

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE
KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS

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PUBLISHER NOTE

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

With temperatures rising, the spring sports season is rounding into form. Area baseball and softball teams are just hitting their stride preparing to make their charges toward the high school finals in East Lansing in June.

Area golfers and tennis players are honing their skills under much better weather conditions. But lets be honest, the weather has been a beast, but lets hope the worst is behind us moving towards the stretch run of the school year.

This month's issue also takes a look at the top 100 high school basketball players to come out of the great state of Michigan. We want to hear your feedback, because I hope you have as much fun reading it, looking at the pictures of the legends as much as we had fun bringing it to you.

Read about the legends of the game of basketball including Michigan natives Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Chris "C Web" Webber, Jalen Rose and the great players that came out of Michigan. This is a must read for any basketball player that ever laced up the sneakers in Michigan.

Also a big thank you to all of our advertisers and supporters. Without you, we would not have this great opportunity to keep our kids in the news!

Randy Miniard
Publisher

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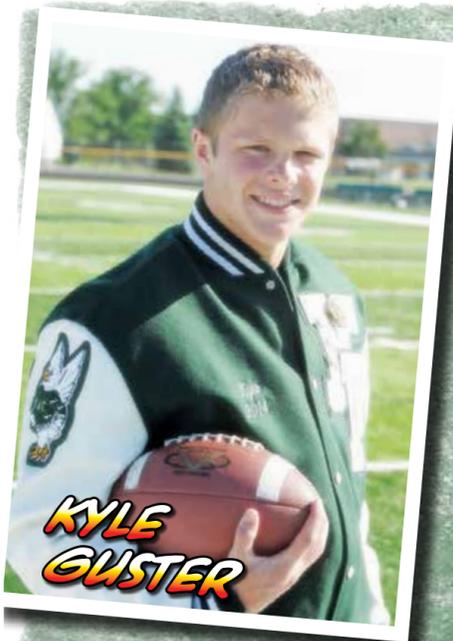
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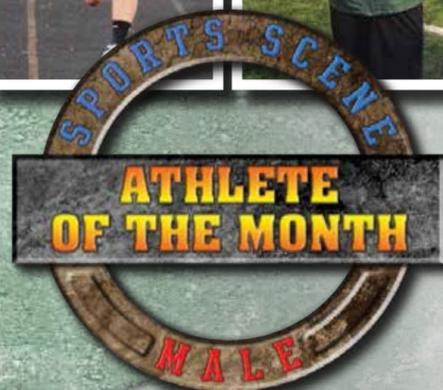


**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE
MALE AND FEMALE ATHLETE
OF THE MONTH PRESENTED BY:**

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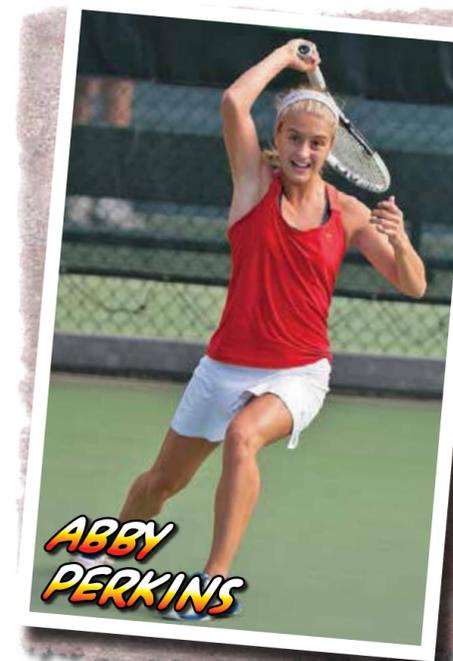


**KYLE
GUSTER**



The Kyle Guster File

Freeland High School
Class: Senior
Sports: Football / Track
Season Accolades: After months of rehab because of an ACL tear he suffered right before the football season, Kyle Guster has showed no signs of slowing down as his surgically repaired knee held up well during the Freeland boys track season-opener earlier this month. Guster led the Falcons to a win in the Freeland Invitational, outdistancing Heritage and Clare. Guster won the 100-meter dash (:11.55), 200 (:23.62), anchored the winning 400 relay (:45.89) and anchored the winning 800 relay (1:36.3). In the recent Clare Invitational, Guster helped the Freeland boys to first place honors. Guster took home four medals for the Falcons with a pair of second-place finishes in the 100-meter dash (11.31) and the 200 dash (23.63). He took first in the 400 dash (52.16) while teaming up with Nathan DePelsmaeker, Jake Jankoska and Max Lange to win the 800 relay (1:35.99).

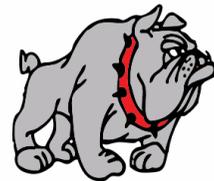


**ABBY
PERKINS**



The Abby Perkins File

Mason High School
Grade: Senior
Sport: Tennis
Accomplishments: Perkins won the Division 2 state title as a sophomore and earned All-State honors a year ago. She helped lead Mason to a perfect 6-0 in the CAAC a year ago. She should be a top contender to receive All-State honors this season.
Future: Will continue her tennis career at Grand Valley State University.



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TEAM OF THE MONTH

**HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL
TRACK AND FIELD TEAM**



City: Hastings, MI
Head Coaches: Jamie Murphy, Brian Teed & Lin Nichols
Accomplishments: Pole Vault State Finalist (2013); OK Gold Conference Runners Up (Boys 2013); Three All Conference Athletes (2013)

How has the chocolate milk helped your team achieve your goals? One of our main goals was to increase awareness of all the benefits of using chocolate milk as "nature's sports drink" in any athlete's training program. Not only are we able to educate the students on the track and field team, but we are able to reach numerous students in other sports as we increase the awareness of the benefits of using chocolate milk over other types of sports drinks. For years and years our distance coach has been telling her kids (distance runners) that they need to drink chocolate milk because it helps replenish their bodies with vital nutrients.

What is your favorite thing about the Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink grant? The kids are having a blast with the "chocolate milk campaign" and had a lot of fun with the recent photo shoot. They really look forward to the milk every day after practice and are very appreciative to all of those that have made this possible. We look forward to the continued success of this campaign later this season when we see the results in our team's performances and, in years to come, in all of the sports in our athletic program.

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

COVENANT CENTER FOR ADVANCED ORTHOPAEDICS



The Ty Rollin File

Beal City High School

Class: Senior

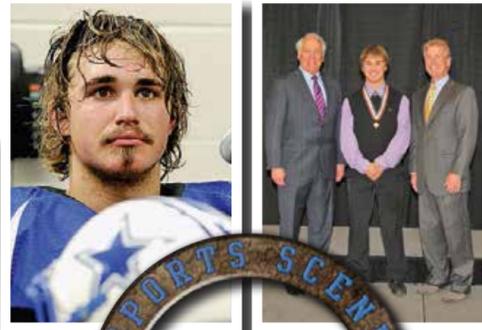
Sports: Baseball, Basketball, Football

Accomplishments: Played four seasons of varsity football, two of basketball and is currently playing his fourth season of varsity baseball. Earned all-state honors in football as a senior and honorable mention as both a sophomore and junior, and also earned all-state honors in baseball as a sophomore (second team) and junior (first team). Contributed to a football MHSAA Finals runner-up finish in 2012 and a baseball MHSAA runner-up in 2013, and also to a Regional championship in basketball. Served as a coach at Beal City's youth basketball camp the last four years and coached the eighth grade football team that finished league champion. Earned his school's Principal's Award as both a freshman and junior and participated in the Natural Helpers peer assistance program for two years.

Future: Will attend Central Michigan University and study pre-medical and dentistry.



TY ROLLIN



SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

MALE

The Katie Dudley File

Okemos High School

Grade: Senior

Sports: Swimming, Basketball, Water Polo

Accomplishments: She has been named to the all-state team in each of the past three seasons and helped lead Okemos to the 2011 state title. The "State of Michigan" Player of the Year in 2011, Dudley has earned her area's player of the year honor in each of the past three years as well. She has also been part of the Midwest Olympic Development Program for the past five years, and during her summers plays club water polo for San Diego Shores, helping the club to the 2012 U16 Junior Olympic title and being named an All-American at both the U16 and U18 levels.

Future: Katie will be attending Stanford University in the fall.



KATIE DUDLEY



SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

FEMALE

AH's Hardy Has What It Takes To Win 100 Hurdles This Season; Commits To CMU

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Jamar Hardy of Saginaw Arthur Hill has a very simple track and field goal this year: a Division 2 state title in the 100-meter high hurdles.

Last year in the state finals, he came very close. Austin Loewen of Williamston finished the event in 14.44 seconds, while Hardy was at 14.47. Hardy nudged Justin Hunter-Smith of Orchard View for second. Hunter-Smith was third in 14.48 seconds.

"He's capable of winning the state championship," said his coach Leonard Adams. "We set his goals kind of high, and it's to win it this year."

Hardy won all his 110-meter hurdle events prior to the state final last season. He was the Saginaw County championship meet winner in both hurdle events.

Adams sees Hardy running a 14.1 or 14.2 and has liked his work ethic. "His technique will be better this year," Adams said. "He's a hard-working guy."

Hardy's second best event is the 300-meter low hurdles. His career best time is 40.1 seconds. "He ran that a couple of times last year,"

Adams said. He is confident that Hardy will be even better this year in the event. "He has gotten stronger and more mature."

Hardy also runs Arthur Hill's first leg in the 400-meter relay. The relay team clocked a 44.9 the first time the current foursome ran together. Adams is hopeful the team can qualify for the state finals.



Hardy makes clear what his goals are for this season. "I want to break the school record again," he said, "and at least run a 14.1 or a 14-flat, and win state. Technically, I'm fine. I want to make sure I get over the hurdles as fast as I possibly can. I don't want to be in the air for too long."

Hardy also played football and

basketball for Arthur Hill, but "[t]rack is his best sport," according to Adams.

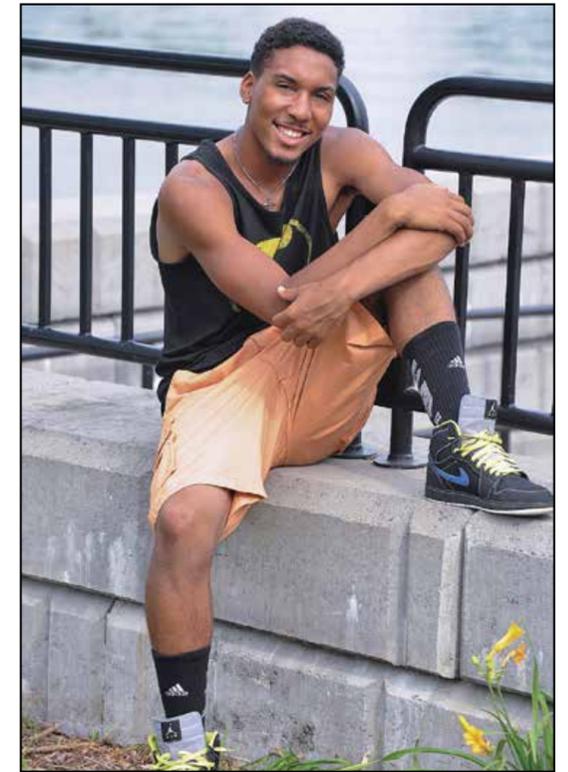
Hardy was planning on playing baseball for his spring sport as a freshman, but his friends talked him into running track and doing the hurdles.

"What makes it unique is combining what some people say is jumping when it's actually stepping, and you're combining running along with that," Hardy said. "Once you get it down, that's what makes it fun, when you realize what you're doing. It's a beautiful thing when you get it down pat."

In the 300 hurdles, Hardy wants "to beat the school record and hopefully go to states," he said.

He treasures the chance to do the 400-meter relay. "It gives me a chance to run without going over anything, and I can show off my natural speed," he said. "I like the first leg compared to the fourth in the 4x1, because I get a chance to come out and get it over with and try to give my team a good lead going into the second leg."

"This is my first year of running the 4x1. In the first meet, we ran a 44.9, which isn't that far from a school record. I think we have a good chance if we work hard and get our chemistry together."



Saginaw Arthur Hill's Jamar Hardy has his eye on winning both the 100 and 300 hurdles during the upcoming MHSAA track finals at the end of May. Hardy recently committed to Central Michigan University to run track. (Scott Keyes Photos)

Hardy has already determined his track and field destination after high school. "I going to Central Michigan University," he said, adding that the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University were also interested in his services. "Central and U of

M were my top two choices. U of M has been a favorite of mine, and they have an outstanding medical program. Central also has a medical program. When I went to Central and Michigan, I was more comfortable at Central."

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SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON TRACK



The Mason boys track team is solid in Division 2. (File Photo)

Check Out More Photos At www.highschoolsportsscene.com

Competition Wide Open For Area Boys Track Teams

John Raffel
Sports Scene
DIVISION 1

Teams to watch statewide: East Kentwood, Grand Blanc, Lake Orion, Walled Lake Central, Oak Park, Saline

Top local teams: Davison, Swartz Creek, Bay City Central

Preview: East Kentwood has won four of the last five state titles. "I am hoping to have a strong season," said coach David Emeott. "We have many returning state qualifiers from a year ago, who have worked very hard over the off-season."

Lakeview is 45-1 in duals over the last eight seasons. The team "lost a great senior class to graduation, but I feel that our current squad is young, but has a ton of potential," said coach Matt Miller.

Grand Blanc coach Edward Stanbury has some good talent to contend for a state title. "We should be top five again," he said. "The past two years, we have been runners-up in Division 1. We hope to do the same or [take the] top spot."

"The Ottawa Hills boys will be a legit threat to win the state title in the 100m and 200m dash individually and in the 4x200 and 4x100m relay," said Ottawa Hills coach Antonio Shellman. "The boys' team only have a handful of seniors, but our juniors and sophomores athletes have championship meet experience, finishing second last year at Division 2 state championships."

Lowell coach Sarah

Ellis commented, "We lost several key seniors last year, so this year will be a growing year; we have many young athletes."

Top local performers: Daniel Kroth, Okemos; Dietrich Hittner, East Lansing; Michael Buffin, Grand Ledge; Liam Kelly, Lowell

DIVISION 2

Teams to watch statewide: Allendale, Chelsea, Ottawa Hills

Top local teams: Cedar Springs, Lansing Sexton, Williamston

Preview: Chelsea finished ahead of Ottawa Hills for the title last season.

Trevor Curtis in the 3,200-meter run will lead the Belding attack.

Alma plans on being a TVC Central contender. "Young athletes will need to step into major scoring roles, and we need to stay healthy," said coach Chris Brown.

Top local performers: Austin Sargeant, Cedar Springs; Mason VanDyke, Mason; Blake Watson, Corunna; Alex McCormick, Haslett

DIVISION 3

Teams to watch statewide: Kelloggsville, Mason County Central, Standish-Sterling Central

Top local performers: Cooper Terry, Sacred Heart Academy; Tanner Droste, Pewamo-Westphalia; Nick Pung, Beal City; Bruce Thelen, Fowler; Thomas Horak, Fowler; Nathaniel Feldpausch, Fowler; Zach Feldpausch, Fowler

State finals prediction: Ewart has won two straight MITCA titles and will finally take an MHSAA crown this year.

