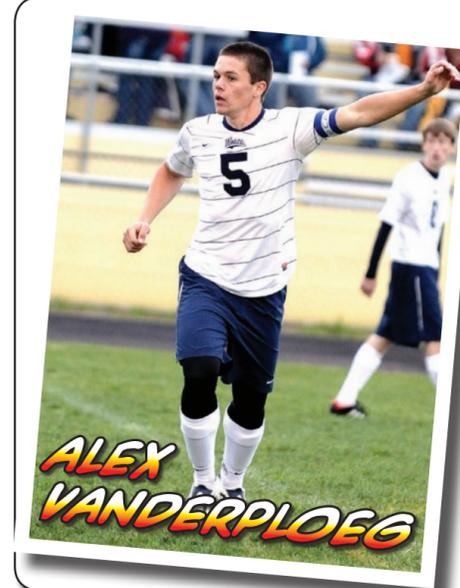


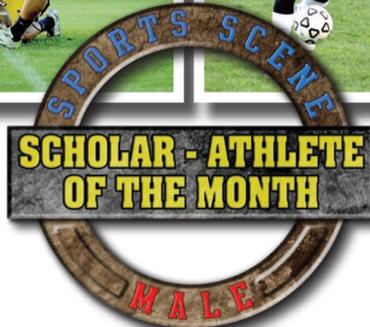
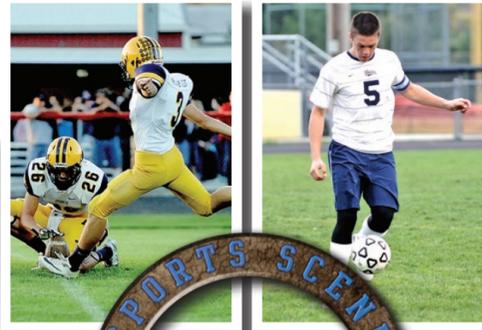


MALE AND FEMALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH PRESENTED BY:

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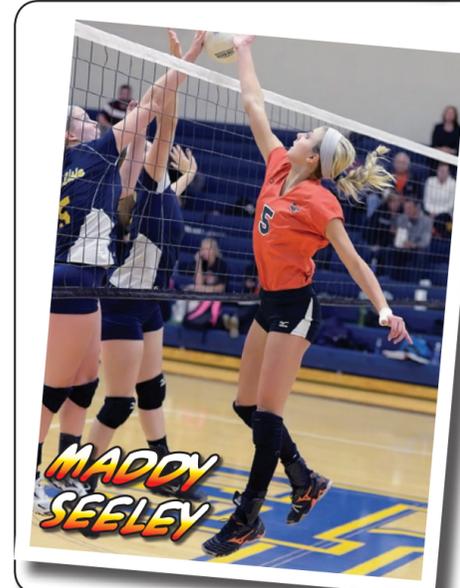


ALEX VANDERPLOEG

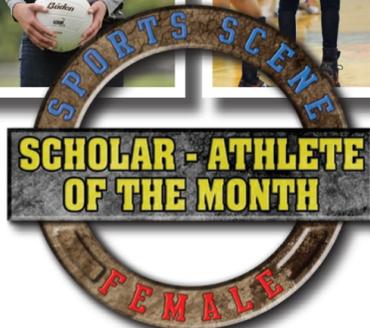


The Alex Vanderploeg File

Ithaca High School
Sports: Golf, soccer, and football
Accomplishments: As a junior, Vanderploeg received all-district awards and all-conference honors in soccer. This season, he guided the Yellowjackets to a 12-4-2 record. In the first eight games of the football season, Vanderploeg had kicked off 55 times, with 34 of them going for touchbacks. He was 47 of 49 in PATs.
GPA: 4.0



MADDY SEELEY



The Maddy Seeley File

Alma High School
Sport: Volleyball and basketball
Accomplishments: Seeley has served as a volleyball captain for three years and basketball captain for two. As a sophomore, Seeley was all-conference second-team in basketball. As a junior, she was all-conference first team.
GPA: 4.0
College: Verbally committed to Northwood University, where she will play basketball.



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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

It's a great day here at High School Sports Scene Magazine.

We are in the middle of the busy fall championship season, and there isn't a more exciting time for high school athletes, fans, parents, and boosters.

The high school football playoffs are kicking off, and the excitement level is at fever pitch in towns big and small all across our great state.

Story lines abound: Can the Ithaca Yellowjackets win a fourth straight state title? Can the Lowell Red Arrows get back to Ford Field? How far can super junior running back Alex Grace lead Swan Valley? Will Beal City's high-powered offense be slowed down?

When it comes to super high school football players, check out our list of 100 of the greatest players to play high school football in our Great Lakes State. The list is a snapshot of 100 of the best and most influential high school players to come out of Michigan. While the players could be ranked in any order, fans will have a great time talking about who should be ranked higher or lower and who might have been left off the list.

Enjoy the piece and let the memory bank go into overdrive! Hats off to the Midland Dow boys tennis team that brought a fifth straight state title back to Midland County. Congratulations also go out to Okemos senior Elle Nichols, who battled the field and the elements to win a third straight individual golf title at the Division 2 state meet!

Congratulations to all the fall champions! Be it state, conference, league, district, or regional title, it takes a lot of hard work, desire, effort, and dedication to win any title in high school sports!

See you at the football fields and volleyball courts in the coming days, and good luck to all of the young men and women competing this fall.



Randy Miniard

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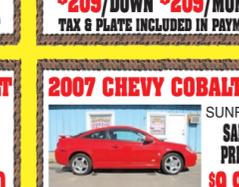
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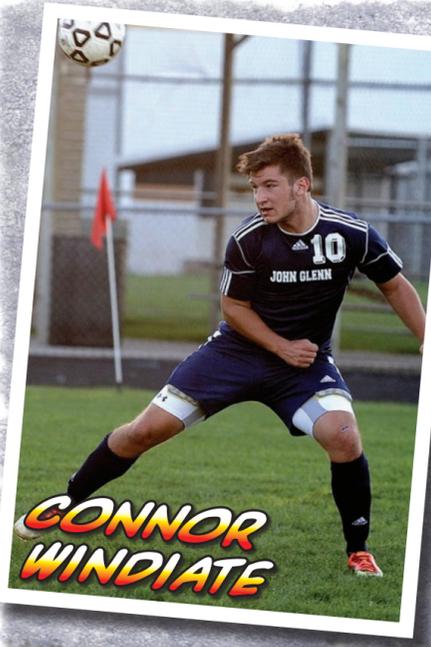
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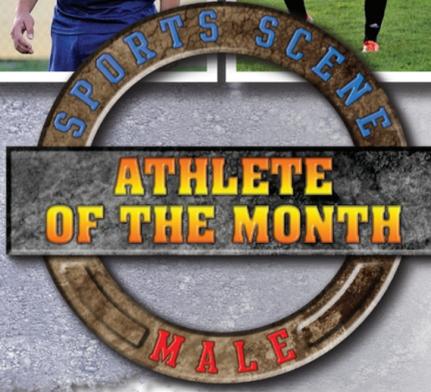




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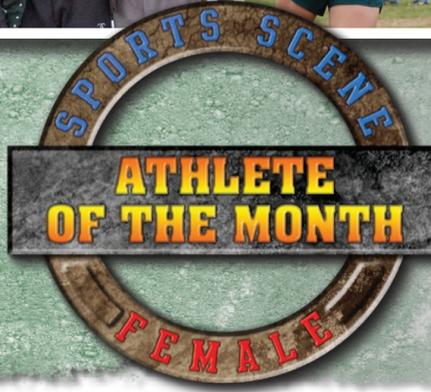


VICTORIA HARPER



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

MALE



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

FEMALE

The Connor Windiate File

John Glenn High School
 Class: Senior
Accomplishments: Scored 100 career goals, 50 in his senior season alone. Also kicker on football team.
Hobbies: Playing guitar and hanging out with friends.
Quote: "Soccer is a creative and skilled game. It takes a lot of creative thinking, a lot of team work to make it work. Football has been a great experience for me. Playing both sports at the same time is stressful but rewarding. I don't regret it one bit."

The Victoria Harper File

Clare High School
 Class: Senior
Accomplishments: Jack Pine Conference MVP (2012), regional medalist (2012, 2013), 21st at state meet (2012)
Favorite Class: English
Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends, participating with youth group of which she is the worship leader, singing, playing the piano and guitar at Clare Assembly of God.
Quote: "I've always enjoyed running. My parents are runners, and my older brother is a runner. One reason I like to run is it's an act of worship for me. It's a way I can give God the glory."



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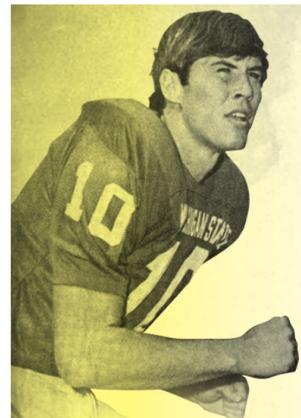
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Owosso's Brad VanPelt is considered one of the finest athletes to ever come out of the state of Michigan. He played his college ball at Michigan State University before going on to be an All-Pro linebacker for the New York Giants. VanPelt was 57 when he passed away nearly four years ago.

BEST OF MICHIGAN

1. KEVIN GRADY, RB EAST GRAND RAPIDS (2001-2004): While Grady did not carry over his success into college at the University of Michigan, nobody can deny what he did on the high school level. A four-year starter at running back, Grady helped lead the Pioneers to a 49-3 record and two Division 3 state championships. He was also the most productive back ever in Michigan high school football, as he scored a state-record 924 points, 138 points more than the second-best point scorer. He scored a state record 151 career touchdowns and is also the all-time rushing leader in the state with 8,431 career yards, 618 yards more than the second-best total.

2. MILL COLEMAN, QB ALBION/FARMINGTON HARRISON (1986-1989): There was a reason Coleman was called "The Thrill," and high school football fans will never forget the electricity that he generated. A winner who could beat you with his arm or his legs, Coleman led Harrison in three Class B state title games, of which he won two. He finished his career with 7,464 passing yards, but it was his "big-play" ability on the high school level that has not been seen since.

3. TYRONE WHEATLEY, RB DEARBORN HEIGHTS ROBICHAUD (1987-1990): From a pure talent level, few players could match the gifts that Wheatley brought to the football field. With linebacker size and world-class speed, he was a threat to go the distance every time he touched the ball. Wheatley finished his career with 70 career touchdowns and 484 points and went on to success at the University of Michigan and with the NFL's Los Angeles Raiders.

4. LAMARR WOODLEY, LB, SAGINAW (1999-2002): Woodley had the rare ability to dominate a football game from the defensive side of the ball and was part of the renaissance of Saginaw High School football in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In 2002 he was rated the No. 4 overall recruit in the nation by Rivals.com. He chose the University of Michigan, where he earned all-American honors and was the Big 10 Defensive Player of the Year. Woodley continues to make his mark in high school football in Saginaw through his various philanthropic endeavors.

5. EARL MORRALL, MUSKEGON (1949-1951): Few quarterbacks can match the legacy of Morrall. In 1951, he led the Big Reds to a state championship, as he threw for what was then a school-record 851 yards and 11 touchdowns. Morrall was a nationally-recruited quarterback. He picked Michigan State University over the Universities of Michigan and Notre Dame and led it to the 1955 Rose Bowl title. After college, Morrall had a 21-year NFL career that included winning the 1968 NFL MVP award and being part of three Super Bowl champion teams.

6. BRAD VAN PELT, LB, OWOSSO (1967-1969): One of the greatest all-around athletes to ever come out of Michigan, VanPelt was an all-state quarterback in 1969 who also earned all-conference honors on defense and all-state honors in basketball and baseball. He was a three-sport letterman at Michigan State University and a two-time football all-American who won the Maxwell Trophy. VanPelt went on to a stellar NFL career and was a five-time Pro Bowl linebacker.

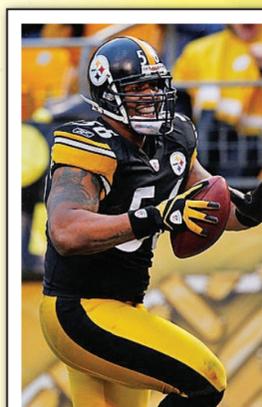
7. RICK LEACH, QB FLINT SOUTHWESTERN (1972-1974): As one of the finest quarterbacks produced in the state, Leach led one of the greatest high school teams of all time, the 1974 Flint Southwestern team. The team finished with a perfect season, as Leach passed for 1,668 yards and 23 touchdowns in an era dominated by the ground game. Leach went on to start at quarterback for four years at the University of Michigan in the golden era of Wolverine football under Bo Schembechler and was a three-time Heisman Trophy finalist.

8. CHARLES ROGERS, WR, SAGINAW (1997-1999): While his NFL career left much to be desired, and his potential may not have been reached in college at Michigan State University, there is no denying that Rogers was arguably the most dangerous wide receiver in the history of Michigan high school football. He finished his high school career with 2,525 career receiving yards and 40 career touchdown receptions.

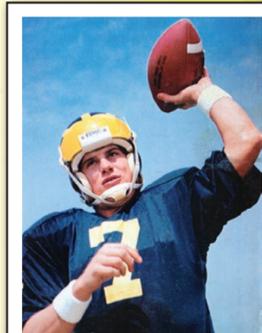
9. T.J. DUCKETT, QB/RB/LB KALAMAZOO LOY NORRIS (1996-1998): A rare combination of size and speed, Duckett was a Parade all-American in 1998. He was also named the National Player of the Year by Superprep magazine, as he totaled 102 tackles, nine sacks, and four forced fumbles. On offense, he rushed for 1,623 yards (11.2 yards average) and threw for 920 yards and nine touchdowns. During his junior year, Duckett totaled 140 tackles and three sacks while accounting for 2,080 total yards and 20 touchdowns. He went on to play at Michigan State University and was drafted 18th overall in the NFL draft by the Atlanta Falcons.

10. JEROME BETTIS, RB/LB DETROIT MACKENZIE (1987-1989): The top player in the state in 1989 and a high school all-American, Bettis went on to fame with the University of Notre Dame in college and the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL. A dominating linebacker and fullback in high school, Bettis led Mackenzie to the West Division title in the Detroit PSL and to a state playoff berth. However, one of his proudest high school memories was being inducted into the National Honor Society, where he served as sergeant-at-arms.

11. MARK INGRAM JR., RB, GRAND BLANC/FLINT SOUTHWESTERN (2005-2007): The 2009 Heisman Trophy winner while attending the University of Alabama, Ingram enjoyed a sparkling high school career. He transferred



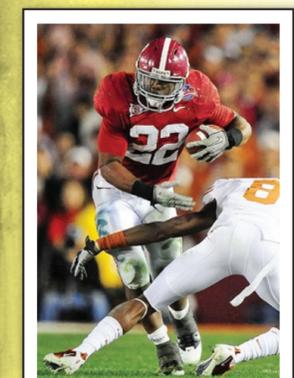
Some people considered Saginaw High's Lamarr Woodley to be the finest player to ever come out of the state of Michigan. Those people are not too far off in their assessment. An All-State football and basketball player Woodley went on to star at the University of Michigan before making his mark with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Woodley is still a huge supporter of the his alma mater and the Saginaw schools. (Submitted photos)



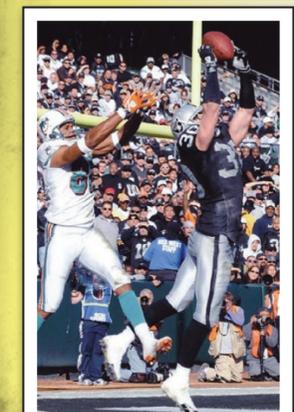
Rick Leach was a pure athlete that was good at every sport he played. Teamed with Booker Moore at Flint Southwestern during the early '70s to provide one of the finest tandems the state has ever seen. (Submitted Photos)

SPORTS SCENE RANKS TOP 100 FOOTBALL PLAYERS OF ALL-TIME

After hours and hours of scratching and clawing, we came up with a list of players that are second to none when it comes to high school football in Michigan. With players from the UP to Adrian and everywhere in between, Sports Scene brings you a list of players that helped pave the way for the youth of today. We hope you enjoy it, because we know how much fun we had bringing it to you.



