GM CARD, CONQUEST, TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</small></p>	<p><b>2013 GMC SIERRA 2WD REG</b> # 21 MPG</p>  <p><b>\$169/DN.</b> <b>\$169/MO.</b></p> <p><b>MSRP \$24,565</b> <b>SAVE \$1,015</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$13,570</b></p> <p><small>39 MO 10K LEASE, ALLY BANK, GM CARD, CONQUEST, TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</small></p>	<p><b>ALL NEW BUICKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*2 years of OnStar directions &amp; connections</li> <li>*Over \$1,000 MSRP in added value</li> <li>*2 years of Sirius XM Radio</li> <li>*2 years of maintenance</li> </ul>	<p><b>2013 BUICK VERANO</b> # 30 MPG</p>  <p><b>\$205/DN.</b> <b>\$205/MO.</b></p> <p><b>MSRP \$23,975</b> <b>SAVE \$2,500</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$21,475</b></p> <p><small>39 MO 10K LEASE, ALLY BANK, GM CARD, CONQUEST, TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</small></p>	<p><b>2013 BUICK REGAL</b> # 30 MPG</p>  <p><b>\$299/DN.</b> <b>\$299/MO.</b></p> <p><b>MSRP \$32,910</b> <b>SAVE \$6,667</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$23,243</b></p> <p><small>39 MO 10K LEASE, ALLY BANK, GM CARD, CONQUEST, TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</small></p>	<p><b>2012 BUICK ENCLAVE FWD</b> # 24 MPG</p>  <p><b>\$319/DN.</b> <b>\$319/MO.</b></p> <p><b>MSRP \$38,340</b> <b>SAVE \$5,840</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$33,500</b></p> <p><small>39 MO 10K LEASE, ALLY BANK, GM CARD, CONQUEST, TAX &amp; PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT</small></p>
--	---	--	---	---	--	---	---