State finals prediction: Ewart has won two straight MITCA titles and will finally take an MHSAA crown this year.

Marcy. "I have a good group of seniors that will be invaluable to helping me develop the new talent."

"I expect that we will be in the top five teams at the state finals," said Lansing Catholic coach Tim Simpson. "We have been in the top 10 the last three years and won the championship in 2012."

Top local performers: Jack Peters, Lansing Catholic; Nick Peters, Lansing Catholic; Keenan Rebera, Lansing Catholic; James Sira, Bullock Creek; Hunter Nivision, Clare

DIVISION 4

Teams to watch statewide: Albion, Concord, Ewart, Saugatuck

Preview: Saugatuck is the defending state champion.

"I believe Concord will dominate the state finals," said Reading coach Kurt Stump. "They have sprints through 3,200."

Top local teams: Crossroads Charter Academy, Pewamo-Westphalia

Top performers in state: Max Hodges, Ewart; Shannon Cummins, Reading; Mason Thomas, Reading

Top local performers: Cooper Terry, Sacred Heart Academy; Tanner Droste, Pewamo-Westphalia; Nick Pung, Beal City; Bruce Thelen, Fowler; Thomas Horak, Fowler; Nathaniel Feldpausch, Fowler; Zach Feldpausch, Fowler

State finals prediction: Ewart has won two straight MITCA titles and will finally take an MHSAA crown this year.

P-W, Fowler Look To Hope To Continue Championship Edge; Olling, Schumacher Will Be Tough To Beat In D4

John Raffel
Sports Scene
DIVISION 1

Teams to watch statewide: East Kentwood, Grosse Pointe South, Saline

Top local teams: East Lansing, Rockford, Swartz Creek

Preview: Grosse Pointe South is the defending state champion.

Sprinters Leah Deboe and Alexis Williams lead Lakeview. "We had five athletes compete at the state meet last year and hope to have more this season," said coach Becky Pryor.

Swartz Creek coach Joshua Atwood expects "that our team will compete in every meet and hopefully push towards the upper half of the Metro League standings this year."

"East Lansing, Grand Ledge, and Okemos are very tough teams. I feel that Holt ranks right alongside of these teams," said Holt coach Pam Stafford.

Top local performers: Lauren Brasure, Rockford; Jordan Storer, Midland Dow; Kali Dent, Midland Dow; Renee Genovesi, Swartz Creek; Alena Benjamin, Swartz Creek; Imani Taylor, Swartz



The P-W girls track team celebrate a D-3 championship in 2013. (File Photo)

Creek; Jordan McDermitt, Davison
DIVISION 2

Teams to watch statewide: Divine Child, Forest Hills Eastern.

Top local teams: Chippewa Hills, Dewitt, St. Johns

Preview: Divine Child is defending state champion.

Belding coach John Carlson, with 17 returning letterwinners, hopes "to come in the top three at team state, to come in the top five at individual state."

Alma will be led by athletes like Lexi Morton in the throws and Taula Guerrero in the sprints. "We have some hard-working and talented athletes that are going to help us be successful this year," said coach Jamie Puffpaff.

Karrigan Smith leads St. Johns in the 800-meter run and the 1,600-meter run. "We're missing some positions keeping us from being great," said coach Neil Feldpausch.

"Our goals are to win conference, compete for a regional title, and peak for the state meet," said Forest Hills Eastern coach Andrew Wright. "We'd love to improve on our runner up finish from last year, but there is a lot of work to be done with the state meet fast approaching. We have a lot of talent, but we are incredibly young."

"This will be a very strong team," Forest Hills Northern coach John Klump said. "While we lack depth, we have very good athletes in every event. We may not take a lot of points, but we will win a lot of events."

Top local performers: Kenzie Weiler, Cedar Springs; Karrigan Smith, St. Johns; Meg Darmofal, Mason; Megan O'Neil, Chippewa Hills

DIVISION 3

Teams to watch statewide: Pewamo-Westphalia

Top local teams: Pewamo-Westphalia, St. Louis, Frankenmuth

Preview: Pewamo-Westphalia is the defending state champion.

Top local performers: Kaylie Rhynard, Shepherd; Jasmine Harper, Clare; Courtney Allen, Ithaca

DIVISION 4

Teams to watch statewide: Traverse City St. Francis, Reading

Top local teams: Beal City, Breckenridge, Fowler

Preview: Traverse City St. Francis reigns as defending champion.

Kirsten Olling of Breckenridge will be running for her fourth straight state title in the 3,200-meter run.

Addie Schumacher of Beal City is the two-time defending champion in the high jump.

"Last year, there were four teams that had a real shot to win the title," said New Lothrop coach Tim Krupp. "This year, I see three teams going into the season with enough talent and depth to make a run at the title, they are the defending champion Traverse City St. Francis, Beal City, and Reading. Also returning some quality athletes are Fowler and Ottawa Lake Whiteford."

"We have been in the top three in the state in Division 4 for the past five years, and I hope our team will be in the top three once again," said Fowler coach Jill Feldpausch.

"I have an exceptional group of girls, athletically and academically," said Reading coach Debra Price. "They work hard at everything they do and are just a lot of fun to be around and coach. I am looking forward to more success in their season."

Top local performers: Addie Schumacher, Beal City; Hannah Steffke, Beal City; Kirsten Olling, Breckenridge; Haley Fischman, Lansing Catholic; Erin Field, Lansing Catholic; Savannah Feldpausch, Fowler; Allison Hufnagel, Fowler; Brianna Feldpausch, Fowler; Madison Koenigsnecht, Fowler



Chippewa Hills Megan O'Neil looks to cap a stellar track career by hopefully winning another state championship for the Warriors. (File Photo)



Breckenridge's Kirsten Olling is gunning for her fourth consecutive D4 title in the 3,200.

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SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON TENNIS

Struble, Perkins Cream Of Crop In Area Tennis

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

It took awhile to get outside because of the lingering winter conditions, but area tennis teams are now on the courts and in the middle of another challenging season of girls' tennis. Following is a look at how the tennis action is playing out this spring.

DIVISION 1

Top teams statewide: Grosse Pointe South, Clarkston, Bloomfield Hills

Grosse Pointe South is looking to reclaim the title it won in 2012. It returns plenty of talent, led by senior Brooke Willard. Clarkston has a loaded singles lineup, led by senior Lexi Baylis, who was runnerup at No. 1 singles last year, and sophomore Isabella Spindler, who was runnerup at No. 2 singles.

Top area teams: Midland Dow, Heritage, Rockford

Dow finished 10th in the state last season, and with plenty of talent back this year, it's primed for another big season. It has a solid singles lineup that includes players like Christina Auyeung, Caroline Szabo, Afua Ofori-Darko, and Elaina Parillo. The Chargers also have a solid cast of doubles players, led by the No. 1 team of Kamryn Matthews and Nicole Dobrzelewski. Heritage also has a solid team that features excellent singles players and depth in the doubles.

Top area players: Christina Auyeung, Midland Dow; J'Lynn Corder, Carman-Ainsworth; Kamryn Matthews, Midland Dow; Caroline Szabo, Midland Dow

DIVISION 2

Top teams in the state: Birmingham Seaholm, Marian, Forest Hills Northern

Either Seaholm or Marian has won three of the last four Division 2 state titles, with Marian winning last year. Seaholm returns plenty of talent this season, led by senior Labina Petrovska, while Marian also has plenty of talent back, led by senior Lauren Dietz, who finished second in the state last year at No. 2 singles.

Top area teams: East Lansing, Fenton, Mason, Okemos

Okemos has a number of talented tennis players returning this year from a team that placed fifth at the Division 2 finals last season. Junior Emily Struble won the state title at No. 2 singles last year. Junior Catherine Wingrove was an outstanding doubles player who moves to singles this year, while sophomore Kylie Wilkinson is another solid singles player who returns. Mason senior Abby Perkins has been one of the premier players at No. 1 singles the past several years. Last year, she reached the state semifinals. Sam Perkins, Abby's younger sister, also returns for the Bulldogs. East Lansing returns a number of talented players from a team that placed second in the league last year, led by seniors Sarah Brainard and Emily Volovsek.

Top area players: Madison Ballard, Fenton; Sarah Brainard, East Lansing; Abby Perkins, Mason; Emily Struble, Okemos; Emily Volovsek, East Lansing; Catherine Wingrove, Okemos

DIVISION 3

Top teams in the state: Cranbrook Kingswood, Detroit Country Day, Allegan, Forest Hills Eastern

Cranbrook Kingswood has won the last three Division 3 state titles and are loaded for another title run this year. Senior Alexandria Najarian won the No. 1 singles title last year and is poised to repeat this year. Also returning is sophomore Anna Short, who won the state title at No. 2 singles. Allegan returns junior standout Livia Christam, while Forest Hills Eastern is paced by junior standout Madeline Bissett.

Top area teams: Haslett, Williamston

Haslett placed in the top ten at last year's state meet, and with a number of talented players returning, the Vikings will again have a solid squad. Senior Shea Donahue made it to the state semifinals at No. 2 singles and returns to pace this year's squad. Sophomore Hannah Vogelsang is back after reaching the state quarterfinals at No. 3 singles last year. Williamston finished sixth at the Division 4 state meet last year and makes the jump to Division 3 this season. The Hornets have a number of talented players back, led by the No. 1 doubles team of seniors Delaney Nikolai and Caitlyn Chick.

Top area players: Caitlyn Chick, Williamston; Sara Daavetilla, Williamston; Shea Donahue, Haslett; Delaney Nikolai, Williamston; Ashleigh Reinbold, Charlotte; Hannah Vogelsang, Haslett



More Photos Available At highschoolsportsscene.com

Okemos junior Emily Struble is back to defend her state championship this season for the Chieftains. (File Photo)

DIVISION 4

Top teams in the state: Grosse Ile, Father Gabriel Richard, Traverse City St. Francis

Grosse Ile returns junior standout Brianna Riley and is looking to knock two-time defending state champion Academy of the Sacred Heart from the top spot. Gabriel Richard is led by senior Colleen O'Brien, who took second in the state at No. 1 singles. Sophomore Amanda Bandrowski is a returning state semifinalist at No. 1 singles for Traverse City St. Francis.

Top area teams: Frankenmuth, Hemlock, Lansing Catholic, Portland, Nouvel Catholic Central

Lansing Catholic placed seventh at the state meet last season. The

Cougars have several talented players back, led by junior Calla Ramont, who reached the quarterfinals at No. 1 singles last year. Mary Curtiss is back at No. 1 singles for Nouvel. Hemlock returns a number of key players, including Jane Malott at No. 1 singles and Abbey Stemple at No. 1 doubles. Portland finished in the top ten at the state meet last year. The Raiders welcome back several veterans and will again have a squad capable of a lofty finish at the state finals.

Top area players: Katie Blake, Portland; Mary Curtiss, Nouvel Catholic Central; Jane Malott, Hemlock; Calla Ramont, Lansing Catholic; Abbey Stemple, Hemlock

SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON LACROSSE

Rockford Lacrosse Looks To Defend D1 Title

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Girls' Lacrosse Preview

DIVISION 1

Teams to watch statewide: Rockford, Birmingham United, Ann Arbor Pioneer

Top local teams: Rockford, Waverly

Preview: Rockford defeated Birmingham United in last season's state title game, and Rockford coach Mike Emery expects his team to again challenge for the top spot. "We have good skills, top to bottom, on our roster," he said.

Top local players: Kyleigh Egnatuk, Rockford; Megan Darema, Rockford; Abby Neeley, Waverly

State final prediction: Birmingham United gets its revenge with a win over Rockford in the title game.

DIVISION 2

Teams to watch statewide: East Grand Rapids, Ladywood

Top local teams: Okemos, Williamston-Haslett, East Lansing

Preview: East Grand Rapids defeated Ladywood in last year's final. "We have a strong senior nucleus coming back that bring a lot of experience. They will also be key in mentoring our younger players," said Ladywood coach Kris Sanders. "All facets of our game will be important to our success (offense, defense, and our transition game). We also have first time juniors and sophomores who will contribute to our team in key roles."

Top local players: Taylor Merony, East Lansing; Laura McKee, Holt

State final prediction: Ladywood will take the title over East Grand Rapids.

The Rockford girls lacrosse team celebrates after defeating Bloomfield Hills United during the D1 finals a year ago. The Rams will look to make it two straight this season. (File Photo)



More Photos Available At highschoolsportsscene.com

Boys' Lacrosse Preview

DIVISION 1

Teams to watch statewide: Detroit Catholic Central, Brother Rice, Forest Hills Eastern-Northern

Top local teams: Holt, Rockford

Preview: Brother Rice won its ninth straight title last year with a 14-10 win over Forest Hills Eastern-Northern in the final.

Top local players: Connor Butch, Holt; Cade Butch, Holt; Jack Flanagan, Midland Dow

State final prediction: Brother Rice will make it a perfect 10 with another state title.

DIVISION 2

Teams to watch statewide: Forest Hills Central, Cranbrook Kingswood, Detroit Country Day

Top local teams: Haslett, Okemos

Preview: Cranbrook Kingswood beat Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central for the title last year.

"Finding players who will put the ball in the back of the net and having some new players accelerate their learning and become, not survivors, but thrivers, on the gamefield," is the key to success this season, said East Lansing coach Mark Foster.

Top local players: Grant Borgan, East Lansing; TQ Hoban, East Lansing

State finals prediction: Detroit Country Day wins the title over Cranbrook Kingswood.

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Keisha Brown shares an embrace with her husband Damon and daughter Angel after Damon and the Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart girls basketball team won the Class D state championship in March at the Breslin Center. Less than a month later the former Alma College coach, mentor, educator would lose her long battle to cancer. (Hayley Estill Photo)

INSPIRATIONAL HEARTACHE

Jeff Chaney Sports Scene

MOUNT PLEASANT – Damon Brown doesn't have to think twice when asked who is the best coach in his household.

"Definitely my wife," he answered. "I got into coaching because of her."

Damon Brown just won the girls' Class D state championship, leading his Sacred Heart Academy team to an exciting 56-53 win over Forest Park in the state title game at Michigan State University's Breslin Center, so his wife has to be pretty special.

Brown is the husband of Keisha Brown, the former boys' coach at Sacred Heart, who later moved on to coach the Alma College women's team.

Keisha Brown passed away on April 10 after a seven-year battle with cancer. She was 41 years old and is survived by Damon and their 8-year-old daughter Angel.

"What really made her special is she really cared," Damon Brown said of his wife. "It was never about Xs and Os with her; she was generally concerned about her athletes outside of basketball. Yes, the Xs and Os were important, but she really cared about people, and it was neat to see a lot of her boys come back for that final service to be with her, because she did mean a lot to them."

Mrs. Brown was a great player as well, playing for Tulane University and later for a professional team in Finland.