Flint Southwestern / Grand Blanc alumus Mark Ingram burst on the scene during his stay at the University of Alabama and would later win the 2009 Heisman Trophy. A superior athlete with great size and quickness, Ingram is one of the finest running backs to come out of the state of Michigan (Mark Rebilas Photos / US Presswire)



Stu Schweigert is one of the finest athletes to come out of the Saginaw area. As a senior Schweigert defeated Charles Rogers in the 100 meter dash at the state finals. He played his college football at Purdue and was drafted by the Oakland Raiders. (Submitted Photos)

to Southwestern his senior year and opened the 2007 season by establishing a new Flint rushing record, when he ran for a city-record 319 yards and four touchdowns. Ingram ended his senior year with 1,699 yards and 24 touchdowns and currently plays for the New Orleans Saints.

12. BENNIE OOSTERBAAN, DE MUSKEGON (1921-1924): Arguably the first 'super prep' athlete from the state of Michigan, Oosterbaan was an all-state end in football for the Muskegon Big Reds and was also a basketball and baseball star. At the University of Michigan, he was a three-time all-American football player, and a two-time all-American basketball player who led the Big Ten in scoring. He also led the Big Ten in batting average on the baseball team. Oosterbaan became a successful football coach, who guided the University of Michigan to the 1948 national championship.

13. RON KRAMER, DE, EAST DETROIT (1951-1953): One of the greatest football players and athletes in University of Michigan history, Kramer was an all-state player in high school and a three-time all-American while at Michigan. In 1999, Sports Illustrated named him the seventh greatest sports figure from the state of Michigan. He played in the NFL for the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions.

14. DON COLEMAN, OL/DL, FLINT CENTRAL (1954): Coleman played only one year of high school football, but it was memorable, as he earned all-state honors and helped lead Flint Central to a state championship. He went on to Michigan State University, where he was the first African-American football player. Although he weighed only 180 pounds, Coleman was a dominating offensive and defensive lineman who is regarded to this day as the greatest Michigan State University football player ever. He was also the first Michigan State football player to have his uniform retired.

15. BRANDON GRAHAM, LB DETROIT CROCKETT (2003-2005): Graham was one of the most decorated high school players in state history. After making all-PSL in Detroit as a sophomore, he was a two-time all-state player who also earned numerous all-American honors as a senior, including being named a captain of the U.S. Army Bowl game. Graham was an all-American at University of Michigan and was drafted in the first round by the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

16. STUART SCHWEIGERT, QB/S HERITAGE (1997-1999): An outstanding high school athlete and football player, Schweigert was a top 100 recruit in the nation coming out of high school. He signed with Purdue University, where he was a four-year starter before playing in the NFL for the Oakland Raiders. He is Purdue's all-time leader in interceptions with 17. As a senior at Heritage, Schweigert ran for 1,502 yards and scored 22 touchdowns as an option quarterback who passed for over 500 yards. He recorded 50 tackles and three interceptions on defense.

Schweigert defeated Charles Rogers in the 100-meter dash in the Division 1 track & field finals in a time of 10.45 seconds.

17. PAUL KRAUSE, WR/DB, BENDLE (1957-1959): Krause was an all-state football, basketball, and baseball player at Bendle. He played both wide receiver and defensive back at University of Iowa and was an eight-time Pro Bowl player for the Minnesota Vikings. A member of the professional football Hall of Fame, Krause holds the NFL record for interceptions in a career with 81.

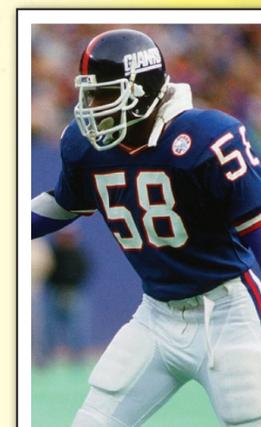
18. STEVE SMITH, QB SWARTZ CREEK/GRAND BLANC (1978-1980): A high school all-American quarterback known for his outstanding, sprinter speed, Smith was an underrated passer. In 1979, he passed for a then Flint-area record 1,926 yards and 26 touchdowns in the time before spread offenses. Smith led Grand Blanc to a 9-1 record in 1980 and a Flint-area record 462 points. He went on to University of Michigan, where he was a three-year starter at quarterback who led the Wolverines to a pair of Rose Bowls and set what was then the single-season passing yardage record.

19. CARL BANKS, LB, BEECHER (1976-1979): A dominating defender and all-state player for the Buccaneers, Banks is one of the greatest high school players ever from the city of Flint. He went on to an all-American career at Michigan State University and was selected all Big 10 three times. Banks played 12 seasons in the NFL and was part of two Super Bowl championship teams along with being named a member of the all-decade team for the 1980s.

20. JAKE LONG, OT, LAPEER EAST (2000-2002): Long was a dominant blocker in high school. During his three-year career, he never allowed a quarterback sack and graded 90% or higher each year. At defensive end, he totaled 213 career tackles and added 11 quarterback sacks. Long was an all-American offensive tackle at the University of Michigan and has played for the Miami Dolphins and the St. Louis Rams during his six-year NFL career.

21. JOE DE LAMIELLEURE, OL ST. CLEMENT CATHOLIC (1967-1969): One of the finest offensive guards to ever play the game, DeLamielleure was a six-time Pro Bowl player for the Buffalo Bills after graduating from Michigan State University. He was part of the "Electric Company" offensive line that blocked for O.J. Simpson.

22. DREW STANTON, QB FARMINGTON HARRISON (2000-2001): Stanton led Harrison to back-to-back 14-0 seasons and two state titles during his two years at the helm. A prep all-American and all-state selection, Stanton finished his high school career completing 234 of 357 passes (65%) for 5,293 yards and 58 touchdowns. He went on to star at Michigan State University and later played for the Detroit Lions.



Carl Banks, a Flint Beecher grad is considered one of the finest players to ever come out of the Flint area. Banks went on to be an All-Pro with the New York Giants and helped them win a Super Bowl. (Submitted Photos)



During his playing days at Farmington Hills Harrison Drew Stanton led his team to state title before making his way to Michigan State. Stanton is currently a backup quarterback for the Arizona Cardinals. (Submitted Photos)

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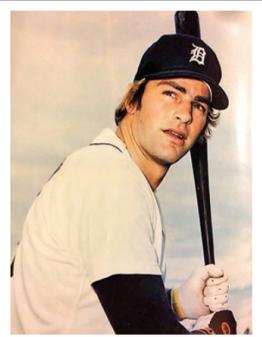
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BEST OF MICHIGAN - SPORTS SCENE'S TOP 100 FOOTBALL PLAYERS OF ALL-TIME CONTINUED...



Kirk Gibson played his high school ball at Waterford Kettering before making his way to Michigan State. Gibson went on to star for the Detroit Tigers helping his team win a World Series in 1984. (Submitted Photo)

23. TERRANCE TAYLOR, DL MUSKEGON (2001-2004): Few defensive players were as talented as Taylor. A four-year varsity player, Taylor totaled 100 tackles as a freshman and had 25 sacks over his final three years. As a senior, he helped lead Muskegon to the state title. In the 2005 all-star game, he scored two defensive touchdowns. Taylor played at University of Michigan and later in the NFL with Carolina and Detroit.

24. KIRK GIBSON, WR WATERFORD KETTERING (1972-1975): Gibson played high school football long before the Internet and recruiting services became major cottage industries. Those who saw Gibson play in high school were treated to something special. His size (6'3", 230 pounds) and sprinter speed were known to few, and he almost attended Central Michigan University before Michigan State University jumped into the game late and the rest was history.

25. JON RUNYAN, OT CARMAN-AINSWORTH (1995-1997): Runyan was a standout in both track & field and football for the Cavaliers. A dominating offensive lineman, he went on to star at the University of Michigan and then in the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles.

26. DREW HENSON, QB BRIGHTON (1995-1997): Few stars shined as brightly on the baseball field and football field than Henson's while at Brighton. Along with hitting legendary, tape-measure home runs, Henson was one of the top prep quarterbacks in the nation. He threw for 2,072 yards in 1996 and finished his career with 5,662 yards. Henson played in college at University of Michigan and then played pro football with the Dallas Cowboys and pro baseball with the New York Yankees.

27. BRENT CUMMINGS, RB BELDING (1995-1998): Few offenses were as explosive as Belding's wing-T offense in the 1990s. Belding reached its zenith when Cummings was piling up yards at a record clip. Cummings finished his career with 85 touchdowns and helped to lead the Redskins to the 1995 state title before continuing his career at the University of Michigan.

28. KEITH NICHOL, QB LOWELL (2003-2006): Nichol enjoyed one of the most productive high school careers by a Michigan prep quarterback. As a sophomore, he passed for 2,125 yards and 26 touchdowns in leading the Red Arrows to the 2004 Division 2 state title. As a senior, Nichol passed for 2,225 yards and 31 touchdowns. He finished his career with a record of 33-3; 6,550 passing yards; 76 passing touchdowns; 3,100 rushing yards; and 58 rushing touchdowns.

29. MARK DELL, WR FARMINGTON HARRISON (2004-2006): Dell was a winner who could dominate games from his wide receiver position. A member of two state title

teams, he finished his career with 2,488 receiving yards and 34 touchdown passes.

30. MIKE KOSTER, WR LOWELL (2002-2004): Even though Lowell is known for running the ball, few receivers were as efficient as Koster. He holds the career record for receptions in the state with 214. A member of the 2002 state championship team, Koster caught 86 passes for 1,305 yards that year. He is second in career receiving yards with 3,666 and third in career touchdown receptions with 42.

31. KIRK ELLSWORTH, RB GOODRICH (2002-2004): Ellsworth set a record that will be hard to top when he scored 379 points in 2004. That total is 73 points higher than the next-highest point total. Ellsworth scored a state-record 32 touchdowns in 2004, kicked 57 PATs, scored on a pair of two-point conversions, and kicked two field goals. For his career, Ellsworth totaled 632 points, good for fifth place all-time.

32. TERRY EURICK, RB SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (1971-1973): Eurick was an all-state running back while part of the 1973 Arthur Hill team, a team that is thought to be the finest ever in Michigan high school football. Eurick rushed for 984 yards and scored 20 touchdowns. He went on to play at University of Notre Dame, where he was a tri-captain on the 1977 National Championship team, and he graced the cover of Sports Illustrated after Notre Dame's win over University of Texas in the Cotton Bowl.

33. PAUL WALDERZAK, OT SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (1971-1973): Like Eurick, Walderzak was a member of the 1973 Arthur Hill team that outscored its opponents 433-0. Walderzak was an all-state tackle, and he went on to play tackle in for University of Nebraska. After college, he returned to Michigan, has coached Standish-Sterling Central High School for the past 36 years, and is a member of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

34. TONY DUNGY, QB JACKSON PARKSIDE (1971-1973): Although he is better known as the Super Bowl winning coach of the Indianapolis Colts, Dungy was an outstanding high school athlete. He was a three-year starter at quarterback and was all-state in both football and basketball. He later starred at the University of Minnesota before a lengthy NFL career as a defensive back.

35. JOHN MILLER, RB/DB FARMINGTON HARRISON (1981-1984): A prep all-American, Miller was the premier player in the state of Michigan in the early 1980s. An outstanding running back, he also finished his career with 20 interceptions and scored the only touchdown in Harrison's 7-0 win over Muskegon Catholic Central in the 1981 Class B state title game. He went on to a successful career at Michigan State University.

36. RANDY KINDER, RB EAST LANSING (1990-1992): Kinder combined good power with outstanding speed and was one of the top high school running backs in the country in 1992. He rushed for 2,464 yards his senior year before moving on to University of Notre Dame. His junior year in high school, Kinder ran the ball 27 times for 150 yards and scored a touchdown in East Lansing's Division 2 state title game victory over Brother Rice.

37. BENNY CLARK JR., RB RAVENNA (1993-1996): Clark was one of the greatest small-school running backs in state history. Along with helping Ravenna win a pair of state titles, Clark finished his career with the third-highest yardage total in state history with 7,212 yards rushing. He rushed for 2,680 yards and scored 248 points in 1996.

38. CHRIS ROBINSON, RB OVID-ELSIE (2006-2009): Robinson was a small-school phenom who scored 99 career touchdowns (fourth-best in state history). He finished his career with 604 total points and scored 250 points in 2009. He achieved the third-highest rushing season ever in 2008 with 2,844 yards and led Ovid-Elsie to the Division 5 state final. Robinson also totaled a state-record 27 straight 100-yard rushing games.

39. SAM SWORD, LB SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (1991-1993): An all-state linebacker, Sword was part of Arthur Hill's 1991 state championship team and 1992 state runner-up team. He went to University of Michigan, where he was part of the Wolverine's 1998 National Championship team and finished his career third on the all-time tackles list with 265. Sword also played four years in the NFL with the Colts and the Raiders.

40. CALVIN O'NEAL, LB SAGINAW (1969-1971): A two-time all-state linebacker, O'Neal averaged 14 tackles per game his senior year and was MVP of the Saginaw Valley League. He went on to be a two-time all-Big 10 linebacker at University of Michigan, where he was team captain in 1976. He is a member of the Saginaw County Hall of Fame.

41. BRETT LESNIAK, RB DOWAGIAC (1996-1997): Lesniak was the centerpiece of a Dowagiac team that dominated football in southwestern Michigan in the mid-1990s. In 1996, he rushed for 2,239 yards and scored 37 touchdowns, as the Chieftains reached the state semifinals. Lesniak also set a school record with a 374-yard rushing game. For his two-year varsity career he totaled 4,418 yards and scored 70 career touchdowns.

42. STEVE MARRIUCI, QB IRON MOUNTAIN (1971-1973): The Upper Peninsula has produced plenty of talented players, with "Mooch" being perhaps the best quarterback to ever come out of the North country. Marriuci was an all-Upper Peninsula football and basketball player. A three-time all-American in college, Marriuci led

Northern Michigan University to the 1975 Division 2 National Championship.

43. ERIC BALL, RB YPSILANTI (1982-1984): Ball was a rare combination of size and speed at running back. At 6'1" and 215 pounds, Ball possessed breakout speed and was a high school all-American along with being an all-state back for Ypsilanti. He went on to play college football at UCLA, where tied a Rose Bowl record with four touchdowns against University of Iowa in 1986 before playing six years in the NFL with Cincinnati.

44. MARVIN WRIGHT, QB/DB SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (1990-1992): Arthur Hill was one of the premier teams in the state in the early 1990s, led by the dangerous Wright at quarterback. An all-state quarterback who could win with his arm or his legs, Wright led Arthur Hill to a state title in 1991 and a state runner-up finish in 1992. He then went on to play defensive back at Michigan State University.

45. MARK CATLIN, QB/DB LOWELL (2000-2002): Catlin was one of the finest two-way players in Lowell history. Blessed with outstanding athletic ability, he was at his best in big games, as he led Lowell to the 2002 Division 2 state title. He passed for 2,634 yards in 2002 and as a defensive back finished fourth all-time in the state with 24 career interceptions.