In 2001, after her playing career, she moved to Michigan from Louisiana to be with her husband, who was already here.

Then her coaching career started to take off, and her husband's coaching career began.

"She was coaching AAU and started coaching the girls' junior varsity team at Sacred Heart in 2002," Damon said. "At the end of that season, the boys' varsity position opened up, and Nancy English, who was the principal at that time, hired her as the boys' coach."

"At that time, I was officiating and on the road three nights a week, and we wanted to spend more time together, so I got into coaching," he added. "I encouraged her to apply for the boys' job, because I knew she could bring something to that position, but she was doubting herself, if she could coach the boys. That's when she said to me 'I will apply for the boys' job if you take my junior varsity job.' I did, and that's how it began."



Damon Brown assisted his wife in her new job as the boys' coach. "It was funny when she first got the job, there were three men on the bench with her, and the officials used to come to us to introduce themselves before the game," he remembered. "At that time, we told them the head coach was on the end bench and pointed at her."

As her career progressed, she would need no more introductions.

From 2003 to 2009, when she took the job at Alma, Mrs. Brown led the Sacred Heart boys' team to five straight conference titles, four district titles, three regional titles, and one state runner-up finish.

She was named the Saginaw News' Boys Coach of the Year in 2006.

She was also the athletic director at Sacred Heart from 2006-2009.

In 2008, Damon Brown became the coach of the Sacred Heart girls varsity team and incorporated what he learned from his wife into his coaching style.

"She definitely rubbed off on me," he said. "What I learned from her, it was about the relationships with kids -- she did that and was successful, and I took that into my coaching."

"She was a competitor, being a former college and professional player. She had a fire in her, that she wasn't going to lose, and she did that with cancer, fighting it hard until the end."

Damon also remembers his wife as being a selfless person, always putting other people ahead of her. "During the quarterfinals for my team this year, the Cancer Treatment Center of America that was treating her wanted her to call them back about her treatment, and she

refused," he said. "I asked why, and she said this week was about you and the girls, and there is no cancer this week. That was the type of person she was, always putting people ahead of herself."

Kristina Lilly, who is Damon Brown's assistant coach and a physical therapist who worked with Keisha Brown during her fight against cancer, remembers those moments, too. "This is a huge loss," she said. "She had the ability to touch so many people's lives. I am personally saddened not to have her in my life anymore, but she touched my life in so many ways."

"I think one thing about her, and why she meant so much to people, she had the ability to relate," Lilly continued. "She had the ability to have a genuine relationship with everybody she came in contact with. She meant the world to my three brothers, who all played for her. That made her versatile enough to coach the boys and the women, she could have relationships with so many. And that was evident at her funeral, because there is not many times you will see 20-year-old boys bawling for a 40-year-old woman at her funeral. She touched a huge spectrum of people in the community."

Damon Brown didn't know how many, until she was gone.

"What I tell people, you go from the highest of highs, winning a state title, and then the lowest of lows, having to bury your wife," he said. "It's been a tough month, but I have been amazed of how many people she touched. As a husband, you don't realize how many people your wife touches. We had over 900 at the service Mount Pleasant, and another 500 in Morgan City back in Louisiana."

Lilly was one of the 900 in Mount Pleasant. "She fought this very hard for the past seven years," Lilly said. "She was super strong throughout, and let it never define her. I think it made her stronger and made her an incredible

inspiration to me and other people.

"She was busy but never showed that she was tired. She never showed anything was getting the best of her. She was always positive and had something great to say, and that is why she meant so much to so many people."

Former student and junior varsity player Lizzy Albaugh said that Mrs. Brown meant a lot to her, even though she didn't play for her. "One thing I remember about Keisha, I would be having a rough time in school, and she knew I was down," she explained. "She would come to me and say what's up, and I would say I'm down and she said you stay up, don't let anything get you down. And here is a woman with breast cancer at that time, telling me to keep myself up. She was definitely a fighter."



Mrs. Brown was so strong and had the foresight that she started the Angel Wings Fund, named after her daughter to help families of those who have died from cancer.

"She was very passionate about that," Damon Brown said. "When she was first diagnosed in 2007, I remember her looking at me and saying 'What about Angel?'"

"Then we found out there was not a lot of resources out there for the children. She made it her life's goal to help families, especially children, to achieve their goals. And she also wanted to make awareness in the community about cancer. Now here we are, and this all started because she was worried about the children losing their parents."

As for Angel?

"She is doing great," said Damon, who was married to Angel's mom for 10 years. "She is tough like her mom. She is back in her routine, and Sacred Heart has been great for her, because she likes going to school."

LACEY TOUCHED OUR HEARTS

Lacey Holsworth not only touched the hearts of the Michigan State University community she touched the hearts of an entire nation. Her smile, her story brought a nation together and she was a true inspiration to all. She will be missed.

Jeff Chaney Sports Scene

EAST LANSING, MI – During a person's life, people drift in and out on a daily basis.

Whether it's a life-long relationship or a chance encounter, a person's persona is largely made up by the people they meet in their time on this earth.

As a star basketball player for the Michigan State University men's basketball team, senior forward Adreian Payne has had his share of Sparty lovers drift into and out of his life during his time on the team.

He has touched the lives of so many people in the Spartan nation - a strong young man who was raised by his maternal grandmother in a rough part of Dayton, Ohio, who turned himself into one of the top recruits of 2010, a recruit that Michigan State coach Tom Izzo had to have.

Payne did not disappoint and has been a key contributor in keeping the Spartans one of the top teams in the nation in his four years.

But it was one of those chance encounters

during a team-sponsored hospital visit in 2011, when Payne met a little Spartan that changed his life, that he showed the world what is good in mankind, and what is great about sports.

During that visit, Payne met Lacey Holsworth, a little girl with a big medical problem. Holsworth, who was from St. Johns, was fighting neuroblastoma, a nerve cancer that was terminal.

Visits to hospitals by sports athletes occur all the time. It's a great thing when kids and adults get a visit from some of their heroes - it's a visit that usually brightens a day in the lives of those who need their days to be brightened.

But Payne, who is dealing the the daily rigors of being a student/athlete on a high-profile basketball team at a Big Ten school, took his visit to the next level.

He adopted Lacey as a little sister and took her places that every Spartan fan dreams of, like walking out with him on Senior Night or cutting down the nets in Indianapolis after Michigan State won this year's Big Ten Tournament.

He also played games with her, colored with her, and bought her stuffed animals, just like a

good big brother would for a sick little sister.

But Payne said that Lacey gave much more to him, a different perspective on life, and how precious it is.

One of those perspectives is that life can be cruel. On April 8, Lacey lost her battle to cancer.

There is no way a beautiful eight-year-old should be taken from this earth too soon, and there is no way a star forward who is getting ready to take his talents to the next level should have to deal with loss of a little sister.

But these tragedies happen every day and are dealt with by people worldwide. We were just lucky enough to see an incredible friendship play out and to watch as a sick little girl give so much strength to a 6'10" power forward.

Payne said the "Princess Lacey" will always be a part of his life. Thankfully, their beautiful story will always be a part of my life, and a reminder of why sports, and the athletes who play them, are so great.



Lacey Holsworth became more than an inspiration to the Michigan State men's basketball team. She touched so many in her short time on earth and she will be remembered as a spirited soul that touched the hearts of a nation. God-Speed Lacey Holsworth. (Submitted Photo)

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SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON GOLF

Alma's Green Gunning For D3 Title



Jay Green will follow his brother Brett to Tiffin University in the fall, but before that he is hoping to put together a solid senior season and be in contention for a state title at the end of the year. Green led the way for the Panthers helping his team win the recent Alma Invitational at the Pine River Country Club. (Randy Miniard Photo)

John Raffel Sports Scene

Jay Green is looking forward to his senior year with the Alma boys golf team, and the Panthers are looking forward to seeing Green perform on the course for what he expects to be his best season.

It's his fourth varsity season and the early indication is that it will be a great one. He has already broken a school record for nine holes with a 30.

Last year in the Division 3 state finals, Alma finished third as a team. Green was in a four-way tie for fifth with 73 and 77 for a 150. His brother Brett shot 73 and 75 for a 148. Both received all-state honors for their efforts.

Brett is now playing at Tiffin University in Ohio, where Jay will also be going next year.

"It was a dream come true," Green said of his performance at last year's state finals. "Last year, we finally made it."

It was his best season of golf so far. He improved immensely from his sophomore to junior year.

"I've grown another few inches, so I'm hitting it a lot longer off the tee," he said. He added that he's improved "from learning from my brother, the mental aspect, and playing your way around the course."

Green isn't holding anything back in his goals for 2014. "I want to be Mr. Golf for the state of Michigan and the state champ," he said.

He hopes to average around 72 for 18 holes. He wants to improve his putting. "I had around a 75 average last year," he said. "I think three strokes [average] is very easy to do."

The lowest scores in his high school career prior to this season were 34 for nine holes and 70 for 18. Green was confident he could beat those scores this season, and he wasted little time for nine holes.

In mid-April, he shot a 5-under-par 30 at Twin Brooks Golf Course in Chesaning in a TVC Central Jamboree. It was one of the first four matches—two 18-hole and two 9-hole—that he had played through April 22.

"I'm playing phenomenal," he said. "It's absolutely incredible how well I'm playing the beginning of this season."

Green had three birdies and an eagle for his 30.

"I had 13 putts, which is amazing," he said. "I hit eight of nine greens in regulation."

Compared to previous early springs,



Alma Invitational Results

Alma	337	Ovid-Elsie	408
Portland	355	St. Louis	437
Chesaning	355	Farwell	454
Ithaca	368	Merrill	457
Hemlock	379	Blanchard Montabella	467
Shepherd	381	Lake City	471
Birch Run	382	Breckenridge	NA
Butternut Home School	388	Mayville	NA
Roscommon	395		

"I'm mentally stronger," Green said. "I'm confident on every single putt, on every single shot. It's the mental aspect."

Green was incredibly busy during the off-season. "[Golf] is all I do during the summer," he said. "I'm out at the course anywhere from 8:30 or 9 a.m. to 10 at night. That's my life in the summer. Last year I played 17 tournaments and won nine. They were all very good [tournaments]."

Green considers himself similar to his brother as a golfer. "We both hit very long off the tee," he said. "We have good short games. I'm sure we can both improve on putting."

When it comes to putting, "it's being able to read the greens and having confidence over the putt and in yourself that you're going to make the putt," Green said.

His brother has graduated, but Jay still likes this team's prospects. "He's pretty young; there's just myself and a sophomore [Cody Yates] who played last year," Green said. "Only three of us have been on the varsity team. The next three will have to step it up if we want to [be] conference champs, district champions, regional champs."

Green said that he and his brother have played golf together practically their entire lives, beginning at the age of 4 or 5. "We love playing together,"

Jay said. "Golf is my passion."

Golf may be his passion, but he also has other interests. He was the No. 1 singles player on the tennis team last fall and made it to the regional final, where he lost to the eventual state champion. He also played basketball. For four years, he was a three-sport athlete.

The individual aspect of tennis helps him prepare for golf, as far as Green is concerned. "It's the individual game; you're out there by yourself," he said. "Even though it's technically a team sport, you're playing by yourself."

Tiffin's coach is what attracted both Greens to the school. "He's an amazing guy, a likable guy," Jay said. "He's fun to be around. He wants to win."

Green is getting an athletic/academic scholarship to attend Tiffin, a Division II school.

"I'll play on the Michigan Players Junior Golf Tour," Green said of his plans after his high school career ends. "We'll play a bunch of tournaments this summer."

Green has been able to work around the long winter. "You're kind of rough going into the spring season," he said. "I went down to Okemos to hit in an indoor golf dome."



Seventeen teams finally got to show their stuff on the links as Mother Nature finally gave area golfers the chance to compete during a rare spring day that was finally above the freezing mark. Alma would go on to win its own invitational by 18 strokes over second place Portland. (Randy Miniard Photos)

Area Golfers Gearing Up For Long Season, After Soggy Spring

John Raffel Sports Scene DIVISION I

Teams to watch statewide: Battle Creek Lakeview, Plymouth, Detroit Catholic Central

Preview: Battle Creek Lakeview is the defending state champs. Grand Ledge didn't lose any seniors and could make some noise with an improved short game. "Our goal is to qualify for the Division I state finals this year and finish in the top seven, said BC Lakeview coach Tony Evans. "We're not as deep as we have been the last couple of years when we were state runners-up in 2012 and state champions last season. Our top 4 players will have to play well and we need our five and six players to make steady improvements throughout the season."

Top local teams: Grand Ledge, Rockford, Swartz Creek

Top local players: A.J. Varekoi, Rockford; Jack Weller, Swartz Creek; Josh Arbour and Cam Conley, Grand Ledge; Zack Dowling, Holt; Ross Lazar, Okemos.

State finals prediction: Plymouth will defeat BC Lakeview in the finals

DIVISION 2

Teams to watch statewide: Grand Rapids Christian, Marshall, Cranbrook, Kingswood

Top local teams: DeWitt, East Lansing

Preview: Grand Rapids Christian is the defending state champs. "At this point, I would say Haslett and DeWitt are two contenders to make it to the state finals this season," said Ionia coach Will Tabot.

Top local players: Owen Beyer, DeWitt; Jason Brandt, Mason; Joe

Croom, East Lansing; Marc Varlesi, Haslett;

State finals prediction: Cranbrook-Kingswood to defeat Grand Rapids Christian for the title.

DIVISION 3

Teams to watch statewide: Jackson Lumen Christi, Hanover Horton, Lansing Catholic Central

Top local teams: Alma, Lansing Catholic, Saginaw Nouvel

Preview: "Alma, Almont should be good again in our division. Not sure about the rest, they are mostly private schools," said Chippewa Hills coach Steve Darnell.

Jay Green, who shot a 30 in mid-April, will help Alma be a contender.

"I expect my team to compete for another Division 3 State Championship in 2014," said Lansing Catholic coach Charlie Furney. "We lost our No. 1 player (Jacob Johnson - Oakland University) from last year's state championship team but have players No. 2 through No. 8 returning. The key for success will be everyone improving their stroke averages to cover for the loss of Jacob Johnson."

Saginaw Nouvel has moved to Division 3.

"We have very high hopes," said

Nouvel coach Tim Drumhiller. "We finished runner up at States last year in Division 4 and lost only one player."

Ithaca could be a darkhorse with Kyle Greer and Kaeden Greer who averaged 43s last season. First-year coach Josh Rayburn looks for his team to make deep run into the post-season.

Top local players: Jay Green, Alma; Brent Marshall, Lansing Catholic Central; Jagger Richard, Laingsburg.

State finals prediction: Lansing Catholic reigns supreme over Hanover-Horton for the title.

DIVISION 4

Teams to watch statewide: Kalamazoo Hackett, Suttons Bay,

Top local teams: Fowler, New Lothrop

Preview: I'm not real familiar with the grade levels of other players at the state level and I know a few of the top players from last year state finals graduated," said Fowler coach Dan Bengel. "I believe Austin Feldpausch (of Fowler) will be among the top."

Top local players: Austin Feldpausch, Fowler; Nick Ludka, Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central; Brody Schiller, Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central.

State finals prediction: Kalamazoo Hackett barely holds back Saginaw Nouvel for state title.



After winning a state championship a year ago, the Lansing Catholic boys golf team is back this season to defend its Division 3 title. Alma, led by senior Jay Green could be right there in the mix at the end of the season as well.

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Swan Valley's Sarah Addy has been a staple in the Vikings lineup for the last four seasons. (Scott Keyes Photo)

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Swan Valley, Warriors Look To Take Next Step Towards Title

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Last year was a big one for area softball teams. A pair of area teams finished second in the state, as Bay City Western was runner-up in Division 1 and Swan Valley was runner-up in Division 2. This year, the area is again loaded with outstanding softball teams and players. Following is a look at the softball scene.

DIVISION 1

Top teams in the state: Mattawan, Romeo, Canton

Mattawan is the gold standard when it comes to Division 1 softball in the state and is the team to beat once again this year. It won the title in 2013 and 2011 and finished second in the state in 2012.

Top area teams: Bay City Western, Holt, St. Johns

Bay City Western reached the state title game last June and has plenty of talent returning from a team that went 37-3. Hannah Leppek is one of the premier pitchers in the state. She returns along with a number of other veterans, including all-state outfielder KayLynn Carpenter and all-state shortstop Meredith Rousse. Holt captured the CAAC Red last year and returns plenty of talent from that squad. Courtney Masseur is a returning all-state player for the Rams, while junior Lindsay Reed is a talented second baseman. St. Johns returns a talented core of players and is poised for a big season. Claire Whitford is a talented middle infielder, while junior Kayleigh Smith will be one of the leaders of the pitching staff and an outfielder.

Top area players: Lauren Bachert, Grand Ledge; Hannah Leppek, Bay

City Western; Courtney Masseur, Holt; Meredith Rousse, Bay City Western; Kayleigh Smith, St. Johns; Claire Whitford, St. Johns; Lacy Tolfree, Heritage

DIVISION 2

Top teams in the state: Tecumseh, Wayland Union, Lakeshore

Tecumseh captured last year's state title and has been one of the premier teams in the state for several years, having also won the title in 2007 and 2008.

Top area teams: Swan Valley, Bullock Creek, Portland, Garber, John Glenn, Mt. Pleasant, Eaton Rapids

Swan Valley has advanced to the Division 2 state title game the past two years. Enough talent returns for it to make another trip to the final. The Vikings have a dominating pitcher in senior Courtney Reinhold and a potent

offense led by all-state second baseman Sarah Addy, who hit .500 last season. Rival Bullock Creek also returns a loaded roster, including an all-state pitcher of its own in April Mehl. All-state catcher Maison Kalina leads a potent offense that also includes Ellie Juengel and Shelby Bailey. Portland is primed for a big season after turning in a 27-4 mark last year. All-state pitcher Allie Gryns, all-state second baseman Madison Adams, and all-state outfielder Mary Brooks return. Garber looks to continue its improvement this year. The Dukes return a number of key players, led by Paige Wolbert who hit .478 last year. John Glenn has one of the premier hitters in the state in Emily Reed, who hit 15 home runs last year along with 47 RBI and a .521 batting average. Mt. Pleasant returns a number of veterans, and if the pitching staff rounds into form, the Oilers can



SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON SOFTBALL



The Midland High softball team has been a pleasant surprise in the Saginaw Valley North Division this season. (Scott Keyes Photo)

have a big season. Eaton Rapids turned in a 36-3 record last year and will again be a force. All-state first baseman Bailey Baker returns to lead the way for the Greyhounds.

Top area players: Madison Adams, Portland; Sarah Addy, Swan Valley; Allie Gryns, Portland; Maison Kalina, Bullock Creek; April Mehl, Bullock Creek; Emily Reed, John Glenn; Courtney Reinhold, Swan Valley; Paige Wolbert, Garber

DIVISION 3

Top teams in the state: Unionville-Sebewaing, Bronson, Dundee

Unionville-Sebewaing fell in nine innings to Dundee in last year's state title game. The Patriots are again one of the premier teams in the state, led by junior pitching ace Erica Treiber. Dundee also returns a number of solid players, while Bronson has a solid squad out of southwest Michigan.

Top area teams: Shepherd, Valley Lutheran, Reese, Farwell, Meridian, Hemlock

Shepherd has a well-balanced

squad this year, with solid pitching from sophomore Hailey Buckley and junior Charlie Bryant. The offense is also dangerous, led by Maddie Moeggenborg and Bryant. Valley Lutheran is strong in the circle with pitcher Sydney Little, while Gabby Neuman leads a potent offense. Hemlock has a solid team with a number of veterans back. Eryn Lee gives the Huskies a strong pitcher, while Aubrey Alfano and Shelby Lisik lead the offense.

Top area players: Charlie Bryant, Shepherd; Eryn Lee, Hemlock; Maddie Moeggenborg, Shepherd; Sydney Little, Valley Lutheran; Kaylie Rhynard, Shepherd

DIVISION 4

Top teams in the state: Kalamazoo Christian, Ubly, Rogers City

Defending state champion Kalamazoo Christian is the team to beat again in Division 4. The Comets have a deep team with strong hitting and defense.

Top area teams: Sacred Heart Academy, Coleman, Fowler, Portland St. Patrick Catholic

Led by hit machine Sara Hansen, Sacred Heart can score runs in bunches. Lexie Methner and Lauren Sabuda are also strong with the bats, while Methner will also help lead the pitching staff. Coleman also has a strong hitting team this year. Carley Starnes leads the offense with help from players like Miranda Coty and Summer Liphard. Fowler returns a number of key players, as it looks to challenge in the CMAC. Kelsie Feldpausch returns to anchor the infield, while Kara Schafer is a standout catcher. Portland St. Patrick Catholic went 32-7 last year and has plenty of talent back from that squad. Junior Brittini Wilcox is a returning all-state pitcher, while Danielle Simon is a talented outfielder, and Riley Smith returns at catcher.

Top area players: Kelsie Feldpausch, Fowler; Sara Hansen, Sacred Heart Academy; Lexie Methner, Sacred Heart Academy; Carley Starnes, Coleman; Brittini Wilcox, Portland St. Patrick Catholic



The Sanford Meridian softball team should be a strong playoff contender once the playoffs begin. (Scott Keyes Photo)

Western Softball Team Looks To Jump Last Hurdle

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Bay City Western softball team made it all the way to the Division 1 championship game last year, where it fell to Mattawan 2-1. Early signs are indicating that the Warriors are a force to be reckoned with once again this year, as they've started the young campaign 6-0 overall and 4-0 in the Saginaw Valley League North.

"We have our all-state senior pitcher, Hannah Leppek, back," head coach Rick Garlinghouse said. "She threw 38 scoreless innings in a row in the state tournament last year, and she is currently 5-0 with two no hitters."

has won two of the last three state championships is nothing to be ashamed with and says we can play with anyone, and they better be

ready for a complete game from us," Garlinghouse said. "The hardest thing about last year was we played as well as we could, and it still wasn't quite enough. The positive thing to take away was we didn't give the game away, we just got beat by a better team on that one particular day."

Western is no stranger to lengthy postseason runs, and the Warriors are hoping for yet another one this year.

"With four seniors on this year's team, they have been to the final four twice, and they know we can get back, but we also know we have to play well, don't beat ourselves, and have some luck along the way," Garlinghouse said. "There are 35 games or so to be played

before the state championship game, so there is plenty of time to perfect our team game."

Garlinghouse, in his tenth year as Western head coach, admits the prospect of even playing in another state title game is pretty exciting.

"Just to have people talk about our team and a state championship is very rewarding for our staff for all the time and effort it takes to be recognized at the state level," he said. "After our last doubleheader, we had a full-blown practice in an effort to prepare for our next games. To me, that exhibits the character and perseverance of this team."

"This team has plenty of talent, as much as any team," Garlinghouse added. "As much as any team we have had at Bay City Western, but we need to get some games in, because everyone is not at the same level they need to be at or that it takes to be completely successful."



Hannah Leppek is back this season to once again anchor the Bay City Western pitching staff. (Scott Keyes Photo)

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Diamonds In The Rough

Even though five area softball players already know their future after high school, don't expect them to take their senior seasons lightly as championship hopes loom in the back of their minds. Speed, quickness and determination drive all five of these players.

Scott Keyes Sports Scene

Over the past four seasons five exceptional area softball players have excelled at the highest of their abilities.

Their hard work hasn't gone unnoticed.

Sara Hansen, (Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart), Maison Kalina (Midland Bullock Creek), Lacy Tolfree (Saginaw Heritage), Courtney Reinhold (Swan Valley) and Kaylie Rhynard (Shepherd) have known their chosen path to the next level for months and months now. With less than six weeks until the end of their high school career, the reality of moving on to the next level is starting to hit home.

Hansen, Kalina and Tolfree are moving on to Central Michigan University to play for coach Margo Jonker and Reinhold and Rhynard are playing at Grand Valley State University.

"The idea this is my last high school season hasn't exactly set in yet," Tolfree said. "I never really thought about I'm going to be going to college to play next year hasn't really sunk in yet until you brought it up. I'm still going to miss my high school and all my teammates!"

In life and sports, friendships are something that players and foes will take with them the rest of their lives. For Tolfree, the idea of not playing with the players she has been brought up with is hard, but she is looking forward to the next chapter of life experiences.

"I'm probably going to miss my teammate that I've played with for almost five years in school ball and travel ball," Tolfree said "We've become so close over the year's and I won't be able to play with her anymore. We've had our differences in the past, but you always find a way to make me smile. Thanks for being an awesome

teammate and friend Haley Lehner."

Reinhold agrees the friendships she has made at Swan Valley she will take with her when she steps on the field for the first time at Swan Valley.

The memories will last a lifetime.

"This year I have been having such a great time with my teammates and just enjoying the last few weeks getting to play for Swan Valley," she said. "I'm going to miss playing with some of my best friends and the following that our team has gotten through the past four years from our community. I'll also miss getting to play for such amazing coaches, but I am really looking forward to college life at Grand Valley and getting to know a new life in a different town. It'll be an adjustment like all new things but I'm excited and grateful for the opportunity to play at the next level."

For Kalina, she relishes the opportunity of being in the same recruiting class as Hansen and Tolfree. She expects their friendship at the next level will continue to grow. Although she will miss the high school game she knows in life it's time to move on.

"A lot of us girls at Bullock Creek have played together since little league and have really grown close to one another both on and off the field," Kalina said. "Softball is about having fun and playing together as a team. You hit the field, give it all you've got, and take home a win for your school. It's going to be hard adjusting to college. I will have to manage my time. Between softball and school, I will need to find that balance, but I am definitely looking forward to going to CMU."

One of the biggest differences for Kalina is her dad Darren, won't be her coach any longer. Ever since she can remember he has coached her, but she will take with her a lot of things he has taught her through the

years. She knows high school has it's ups and downs, but whatever you do you should always have a smile on your face.

"Softball is something that makes me really happy, and I have been blessed to be surrounded by such great people at the Creek, my parents, coaches, and teammates," she said. "On to college I will take with me a couple phrases that are very special, "Play with Heart!" and "Confidence is Key! From my dad, it has really been instilled in my that everything you do you should give your all and be passionate about, as well as be confident about. I am so thankful to have an awesome dad that does so much for me."

Meanwhile Hansen, who recently had her 91-game hitting streak snapped doesn't have to travel far to continue her

softball career, as the Irish standout will likely be moving a mile or two down the road to continue her playing career for the Chips.

The idea of having close family and friends to watch her play close to home is pretty cool. Hansen, who helped lead the Sacred Heart girls basketball team to Class D state title in March said she will leave the Irish with no regrets. She left everything on the field in everything she has accomplished over the last four years.

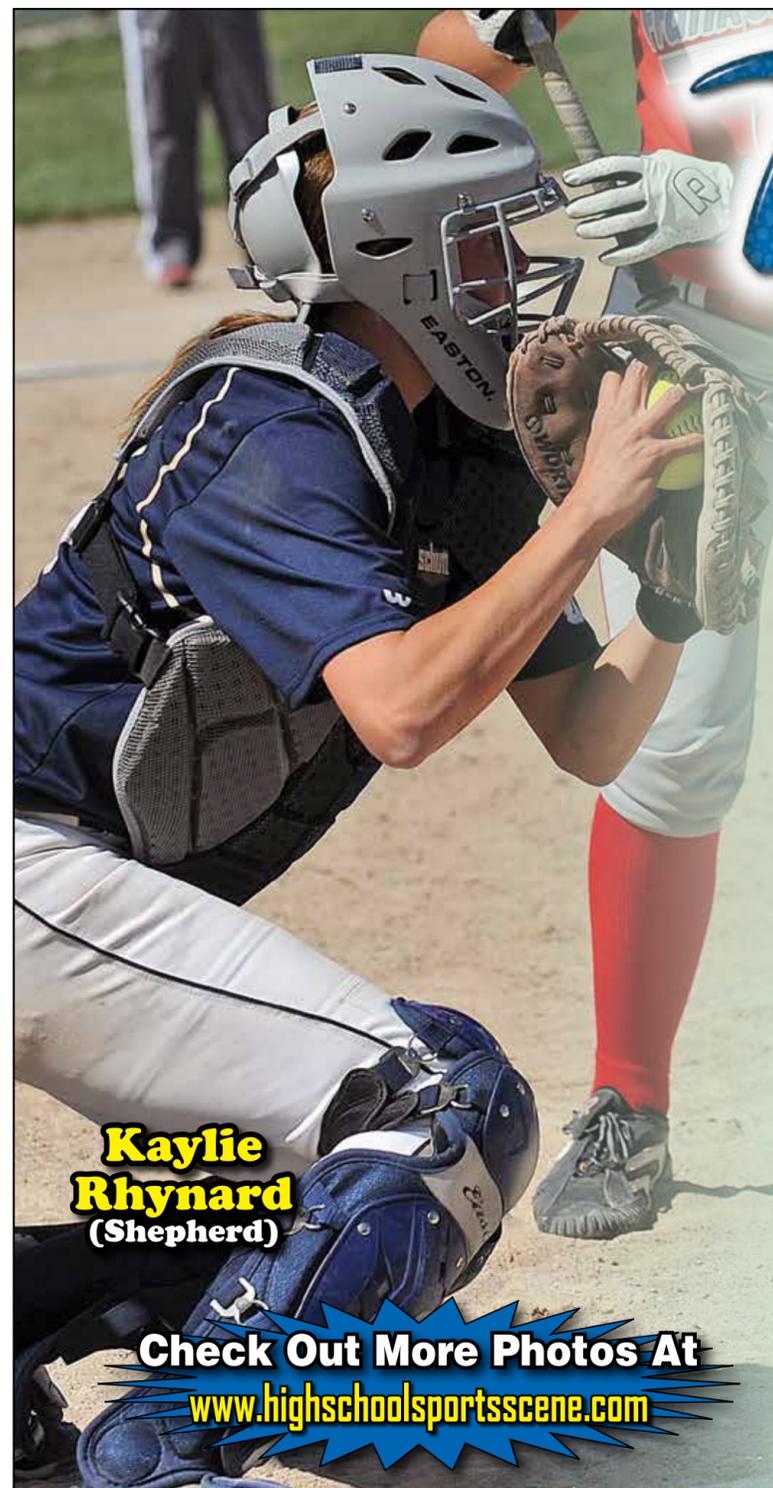
"I don't really have any regrets," Hansen said. "I think all the mistakes I have made during softball have just helped me and made me learn from them to become a better player. I have learned a lot and made a lot of close friendships and the experiences I have had both

negative and positive have helped me grow as a person."