46. RICHIE JORDAN, RB FENVILLE (1962-1964): The "Fennville Flash" was not just a basketball legend, although in that sport, the 5'7" Jordan averaged 44.1 points per game and was a high school all-American. However, he was also a football standout, who earned high school all-American football honors and was a three-time all-state player. Jordan set a career rushing record with 5,132 yards and scored 47 career touchdowns in an era when teams played a nine-game schedule with no playoffs. He also ran for 2,010 yards as a senior.

47. NICK HILL, RB, CHELSEA (2006-2009): Hill was dynamite in a small package. The 5'7" Hill totaled 103 career touchdowns, third all-time. For his career, he finished with 630 points. Hill also finished sixth all-time in career rushing with 6,910 yards before moving on to Michigan State University.

48. TOM DEVINE, OE/LB LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC (1968-1969): The Titans have produced a number of state champions over the years, but Devine is without a doubt the finest Titan of all time. He was a hulking offensive end and linebacker who dominated on both sides of the football. He was voted the United Press International (UPI) Player of the Year as both a junior and as a senior. Devine went on to play at University of Notre Dame, but injuries short-circuited his career.

49. ROBERT JACKSON, RB ALLENDALE (1973-1976): Jackson put up some gaudy numbers during his senior season in 1976, when he scored 217 points in nine games, an average of four

touchdowns per game. He went on to success at Central Michigan University before a lengthy NFL career as a safety with the Cincinnati Bengals.

50. DAVE YAREMA, QB BROTHER RICE (1980-1981): Yarema was the premier quarterback in the state in the early 1980s. As a junior, he led Brother Rice to the Class A state title and earned all-state honors the following year. He went on to start at Michigan State University as a freshman and is still in the top 10 in many Spartan passing categories.

51. PAUL JOKISCH, WR BROTHER RICE (1980-1981): The 6'8", 240-pound Jokisch teamed up with Yarema to form one of the most imposing pitch-and-catch duos in state history. The two combined on a 38-yard touchdown pass for the only points in the 1980 Class A state title game, where Brother Rice defeated Dearborn Fordson 6-0. Jokisch was the No. 1 recruit in 1981 and went on to a career as both a basketball and a football player for the Wolverines.

52. ANDRE RISON, WR FLINT NORTHWESTERN (1982-1985): One of the greatest all-around high school athletes to come out of Flint, Rison was a dynamic wide receiver in high school along with being an all-state guard in basketball. He broke numerous receiving records at Michigan State University before a 12-year NFL career that included helping the Green Bay Packers win the 1997 Super Bowl.

53. PETE METZELAARS, TE PORTAGE CENTRAL (1975-1977): At 6'8", Metzelaars was a dominant receiver in high school who earned all-state honors and led his team to the 1977 Class A state title game. Overlooked by major colleges, Metzelaars went on to an all-American career at Wabash College in Indiana in both basketball and football. He then played 16 years in the NFL, primarily for the Buffalo Bills, where he was a three-time Pro-Bowl player and a member of four Super Bowl teams.

54. MAX BULLOUGH, LB TRAVERSE CITY ST. FRANCIS (2007-2009): Bullough was a three-year starter and two-time all-state selection who helped St. Francis win back-to-back state titles in 2008-09. He was Division 7 Player of the Year as a senior, when he totaled 137 tackles, four sacks, and three interceptions. He also rushed for 466 yards (11.7 yards/carry) and four touchdowns and was a high school all-American linebacker. He totaled 102 tackles as a junior and 97.5 as a sophomore.

55. SONNY GRANDELIUS, RB MUSKEGON HEIGHTS (1944-1946): The Muskegon Heights Tigers were a major high school football power in the 1940s, and Grandelius was one of the best Tigers ever. He led his team to the 1945 state title as a quarterback, and in 1946 he switched to fullback, earned all-state honors, and again led the Tigers to a state title. Grandelius went on to Michigan State University, where he earned all-American honors as a senior, when he rushed for 1,023 yards.

56. NICK PERRY, DE, DETROIT MACKENZIE/DETROIT KING (2004-2007): As a senior at Detroit King, Perry recorded a state record 36 sacks along with 147 tackles, as he helped lead King to the Division 1 state title. As a tight end, he caught eight touchdown passes. During his junior year at Mackenzie, Perry totaled 75 tackles and 11 sacks. He was named the MVP of the all-state Dream Team and was a first-team all-USA Today pick. Perry went on to be an all-Pac 10 selection at University of Southern California and was drafted in the first round by the Green Bay Packers.

57. REGGIE MACKENZIE, OL HIGHLAND PARK (1965-1967): The finest high school player ever produced at Highland Park, Mackenzie was a three-year starter at the University of Michigan and was an all-American in 1971. He went on to a 13-year NFL career, primarily with the Buffalo Bills, where he was a two-time Pro Bowl player. Mackenzie is a member of both the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

58. TODD LYGH, WR/DB POWERS CATHOLIC (1985-1986): Lyght earned all-state and all-American honors his senior season. As a receiver, he caught 34 passes for 887 yards and 11 touchdowns, while at defensive back, he intercepted 10 passes. A two-time all-American at University of Notre Dame, Lyght was a part of Notre Dame's 1988 National Championship team. He was drafted fifth overall by the Los Angeles Rams in 1991 and was a two-time Pro Bowl player and member of the 1999 St. Louis Rams Super Bowl championship team.

59. BOOKER MOORE, RB, FLINT SOUTHWESTERN (1974-1976): One of the greatest running backs to ever come out of Flint, Moore broke every rushing record in the city during his high school career. A two-time all-stater, he broke his own record as a senior when he rushed for 1,263 yards and led the Colts to a 9-0 record and the ranking as the state's No. 1 team. Moore played at Pennsylvania State University, where he became the school's fifth-leading career rusher. He was the No. 1 draft choice of the Buffalo Bills.

60. MARK BRAMER, TE TRAVERSE CITY CENTRAL (1973-1975): An all-state tight end, Bramer helped lead the Trojans to a No. 1 ranking and to the Class A final in the first year of the state playoffs in 1975. He went on to enjoy a productive career at Michigan State University and then played in the NFL for the Buffalo Bills.

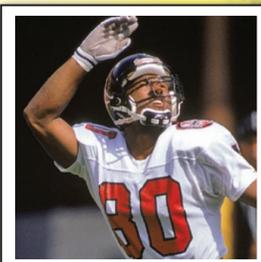
61. BRAD JONES, TE/LB EAST LANSING (2001-2003): Jones was a dominant presence at linebacker with his combination of size and speed. One of the Lansing area's best linebackers ever, he was also a leading receiver in the area as a senior and was runner-up as the state player of the year. Jones was a standout in college at University of Colorado and is currently playing in the NFL for the Green Bay Packers.



Ovid Elsie's Chris Robinson led his team to the state finals in 2008 as a junior. He rushed for nearly 3,000 yards that year. (File Photos)



Saginaw Arthur Hill product Marvin Wright.



Andre Rison starred for Flint Northwestern High School before moving on to Michigan State University and then the pros. (Submitted Photo)



Max Bullough, a star at Traverse City St. Francis during his high school years will leave Michigan State after this season with his eyes on the pros in the coming years. (Submitted Photos)

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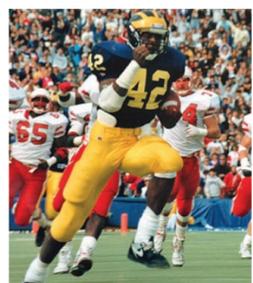
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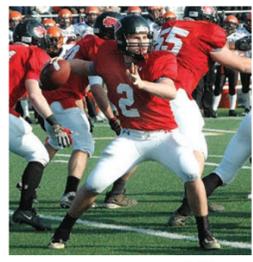
BEST OF MICHIGAN - SPORTS SCENE'S TOP 100 FOOTBALL PLAYERS OF ALL-TIME CONTINUED...



Former Lansing Eastern standout Josh Thornhill. Thornhill played collegiately at Michigan State.



Westland John Glenn's Tony Boles



Lowell's Gabe Dean amassed over 10,000 yards of total offense during his time playing for the Red Arrows.



New Lothrop's Roger Emmendorfer helped lead the Hornets to a Division 8 championship in 2006. (Submitted Photo)

62. RON JOHNSON, WR MUSKEGON (2003-2006): RoJo was a big-play receiver who led his team to perfect 14-0 seasons and state titles in both 2004 and in 2006. He totaled over 1,600 all-purpose yards in 2006, as he caught 26 passes for 700 yards (26.9 yards/reception) and seven touchdowns. The top recruit in Michigan his senior year, he picked USC over Texas, Florida, Michigan, Michigan State, and Notre Dame. He was selected in the 6th round of the 2011 NFL draft by the San Francisco 49ers.

63. RICKY BRYANT, WR FARMINGTON HARRISON (1995-1998): Bryant was a big-play receiver, who finished his career with 132 receptions for 2,665 yards and 33 career touchdown receptions. In the 1998 Division 2 state title game against Hudsonville, he hauled in six passes for 146 yards and a pair of touchdowns and also added an interception. He was part of two state title teams. Bryant then played at Ohio State University and Hofstra University and won a Super Bowl ring with the New England Patriots.

64. JOSH THORNHILL, LB LANSING EASTERN (1994-1997): A four-year starter for the Quakers, Thornhill was a dominant defensive force, who totaled 151 tackles as a junior and 150 as a senior. He was one of the premier players in the state in 1997 and earned Parade and USA Today All-American honors. He went on to play at Michigan State University, where he was a two-time all-Big 10 linebacker.

65. TONY BOLES, RB WESTLAND JOHN GLENN (1983-1985): Boles was one of the premier players in the state, who combined good size with outstanding speed and cutting ability to earn all-state honors. He went on to success as a two-time all-Big 10 running back with the University of Michigan Wolverines and was the team MVP in 1989. Boles played in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys.

66. THOMAS JOHNSON, LB DETROIT MACKENZIE (1979-1981): "Pepper" Johnson was a dominating linebacker, who was an all-state and all-American selection. He went on to play four years at Ohio State University, where he totaled 379 career tackles and was an all-American in 1985. Johnson played 12 years in the NFL and was part of two Super Bowl championships with the New York Giants. After his playing career ended, he was part of three additional Super Bowl championships as a defensive coach with the New England Patriots.

67. LARRY FOOTE, LB DETROIT PERSHING (1995-1997): Foote was an all-state linebacker, who was considered one of the top recruits in the state his senior year. He went on to star at the University of Michigan, where he earned all-American honors and was the Big 10 Defensive Player of the Year. He earned two Super Rings as a professional with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

68. PETE CHRYPLEWICZ, TE UTICA STEVENSON (1989-1991): A dominating presence at tight end as a blocker and as a receiver, Chryplewicz was the No.1-ranked recruit following the 1991 season. He went on to play at University of Notre Dame and later for the Detroit Lions in the NFL.

69. LUIS SHARPE, OT DETROIT SOUTHWESTERN (1976-1978): Southwestern was not just a basketball school, and Sharpe was not only the premier lineman in Michigan but was also a prep all-American who went on to play for UCLA. He then played in the NFL for the Cardinals for 13 seasons and was a three-time Pro Bowl selection.

70. KERRY SMITH, RB FOREST HILLS NORTHERN (1977-1978): An all-state running back in 1978, Smith helped lead Northern to the Class C state title. In that state title game, he rushed for 278 yards to break O.J. Simpson's Silverdome rushing record. He went on to play running back at the University of Michigan.

71. DAN LATO, RB FOREST PARK (1976-1978): Lato was arguably the finest running back to ever come out of the Upper Peninsula. In 1977, he scored 206 points, and in 1978 he scored 212 points, as he led Forest Park to back-to-back state final appearances. Lato ended his career with 522 points.

72. MIKE DUMAS, DB, LOWELL (1984-1986): Dumas was a dominating player on both sides of the ball but was best known for his hard-hitting style on defense. He went on to star at the University of Indiana and played for eight years in the NFL as a safety, mostly for the Houston Oilers and the San Diego Chargers.

73. DAVID BOWENS, LB ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARYS (1992-1994): Bowens was a dynamic linebacker and the top player in the state in 1994, when he helped the Eaglets win the Class CC state title. He went on to play at University of Michigan and at Western Illinois University before playing over a decade in the NFL with several teams.

74. RAY BENTLEY, LB HUDSONVILLE (1977-1978): An all-state linebacker, Bentley went on to Central Michigan University, where he was a two-time all-MAC linebacker. He was voted MVP of the MAC in 1982. He won a USFL championship with the Michigan Panthers in 1983 and later played six seasons for the Buffalo Bills of the NFL, with whom he played in two Super Bowls. Bentley has been a football color analyst since 1994 and with ESPN since 2003.

75. GABE DEAN, QB, LOWELL (2009-2011): Dean played the quarterback position with a punishing style. A powerful runner, he scored 35 touchdowns in the 2010 season, as he helped lead Lowell to a Division 2 state title.

76. TOM TYSON, RB WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT (1992-1995): Tyson was one of the finest football players to ever come out of northeastern Michigan. Playing at tiny Whittemore-Prescott, he scored 97 career touchdowns and is fourth in all-time points scored with 632. Tyson finished his career with 6,605 yards, which includes the 2,659 yards he gained in 1994.

77. JOHN BREASBOIS, QB MERRILL (1997-1999): Merrill football was at the heart of the run-and-shoot offensive revolution that began to change the face of high school football in Michigan in the mid-1990s. Breasbois totaled 7,216 career passing yards, as Merrill operated out of four and five-receiver sets. In 1999, he passed for a then-record 3,276 yards and led Merrill to the state semifinal. He completed 31 of 50 passes for 465 yards in that semifinal game against Traverse City St. Francis.

78. J.T. JONES, WR, ITHACA (1999-2001): While Ithaca has produced numerous standout quarterbacks, few Yellowjackets or receivers in state history can match the production of Jones. He holds both the career (46) and single-season (26) records for touchdown passes caught. Jones is fifth in career receptions with 172 and has the third-highest single-season mark with 93 receptions in 2001. He is also third in career receiving yards (3,190) and has the sixth-highest single-season mark with 1,457 in 2000.

79. ROGER EMMENDORFER, RB NEW LOTHROP (2003-2006): Emmendorfer was the catalyst of some high-powered New Lothrop offenses. In 2006, he totaled 227 points, as he scored 26 touchdowns, kicked four field goals, added 47 PATs, and scored on six two-point conversions. Emmendorfer finished his career with 512 points and helped to lead the Hornets to the 2006 Division 8 state title.

80. TERRY MCDANIEL, WR/RB SAGINAW (1980-1982): A versatile speedster, McDaniel totaled 1,582 yards of total offense as a senior and was heavily recruited by Michigan and by Michigan State. McDaniel has sprinter speed, and he won state titles in the 100- (10.46 seconds) and 200-meter dashes (21.20 seconds). He was an all-SEC performer at University of Tennessee as a defensive back and was drafted by the Oakland Raiders in the first round of the 1988 draft. He was a five-time Pro Bowl player, who finished his career with 35 interceptions.

81. JASON FRACASSA, QB UTICA STEVENSON (2006-2009): The all-time passing king in Michigan high school football, Fracassa amassed numbers that will be hard to top. In 2009, he set the single-single passing yardage mark with 4,433 yards. He finished his career with 10,615 passing yards, which is 2,709 yards more than the number-two passer.

82. DEANDRE JOHNSON, RB MADISON (2003-2006): Johnson was one of the most productive running backs ever in the Detroit area. He finished his career with 7,016 yards, one of

only five running backs ever with more than 7,000 career yards. He rushed for 2,697 yards in 2006, as he helped lead Madison to the Division 5 state final before moving on to the University of Michigan.