As far as the next level, Hansen knows she will have to prove herself.

"The coaches haven't necessarily told me I would play right away," Hansen said. "It's really just about if I work hard and can prove to them that I am ready to play at the college level. I know one thing I'll have to learn in college is just learning to hit the good pitching because in high school there aren't always the best pitchers so that's something I will have to work on."

Making the move to the next level takes work and drive and these five girls have proved that hard work pays huge dividends. A job well done for sure.



Kaylie Rhynard (Shepherd)

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Courtney Reinhold (Swan Valley)



Lacy Tolfree (Heritage)



Maison Kalina (Bullock Creek)



Sara Hansen (Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart)

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Teagan Denslow Leads Way For Warriors

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Chippewa Hills softball team dominated the Central States Athletic Association last year, and with plenty of talent back, the Warriors will be the

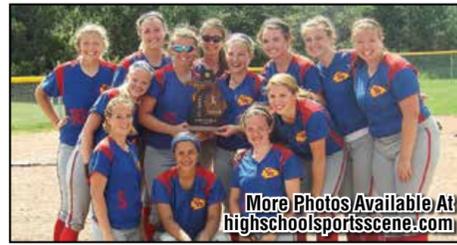
team to beat once more.

Two seniors, shortstop Teagan Denslow and utility player Taylor Sellers, graduated from last year's team that won the CSAA with a 17-1 record and finished 22-9 overall. It

also won a district title and defeated Fremont in the regional before dropping a 5-4 decision to Escanaba in the regional final.

Pitching will be a strong point this year, as all three pitchers return. They are senior Danielle Eldred and juniors Cassidy Johnson and Kendall Boone.

Senior catcher Lotti Halm also returns, as do Hali Earl, Olivia Wolfe, Brooke Lewandowski, and Kathy McCall.



The Chippewa Hills softball team celebrate after winning a district title a year ago. Teagan Denslow is back this season to lead the Warriors.

Pirates Rebuild

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Rebuilding is the name of the game for the Fulton softball team this spring. After turning in a 14-11-1 overall record and 9-6 CMAC record last spring, the Pirates are now in a rebuilding mode.

Senior Gabi Seida returns at catcher. Senior Kaylee Nicholson is also doing some pitching and playing in the outfield. Seniors Brooke Seida and Monica Tabor return to the outfield.

A number of newcomers are also making their presence felt. Juniors Kendra Hungerford and Mackenzie Bracey are filling positions in the infield, with sophomore Kirsten Maniez adding to the outfield depth.

"We look forward to having strength on the pitching mound, with three pitchers that can handle the task on any given night," said coach Scott Acker. "The senior leadership and skills Gabi

Seida brings to us behind the plate and our leading hitter from last season, Brooke Seida, will be big assets."

How quickly the newcomers acclimate will be critical to the team's success this spring. "The key to success for 2014 will be getting a relatively new starting lineup playing together as a team," Acker said. "As always, keeping errors to a minimum with an inexperienced infield and capitalizing on the other teams' mistakes will be key."

The CMAC is as tough as ever this season, with league powerhouse Portland St Patrick Catholic bringing back a number of returning players, while Dansville also looks to be near the top of the standings.



L-R: Brooke Seida, Morgan Ritz and Gabi Seida take a break in between games for the Fulton Pirates. Fulton will go through a rebuilding season in 2014. (Submitted Photos)

Youth, Vets Key To Dewitt's Season

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

In just two years, the DeWitt softball team has made a complete turnaround. Even though it was hit hard by graduation last year, it's primed to build on the positive momentum.

seven senior starters graduated, the Panthers do have some standout players back.

Abby VanLake returns at catcher, where she earned all-league honors last year and hit number five in the batting order. Ally Hawkins returns in the outfield, where she earned all-district honors and was the team's leadoff batter. Both VanLake and Hawkins are sophomores and team captains this season.

The Panthers also have a pair

of senior captains in Katelyn , an outfielder in her third year on the varsity, and Anne Schultz, who plays first and third base. Sophomore Kenzie Kost is back for her second year on the varsity as a middle infielder.

DeWitt also brings in a pair of talented newcomers. Freshmen Nikki Willard and Erica Lee are powers hitters. Willard will also be a pitcher while Lee is an infielder.

"While we are young, I think we

will be able to have a strong mental game and overcome adversity," said coach Keeley Byrnes. "This team has great chemistry and truly loves the game of softball. Our goal is to win the league and districts."

To do that, the Panthers must avoid injury. "The key will be staying healthy," Byrnes said. "We have low numbers this year on varsity and junior varsity. If we can stay healthy, we have a shot at winning the league for the second year in a row."

Fowlerville, Owosso, and St. Johns will be battling the Panthers for the top spot in the league this year.



DeWitt's Kate Simon

Veterans Key To St. Johns Success

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The St. Johns softball team finished the season strong last spring and is looking to carry over that success to this season.

mark. Expectations are high for this year.

"With seven returners from a year ago, it looks to be a more consistent year," coach Barry Palmer said. "We possess a lot of versatility, with players that can play a lot of positions. With three pitchers at our disposal, it will make for a fun and promising season."

The team is led by a trio of players returning for their third year as varsity starters. Claire Whitford (2B/SS) is a senior captain who earned all-league and all-district honors last season. Junior Kayleigh Smith (P/OF) is one of the top returning players in the league. She also earned all-league and all-district honors last season.

Senior Carlie Smith (OF) is the last member of the trio.

Seniors Madi Webster (1B) and Anna Seman (3B/OF) are back for their second years as starters. Junior Alex Davis (OF/1B) is a returning starter with good versatility. Sophomores Adriann Simison (C) and Brooke Mazzolini (2B/OF) are two more returning starters. Simison earned honorable-mention all-league honors last year.

The Redwings also have a number of promising newcomers. Montana Barnard (P/OF/3B) is sophomore who can play a variety of positions. Freshmen Jamie Carroll (SS), Kendall Smith (OF/3B), and Lauren Bates (P) give the squad even more depth.



Peska Back At Ithaca; Chaffin Strong On Mound

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

A familiar name is on the bench this season for the Ithaca Yellowjackets softball team.

Long-time Ithaca baseball coach Dar Peska has taken over as head coach this year, after spending the past 20 years at Alma.

Peska had a successful stint at Alma, as he guided the Panthers to five conference championships, to four conference runner-up finishes, to two district titles, and through a 21-inning district game that was the longest in state history. Alma also won two regional titles and made a state semifinal appearance, where it was defeated by the eventual state champion.

Peska has 378 total wins and returns to Ithaca, where he coached baseball for 25 years.

Peska takes over an Ithaca team that last year had an overall record of 17-13, was 6-8 in conference play, and won the district title. The Yellowjackets have suffered some key losses, as Cassie and Kali Densmore have graduated and Blaire Showers now runs track.

Some key players are back, though. Senior Jamie Gose is at third base. Brooklyn Dolloff and Courtney Cooley head up the

outfield. Sophomores Kylee Chaffin and Liz Bentley return to pace the pitching staff and also to play in the infield. Paige Shaw is back behind the plate at catcher. The team has also been boosted by a pair of transfers, with senior Mikayla Barrows catching and playing third base and Kerrigan Akin at second base. MacKenzie Thompson, Madison Pung, and Jordan Town are in the mix at first base.

"We are very young, but I expect to be in the top three and have a chance for first with the right breaks," Peska said.



Ithaca sophomore Kylee Chaffin will throw a lot of innings for the Yellowjackets this season. (File Photo)

Oilers Eye Another Long Post-Season Run

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

With a solid core of veteran players back, the Mt. Pleasant softball team is looking forward to an exciting season.

A strong nucleus of seniors returns to a team that went 25-13 overall last year and 10-4 in the Saginaw Valley League. The Oilers will have to replace standout pitcher Alesha Davis and Jocelyn Epple, who hit .347 last year.

Plenty of talent returns to the infield. Senior Maureen Conway is back at first base. Junior Allie Weis returns at shortstop, while senior

Maddie Livingston is moving from third base to second base this season.

Senior Brooke Rowley is back at catcher, while senior Sydney Epple is a returning right fielder, who will also step into the pitcher's circle. Left fielder Mary Courser is also a returning veteran.

"We will be fairly experienced, with six starters back," coach Ted McIntyre said. "We will have some depth offensively and defensively, if players play up to their potential."

The Oilers also add plenty of newcomers to the mix, including senior Samantha Berryhill; juniors Karrigan Courtney, Megan Kramer,

Chelsea Lee, Hannah Murch, Brenna Olrich, and Halie Taylor; and freshman Becca Curtiss.

The key for the Oilers will be in the pitcher's circle. "Alesha and Chelsea Davis have dominated the pitching innings for the last four years," McIntyre said. "New people will need to step up this year. Sydney Epple looks like she will get a lot of innings along with Megan Kramer."

The Saginaw Valley looks loaded again, with Bay City Western being the team to beat and with Midland, Midland Dow, Bay City Central, and Heritage in the mix.



The Mt. Pleasant softball team will rely on a strong group of seniors as the season progresses. The seniors will play a key role in the Oilers success this season.

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FIND NEW ROADS



Area Teams Gearing Up For Another Big Season On Diamond

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

It took awhile, but the snow and cold of winter finally gave way to the boys of spring, and area high school baseball teams finally made it onto the diamond. A big season of baseball is underway, with area teams trying to replicate the feat that Bay City Western and Beal City accomplished last year and make it to the state championship game. Bay City Western won the Division 1 state title, while Beal City was runner-up in Division 4.

Following is a look at the state of baseball at the high school level this spring.

DIVISION 1

Top teams in the state: Brother Rice, Sterling Heights Stevenson, Lake Orion

Brother Rice has a team stocked full of some of the best players in the state. Senior pitcher Matt Ruppenthal is one of the premier pitchers in the state and is headed to Vanderbilt University, while junior pitcher Josh Smith is the top junior in the state and has committed to the University of Kentucky. Senior first baseman Ty Kiafoulis is a University of Michigan commitment.

Top area teams: Rockford, Midland, Grand Ledge, Bay City Western, East Lansing, Midland Dow

Rockford reached the state quarterfinals before falling to eventual state champion Western. Rockford returns a slew of talented players this year and could be hoisting the trophy this June. Midland has a number of talented performers, led by Tanner Gross. Grand Ledge went 29-6 last year and returns a deep and talented senior class, led by Nathan Langenfeld, Keefer Johnson, and Nick Karmada. Dow has a solid team, and with the addition of talented pitching transfer Evan Marquardt, has the potential for a deep tournament run.

Top area players: Matt DiLeo, Rockford; Zach Francisco, East Lansing; Seth Freed, Bay City Western; Tanner Gross, Midland; Tyler Gulick, East Lansing; Keefer Johnson, Grand Ledge; Nick Karmada, Grand Ledge; Reid Kelley, Rockford; Nathan Langenfeld, Grand Ledge; Evan Marquardt, Midland Dow; Matthew Pearsall, St. Johns; Alex Sova, Midland Dow; Adam Turner, Holt; Kory Young, Rockford

DIVISION 2

Top teams in the state: Grand Rapids Christian, St. Mary's Preparatory, Milan

Grand Rapids Christian has won the last two Division 2 state titles and has a team capable of making it three in a row. St. Mary's is a perennial baseball power that is led by senior catcher Will Salter, who has committed to Michigan State University.

Top area teams: Haslett, Portland, DeWitt, John Glenn, Mt. Pleasant, Swan Valley, Alma, Charlotte

Haslett reached the state quarterfinals last year and returns a load of experience. DeWitt returns plenty of talented players from a squad that went 24-9 last year. Senior John-Michael Moody hit .427 last year and leads a balanced offense. Few teams can match the one-two pitching punch of Portland's Tanner Allison and Andrew Click, who both have fastballs that touch 90mph. Mt. Pleasant is always among the top area teams, and that is no different this spring. Senior Aaron Leasher went 8-1 last year with a 1.12 ERA and is also a threat at the plate. Robert Banks is another talented batter who returns for the Oilers, who went 28-9 last year. Swan Valley has a solid squad this spring. Ben Finzel is a dangerous hitter who leads a productive offense that includes Zach Mendoza.

Top area players: Tanner Allison, Portland; Auston Brandt, Portland;

SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON BASEBALL

Andrew Click, Portland; Ben Finzel, Swan Valley; Antonio Jacobs, John Glenn; Dillon Kleinhege, Haslett; Aaron Leasher, Mt. Pleasant; Tyler Minnick, Alma; John-Michael Moody, DeWitt; AJ Rubio, Goodrich; Caleb Somerville, Bullock Creek

DIVISION 3

Top teams in the state: Bishop Foley Catholic, Hackett Catholic Central, St. Mary Catholic Central

Bishop Foley has dominated Division 3 baseball, having won the last three state titles. It is again the team to beat, while Hackett and St. Mary also have solid teams.

Top area teams: Bath, Lansing Catholic, Clare, Meridian, Ithaca, Pewamo-Westphalia

Bath returns one of the top pitchers in mid Michigan, senior Ryan Orr, along with Chris Gubry, who earned all-conference honors last season. Lansing Catholic went 30-3 a year ago. The Cougars return some key players from that squad, including all-state infielder Austin Krause and sophomore pitcher Riley Creamer. Clare went 24-5 last year and reached the state quarterfinals. The Pioneers return plenty of talented pitchers, including Charlie Bugbee, Logan Emery, and Colton Panches, who went a combined 15-1 last year. Ithaca suffered some heavy graduation losses but returns senior Logan Hessbrook, who is one of the premier players in the area. Last year, he hit .379 and went 8-1 on the mound with a 0.83 ERA.