83. DAVE BLACKMER, PK FARMINGTON HARRISON (1981-1982): Blackmer was one of the most successful high school kickers in state history. He holds the state record for field goals in a season with 16 and finished fourth for field goals in a career with 27. He also held the record for longest field goal for 13 years after a 55-yard effort in 1981 vs. Farmington.

84. RICK GRANATA, RB IMLAY CITY (1991-1993): Granata had a productive career that was capped in 1993, when he led the Spartans to the Class B final. Granata rushed for 5,655 yards during his career and finished with 553 career points. During the 1993 season he rushed for 2,783 yards.

85. NOAH HERRON, RB MATTAWAN (1996-1999): Herron was the most productive running back to come out of southwestern Michigan. He finished his career with 5,544 yards and totaled 552 points. He went on to play at Northwestern University, where he was an all-Big 10 player and left as the fifth all-time rusher in school history. Herron later played in the NFL for the Steelers and for the Packers.

86. ALEX NIZNAK, QB, ITHACA (2008-2010): A two-time all-state selection, Niznak led Ithaca to a perfect 14-0 season in 2010, as he passed for 2,731 yards and 31 touchdowns while rushing for 1,161 yards and 21 touchdowns. He set a state finals record with five touchdowns, as he ran for 138 yards and passed for 251 in the title game. As a junior, he passed for 2,077 yards and 22 touchdowns while running for 1,637 yards and scoring 28 touchdowns in leading Ithaca to the state semifinal.

87. BRIAN PRUITT, RB SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (1988-1990): Pruitt was a three-year, two-way starter who played defensive end and fullback. At Central Michigan University in 1994, he became the first Chippewa to earn first-team Division 1 all-American honors. That season, he was MVP of the MAC, as he rushed for a school record 1,890 yards and scored 22 touchdowns. Pruitt holds MAC and school records for rushing yards in a game with 356, and he also scored a school-record five touchdowns in one game.

88. DAVE VON BEHREN, QB FRANKENMUTH (1973-1975): In the early 1970s, before the era of teams throwing the ball all over the field, Von Behren piloted a Frankenmuth offense that was ahead of its time. He was at his best in the 1974 season, when he passed for 2,589 yards in nine games. For his career, he totaled 5,601 yards, which is still a top-20 all-time mark.

89. COOPER RUSH, QB LANSING CATHOLIC (2009-2011): Few high school quarterbacks ever had a game like Rush did in the 2011 playoffs against Dowagiac. He completed a state-record 20 passes in a row and threw for five second-quarter touchdowns enroute to a state-record 541 yards and eight touchdowns. He finished the 2011 season with 4,002 yards passing, the second-highest total in state history. For his career, Rush passed for 7,247 yards, good for fourth place on the career list.

90. DWAIN KOSCIELNIAK, RB GAYLORD ST. MARY (1987-1990): One of the premier players to come out of northern Michigan, Koscielniak rushed for 5,078 yards during his career and scored 412 points. A two-time all-state player and two-time winner of the Bay City Times Golden Helmet Award, Koscielniak capped his career by rushing for 529 yards against Pellston in his final game.

91. FRED RUSSELL, RB ROMULUS (1996-1998): Although Romulus was known as a basketball school, Russell made a huge impact on the football field, as he totaled 5,087 yards rushing. He capped his career by rushing for 2,473 yards as a senior. Romulus experienced its finest season that year, when it went 10-1 and reached the Class BB regional final, where it dropped a 41-40 thriller to DeWitt. Russell played college football at University of Iowa, where he twice rushed for over 1,000 yards in a season.

92. TIM SHAW, RB CLARENCEVILLE (1998-2001): An underrated football player, Shaw is second in career points scored by a Michigan high school player with 786 and is one of only two players to score over 700 career points. He also had the second- and third-highest single season point totals in state history (306 in 2001 and 288 in 2000). He is second in career rushing with 7,813 yards. Shaw was an academic all-American linebacker at Pennsylvania State University and is currently playing for the Tennessee Titans in his seventh NFL season.

93. DAN BASS, LB, BATH (1974-1975): Bass was a tackling machine and earned all-state honors in 1976. At Michigan State University, Bass was a two-time all-Big 10 player and was team MVP during the 1979 season and is the all-time leader in tackles for the Spartans. Bass went on to play in the Canadian Football League, where he was a six-time CFL all-star and a member of the 1987 Grey Cup champion team.

94. JORDAN JOHNSON, WR DE WITT (2008-2010): Johnson piled up the receiving yards during his three seasons. He finished his career with 2,809 career receiving yards, sixth-most in state history. He also caught 189 career passes to place fourth on the career list and finished his career with 31 touchdown passes.

95. MIKE MCFADDEN, DL HERITAGE (2000-2001): McFadden was a defensive standout who earned all-state honors both as a junior and as a senior. He totaled 98 tackles as a junior and 117 tackles as a senior before heading to Grand Valley State University, where set a number of school records. McFadden was one of the finest D2 defensive linemen in the nation during the 2005 and 2006 seasons and was a two-time Gene Upshaw award winner as the top lineman in D2 football.

96. GARY VAN ELST, FB/LB MIDDLEVILLE (1965-1967): Van Elst was a battering ram of a football player who dominated on both sides of the football. He was named the UPI High School Player of the Year for Michigan in 1967 and went on to play defensive tackle at Michigan State University. He also held the state shot put record until T.J. Duckett broke it in 1998.

97. KEATH BARTYNSKI, RB NOUVEL CATHOLIC CENTRAL (1995-1997): Bartynski was one of the most successful running backs in Michigan high school history. During his three years at Nouvel, he rushed for 6,336 yards. His best season was 1997, when he rushed for 2,553 yards.

98. JAY ACHTERHOFF, OL MUSKEGON (1970-1971): Achterhoff anchored the offensive line for the unbeaten Muskegon team of 1971 that won the Class A state champion. He earned all-state honors and was selected the state Player of the Year in 1971. He went on to play at University of Notre Dame and was a member of the 1973 National Championship team before playing in the NFL for the Miami Dolphins. Achterhoff gained fame when he was credited with the sack by Dan "Rudy" Ruettiger in the famous "Rudy" play against Georgia Tech.

99. TONY SCHEFFLER, WR/TE CHELSEA (1998-2000): An all-state wide receiver in 2000, Scheffler set school records with 67 receptions for 1,340 yards and 16 touchdowns. He went on to be a two-time all-Mid American Conference tight end at Western Michigan University and was a John Mackey Award finalist before moving on to the NFL with the Denver Broncos and the Detroit Lions.

100. RYAN CUNNINGHAM, RB FULTON (1992-1995): A bruising running back, Cunningham rushed for 5,337 yards during his career. He was also a state-champion wrestler who was a three-time all-American at Central Michigan University and finished with 104 career wins.

All opinions of this story is by the writer and solely the Sports Scene staff. It's definitely a hard task to do, but we are confident in our decisions.



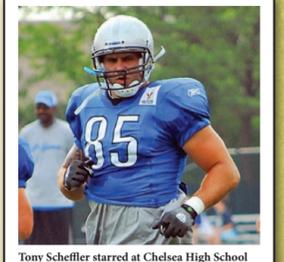
Lansing Catholic's Cooper Rush threw for over 4,000 yards during his senior season. (Staff Photos)



Devitt's Jordan Johnson is considered one of the top receivers to ever strap on a helmet for the Panthers. (File Photos)



Saginaw Heritage grad Mike McFadden was All-State as a Hawk and later helped lead Grand Valley State University to three Division 2 National Championships and was a two-time Division 2 Defensive Player of the Year. (Submitted Photo)



Tony Scheffler starred at Chelsea High School and played collegiately at Western Michigan before being drafted by the Denver Broncos. (Scott Keyes Photos)

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SPORTS SCENE'S BOYS TENNIS PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



SINGLES
Matthew Heeder,
Lansing
Catholic Central



DOUBLES
Jason Chang,
Midland Dow



NO. 1 in D4

LCC's Heeder wins No. 1 singles

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

Led by Matt Heeder, the Lansing Catholic boys tennis team wrapped up the season in a big way at the Division 4 state finals.

Heeder, a junior who came in as the No. 1 seed, captured the state title at No. 1 singles for the Cougars, who finished in fourth place as a team.

Heeder fell behind early in his match against Nicholas Solarewicz of Grand Rapids West Catholic before coming back to win in two sets.

"After getting down 3-0, I started staying down on the ball," Heeder said. "I was a little nervous the first couple of games, but Coach settled me down, and I got into a groove. I tried not to overthink. I just did what I was capable of doing."

The Cougars had a number of strong efforts at the finals. Anthony Davis reached the semifinals at No. 2 singles and Chris Heeder reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles. In doubles action, Catholic's No. 1 and No. 3 doubles teams reached the semifinals and No. 4 doubles reached the quarterfinals.

Portland finished seventh overall. The Raiders' No. 1, 2, and 3 doubles teams reached the semifinals, and the No. 4 doubles team reached the quarterfinals.

Garber placed 11th, as Andrew

Martin reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles and Jake Wojciechowski reached the semifinals at No. 4 singles.

Frankenmuth placed 16th, led by Joey Seder who reached the quarterfinals at No. 4 singles.

At the Division 3 meet, DeWitt finished 10th overall. Sam Schuster at No. 1 singles and the No. 2 doubles team reached the quarterfinals for the Panthers.

Haslett tied for 11th, as Matt Stewart at No. 3 singles and the No. 1 doubles team reached the quarterfinals.

Mt. Pleasant also tied for 11th, as both the No. 2 and the No. 3 doubles teams reached the quarterfinals.

While Midland Dow won the Division 2 title, Okemos placed sixth overall as a team. Jordan Jacobsen reached the semifinals at No. 2 singles, while Elan Dantus at No. 1 singles and Kartikeya Kamdula at No. 4 singles both reached the quarterfinals.

At the Division 1 finals, Rockford finished 12th overall as a team, as both the No. 1 and the No. 4 doubles teams reached the quarterfinals.

Grand Blanc and Midland tied for 17th. Grand Blanc's Adam Burau reached the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles. Jonathon Hentschel of Midland advanced to the quarterfinals at No. 2 singles as did Midland's No. 3 doubles team.

SPORTS SCENE'S GIRLS GOLF DREAM TEAM



Co-Player of the Year
Elle Nichols,
Okemos



Kharissa Carras & Stephanie Carras,
Midland Dow



Bria Colosky,
Farwell



Megan Watkins,
Frankenmuth

SECOND TEAM
Samantha Moss, Fenton
Pader Her, Holt
Megan Baumgartner, Perry
Morgan Zolto, Flint Powers
Kristen Wolfe, Flint Powers



Megan Baumgartner,
Perry

THIRD TEAM
Jessica Kim, Okemos
Tori Argyle, Freeland
Lauren Lyon, Mt. Pleasant
Tori Sobkowiak, Rockford
Brianna Forsthoefel,
East Lansing



Co-Player of the Year
Jackie Setas,
Lansing Catholic Central

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Leaving no doubt

Midland Dow wins 5th straight D2 tennis title

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

During the 1979 major league baseball season, the Pittsburgh Pirates adopted the song "We are Family" as their team motto on their way to winning the World Series.

For the past several years, the Midland Dow boys tennis team has built its program around the same family theme, an approach that has resulted in success and that paid off again this year, as the Chargers won the Division 2 state tennis championship at Hope College in Holland October 18-19.

Dow won consecutive title number five in impressive fashion, as it captured six of eight flights and had a finalist in a seventh flight. Dow totaled 37 points, 13 points ahead of second-place University of Detroit Jesuit.

"The five straight titles is not about anything the coach does," coach Terry Schwartzkopf said. "We do it as a community. The players, the coaches, the parents, we are all invested in each other. These guys are back in my room after graduation. They are friends outside of school. They even have their own fantasy football league. The parents all know each other. That is the key to our success."

Dow was dominant in both singles and doubles matches, winning three flights each in singles and in doubles.

Leading the Chargers in doubles play was the No. 1 team of Jason Chang and Vikram Shanker, who teamed up for Chang's fourth and Shanker's second state title. They defeated Timmy Hoffman and Marty Nagle from U of D Jesuit in two sets.

"We are just one big family," Shanker said. "We train together the year round. Everyone turned it on this weekend. Our No. 3 doubles team didn't have a perfect season, but they won an amazing match."

That No. 3 doubles team was made up of Seamus Bartlett and Daniel Mango and came into the tournament seeded second. Bartlett and Mango progressed to the finals, where they defeated Forest Hills Northern's Ryan Roach and Daiki Adachi in three sets.

"It was just incredible," Mango said. "We won the first set, then we lost the second set. We got down in the third set, but then we pulled through at the end. Our coach just gave us words of encouragement. We knew what we had to do. We gave it our all and we did it."



Midland Dow's Julian Guerra won his fourth state tennis title at No. 2 singles in two sets over Thomas Sheeren of U of D Jesuit. The Chargers went on to win their fifth straight Division 2 championship. (Butch Harmon Photo)

At No. 2 doubles, Dow's team of Patrick Eschbach and Colin Angell rolled to victory with a 6-0, 6-1 win against Parmet Gogireddy and Alex Winks of Forest Hills Northern.

In singles action, senior Julian Guerra led the way as he earned the fourth state title of his career. Guerra won the No. 2 singles title in two sets against Thomas Sheeren of U of D Jesuit. Guerra won state titles at No. 4 singles as a freshman and sophomore, and last year he won the title at No. 3 singles.

At No. 4 singles, Dow sophomore Michael Szabo won

his second straight state title. Szabo defeated Freddy Heegan of U of D Jesuit in two sets.

Taking part in his first state final was Dow freshman Varun Shanker at No. 3 singles. He defeated Will Christian of Forest Hills Northern in two sets to claim his crown.

"I can't say enough about the Dow program," Shanker said. "It was my dream to play tennis for Dow and help them win a state title. To win five in a row is awesome. To play for a program like Dow with such high expectations is a great experience."



Congratulations To Midland Dow For Winning Its Fifth Straight D2 Tennis Championship!

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Chang dominant

One of best state has ever seen

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

When it comes to the best doubles players of all time in the state of Michigan, Midland Dow senior Jason Chang has to be in the conversation.

Chang, with his partner Vikram Shanker, wrapped up his career at the Division 2 state meet by winning a fourth-straight state title with a two-set victory against University of Detroit Jesuit. Along the way, Chang set a new career record for wins by a doubles player with 138. Shanker finished second on the career doubles victory list with 132.

While Chang was pleased with

the win record, capturing a fourth straight team title was the main thought on his mind.

"My primary goal was for our team to win states," Chang said. "This [win record] was just something that came along with it. The state title feels great. It is something we have been working for."

Chang and Shanker won their second consecutive doubles title this season. Chang had different partners for his first two championships.

Winning four state titles was something Chang never dreamed would happen. "It feels great," he said. "I had no idea I would be even able to compete, and to win four titles is just amazing."



Midland Dow's Jason Chang will graduate as one of the most prolific doubles players in the history of Michigan boys' tennis. Chang set a state record with 138 doubles victories. (Butch Harmon Photo)

Chargers fall to Heritage in districts

Ben Murphy Sports Scene

The Dow soccer team was rolling down the stretch of the 2013 soccer season, however, the Chargers fell 3-2 to Heritage in the district semifinals.

"It was very difficult to have the season come to an end," first-year head coach Marshall Gray said. "We had a lot of success and were playing our best soccer right up to the end. It is especially hard to say goodbye to these seniors who poured their heart and soul into the program and continued Dow High's soccer excellence."

The Chargers finished the season 12-5-6, going 8-0-6 in their last 14 regular season contests. Their record was good enough for second place in the Saginaw Valley League North.