Top area players: Drew Bergstrom, Pewamo-Westphalia; Charlie Bugbee, Clare; Logan Hessbrook, Ithaca; Austin Krause, Lansing Catholic; Ryan Orr, Bath; Colton Panches, Clare

DIVISION 4

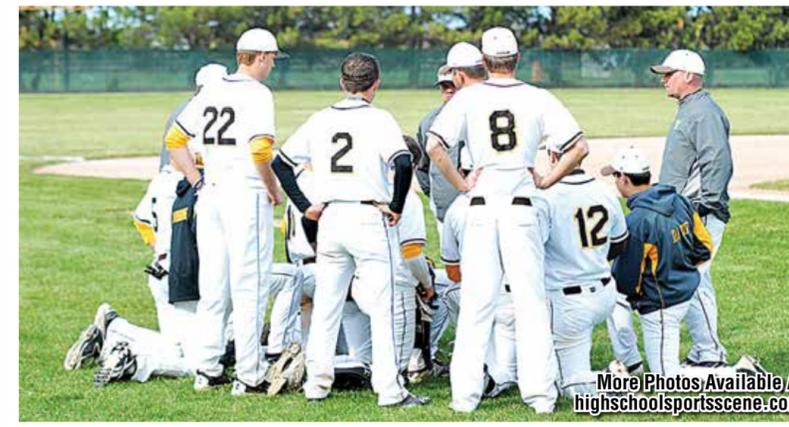
Top teams in the state: Glen Lake, Muskegon Catholic, Lake Michigan Catholic

Glen Lake has a number of talented players back from a team that made a deep tournament run last year, led by junior first baseman Austin Onziana and catcher Trevor Apsey. Muskegon Catholic has a team loaded with young talent, like junior pitcher Nick Holt and junior outfielder Zack Winzer.

Top area teams: Beal City, New Lothrop, Breckenridge, Merrill, Sacred Heart Academy, Coleman

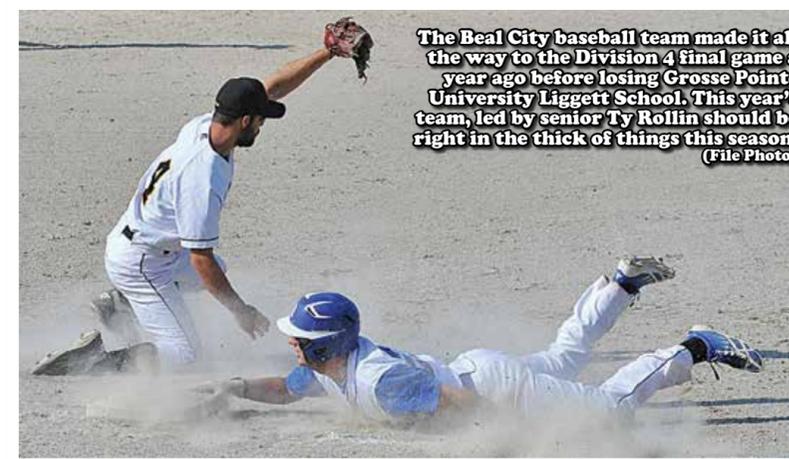
Beal City has been a familiar face at the Division 4 state finals, and that is likely to continue this year. Ty Rollin is a returning all-state player who leads a high-powered offense. New Lothrop has a solid squad capable of a deep playoff run. It has a deep and potent batting order and strong pitching. Breckenridge has a strong nucleus back, led by hard-hitting Derek Moulton and Wade SanMiguel, who is the ace of the pitching staff. Merrill suffered some heavy graduation losses but, with ace pitcher Hunter DeBeau back on the mound, is capable of a deep tournament run. Coleman has a solid squad this spring, with an offense paced by Matt Warner and pitcher Lars Murray.

Top area players: Hunter DeBeau, Merrill; Lane Levine, Sacred Heart Academy; Derek Moulton, Breckenridge; Josh Parks, Lansing Christian; Ty Rollin, Beal City; Wade SanMiguel, Breckenridge; Jacob Schmidt, Fowler; Grant Steinborn, New Lothrop; Josh Stephens, Fulton



More Photos Available At www.highschoolsportsscene.com

The Bay City Western baseball team is hoping the momentum from last year's Division 1 state title team carries over to this season. The Warriors lost a lot to graduation but are still a solid team this season. (Scott Keyes Photo)



The Beal City baseball team made it all the way to the Division 4 final game a year ago before losing Grosse Pointe University Liggett School. This year's team, led by senior Ty Rollin should be right in the thick of things this season. (File Photo)

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Strong Starting Pitching Key To Redwings Success

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

It has been said that pitching is 75 percent of winning baseball. If that is true, the St. Johns baseball team should be in good position to have a successful season this spring.

The Redwings return the three top pitchers from last year's squad that turned in a 19-13 overall record and took second in the CAAC Red with a 7-3 record. They do have some holes to fill, as three-year starters Bryce LaBar and Austin Cleaver graduated, along with two-year starter Scott Sperry.

Senior Matt Pearsall (P/SS) is one of the top returning players. He went 5-2 with a 3.59 ERA last year and 57 strikeouts. An all-league and all-region player, Pearsall hit .444 last year. Senior Austin Smith (P/1B) also returns. Smith, who has signed to play at Lansing Community College next year, went 4-2 with a 2.85 ERA last year and hit .319. Junior Jimmy McKane (P/INF) also returns to the mound. Last year, he went 2-1 with a 2.85 ERA and hit .305. Both McKane and Smith earned all-league honors last year.

"We return our top three pitchers from a year ago, and I expect them to give us a chance to be very good this season," said coach Jake Parker.

The Redwings also return sophomore Avery Maurer, who will catch and play third base. The team also has some talented newcomers, including sophomore pitcher Brett Smith, junior infielder Austin Pohl, freshman catcher/third baseman Adam Proctor, and junior Jake Crum, Jr.

"Obviously, our pitching will be key, but we also need some young players to step up offensively and fill the void left by the seniors," Parker said. "Scott Sperry was a two-year starter in centerfield and lead-off hitter, and we will need to find someone to replace him at the top of the order. Cleaver and LaBar were three-year starters in the middle of the line-up. Pearsall, Smith, and Maurer will need to fill the void in the middle of the lineup."

The Redwings look to contend for the league title this year with two-time defending league champ DeWitt, which returns several good players, and with Haslett, which also returns plenty of talent.



St. Johns relies on solid starting pitching. (File Photo)

Merrill Solid On Mound

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

Although young this season, the Merrill baseball team has an asset that also makes it dangerous: quality pitching.

Graduation hit the team hard, as key players like all-state catcher Dustin DeBeau, Brandon Mudry, and Derek Good have graduated.

The cupboard is not bare, however, as Hunter DeBeau is back on the mound and will also see action at first base. Kyle Jungnitsch is back at second base for the

Vandals, while Chris Marke also returns. Ryan Kade and Julius Glazier are two more pitchers who return with varsity experience, as both earned varsity wins last year. DeBeau will be the staff ace, as he won eight games a year ago, including a win in the district and in the regional tournaments.

"We have a very young team this season, but we have some pitching to really help us out this season," said coach Dave DeBeau, who is entering his 29th year at Merrill. "We will go as far as our pitching will take us. Our pitchers only

start one game a week, unlike most other teams around, but we feel confident that keeps them healthy for the end of the season."

The key for the Vandals this season will be at the plate. "My biggest concern is on the offensive side," DeBeau said. "Losing Dustin, Brandon, and Derek takes out 90 hits and 52 RBI from last season along with the senior leadership and program guys. Our guys are working, they know what the expectation are, which is tough after a rough football season and a long basketball season."



Beal City senior Ty Rollin is back to lead the Aggies to hopefully another appearance in the Division 4 finals. (Final Photo)

Aggies Hoping For Another Title In '14

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

When it comes to Division 4 baseball, few teams in the state can match the success of the Beal City Aggies.

For four of the last five years, the Aggies have reached the final four in the state tournament. Last year, Beal City reached the state championship game, where it dropped a 3-2 decision in eight innings to University Liggett School. The

Aggies turned in a 35-3 overall record last spring.

While they lost some key players off that team, like first-team all-state pick Ryan Marshal, Corey Yuncker, and Joe Rau, the team has a number of key players back. Senior Ty Rollin is a returning first-team all-state player. He is joined by a number of other key seniors, including Kevin Bleise, Kurt Gross, Nick Hoogerhyde, Hayden Huber, Carson Salisbury, Ryan Tilmann, and Nick Ward.

Junior Luke Farrell and sophomores Tucker Gross and Chase Rollin are also playing key roles this year.

"We have good team chemistry this year," said coach Brad Antcliff. "The key for us is to slow the game down and play it one pitch at a time."

Success is nothing new for the this year's senior class, as they have played in three state championship games, two in football and one in baseball.

Allison Leads Way For Portland

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

When it comes to bringing heat from the mound, few teams can rival the hard-throwing arms that the Portland baseball team has this spring.

In senior pitchers Tanner Allison and Andrew Click, Portland has as hard-throwing a duo as any team in the state. The pair helped Portland to a 21-14 record last year and a second-place finish to Grand Ledge in the Diamond Classic.

"Tanner and Andrew may hit 90 mph on their fastballs," coach John Davids said.

Allison and Click, along with fellow senior Austen Brandt, also get the job done at the plate. Allison hit a scorching .491 last year, with 16 doubles, four triples, 29 RBI, and 18 stolen bases. Brandt hit .367, with 10 doubles, 34 runs scored, and 16 stolen bases. Click was Portland's power source last year, as he hit .276 with eight home runs, seven doubles, and 27 RBI.

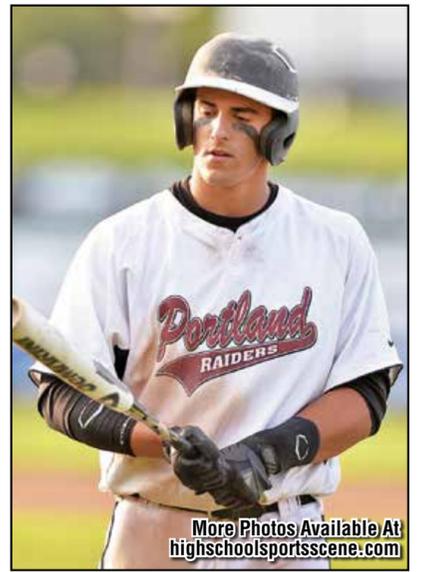
All three players will be playing college baseball next year, as Allison signed with Western Michigan University, and Click and Brandt have signed with Davenport University.

Blending in with the veterans are some

skilled newcomers, including senior Tyler Schrauben, who is returning from an injury; junior Clay Morris; and sophomore Noah Hengesbach.

"We need to develop a young inexperienced infield," Davids said. "All of the 2013 infielders are gone with the exception of catcher Andrew Click."

Even so, with the return of Allison, Brandt, and Click, the season looks promising for Portland. The trio has combined for 62 wins over the last three seasons and has won two district championships and reached the regional final twice.



More Photos Available At highschoolsportsscene.com

Western Michigan University commit Tanner Allison is back this season for the Portland baseball team. (Alan Holbe Photo)

Dewitt Baseball A Talented Group

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

"Deep and talented" is the way to describe the DeWitt baseball team this year. With a host of veterans back from a team that won a second consecutive CAAC Red title, the Panthers are again one of the premier teams in mid Michigan.

A total of 13 players return from a team that went 24-5 last year.

In senior catcher John-Michael Moody, the Panthers have a four-year varsity player who was second-team all-state last year. He hit .427 a year ago with four home runs and 34 RBI.

Moody is joined by fellow senior Justice Shankel. A three-year varsity player and all-region selection, Shankel led the team in hits (35), runs (32), triples (3), and stolen bases (20 of 21) last year. He was also second in home runs (3) and RBI (29) and is a true five-tool player who can run, hit, throw, hit for average, and hit for power.

Senior Sam Smith is another three-year varsity player. An all-region player, he is a pitcher and first baseman who hit .432 last year with 24 RBI.

The Panthers also return a pair of players who were hit by injury last year.

Junior shortstop Keaton Sackett returns to anchor the infield after an ACL injury last year, while senior pitcher Evan Smith returns to the starting staff after a broken wrist cut short his season.

"This year's team is a veteran, experienced bunch," said coach Alan Shankel. "We return 13 varsity players from a 24-5 league championship team. Many of the starters have multiple years of varsity experience. We are carrying 19 players this year, so the key will be getting everyone to accept and fulfill their role to the best of their ability. Depth will be a strength of this team, if everyone commits to the mission."



The Chippewa Hills baseball team had a solid year last season, but the Warriors might experience some growing pains with a young team in 2014.

Newcomers Key To Chippewa Hills Success

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

Last season was a memorable one for the Chippewa Hills baseball team. The Warriors not only turned in a 27-8 overall record, but they also won conference, district, and regional championships before falling to eventual state champion Grand Rapids Christian in the Division 2 state semifinal.

While key players like Jake Tarbell, Ty Schafer, Devin Esch, Hayden Denslow, Brent Martin, and Shane Travis have graduated, the Warriors do have talent around which to build this spring.

A pair of juniors lead the charge. Infielder Hunter Conley hit .387 last year, with 10 doubles and 26 stolen bases. Outfielder Tyler Kelsey hit .351 a year ago, with seven doubles and three triples. He also went 4-0 as a pitcher. Senior infielder/pitcher Tyler Williams

went 4-1 last year on the mound with a 3.68 ERA.

Senior outfielders Trevor Purdy, Nolan Denslow, and Kavan Peterson return along with senior infielder Jarrett Humpula.

The team will count on a number of newcomers, including freshman Brett Walcutt, sophomores RJ Simon and Kedrick Adams, and juniors Austin Issette, Zack Sellers, Caleb Martin, and Cole Cummings.

"We have good athleticism and versatility this year," said coach Ben Wright. He looks for Newaygo, Big Rapids, Central Montcalm, Hesperia, Holton, White Cloud, Reed City, and Morley Stanwood to all be solid in the rugged CSAA.

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SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON SOCCER Flint Powers, Okemos Loaded; Local Teams Beware

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

High school girls' soccer around the state of Michigan continues to get better each year. This year, the soccer scene both around the state and locally is as strong as ever. Outstanding teams and players abound this spring.

Following is a look at the state of girls' soccer.

DIVISION 1

Top teams in the state: Northville, Rochester Hills Stoney Creek, Forest Hills Central, Caledonia, Grandville, East Kentwood

Troy won last year's Division 1 state title but was hit hard by graduation. Northville and Rochester Hills Stoney Creek have the strongest programs in Metro Detroit and have what it takes to make a run to the state finals. From the west side of the state, Grandville has plenty of talent returning from a team that made a dazzling tournament run last year and reclaimed the title game. Forest Hills Central, East Kentwood, and Caledonia will also be battling it out to reach the finals from the west side.

Top area teams: Rockford, Okemos, Midland, Grand Blanc, Heritage

Rockford has reloaded this spring and will again be a major factor in the rugged O-K Red Conference,



arguably the strongest conference in the state for girls' soccer. With the return of senior all-stater Kristelle Yewah, Okemos is again the premier Division 1 team in mid Michigan. Yewah scored 20 goals and added 10 assists last year. Midland has a solid team this year, with a balanced offense led by Marle Bringard, Aleisha Jones, and Alecia Traver. Heritage is a solid team out of the Saginaw Valley League that has dangerous offensive performers in Madison Tweddle and Carlee Coughlin.

Top area players: Erin Doster, Okemos; Sophia Guzman, Grand Ledge; Tara Lierman, Holt; Mackenzie Murphy, Fenton; Stacie Skinker, Holt; Maya Piper, Midland Dow; Kristelle Yewah, Okemos; Ashton Miller, Okemos

DIVISION 2

Top teams in the state: Marian, Gull Lake, Ladywood
Gull Lake rode a strong defense all the way to a state title last spring, and with plenty of key players returning, it will be tough to dislodge from the top spot. Marian finished runner-up last year and has made the final four out of the past five years, so a rematch in the state final could be in the cards this year.

Top area teams: Haslett, Mason, DeWitt, Bay City Western, John Glenn, Mt. Pleasant

With plenty of talent returning, Haslett is primed for a big season. Senior Lydia Roberts is a returning all-state player who scored 18 goals and added 12 assists last year. Caitly Colonnese and Mary Clare are two other returning all-state players who helped to lead the Vikings to the regional final last spring. Mason returns plenty of talent as well. Junior Erica Bartlett is a returning all-stater, as is junior Brooke Beaune, who helped lead the Bulldogs to the regional final. DeWitt returns one of the premier offensive players in the area in all-

stater Natalie Knauf, who scored 15 goals and added nine assists last year. The Panthers also welcome back all-conference players Brianna Bishop and Abbey Maurer along with Courtney Wood and Quinn Hanses. Bay City Western looks to have one of its best teams in years. The Warriors have a potent offense led by Jennifer Hacker and a solid defense led by Kelsey Haag and Jessica Hacker.

Top area players: Erica Bartlett, Mason; Caitly Colonnese, Haslett; Amy Gordon, East Lansing; Natalie Knauf, DeWitt; Emily Reimicke, Eaton Rapids; Lydia Roberts,



Haslett; Sierra Sisco, Charlotte

DIVISION 3

Top teams in the state: Grand Rapids South Christian, Flint Powers, Hudsonville Unity Christian.

Unity Christian and Flint Powers have dominated D3 for the last decade. Up until last year either Unity or Powers had won the title the previous 10 years with Unity winning seven out of nine. Grand Rapids Christian broke the string last year when it defeated Pontiac Notre Dame Prep for the title. This year Unity and Powers have loaded squads so a return to norm is in the cards.

Top area teams: Flint Powers, Frankenmuth, Birch Run, Bay City Western, Williamston, Essexville-

Garber, Freeland.

Powers returns as much talent as any team in the state. On defense, goalkeeper Heather Rolls is a dominating keeper who has committed to Georgetown. Senior Morgan McKerchie, headed to Michigan State after this year, keys a high-powered offense that includes the likes of returning all-stater Kennedy Clothier and Gabriela Guerra. Senior midfielder Allyson Haran is headed to Wake Forest next year and is another premier player. Frankenmuth has an outstanding team this year. Senior Kristin Kueffner is a returning all-state player while Claire Carter is a stellar goalkeeper. Layne Davis leads the offense. Freeland has a solid squad led by junior forward Taryn Taugher and midfielder Kelsey Ropp. Birch Run also has a high-powered offense. Jyllian Coggins is a returning all-stater who can score goals in bunches along with junior forward Cheyenne Enderle.

Top area players: Jyllian Coggins, Birch Run; Amanda Dimmer, Williamston, Allyson Haran, Flint Powers; Kristin Kueffner, Frankenmuth; Morgan McKerchie, Flint Powers; Ally Milam, Williamston; Jordan Newman, Lake Fenton; Heather Rolls, Flint Powers; Taryn Taugher, Freeland.

DIVISION 4

Top teams in the state: Grandville Calvin Christian, Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes/Clarkston Everest Collegiate, Muskegon Western Michigan Christian.

The big question in Division 4 is if anyone can stop the stranglehold that Calvin Christian and Our Lady of the Lakes have had in the state finals. Calvin has defeated Lakes in the Division 4 state finals the last three years and both teams look solid again this year.

Top area teams: Bath, Lansing Christian, Saginaw Nouvel.

Bath returns plenty of talent from a squad that turned in a solid season last year. Senior Renee Paape is a returning all-state player who scored 12 goals last year. The Bees also have a solid defender in Morgan Romel. Lansing Christian reached the state semifinals last year and returns plenty of talent led by all-



state defender Mikayla Terry. The Pilgrims also received a huge boost with the return of two-time, all-stater Kristy Gomez who missed all of last year with an injury. Saginaw Nouvel fell to Lansing Christian in the regional finals last year. Nouvel returns plenty of talent this season led by all-state goalkeeper Ali Boucier and all-state forwards Allie Kendall.

Top area players: Ali Boucier, Saginaw Nouvel; Justine Darr, Laingsburg; Kristy Gomez, Lansing Christian; Allie Kendall, Saginaw Nouvel; Renee Paape, Bath; Mikayla Terry, Lansing Christian.



The Flint Powers girls soccer team is loaded with the likes of Morgan McKerchie (Michigan State University), Ally Haran (Wake Forest) and Heather Rolls (Georgetown University) returning to the field this season after taking a year off from high school soccer. Flint Powers and Okemos are two area teams that teams will be gunning for as the playoffs get closer. (Scott Keyes Photos)

DeRoo Getting Freeland Soccer Team Into Shape For Good Post-Season Run

Ben Murphy Sports Scene

They were district champions last year. The Freeland Falcon girls soccer team is off to a strong 7-0-1 start to this year, but first-year head coach Lauren DeRoo isn't anywhere near satisfied.

"I look forward to the rest of the season," she said. "We're doing pretty well so far, but I think that we can only get better. There's only more to come."

If DeRoo's prognostication proves true, it could mean exciting things for the Falcons. Aside from a 1-1 tie with Bay City Western, Freeland has dominated its opponents, outscoring them 43-2.

"I feel like they're really coming together as a team," DeRoo said. "Having a new coach is tough. They definitely respect me, which I appreciate. I play a different style than what they are used to,

but they are very dedicated and are learning fast. My starters are a very good group of athletes with a lot of background in soccer, which is great."

DeRoo, who played collegiate soccer for Schoolcraft College and for Saginaw Valley State University, and who coaches the Midland Fusion travel soccer team, isn't surprised with her team's progress. "Everybody works well together," she said. "We kind of feed off each other. It's kind of like a support system that we have with each other. If somebody gets burned, the team recognizes that and say that it's my turn to step up. They don't want to let each other down, which is a great feeling."

DeRoo was actually hired to be the team's strength and conditioning coach near the end of last season by former head coach Rodrigo Barassi. It was just before districts, and she was given the task of getting the Falcons into

prime shape for the playoffs.

"I think they had some kind of comfort level with me," she said of transitioning to head coach. "I'm not sure that they trusted me, but they had a comfort level with me. Now, we're like a big family, we trust each other, and everybody works hard."

Just three girls graduated from last year's team, including all-state selection Darby McCracken. The Falcons have been getting strong play from the likes of Taryn Taugher (eight goals), Michelle Herring (seven goals), Gabby Mills (seven goals), Kelsey Ropp (captain), and Macey Miller (captain).

"Ropp and Miller, they are both seniors and my two captains," DeRoo said. "They do a really good job getting them warmed up, getting them focused and ready to go. When I get there, I don't have any problems, we just get right

into it. They're good leaders." Add in the hard work, the comfort level, and the family atmosphere, and the Falcons will take the results, whatever they may be, the rest of the year. Although if they get that perfect mixture, the results should be exactly what they're looking for.

"Well, for the rest of season, I really hope we don't lose a game," DeRoo said. "We just want to become an even better team and just continue to grow. We want to win our district and move further than we did last year. Hopefully we can win our regional. Our hope is that all the hard work and dedication will get us a regional title."

DeRoo may be a first-year head coach, but she's already well aware of what it will take for her team to make a good run in the postseason.

"Lots of conditioning, running, making sure that the girls are fit, and making sure that they're technically sound and tactically ready," DeRoo said. "We have to go over drills and set plays and make sure they're ready for



Freeland junior Taryn Taugher leads way for a Falcons team that has gotten off to a 5-0-1 start as of April 25. (Scott Keyes Photo)

whatever comes at them. You can kind of tell what kind of competition you will have, but you never know until you hit the field. Hard work and dedication, that's what's going to get us there."

Mt. Pleasant Soccer Will Look To Continue Winning Ways

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Mt. Pleasant girls soccer team has been experiencing plenty of success the past few years, and with some talented players returning, more good times may be in store this season.

Last year saw the Oilers compile an 18-2-2 overall record. They won the Saginaw Valley Conference for the

first time in school history and won a district title for the second time in the past three years. Although eight seniors graduated from that team, plenty of talent returns, led by three-year players Ashley Montgomery and Kaley Pittsley.

Four of last year's top five scorers return. Senior midfielder Emma Kahn is a returning all-state player who led the team with 24 goals and 18 assists. Kahn will be playing

college soccer at Western Michigan University. Senior forward Whitnee Foote is another top returning scorer. She will be playing at Alma College next season. Senior midfielder Kaitlyn Hartman and sophomore midfielder Hannah Kahn also return and will be looking to further fuel the offense.

The Oilers also have an influx of talented newcomers. "We have five freshmen who will be making immediate impacts, with almost all of them jumping into starting roles right away," said coach John Bunting. "Our key to success is with a mix of young and old players; we stand united and work together

as a united group playing as if we don't have half of our field taken over by new faces and experiences. We also are low on overall numbers compared to other groups, so staying healthy and recovered between matches will play a role overall."

Bunting looks for Midland and Midland Dow to battle it out with Mt. Pleasant for the league title.

Emma Kahn returns to the field this season for the Mt. Pleasant girls soccer team. The Oilers were 18-2-2 a season ago. (File Photo)



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Redwings Hope Transfers Become Impact Players

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

With a large group of talented players returning and with some impact transfers, expectations are high for the St. Johns girls soccer team this season.



Last season the Redwings turned in a 10-4 mark, and plenty of talent is back in the fold as the team looks to make a run at its first league title since 2005. Senior sweeper Katie Curley leads the list of returnees. An all-conference player, Curley also earned honorable-mention all-state honors in Division 2 last season. Defense will be a strong point for the squad, as senior defenders Olivia Gearld and Chelsey Thelen and junior defender Dani Schaub all made honorable-mention all-conference. The Redwings also welcome back senior goalkeeper Hannah Trevino, who also earned honorable-mention all-league honors.

St. Johns is also solid in the

midfield. Sophomore midfielder Erika Curley was an all-conference and all-district pick a year ago, and junior midfielders Anna Clarizio and Kylie Hollis earned all-conference honors last season.

Junior midfielders Cassie Rapelje and Emily Wenzlick are two more players who earned honorable-mention all-league honors.

A pair of transfers from Laingsburg will give the Redwings even more talent at their disposal. Junior forward Sarah Drury was a first-team all-state selection in Division 4 last year, while junior midfielder Maddie Wilsey was a second-team all-state pick.

“We lost a huge scoring



threat in Megan Feldpausch to graduation, but we picked up two transfers from Laingsburg in Wilsey and Drury,” coach Kim Brewbaker said. “We also return our entire defensive back line, led by Katie Curley. We return a very strong midfield that will be

complemented by several talented underclassmen that will round out a very talented team. If we can stay healthy, we can compete with the area’s best and hopefully make a run in the state tournament.”

Young Comets Continue To Improve

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

‘Young but experienced’ is the description of a Grand Ledge girls soccer team that is poised for improvement this season.

With a number of young but seasoned players back this spring, the Comets are in position to improve on last year’s 7-8-3 overall record.

Leading the way for the Comets are a pair of returning first-team all-conference players in junior Sophie Guzman, a talented forward who also earned all-district honors last season, and senior midfielder Kaitlin Irish.

Grand Ledge will be solid in the midfield, as junior McKenzie Lowery is a returning all-CAAC honorable-mention player, as is senior Shannon Staton, who

anchors the defense.

Defense is a strong suit for the Comets, as senior Deanna Haigh and junior Taylor Simon return along with junior midfielder Abby Taylor.

The team also has a number of talented newcomers making an impact, including junior forward Maddy Edmunds, freshman forwards Brittany Dale and Sadie Pettinger, and freshman midfielder Allena Parker.

“We are young, but we have an experienced team that has many offensive options,” said coach Scott Dane.



More Photos Available At highschoolsportsscene.com

The Grand Ledge girls soccer team finished 7-8-3 a year ago and bring back a very young team in 2014. The Comets are poised to have a breakout season. (Alan Holben Photo)

Building Blocks In Place At Owosso

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

The building process continues this season for the Owosso girls soccer team. With several players returning from a team that went 9-9-1 last season, and with some promising newcomers, the Owosso girls

are looking to continue the improvement this spring. Senior goalkeeper Kendall Mallory and senior midfielder Madison Van Epps return to give the team good leadership. Junior midfielder Courtney Constine and junior forward Brittney Crawford both earned all-conference honors last season. Junior midfielder Abbey

Edwards and junior defender Megan McGill also return for the Trojans.

Freshman forward/midfielder Taylor Porter is a talented newcomer who will make an impact.

“I look forward to having many new players join the varsity this season, as we continue to develop as a girls’ soccer program,” coach Chris Bird said. “Our core group of returnees has already set a positive, driven tone for the rest of the team, and we are ready to hit the field.”

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Corunna's Hannah Dean Wins Weightlifting Title

Jeff Chaney
Sports Scene

CORUNNA, MI – Hannah Dean was just looking to get a little stronger to help her increase her shot put and discus distances in track and field, and her brother Aaron told her that she needed to start lifting weights.

The Corunna junior really took to weight lifting, enjoyed her time in the weight room, and became stronger than even she could imagine.

So she decided to test her strength against other girls from across the state, and the result was a state championship.

Dean won the state title for the 220-pound weight class March 7 at Whitmore Lake High School.

She won with a lift of 270 pounds in the squat, 175 pounds in the bench press, which is a new state record, and 320 pounds in the dead lift, for a total weight of 755 pounds.

“I am very surprised I won.” Dean said. “I could have told you going into state that I would have benched this much, or squatted that much. It shocked me that I did that much weight.”

Hannah’s mother, Lori Dean, was more proud than shocked at what her daughter accomplished. “I’m so proud of her,” she said. “Her brother got her into lifting; they just wanted to get stronger for track because they are both throwers, and she took to it.

“What’s made me proud, is that nobody told her she had to do this,” Lori added. “She faces a lot of

adversity doing this – she gets teased by the boys. But she knows that she can beat them in lifting.”

Chris Curtiss, Hannah’s coach, couldn’t be more pleased with how well Hannah performed during the course of the season. “Prior to the state meet last year, she had only been to one meet, and that was regionals,” Curtiss said.

“She went to the state meet, and her doing as well as she did there, that fueled the fire. And I told her she could be a state champion next year, and she did just that. We have been using her as an example, not only to the guys on our football team, because I’m the coach, but to other athletes. “Number one, she was there every single day, number two, she did exactly what her coaches wanted her to do, and the third part to this, is she worked as hard as she could, and she became successful because of that.”

And she is proving she can beat all the girls, too. “She didn’t know you could compete,” Lori Dean said. “She trained all winter, and her coach came to her and said there were regional and state competitions, and she



Corunna’s Hannah Dean won a recent powerlifting state championship in March. Dean is also a standout track athlete for the Cavaliers. (Submitted Photos)

wanted to do it.”