Brandon Derstine, a junior, led the team with 19 goals and six assists.

Sean Zanyk McLean, a senior, had 11 goals and four assists, and junior Nick Coon had eight goals and seven assists. Ricky Knoff was the team's top goalkeeper, saving 86 percent of shots faced.

"Our goalkeeping was stellar the whole year with Knoff," Gray said. "Our defense was rock solid most of the year with Trevor Hulbert, Cole Lacey, Ethan Loftis, and Dylan Hammer. Our midfield was very strong and distributed well [thanks to] Sean McLean, Brandon Woo, Griffin Kendziorski. Our forwards were very creative and played well off each other [behind] Brandon Derstine and Nick Coon."

"We had a core group of seniors that had been in the program for a number of years," Gray said. "We also have a very talented junior group and several sophomores that gave us key minutes in several key games. Despite only having four home games, our

guys grew together and gained a lot of confidence as we traveled around the state and played topnotch talent."

Coach Gray felt that playing top teams led to some of the team's success in the later stages of the season. "One of my goals as a coach is to schedule the top teams in the state," he said. "This year, we played the top teams in Division 1, 2, and 3. I want our guys to get exposure throughout the state, and playing the top teams is the only way to do it."

Losing seniors comes with the territory in high school sports, but Gray is hoping that his returning players can continue Dow's soccer prominence.

"Looking forward to next year, we return 11 players," he said. "We have some holes to fill, but our returners and junior varsity talent coming up will give us another opportunity to have a successful season."



The Midland Dow boys soccer team lost in a Class A district semi-finals game to Heritage 3-2. The Chargers finished the season 12-5-6. (Scott Keyes Photo)

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Nichols wins 3rd; Okemos, Dow finish 2nd, 3rd



Okemos' Elle Nichols won her third straight Division 2 state title becoming only the second player in Lower Peninsula history to achieve that honor. (Alan Holben Photo)

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Okemos senior Elle Nichols capped her high school golf career by winning the individual state title at the Division 2 state golf finals.

She became only the second player in Lower Peninsula history to win three individual MHSAA golf titles. Nichols posted a two-day total of 155 to win the tournament and also helped Okemos finish second overall as a team.

"I knew I had to go low on the back nine," said Nichols, who closed with 35 on the final nine holes on the second day, "and the birdie at 10 [capped by a 60-foot putt] helped get me started."

Sophomore Jessica Kim finished sixth overall for Okemos with 164 for the two days.

Midland Dow placed third as a team and was paced by Stephanie Carras, who fired a two-day total of 159 to place third overall, while Kharissa Carras finished 10th overall with 168.

Fenton placed fifth as a team, led by Samantha Moss, who finished seventh

individually with 165.

East Lansing placed eighth as a team and was led by Brianna Forsthoeffel and Molly Ring, who both totaled 180.

Mt. Pleasant placed 12th, led by Lauren Lyon with 184. Greenville finished 13th, paced by Karli Didion at 190.

At the Division 1 state meet, Holt was the top area finisher, as it placed 11th as a team.

Holt's Pader Her was the top area's top individual placer, as she placed sixth with 161.

Davison finished 13th, led by Karsen Johnston.

Rockford was 15th, led by Tori Sobkowiak with 191.

At the Division 3 state meet, Lakewood placed fourth as a team. Emily Barker led the way for the Vikings, as she finished ninth as an individual with 173.

DeWitt finished 13th overall and was led by Cassidy Splawn.

Haslett finished 14th and was led by Emily Fulton with 206.

Tri-County's Taylir Kral qualified as an individual and finished with 188.

Queen for a Day

LCC's Jackie Setas wins D4 crown



After finishing runner-up a year ago, Lansing Catholic Central golfer Jackie Setas won the Division 4 crown this season. (Randy Miniard Photo)

John Raffel Sports Scene

Lansing Catholic's Jacqueline Setas was the Queen of the Hill in Division 4 girls' golf this season. She shot 77 and 73 for 150 at Bedford Valley in Battle Creek to take championship honors.

She finished runner up last year after losing in a playoff.

"I thought that as a team, we played really, really well," Setas said. "After the first day, we were in third place, which I don't think a lot of people thought we could do. So I was really proud of my team."

Her highest score was 41 for nine holes. She also won several invitationals during the regular season.

"It's just an incredible run," Lansing Catholic coach Mary Schafer said. "She plays a lot of tournaments in the summer. She basically goes all over the Midwest and even plays tournaments down South. That has made her tournament tough. She plays in the [best] tournaments in the country. She's ranked as one of the top in the Midwest, if not the country. It's a huge plus for me if I can get my kids to play in summer tournaments, because you can't describe to people what it's like in tournaments. They have to follow all the rules. It helps them get ready for the season."

Setas was elated being

able to get first place in her last high school action. "I think I played at the top of my game the second day," Setas said. "The first day, I for sure should have done [better]."

For the weekend, Setas' driver worked well. "I might have missed three fairways overall, combined the two days," she said. "That was really helping me out. My putting was on the second day."

Setas indicated her short game has improved. "My chipping got a ton better from last year," she said. "That's why I played well."

As an individual golfer, this was her best season, but she would have loved getting a fourth team title. "In the regionals,

we lost by 30 to Flint Powers," Setas said. "That was kind of a wake-up call, knowing state was going to be tough, and we needed to play our best to win. We played solid by coming in fourth. Getting first three years and fourth is a good run for high school."

Setas will be staying home and playing college golf at Michigan State University, although she said she could have gone anywhere in the Big Ten or even to some schools down South.

"I have a good relationship with the coaches there," she said. "I felt comfortable with the campus and Forest Akers [home course]. I thought it was a good fit for me."

LCC's bid for fourth straight title comes up short

John Raffel Sports Scene

Lansing Catholic's bid for a fourth straight Division 4 state girls golf title just wasn't in the cards this year, but the Cougars still have plenty to remember about 2013.

When the state finals ended October 19 at Bedford Valley in Battle Creek, Lansing Catholic had two-round scores of 372 and 359 for 731 total, well behind first place Grosse Ile which shot 716 and second place NorthPointe Christian with 718. Powers Catholic shot 722 for third place.

Lansing Catholic did have the state champion, Jacqueline Setas, who shot 77 and 73 for 150 total.

Rounding out the Cougars' scores, Abby Meer had 97 and 94 for 191,

Chrissy Jurovic had 105 and 92 for 197, Elaina Walling had 99 and 100 for 199, and Lauren Burnett had 99 and 105 for 204.

Coach Mary Schafer noted that the Cougars had to deal with some inexperience this season. "Lauren Burnett, our No. 2 is a senior, Abby is a freshman, and our fourth player, Elaina is a sophomore. Our No. 5 has not played until this year," Schafer said. "I knew we were inexperienced. I made sure we played at a lot of tough invitationals."

The coach liked how her team had been playing leading up to the finals. "I thought they were really starting to play well," Schafer said. "We played better. We worked on swings first and I know how much players have their swings, but getting out on the golf course and learning how to score

is one of the last things to come." Lansing Catholic finished second at the regional to Powers Catholic. It didn't surprise Schafer to see Setas accomplish what she did.

"She's just a great talent and a great player," Schafer said. "She's a senior and has verbally committed to playing at Michigan State. This was her first time finishing first. Last year she lost in a playoff to Miss Golf, Aya Johnson [of Muskegon Catholic Central], by one shot. When she was a sophomore she was third. As a freshman, she was tied for fourth."

Setas holds all Lansing Catholic's school records. "She had a school record of 68 last year and also a 30 on a nine-hole with a hole-in-one. That day she shot 30 was unbelievable. We played a lot of tougher courses this year."



Members of the Lansing Catholic Central girls golf team pose for a picture during the Division 4 state golf finals. LCC finished fourth. (Randy Miniard Photo)



(Randy Miniard Photo)

Powers finishes third

Flint Powers shot the best one day round at the Division 4 girls golf state meet at Battle Creek's Bedford Valley Golf Course, carding a 345 on Saturday.

The Chargers ended up in third place, shooting a 377 on Friday to finish with a two-day total of 722, six strokes behind state champion Grosse Ile (356-360-716) and runner-up Grand Rapids NorthPointe Christian (362-356-718).

Morgan Zloto and Kristen Wolfe tied for fourth place overall among individuals for Flint Powers. Zloto shot an 85 on Friday and 83 for 168 while Wolfe carded 86-82-168. Reanna Barth (99-89-188), Ashley Hall/Lizzy Marlinga (115-91-206) and Madison Zloto (107-100-207) rounded out the scoring for Powers.

Megan Watkins finished sixth overall as an individual for Frankenmuth. Watkins shot an 81 on Friday and an 88 on Saturday for a 169. Perry's Megan Baumgartner finished seventh overall, shooting 87-84-171.

Keith Bever JR, DDS

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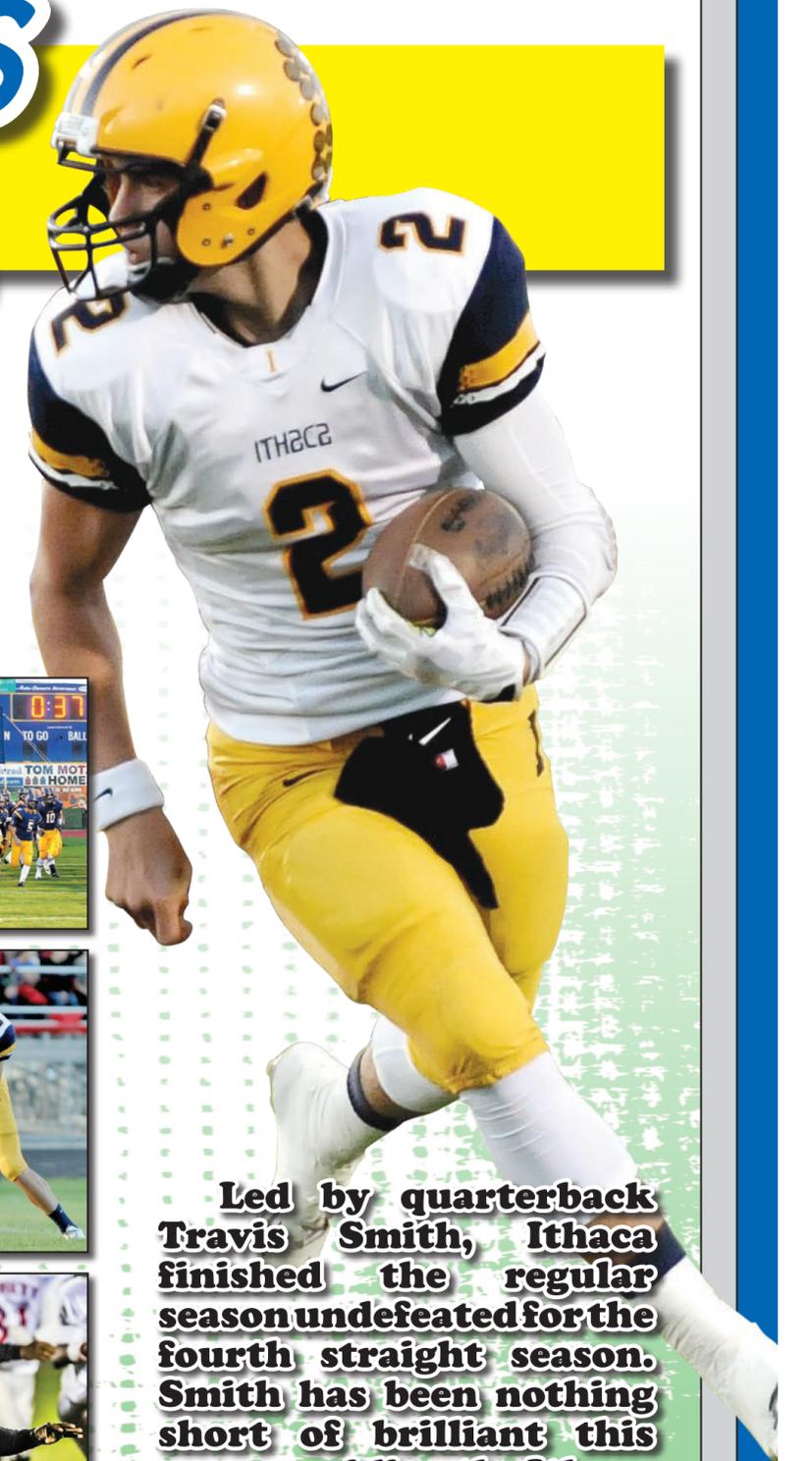
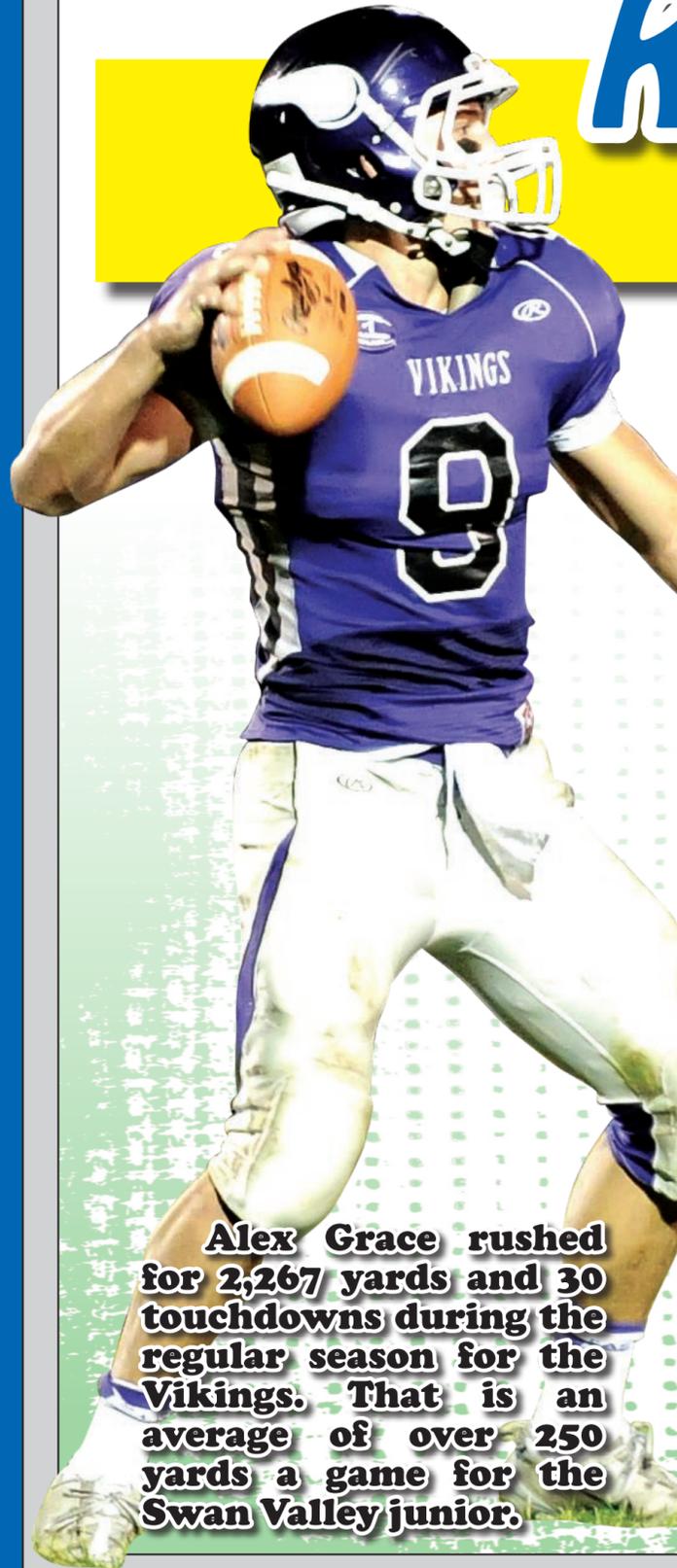
ROARING INTO PLAYOFFS

NINE AREA TEAMS FINISH REGULAR SEASON UNDEFEATED

The Ithaca Yellowjackets find themselves sitting at 9-0 entering the playoffs for the fourth straight regular season, vying for their fourth consecutive Division 6 state title. Not to mention riding a 51- game winning streak into the playoffs. As the Yellowjacket express continues to roll along, other area teams that finished the regular season undefeated were

New Lothrop, Lansing Sexton, DeWitt, Beal City, Montrose, Ithaca, Swan Valley, Lowell and Carson City.

Both Ithaca and Swan valley are led by potential Player of the Year candidates Travis Smith, (QB) and Alex Grace (RB). It will be interesting to see how the rest of the season plays out and see who is hoisting the championship trophy in late November at Ford Field.



Alex Grace rushed for 2,267 yards and 30 touchdowns during the regular season for the Vikings. That is an average of over 250 yards a game for the Swan Valley junior.

Led by quarterback Travis Smith, Ithaca finished the regular season undefeated for the fourth straight season. Smith has been nothing short of brilliant this season guiding the Ithaca offense.



DeWitt's Schuster advances to D3 quarters; finishes season 24-3

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

DeWitt senior tennis player Sam Schuster and the rest of his senior teammates wrapped up their careers with a top-ten team finish at the Division 3 boys' tennis finals at Kalamazoo.

DeWitt totaled six team points to finish in tenth place overall. Detroit Country Day won the team title, while East Grand Rapids finished second.

For Schuster, the final match of his high school tennis career was a loss to the eventual state champion at No. 1 singles, Garrett Goldman of East Grand Rapids. Goldman defeated Schuster 6-0, 6-2 in the quarterfinal round. Schuster reached the quarterfinals by defeating Chase Schultz of Cadillac 6-0, 6-0 in the first round and then defeating Eric Bartley of Sturgis 6-2, 6-4 in the second round.

Schuster finished the season with a 24-3 overall record. He won the No. 1 singles title at the conference tournament and was runner-up at the regional. "The season went better than I expected it to," he said. "I wish I would've won the regional, but I did pretty well overall this year and the team did pretty well."

Along with the team placing tenth at the state meet, DeWitt also took second

place as a team at the regional meet.

"We had 11 returning seniors this year," Schuster said. "We knew we had a real good chance to do well and we did."

Schuster finished his tennis career at DeWitt with a record of 75-12. He began his career by playing No. 2 singles as a freshman, playing No. 2 doubles as a sophomore, moving up to No. 1 doubles as a junior, and playing at No. 1 singles this season.

"It was a big change this year not playing doubles, but I play a lot of USTA tennis, and that is all singles, so it was not that bad," Schuster said.

Tennis is not the only sport that Schuster has played in high school. He was on the golf team as a freshman and played lacrosse as a sophomore. He may play lacrosse this spring if he does not get an offer to play tennis in college.

Schuster has a 3.75 grade-point average and plans to major in either business or management in college. He does not have an offer yet to play tennis in college but would like to have the opportunity to do so.



Sam Schuster



The Hemlock boys soccer team made it all the way to the regionals after winning the schools first-ever district title. Hemlock went on to lose to Flint Powers in regionals semis 3-0. The Huskies finished the year 8-10. (Scott Keyes Photo)

Hemlock wins district crown

Hemlock brought a big eraser to the Division 3 boys soccer district to claim the Huskies first district title in the program's history.

After losing twice in Tri-Valley Conference West play to Ithaca during the regular season, the Huskies earned a 1-0 win over the Yellowjackets in the district semifinal at Bullock Creek.

Tyler Beckrow scored the game-winner on an assist from Hunter Stoddard 15 minutes before the end of regulation.

Hemlock moved on to face Swan Valley, which also beat the Huskies

twice during the regular season. The Huskies scored first on Ryan Bray's goal and after the Vikings tied the game, Kyle Bray needed a goal right before halftime to swing momentum to the Vikings. Jason Rabie's second-half goal proved to be the game-winner for Hemlock.

The Huskies season ended with an 8-10 record after they dropped a 3-0 decision to No. 6-ranked Flint Powers in the regional semifinal at Freeland.

Chase Beyersdorf, a 6-foot-4 goalkeeper, made 17 saves on 20 Powers shots and was strong in goal during district play.

Area teams gearing up for long tourney run

State Volleyball Preview

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

While the action is at fever pitch outside with the state football playoffs in November, some pretty sizzling action is taking place inside as well, as the state volleyball tournament gets into full swing.

High School Sports Scene takes a look at the tournament, breaks down the teams to watch locally, and predicts how the tournament could shake out on the state level.

CLASS A

The favorite: Dakota
Last year's state champion has been defeated just once this season. Dakota is a powerful squad that is led by, arguably, the state's finest player. Senior outside hitter Carli Snyder is a three-time all-state selection. A powerful hitter, Snyder has committed to play at the University of Florida.

The contenders: Marian, Lake Orion, East Grand Rapids, Novi

Local teams to watch: Rockford, Haslett, Mt. Pleasant, Bay City Western, Midland Dow, Grand Ledge, Flushing

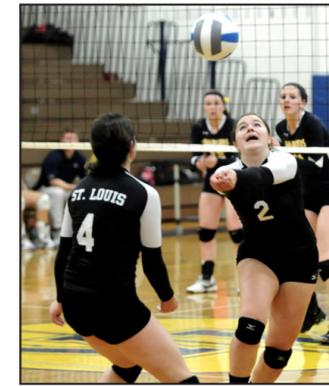
Rockford, with the potent one-two offensive punch of Chloe VanderWeide and Shannon Winicki and with an excellent setter in Abby Carlson, has the potential for a deep tournament run.

Haslett is up in Class A this season and has a talented one-two punch in Makenna Ott and Maria Kronner. It is capable of getting on a roll.

Kasey McGillvary and Briana Zimmer are a pair of solid hitters for Mt. Pleasant. Megan Kramer, an excellent all-around player for the Oilers, is an excellent setter and defensive player with a strong serve.

Midland Dow has been playing strong volleyball this season. The Chargers have a solid setter, Kylee Juday, who directs a strong attack that features Helena Atton. Kaylee Talt is a defensive standout for the Chargers, who is also a strong server.

Grand Ledge has a young squad that has turned



St. Louis and Beal City are two area teams that could make a run towards Battle Creek this season. (Scott Keyes Photo)

in a solid season. Junior middle hitter Bri Cori Crocker is a talented player, along with standout senior Kelli Combs.

Flushing won the Saginaw Valley League South this season. Carson Rutherford has been a big hitter for the Raiders, who also get solid defensive play from Sydney Mattar and who have an excellent setter in Lexi Kiefer.

HSSS projected final: Dakota over East Grand Rapids

CLASS B

The favorite: Notre Dame Preparatory
Notre Dame Prep is a talented team coming out of the Detroit Catholic League. Katherine Carlson is a strong middle hitter, and Dani McCormick has also been a force.

The contenders: Wayland, North Branch, Grand Rapids South Christian, Holland Christian
Local teams to watch: Lakewood, Frankenmuth, Mt. Morris

Lakewood is the defending Class B state champion, but it graduated last year's starting lineup. The Vikings have done a good job of rebuilding this season and have a solid hitter in Gabbie Shellenbarger, but they must get past a powerful Wayland team in the district

Frankenmuth has been playing solid volleyball all season. Lindsey Mertz has a good all-around game, Kaitlyn DeGrace is a talented defensive player, and

Kelsey Baarck has been a big hitter.

Mt. Morris has also been playing some steady volleyball this season.

HSSS projected final: Notre Dam Prep over Grand Rapids South Christian

CLASS C

The favorite: Mendon
The Hornets have tested themselves against some of the stronger volleyball programs in southwest Michigan this season. Brooke Howard is a talented all-around player, while setter Loryn Baughman has been an offensive catalyst.

The contenders: Beal City, St. Louis, Unionville-Sebewaing, Morley Stanwood

Local teams to watch: Beal City, St. Louis, Morley Stanwood, New Lothrop

Addie Schumacher is a talented offensive force who leads the way for Beal City, while Melanie Schafer has been a force on both offense and defense. The Aggies are tough to beat.

St. Louis features a punishing one-two punch of Bri Alspaugh and Brooke Tubbs, while Michaela Austin is one of the premier setters in the area.

HSSS projected final: Beal City over Mendon

CLASS D

The favorite: St. Philip Catholic Central
The Tigers have dominated Class D volleyball in the past, and this season has been no different. Sierra Hubbard-Neil is a dynamic outside hitter who leads the way and is headed to Western Michigan University next season.

The contenders: Our Lady of the Lakes, Onaway, Hillsdale Academy

Local teams to watch: Sacred Heart Academy, Fulton, Ashley, Portland St. Patrick

Sacred Heart has tested itself against some of the toughest teams in mid-Michigan this season. The Irish have the talent to make a deep playoff run. Lexie Methner is a force at the net, while Sara Hansen is a talented setter who also possesses a strong serve. Lauren Sabuda has been playing some steady defense all season.

Fulton, Ashley, and Portland St. Patrick will all be at the same district at Fowler. Fulton has a solid squad, led by Amanda Madden. Ashley has a pair of strong hitters in Kelsey Smith and Meggan Andrew.

HSSS projected final: St. Philip Catholic Central over Our Lady of the Lakes

Schumacher leads way for Beal City volleyball team

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Beal City's volleyball team, led by 2012 all-state player Addie Schumacher, continues to soar through the 2013 schedule in hope of making a serious run to the Class C state title.

As of mid-October, the Aggies were 38-2-1. The losses were to St. Louis and Mount Pleasant.

The Aggies lost to Mount Pleasant in pool play but beat the Oilers later in the tournament.

They split with Flushing for the tie. "At the St. Louis tournament, they beat us in the finals," said Beal City coach Kelly David. "At the Mount

Pleasant tournament, we played them in the final and we beat them."

The Aggies and Sharks, clearly two of the top Class C teams in the state, would only meet again if both were in the finals.

"The key is that the girls have confidence," David said. I think they came into the season saying, 'Hey, we can win state this year.' They have confidence and are working hard to get back to where they were last year and come out with a win."

Schumacher is a senior who has been on the varsity since her sophomore season. David has been her coach the past two seasons.

"From her sophomore to her junior

season, she improved a ton," David said. "She kept on improving this year. She's just a very smart hitter. She just finds open spots on the court. She's aggressive. She swings for the kill everytime she goes up."

Schumacher has more confidence in her performances, David has noticed. "She knows this is her last year and is putting everything she can into it," David said.

"Right now, we're ranked second in the state," Schumacher said. "We've been up there all year. I think we can make it all the way. We have to keep improving and keep working."

The Aggies are in Class C this year, but the positive part is that they

wouldn't have to face St. Phillip, a Class D power, if they advance to state.

"I would personally like another shot at Battle Creek," Schumacher said.

She plays volleyball year round but says track is her best sport.

She's a two-time high jump state champion. She's also been all-league in basketball.



A. Schumacher



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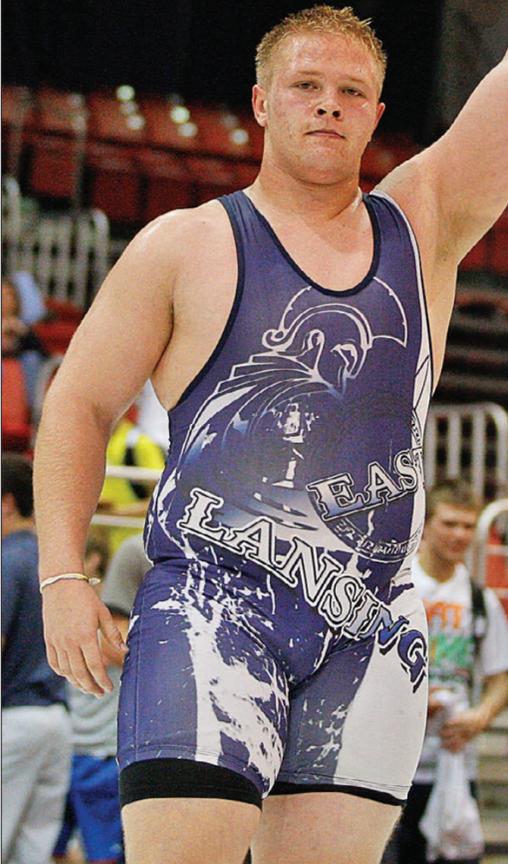
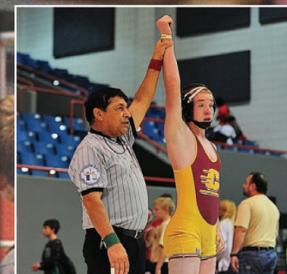
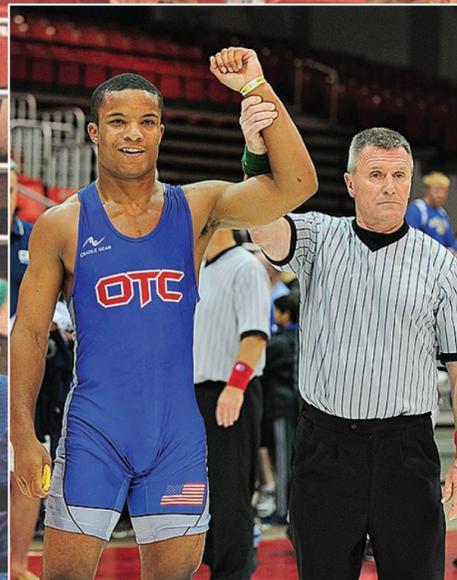
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Kickers continue to shine for Ithaca

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Many factors have contributed to Ithaca's remarkable football winning streak the past four seasons. Again this year, placekicking remains a huge part of that success.

Alex Vanderploeg has been helping coach Terry Hessbrook in that respect this season. In the first eight games, Vanderploeg had kicked off 55 times, with 34 of them going for touchbacks. He was 47 of 49 in PATs. Only one PAT was blocked. This is for a team that scores a lot of touchdowns, so missing only two isn't a statistic to be taken lightly.

He was Ithaca's backup kicker last season and is No. 1 this fall. Jacob Pierce is this season's backup kicker. Both are on the soccer team.

"They're both tremendous kickers, and it's really a weapon for our team," said Ithaca coach Terry Hessbrook. "When Alex kicks off, darn near every ball goes in the end zone. That means the other



This season Ithaca kicker / soccer player Alex Vanderploeg is continuing the long line of quality kickers that have made an immediate impact on the Yellowjackets in previous seasons. (Scott Keyes Photo)

opponent had to start from the 20. That's a huge weapon for our defense. If the other team knows they have to go 80 yards, that makes it very difficult."

"If they're not [in the end zone], usually they catch the ball somewhere near the 5-yard line," Vanderploeg said.

He hasn't tried a field goal

through the first eight games, but Vanderploeg figures he could, if necessary, kick one 45 yards or more.

"Coach asked me if I had ever kicked a football," Vanderploeg said. "My mom wanted me to do it. I thought I'd give it a try. I love it. They've had three or four [soccer players on the football

team] before me." Vanderploeg had one tackle as a junior but has not had one through the first eight games this season.

Doug Strait, the Ithaca soccer coach, has a solid relationship with the Yellowjacket football coach when it comes to the placekicking duties.

"Usually during the off-

season, I ask him who has a strong enough leg to kick the football," Hessbrook said. "He's done a great job of recommending players to us. Several of our kickers the last few years are now in the state record books for extra points. We have three of top four ever in the history of Michigan high school football."

When both sports were playing at one time this season, the soccer players would come to football practice and work on special teams. "When that's done, they go back and on the soccer team," Hessbrook said. "It works out real good. Lot of schools don't have a good relationship between their soccer and football programs. Here at Ithaca, we've been able to make it work.

"They're pretty talented kickers. During the summer, when they're not having soccer practice, they come down to the practice field with their footballs and work on their field goals and extra points. Once they get their timing down, they already have good leg strength. They strike the ball real well."

Rivalry...

Ithaca vs. Montrose has become a staple of playoff football during last four years

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Ithaca vs. Montrose.

In the past, Ithaca has gotten the best of Montrose. Is it possible that might change some time?

It's gotten to be an intriguing postseason rivalry. Last season, it was Ithaca 31-0 over Montrose in the regional final. In 2011, Ithaca won 28-13 in the district final. It was 28-6, Ithaca, in the 2010 regional final. Each year, the Yellowjackets went on to win the state title.

"There's not a lot of Division 6 teams here by us," said Ithaca coach Terry Hessbrook, noting it's usually hard to predict who his team will eventually match up with during the playoffs.

"Montrose, I don't think we're going to be able to avoid," Hessbrook said. "They're just too close in proximity."

According to Hessbrook, the games with Montrose "have been absolute wars. They've been a battle that takes a lot out of you. They're very physical. Two of the last three years we've hosted them at our place. In 2011, we had to go to their place. When I talked with coach Reinhart last year before the game, we just shook our heads. 'Can you believe we're here. The third year in a row?'"

"We were excited to get a victory, but I don't think either of us enjoyed it that much. I don't think we will be that [excited this season] either."

The two schools are similar in size, which results in them being in the same

playoff division. They don't play each other in the regular season.

"They have an outstanding program," Hessbrook said. "Coach Reinhart has been there for a long time. They've put some numbers in the MHSAA record book."

Reinhart, like Hessbrook, was able to guide his team to another 9-0 season. If Ithaca does face Montrose, it could be the best Rams team they've seen.

"It's hard to judge team to team, but this year, we feel we're stronger than we have been in the last couple of years," Reinhart said. "We have 20 seniors on our roster. A school our size with 20 seniors, that's pretty good."

Montrose's last regular season game was October 25 against Lake Fenton. It ended with a 37-0 Rams victory and conference title.

Now, it's playoff time.

"Up to this point, we haven't beaten [Ithaca]," Reinhart said. "We've faced them the last three years in the playoffs, and they've beaten us all three times. So, I guess until we can knock them off, I don't think you can call it a true rivalry. Last year, they put it to us pretty good. It was 3-0 with two minutes to go in the half. It was a couple of big plays and the game got away from us. Until we get past that hurdle, they're the team."

But Montrose has also been "the team" in many respects, especially this season. "A lot of it is with our senior leadership," Reinhart said. "Four of our seniors are three-year starters. They've been through it. They know what it's about. Last year, we were a young team."



Ithaca and Montrose are on a collision course to possibly meet up down the road in the Division 6 football playoffs. In previous seasons Montrose has lost to the eventual state champion. (File Photo)

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Ithaca proves fall not just for football

John Raffel
Sports Scene

It's not just football that has enjoyed stunning success this fall season at Ithaca.

Ithaca's soccer team enjoyed another strong season under coach Doug Strait. The Yellowjackets finished the season at 12-4-2, losing in the district semifinals.

"Last year we were 4-12, so it's quite a turnaround," Strait said. "The guys worked really hard. We had a good group of guys who worked together. We had some good numbers this year. We had 27 players overall. That's a lot of players."

The Ithaca defense was impressive, as the Yellowjackets allowed only 18 goals all season. The team had nine shutouts.

Top players included senior captains Alex Vanderploeg and John Derry, a defenseman.

"I had five starting seniors. They contributed to how we did all year," Strait said, also referring to Brett Boucher, Seth Casey, and Mario Cuapio.

Cuapio "was a real catalyst for us in scoring goals," Strait said. "He really set up a lot of goals, along with Alex. Koby Lee was a freshman."

The season ended in the district tournament. "I felt bad, Alex had an injury 10 minutes into our district semifinal game," Strait said. "It really played a part in us not advancing."

Vanderploeg, also a placekicker for the football team, has played soccer for 13 years. He was a center midfielder for the Yellowjackets, who scored 13 goals and had nine assists.

He describes the difference in kicking a soccer ball compared to a football. "It's kind of the complete opposite," he said. "In soccer, I'm trying to keep the ball down when you're shooting. In football, you have to get it up



there. It's different technique everytime I switch sports."

It's been a fun fall for Vanderploeg. "Having success on both teams makes me excited every day to go to practice," he said.

Cross Country

The cross country teams at Ithaca also continue to do well.

Tim Lambrecht's boys' team was rebuilding after graduating five of the top runners last year from a squad that was a power.

He has some runners at Lansing Community College this year.

"We've had a solid season," he said. "We've focused on personal improvement. We wanted to be in the top half of the league. We were fourth."

John Lambrecht, Coach Lambrecht's son, and James O'Boyle were the top two runners for Ithaca.

The Ithaca girls have been ranked as high as fifth in the Division 3 polls. A major highlight for coach Gene Lebron's team was winning the Alma College Invitational. Courtney Allen placed second for Ithaca in 19:18 while Kurstin Kalisek was seventh in 20:01.

Sharks CC solid

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Jay Puffpaff is coach of a St. Louis cross country team that won its first boys' TVC West title in five years. The boys also won the all-county meet and the Scottie Classic.

"It's been pretty good so far," said Puffpaff, who hopes that his team will do well in the regional and have a strong presentation at the state final. "The guys have come a long way. Last year we finished fifth in the conference and ninth in the regional. We've improved a lot. We still have another step to go."

Connor Pilmore has been the top runner for the Sharks. "He's a kid who has worked extremely hard to get to where he is this year," Puffpaff said. "A couple of years ago as a sophomore, he didn't even break 19 minutes for us. Since then, he's really bought into running and put all the work in the off-season. This last summer, he put in over 1,000 miles to put himself in a position to be extremely successful."

Pilmore's best time prior to the regionals was 16:56. "He has ran consistently as our No. 1," Puffpaff said. "Colin Shaw has closed the gap up. [Pilmore] has consistently been No. 1 all year."

Puffpaff has been impressed with the toughness that Pilmore shows as a runner, "and that comes from all the hard work and miles he put in during the off-season."

Pilmore, a senior, is in his third season. He did not run as a freshman but was contacted by the coach to try out for the team.

At the end of his sophomore year, he was running 18:56. "I was just a mediocre runner, nothing special," he said. "This year, myself and the team have made great improvements. We have two guys under 17 minutes. Our third, fourth, and fifth guys all broke 18 minutes."

"I'd like to be under 16:30 at the state meet," he said. "I have to run well at regionals and keep my training up and have a good race at state. I really want to be all-state."



C. Pilmore

NCC ousted in regionals

Geoff Mott
Sports Scene

For the first time in six seasons, members of the Nouvel Catholic Central boys soccer team can call themselves district champions.

The Panthers started their surprise run with a 1-0 upset win over crosstown rival Valley Lutheran in the Division 4 district opener. The Chargers were ranked No. 3 in Division 4 in the final Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association poll, while Nouvel entered the game with a 4-11-1 record.

With a minute left before halftime, junior forward Logan Troester took a pass from Logan Rechsteiner off a cross from the left corner and deposited it in the Valley Lutheran net. Matt Gembrowski made six saves for the shutout against the Chargers, who beat Nouvel 3-1 in early October.

Nouvel went on to beat Alcona 3-0 in the district semifinal and then knocked off Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy 3-0 for the title. Troester had three goals in the two games to lead the scoring, while Gembrowski didn't allow a goal in the district.

"We had an amazing run there," Nouvel coach Ryan Ellis said. "We only have three seniors,



so we'll be back next year. But it is going to be tough losing that senior leadership."

Nouvel lost 2-0 to New Haven in the regional semifinal game. The Panthers allowed a goal in the fifth minute, and after narrowly missing a goal on James Fabiano's header, the Rockets added another goal midway through the second half to put Nouvel away. The Panthers ended the season at 7-12-1.

"That's a big game, and we had to play well and execute our gameplan," Ellis said. "We gave up an easy goal early and we played from behind. We had opportunities, but just couldn't capitalize."

Krissy Harmon leads BC Western swimming

Krissy Harmon has already qualified for the Division 2 girls' swimming and diving state meet in five events.

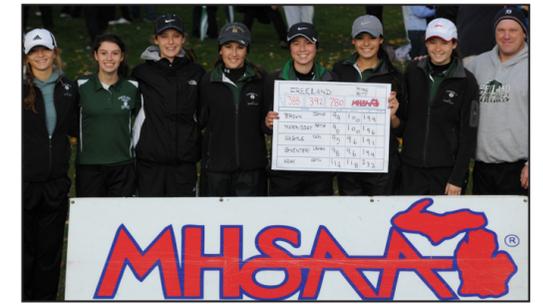
The Bay City Western junior has personal goals of eclipsing the five-minute mark in the 500-yard freestyle and improving on her third-place finish in that event at last year's state meet. A by-product of her quest to achieve those goals was the Swimmer of the Meet honor she received in late September's Tri-Cities Swimming and Diving championships held at Saginaw Valley State University.

At that meet, Harmon won the 200 freestyle in 1:55.27 and the 500 freestyle in 5:07.13. She

also helped the 400 freestyle relay to a runner-up finish and the 200 freestyle relay team to a fifth-place finish.

Harmon wasn't aware she was in the running for the honor after the meet. "I went to cool off after the meet, and somebody had to come and tell me," she said afterward. "It's pretty cool because I've never won it before."

Harmon and her sister, senior Chelsea Harmon, join Malorie Owczarzak and Molly Grant on the state-qualifying 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay teams. Krissy Harmon also qualified for the state meet in the 200 and 500 freestyles and in the 100 backstroke.



Left: The Nouvel boys soccer team won its first district championship in five seasons. Above: The Freeland girls golf team finished ninth at the D4 state state finals. (Randy Miniard and Scott Keyes Photos)

Freeland ninth at state

Geoff Mott
Sports Scene

The Freeland girls golf team is making itself at home at the state finals.

For the fifth time in six seasons, the Falcons golfed in the Division 4 state meet. They placed ninth at Bedford Valley Golf Course on October 18-19 with a two-day team total of 780. The Falcons shot 388 on Friday and 392 on Saturday. Grosse Ile won the state title with 716 while Powers Catholic finished third at 722.

Tori Argyle led the Falcons, firing 95 on Friday and 96 on Saturday for 191. Lauren Guentert finished with 194, Kaitie Morrissey added 196, Janna Brown carded 199, and Caitlin Hohn finished with 232.

"It's been that consistency that has worked for us," said coach Mike Ritt, whose team captured a sixth-straight Tri-Valley Conference title in mid October.

Freeland qualified for the state meet with a third-place finish at the regional tournament at Bay City Country Club, where it beat Frankenmuth by six strokes. Brown shot 86 and finished fifth overall for Freeland, while Morrissey shot 87 for sixth place.

The Falcons worked hard in the off-season to maintain their dominance in the conference. "I've got some girls who play tournaments over the summer and others who seek extra help," Ritt said. "One girl's family has a place in Petoskey, and she has help from a golf professional up there. Another plays on those nice courses up there by Suttons Bay. It doesn't hurt playing golf up there."

"A lot of the other girls get to play a lot around here. Tom Siegreen at Twin Oaks bends over backwards to give us time and allow the girls to come and play at a reduced rate in the summertime. To do that and have that opportunity and support from him is fantastic."

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DON BAESE INVITE A STAPLE IN CARSON-CITY COMMUNITY AREA TEAMS COMPETE IN PRESTIGIOUS EVENT

Nearly 1,000 runners took to the Carson City course to showcase their skills, while gearing up for the Nov. 2 Michigan High School Athletic Association Cross Country finals held at Michigan International Speedway. This race gives runners a gauge on where they stand heading into the end of the season.



2013 DON BAESE RESULTS

Boys Gold Race Results	Girls Gold Race Results	Girls Green Race Results	Boys Green Race Results	Girls White Race Results	Boys White Race Results	Girls Blue Race Results	Boys Blue Race Results
1. Grandville Calvin.....95	1. Grandville Calvin.....104	1. Charlotte.....67	1. Corunna.....58	1. Grand Rapids Chris.....45	1. Saginaw Heritage.....51	1. Beal City.....68	1. Saugatuck.....71
2. Hanover-Horton.....100	2. Ithaca.....115	2. Ludington.....86	2. Clare.....110	2. Grand Rapids Fores.....58	2. Grand Rapids Chris.....58	2. Bear Lake.....70	2. Mt. Pleasant Sacre.....72
3. Charlevoix.....110	3. Kalamazoo Hackett.....127	3. Cadillac.....96	3. Ludington.....113	3. Forest Hills Eastern.....136	3. Forest Hills Eastern.....126	3. Saugatuck.....83	3. Bear Lake.....97
4. Hemlock.....130	4. Pewamo-Westphalia.....141	4. Leslie.....127	4. Fremont.....114	4. Davison.....141	4. Holt.....130	4. Montabella.....120	4. Fowler.....132
5. St. Louis.....147	5. St. Louis.....155	5. Coopersville.....138	5. Cadillac.....177	5. St Johns.....158	5. Grand Rapids Fores.....137	5. Capital Homeschool.....153	5. Beal City.....146
6. Pewamo-Westphalia.....153	6. Hanover-Horton.....157	6. Fremont.....141	6. Leslie.....195	6. Holt.....177	6. St Johns.....156	6. Manton.....164	6. Capital Homeschool.....199
7. Bath.....188	7. Bath.....169	7. Corunna.....187	7. Newaygo.....199	7. Cedar Springs.....187	7. Ionia.....181	7. Traverse City St.....169	7. Potterville.....199
8. Grand Rapids North.....196	8. Carson City-Crystal.....193	8. Ovid-Elsie.....195	8. Charlotte.....219	8. Ionia.....192	8. Zeeland West.....229	8. Mt. Pleasant Sacre.....186	8. Manton.....208
9. Holland Black River.....203	9. Holland Black River.....196	9. Portland.....223	9. Alma.....247	9. Lowell.....210	9. Owosso.....255	9. White Cloud.....230	9. White Cloud.....221
10. Maple Valley.....235	10. Charlevoix.....241	10. Newaygo.....251	10. Big Rapids.....249	10. Hastings.....229	10. Lowell.....270	10. St Philip Catholic.....238	10. Montabella.....240
11. Saranac.....282	11. Kent City.....284	11. Howard City-Tri-Co.....273	11. Coopersville.....275	11. Zeeland West.....251	11. Alpena.....270	11. Vestaburg.....304	11. St Patrick.....267
12. Kent City.....291	12. Grand Rapids North.....326	12. Big Rapids.....277	12. Durand.....290	12. Greenville.....296	12. Cedar Springs.....275	12. Potterville.....320	12. Holton.....294
13. Ithaca.....334	13. Saranac.....327	13. Ovid-Elsie.....300	13. Ovid-Elsie.....300	13. Owosso.....315	13. Hastings.....276	13. Hudsonville Freedo.....335	13. Fulton.....331
14. McBain.....376	14. Hemlock.....352	14. Grant.....382	14. Grant.....382	14. Alpena.....398	14. Greenville.....389		14. St Philip Catholic.....370
15. Morley-Stanwood.....394	15. McBain.....386	15. Portland.....390	15. Portland.....390				15. Hudsonville Freedo.....373
16. Kalamazoo Hackett.....413	16. Maple Valley.....433	16. Farwell.....415	16. Farwell.....415				16. Bellevue.....420
		17. Howard City-Tri-Co.....434	17. Howard City-Tri-Co.....434				



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Lark, Currie making impact at WMU

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Western Michigan University is struggling at 0-8 this season under new coach P.J. Fleck, but it's still been memorable for two former area high school football standouts: Justin Currie of Big Rapids and Kyle Lark of Alma.

One of Western's better games was the season opener, a 26-13 loss to Michigan State University. Lark, with four solo tackles and five assists, and Currie, with five solos and three assists, were among the Broncos' top tacklers in a game that was not a sure thing for MSU.

After eight games, all of which have been started by both local players, they're among the leaders on the team in tackles. Currie is No. 2 with 41 solos and 30 assists for 71 tackles while Lark is No. 3 with 26 solos and 42 assists for 68 tackles.

Currie won't soon forget the MSU game. "That was a good one," he said. "Our defense played tough against a Big Ten school. We played tough and made some good plays. We did some good things."

"We've played in a lot of great environments, but I'd say that Michigan State game, starting a new era of Bronco football [was a highlight]. It's special to play in East Lansing," Lark said.

Currie regrets that the Broncos haven't been winning but says he's enjoyed his time with Western's seniors this fall. "I've worked hard with them before their time is up. We've had some tough times, but we keep fighting. We keep working hard. That's one thing about our team, we don't give up."

It's the 6'2", 204-pound junior strong safety's second year as a starter. Last year, he was second team all-MAC and the Broncos' outstanding defensive player of the year. He had a career-high 15 tackles against University of Toledo. His freshman season in 2011 was highlighted by 24 tackles.

"I think I have pretty good range getting back in coverage," Currie said, adding that he's been able to help his defense in other areas, including key tackles and keeping an eye on the quarterback. "Coach has talked about attacking in everything you do. We want to put our hands down and attack in every thing we do. There's four games left and hopefully we'll go out and

win some of those."

When the season ends, Currie will start preparing for what he hopes will be a memorable senior season. When he played for Big Rapids, he was ranked 128th among safeties by Scout.Com and was a first-team all-conference standout.

"Going out and playing football is exciting in itself," Currie said.

Lark, a 6'0", 230-pound middle linebacker from Alma, had his first career start with a career high six tackles against University of Massachusetts last season. He didn't see game action in 2011. A fifth-year senior, he was an all-stater in 2008 and played for his dad, former Alma coach Randy Lark, in high school.

Lark said he's become more of a vocal leader at Western this season.

"With leadership comes confidence.

With confidence comes better play on the field. I've been more comfortable with experience."

Lark feels that the Bronco defense has been solid throughout the season. "There's a couple of mishaps here or there," he said. "We've had games that have kind of slipped away. We're looking for that special four-quarter 60-minute game."

Lark has been a quarterback of sorts on defense as a middle linebacker for the Broncos. He also played that position in high school.

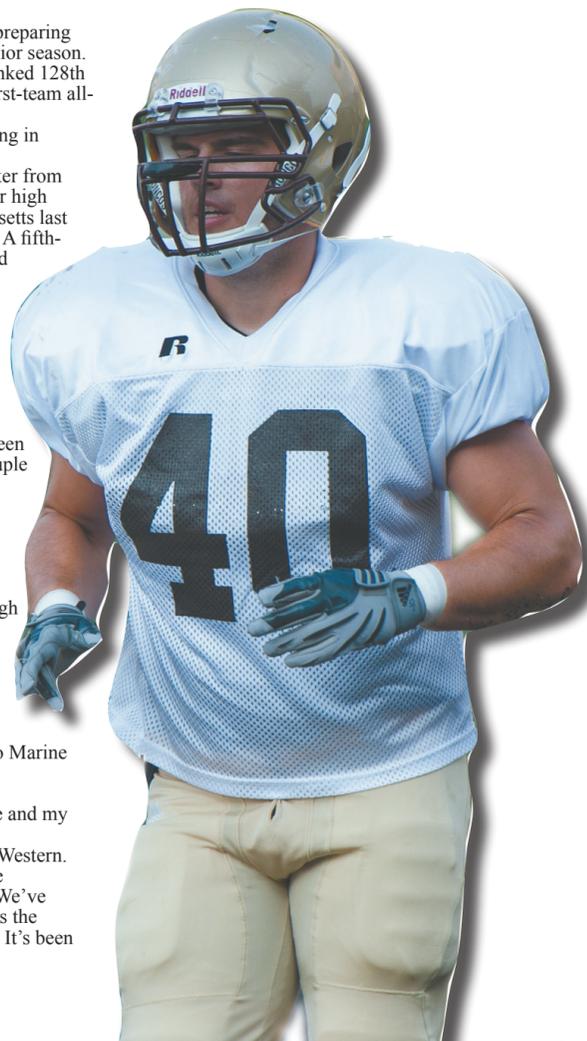
Both Currie and Lark played for solid prep programs, but "[n]othing can really prepare you for the college game," Lark said. "One thing it provided for me was mental and physical toughness."

His junior year, Alma was 11-1, losing to Marine City in the state semifinal.

His dad comes to his games.

"He's been an unbelievable supporter, he and my mom," Lark said.

He'll always relish his decision to go to Western. "It's a dream come true," Lark said. "I love Kalamazoo and I love Western Michigan. We've played in some of the biggest venues across the nation. It's a program that cares about you. It's been unbelievable."

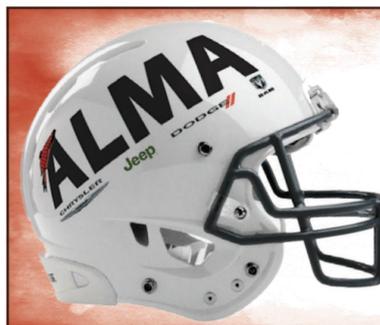


Former Alma graduate Kyle Lark has been a defensive standout for the Broncos this season. (Submitted Photo)



Good Luck to All Area Teams !!

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Former Ithaca High School offensive coordinator Mike Holes has the Ionia football program back in the playoffs for the first time since 2007. Holes has guided Ionia to a 7-2 regular season in 2013. (Randy Miniard Photo)

Former Ithaca assistant Mike Holes has Ionia back in playoffs after 7-2 regular season

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

Thanks to an improvement in the overall strength of the team and to a high-scoring offense, the Ionia football team enjoyed its best regular season in almost 10 years.

After qualifying for the playoffs every year from 2002 through 2006, the Bulldogs hit a stretch of below .500 seasons beginning in 2007. This year's Bulldog team snapped that string in a big way. Not only did the Bulldogs qualify for the playoffs and turn in a winning season, but they finished with a 7-2 overall record.

Ionia started the 2013 season with a flurry by winning its first three games. The Bulldogs scored 125 points in the three wins, as they put up 34 points in the opener against Alma and then came back with 46 points in week two against Columbia Central and 45 points in a week three win against Owosso.

The fast start and strong finish continued the steady progress that Ionia has made under coach Mike Holes, who took over the program in 2011 after serving as Ithaca's offensive coordinator in 2010.

"The biggest reason for our improvement is our strength level," Holes said. "I teach physical education, and I have a number of weightlifting

classes. Our strength level has gone up the past three years, and our current juniors and seniors have been a part of it for three years, and it is really paying off now."

Holes also points to the leadership of a senior class that is small in number but big on leadership. "Another big thing is our good senior leadership that we have," Holes said. "Eric Spohr (guard/linebacker) has been a great senior leader for us."

A veteran offensive line has also been key to the production of the offense. "We've had pretty good play from our offensive line," Holes said. "They have definitely been a big improvement this year. We have a lot of returning starters on our offensive line."

Ionia's offense has a number of key players at the skill positions, also. Quarterback Austin Gregory averaged over 300 yards of total offense during the first three games this season. Junior running back Kyle Parks scored six touchdowns in the first three games and is a big, powerful running back who is tough to bring down. Senior wide receiver Colin Prominsky totaled over 350 yards receiving and caught three touchdown passes in the first three games.

"Offensively, a lot of things are clicking for us," Holes said. "We have been pretty efficient and effective on offense."



Fun, Pride And A Little Football

Sports Scenes Is Behind The "Scenes" During Local Homecoming Festivities

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Football Playoff Preview 2013...Is Ithaca primed to win NO. 4?

DIVISION 1

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The contenders: Dakota, Clarkston, Detroit Catholic Central

Area teams to watch: Rockford, Carman-Ainsworth, Grand Blanc
As always, Rockford will be a major player and is capable of a deep playoff run. The Rams have been battling injuries this year but have a solid defense led by the dynamic linebacking tandem of Brent Showers and Randy Garvin. Grand Blanc has another potent offense this season, while Carman-Ainsworth is a talented squad. Look for the Bobcats or Cavaliers to make it to the regional final.

HSSS pick: Cass Tech over Clarkston

DIVISION 2

The favorite: Brother Rice
The contenders: Lowell, Muskegon
Area teams to watch: Lowell, Midland, Midland Dow, Fenton

This is a typical Lowell team: deep, strong, smart, and physical. Midland is poised for a deep run behind quarterback Tanner Gross, while Will Williams provides a threat out of the backfield. Dow has a potent offense of its own, led by quarterback Brennan Miller and running back Caleb Richard.

HSSS pick: Brother Rice over Lowell

DIVISION 3

The favorite: Grand Rapids Christian
The contenders: DeWitt, Zeeland West, Milan

Area teams to watch: DeWitt, Mt. Pleasant, Mason, Ionia
DeWitt is led by junior quarterback Jacob Johnson, a dual-threat, and wideout Christopher Ruby, a pass-catching machine who set a school record with 231 receiving yards against Owosso this season. Mt. Pleasant is led by quarterback Robert Backus along with the running of Michael Tweh. Ionia has a high-octane offense and could meet Mt. Pleasant in the second round.

HSSS pick: Grand Rapids Christian over DeWitt



DIVISION 4
The favorite: Grand Rapids South Christian
The contenders: Swan Valley, Comstock Park, Paw Paw, Cadillac

Area teams to watch: Swan Valley, Lansing Sexton, Corunna, Garber
Swan Valley turned in a perfect regular season paced by record-setting junior running back Alex Grace. Sexton has a young team full of talented athletes with speed to burn.

HSSS pick: Grand Rapids South Christian over Lansing Sexton

DIVISION 5
The favorite: Menominee
The contenders: Lumen Christi Catholic, Portland, Oakridge, Reed City, Marine City

Area teams to watch: Portland, Reed City, Frankenmuth, Ovid-Elsie, Freeland, Millington

The rebuilding project went well for Portland this season, as the Raiders reeled off seven straight wins before falling to DeWitt in Week 8. Reed City features a punishing ground game. Frankenmuth is led by running back Brian Stearns and



quarterback Nick Volk.
HSSS pick: Menominee over Lumen Christi

DIVISION 6

The favorite: Ithaca
The contenders: Shelby, Clinton, Michigan Center, Grass Lake

Area teams to watch: Ithaca, Montrose, Beecher, Nouvel Catholic Central, Lakeview, Meridian

The Yellowjackets are going for a fourth consecutive state title and are primed to do it. Senior quarterback Travis Smith has put together a monster year by completing over 80% of his passes for over 1,600 yards and 23 touchdown passes. Ithaca's biggest test of the postseason should come in the semifinals, where it could meet Montrose or Nouvel Catholic Central. Montrose has a big-play offense of its own, with quarterback Riley Warren filling the air with footballs and Malik Taylor stretching defenses. Nouvel has most of its injured players back and is capable of a deep playoff run. Lakeview is in the playoffs for the first time since 2006. Running back Garrett Cavendish is very productive, while Nate Shurlow is an efficient passer.

HSSS pick: Ithaca over Michigan Center



Far Left: The Fulton football team squeaked into the playoffs with a 5-4 record. Bottom Left: The P-W football team finished the season 8-1 with its only loss coming to New Lothrop. Left: Saginaw Nouvel bumped up to Division 6 this season. Far Right: After losing to DeWitt opening night Mt. Pleasant has won eight straight entering the playoffs (Staff Photos)

DIVISION 7

The favorite: Loyola
The contenders: Ishpeming, Pewamo-Westphalia, Saugatuck, Hudson, Harbor Beach

Area teams to watch: Pewamo-Westphalia, Carson City-Crystal, Bath

Pewamo-Westphalia reeled off eight wins to start the season before falling to New Lothrop in Week 9. Carson-City Crystal went 9-0 for the first time in school history and is looking to keep things rolling in the playoffs.

HSSS pick: Ishpeming over Loyola

DIVISION 8

The favorite: Mendon.
The contenders: Beal City, New Lothrop, Forest Park

Area teams to watch: Beal City, New Lothrop, Fowler, Sacred Heart Academy

Beal City has been scoring points in bunches this season. It can attack in a number of ways with talented running backs like Ty Rollin and Hayden Huber and quarterback Kurt Gross, who is a huge threat in the passing game. New Lothrop has also been pouring on the points and winning by big margins. It can also strike in a variety of ways led by junior quarterback Ben Muron, running back Taylor Krupp, and receiver Amari Coleman. Fowler has another strong ground game led by junior running back Austin Cook.

HSSS pick: Mendon over Beal City



Brother Rice is on a collision course to reach the D2 finals and win it for the third straight season. (Scott Keyes Photo)



The Lowell football team capped another undefeated regular season and now turns its attention to making a return trip to Ford Field. (Randy Miniard Photo)

Noel Dean just wins

Jeff Chaney Sports Scene

LOWELL, MI – Noel Dean never takes sole credit for his great accomplishments. He preaches to his Lowell football teams that it's all about team.

On Friday, Oct. 25, Dean celebrated his 200th career coaching win, when his Red Arrows beat Jenison 49-7. It's a great accomplishment, considering Dean has accumulated 200 wins and is only 45 years old.

His record in coaching stints at Bendle and Lowell is 200-58.

He acknowledges that getting those 200 wins took a lot of help. "You have to have a lot of good people to have a successful program," Dean said after his team's win against Jenison. "Then you have to let them do what they do."

Dean has done that with a long list of great players like Mark Catlin, Keith Nichol, Gabe Dean, Mike Koster, and Kyler Shurlow.

And he has also done that with his coaching staff, which this year includes Phil Christensen, Mike Curtis, Matt Dood, Jerry Goosen, Jacob Henige, Keith Houston, Bill Ingraham, Jason Katt, Tom Kaywood, Brian Krajewski, Rob McCormick, Juston Miller, and Mark Russell.

"I am fortunate to have had great players, two great communities, and great support staffs," Dean said. "It's not just me."

This year's team is cut out of the same mold as all of Dean's teams – disciplined, tough, and athletic.

The Red Arrows accrued several signature wins on their way to 9-0, including victories over Muskegon, East Grand Rapids, and

Grand Rapids Christian, the last two coming in overtime.

This week the playoffs start, and Dean and Lowell are used to making deep playoff runs. The Red Arrows have qualified for 15 straight playoff appearances, and in that time, they have two runner-up finishes and three state titles.

"Now we have to live up to stuff, maybe unrealistic stuff," Dean said. "But that's good, because you want your program to have a high bar. Now we transition into a new season, and that is always exciting around here."

And now he is on his way to win 300, and possibly beyond.

How long will Dean keep coaching, and will Lowell keep winning?

"I just heard that [Farmington Harrison coach] John Herrington won his 400th, and I think he is 72 years old," Dean said. "He's a great friend of mine, and I don't know if I will have that kind of longevity. I never imagined what I've accomplished so far. This [winning 200] has far exceeded my expectations."

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