Hannah Dean says she loves lifting. “I like that it is an individual sport, because that is all on me if I do good,” she said. “It is more of a sport for me now, because I have

done well. But more of training to get better in the shot and discus.”

And her shot and discus are improving. She puts just over 31 feet and has thrown the discus 120 feet in practice.

Davison's Erin Brown Wins NCAA D1 Title With Sam Houston State

Jeff Chaney
Sports Scene

Sam Houston State University women’s bowling coach Brad Hagen knew that Erin Brown had championship qualities in her when she was at the high school level. After all, she was a main reason that the Davison High School girls bowling team won the 2012 MHSAA Division 1 team title her senior year.

That’s why he brought her down to Texas to be part of Sam Houston State’s fledgling women’s bowling program – a program that was just in its second year of existence.

“Part of the rhyme behind the reason I recruited Erin is that I follow the states that have varsity bowling,” Hagen said. “I keep up with state statistics, scores, and averages. I just followed Erin’s progress at the state tournaments and throughout the years, and there was consistency there. And she came from a state championship team, and that added to it.”

Hagen’s recruiting techniques seemed to work. Brown chose Sam Houston State, and just two years later, she helped the Bearkats win the school’s first NCAA Division I national title, winning the 2014 title at the Game of Wickliffe in Wickliffe, Ohio, in April.

Brown was the team’s No. 2 or 3 bowler all year and helped beat the University of Nebraska in the national title game 4-2.

“Funny how it worked out,” said Brown, a sophomore. “My coach found me by the Internet. He had seen me at national tournaments in youth bowling and followed me in high school. He then found me and messaged me on Facebook. I came down here in March of 2012 and knew this is where I wanted to be. People were great, and the campus was beautiful. I didn’t look anywhere else – I didn’t want to be anywhere else.”

Now Brown has a national championship to go with her state championship.

“This is definitely something we always wanted to do,” Brown said of her college team. “We knew we had a good shot at it, but when we won it didn’t set in until we got back to campus. There we had a welcoming party when we got back; that is when it set in. Knowing that we won the first NCAA Division I title is amazing.

“It was a young program, and they found me,” she added. “This is only fourth year as a program, and we won a title, so it’s been some fast progress. This is the third year going to national finals, and I have been part of two, and it’s been great.”

The road to the championship wasn’t easy.

On Thursday, the Bearkats bowled every team in the tournament in a round robin format and went 2-5 and ended up as the eighth seed going into match play on Friday.

On Friday, Sam Houston State beat the No. 1 seed, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 4-2, in a best-of-seven match.

Then the Bearkats beat the No. 4 seed, the University of Wisconsin Whitewater, 4-2.

The tournament was double elimination, and Sam Houston State had to go against top seed Maryland Eastern Shore again, and it won 4-0.

That set up the final matchup against Nebraska, which Sam Houston State won 4-2. Nebraska was also 3-0 in match play up to that point.

Brown bowled well, ending up 15th individually after Thursday’s games with a 1405. In match play, she did well bowling in a Baker games format.

Brown carried an average of over 200 during her time at Davison, and averaged 218 in league play this year at Sam Houston State. But she acknowledges that bowling in college is more difficult than in high school, not just for the obvious reasons.

“Moving on to collegiate bowling, it is the same concept, but a bigger deal,” she said. “I had to move on from one to the other to accomplish this, that’s because the tournaments are much longer and more demanding in college, and the patterns on the lanes are harder. So you have to know more about mechanics of bowling and have to have a better style to bowl in college.”

When Brown left Davison, she didn’t have a chance to defend the Cardinal title, but she will have that opportunity at Sam Houston State.

“That is the first thing I asked my teammate and friend on the team,” Brown said. “We looked at each other



(Submitted Photo)

and said, ‘What do we do next year?’ We won’t let this determine anything, we won’t let this get to our heads. We will still will work hard and practice hard and try and do it again next year.”

Her high school team has won two more team titles and is currently on a three-peat.

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BEST OF MICHIGAN



There was no question who No. 1 was going to be in the Sports Scene's top 100 list as Ervin "Magic" Johnson will go down in history as one of the top five players in the history of the National Basketball Association. (Courtesy Photos)



Dave DeBusschere

1. EARVIN "Magic" Johnson, G, LANSING EVERETT (1974-1977): On the Mount Rushmore of all-time NBA players, Magic is the gold standard in the state of Michigan. He mesmerized high school basketball fans in the mid 1970s. During his senior year, Everett's regular-season game against Jay Vincent and Lansing Eastern was moved to Jenison Fieldhouse and played before 10,000 fans, with Eastern winning. The district matchup between the two schools was covered by local television on a weeknight. Johnson led Everett to the 1977 Class A state title with a dramatic overtime win over Brother Rice. He went on to lead Michigan State University to an NCAA national title and the Los Angeles Lakers to four NBA titles during his Hall of Fame career. His battles with Larry Bird and the Boston Celtics are legendary.

2. CHRIS WEBBER, F, DETROIT COUNTRY DAY (1988-1991): Webber was one of the most electrifying players ever in the state of Michigan. During his high school career, he thrilled fans across the state as he led his team to three straight Class B state titles. Webber was the MVP of the McDonald's and Dapper Dan all-star games as a senior. He then led the University of Michigan to a pair of national title game appearances as the centerpiece of the 'Fab Five.' Webber went on to be the NBA rookie of the year and a five-time NBA all-star who finished his NBA career with over 17,000 points and 8,000 rebounds.

3. GEORGE "THE ICEMAN" GERVIN, G, DETROIT MARTIN LUTHER KING (1968-1970): One of the finest shooters in the history of basketball, "The Iceman" had unlimited range on his jumper and a silky-smooth finger roll that has never been duplicated. Gervin averaged 31 points and 20 rebounds per game as he led King to the state quarterfinals in 1968. He averaged 29.5 points as a sophomore at Eastern Michigan University and went on to play with the San Antonio Spurs of the NBA, where he was a nine-time NBA all-star. Gervin was a four-time NBA scoring champion who finished his NBA career with 26,595 points (25.1 ppg).

4. CHET "THE JET" WALKER, F, BENTON HARBOR (1956-1958): The finest player from southwestern Michigan, in high school, Walker was a two-time all-state player and an all-American. He helped lead Benton Harbor to the Class A state semifinals as a junior and to the 1958 state title game as a senior, where the Tigers fell to Dave DeBusschere and Austin Catholic. Walker went on to play at Bradley University, where he was a two-time all-American. He then played 13 seasons in the NBA for the 76ers and Bulls. He was a seven-time NBA all-star who finished his career with 18,800 points (18.2 avg.) and over 7,300 rebounds (7.1 avg.). He was also elected to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

5. DAVE DEBUSSCHERE, F, AUSTIN CATHOLIC (1956-1958): DeBusschere led Austin to the Class A final in 1957, where he scored 27 points in his team's runner-up finish to Muskegon Heights. The next year, Austin Catholic returned to the final and won the Class A state title. He played for the University of Detroit, where he was one of the greatest college rebounders of all time, averaging 19.4 rebounds per game for his career. He was drafted by the Detroit Pistons and played 12 years in the NBA, where he was an eight-time NBA all-star. DeBusschere was a two-time NBA world champion with the New York Knicks and was named in 1996 as one of the top 50 players in NBA history. For his career, DeBusschere scored over 14,000 points, grabbed over 9,000 rebounds, and recorded over 2,000 assists.

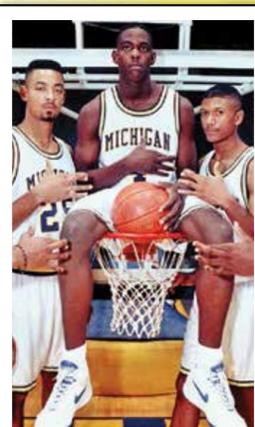
6. SPENCER HAYWOOD, F, DETROIT PERSHING (1965-1967): Haywood's resume is unbelievable. A two-time all-PSL player in 1966-67, he helped lead the Doughboys, arguably the finest Michigan high school team ever, to the 1967 state title. Three times during his high school career, he had games with 30 or more rebounds. After high school, Haywood attended Trinidad State Junior College in Colorado, where he averaged 28 points and 22 rebounds per game. In the summer of 1968, he averaged 19 points for the U.S. gold medal basketball team in Mexico City. The next year, in his one season of D1 college basketball at the University of Detroit, Haywood averaged 32.1 points and 21.5 rebounds per game. He then challenged the NBA draft rules and became the first college player to go 'hardship.' He was drafted by the Denver Rockets of the ABA, and in his rookie year, he averaged 30 points and 19.5 rebounds per game. Haywood went on to be a four-time NBA all-star with the Seattle Supersonics. During his five years with Seattle, he averaged 24.9 points and 12.1 rebounds per game.

7. SHANE BATTIER, F, DETROIT COUNTRY DAY (1994-1997): When describing Battier, one word stands out, and that is 'winner.' Few players in the state have the resume to match Battier's: Three-time state champion and Mr. Basketball winner at Country Day. National champion at Duke University. Two-time NBA champion with the Miami Heat. Battier is the only player to ever win both the high school player of the year award and the Naismith Award in college. He was taken sixth in the 2001 NBA draft and has had his number retired at Duke.

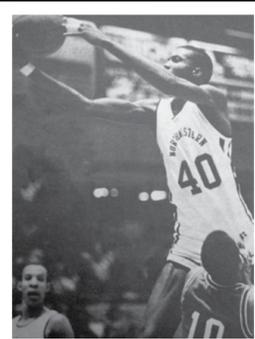
8. RALPH SIMPSON, G, DETROIT PERSHING (1966-1968): The Pershing teams of the 1960s were as talented as any in state history, and Simpson was a reason why. He scored 43 points as a junior in the 1967 Class A state title game, and as a senior in 1968, he averaged 32 points per game. Simpson was also the only high school player in the nation to be invited to try out for the 1968 U.S. Olympic team. In his one season of varsity ball at Michigan State University (freshmen were not eligible to play on varsity at the time), Simpson led the Big Ten in scoring, with 29 points per game. He turned pro after his sophomore season and played 10 years in the ABA and NBA, where he totaled over 11,000 career points.

9. CAMPY RUSSELL, F, PONTIAC CENTRAL (1969-1971): One of the greatest Michigan high school stars ever, Russell was a two-time player of the year in the early 1970s. His senior year, he was named the best high school player in the nation by Basketball News and was MVP of the Dapper Dan All-Star game. At the University of Michigan, Russell set freshman team records, and then in two years on the varsity, he scored 1,082 points and led the Big Ten in scoring his junior year and was second in rebounding. He also led Michigan to the NCAA regional final, where it lost to eventual national champion Marquette University. After college, Russell played nine years in the NBA and was an NBA all-star once. He totaled almost 9,000 points and over 2,600 rebounds.

10. GLEN RICE, F, FLINT NORTHWESTERN (1982-1985): The Northwestern teams of the mid 1980s were as dominant as any in the history of the state. The Wildcats won back-to-back Class A state titles in '84 and '85, and Rice was the state's Mr. Basketball in 1985. He went on to win a national title at the University of Michigan in 1989 and was the Final Four MVP. Rice is Michigan's all-time leading scorer for a career (2,442 points) and for a season (949). He was a 15-year NBA veteran and won an NBA title with the 2000 Los Angeles Lakers. A three-time NBA all-star, Rice finished his NBA career with over 18,000 points and 4,000 rebounds.



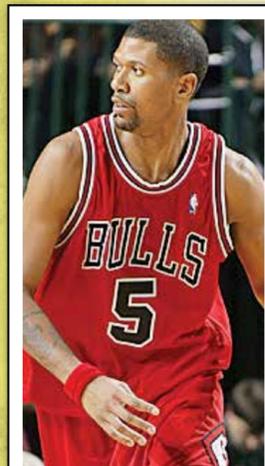
If it wasn't for Magic Johnson, Chris Webber was probably the most dominant big man to ever play basketball at the high school level in Michigan. Webber was instrumental in leading the University of Michigan to two NCAA finals in 1992 and 1993. With his flashy smile and swag on the court he will go down as one of the best in the history of hoops in Michigan. (Submitted Photo)



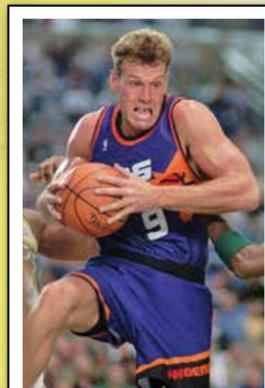
Glen Rice led the University of Michigan men's basketball team to the 1989 National Title. Rice, who played his high school basketball at Flint Northwestern went on to have a successful career in the NBA. (Submitted Photo)

SPORTS SCENE'S TOP 100 HOOPSTERS OF ALL-TIME

Magic Leaves No Doubt Who Is No. 1



Jalen Rose, a member of the Fab Five made our list at No. 11. Rose is currently a NBA and college basketball analyst for ESPN. (Submitted Photo)



Dan Marjerle starred at Traverse City Central High, where he averaged 37 points as a senior. Thunder Dan went on to play his college ball at Central Michigan University before moving on to the NBA. He is currently the head basketball coach at Grand Canyon University in Arizona. (Submitted Photo)

11. JALEN ROSE, G, DETROIT SOUTHWESTERN (1987-1991): Rose finished second to Chris Webber in the 1991 Mr. Basketball voting. During his high school years, Rose led the Prospectors to state titles his junior and senior seasons. At the University of Michigan, he was part of the 'Fab Five' with Chris Webber and helped the Wolverines reach the NCAA national title games as a freshman and as a sophomore. During his three years at Michigan, Rose scored over 1,700 points, grabbed over 400 rebounds, dished out over 400 assists, and added over 100 steals. Over his 14-year NBA career, he totaled over 13,000 points, 3,000 rebounds, and 3,000 assists.

12. DERRICK COLEMAN, F, DETROIT NORTHERN (1983-1986): Coleman finished fourth in the 1986 Mr. Basketball Award voting but went on to be one of the finest power forwards in basketball history. A three-time all-Big East player at Syracuse University, Coleman was also a Player of the Year in the Big East and helped lead the Orangemen to an NCAA tournament title game. Coleman was the first overall pick of the 1990 NBA draft. He played 15 seasons in the NBA and finished with over 12,000 points, over 7,000 rebounds, and over 1,000 blocked shots.

13. TERRY MILLS, F, ROMULUS (1983-1986): Mills was one of the premier talents, not just in Michigan, but in the nation, during the mid 1980s. A multi-talented forward with an outstanding shooting stroke, he was the No. 2-ranked player in the nation his senior year and committed to the University of Michigan over the 1989 national championship and then played 11 years in the NBA, where he scored over 7,000 career points.

14. MATEAN CLEAVES, G, FLINT NORTHERN (1993-1996): In 1996, Cleaves helped lead Flint Northern to the Class A state championship and finished second in the Mr. Basketball voting. One of the famed 'Flintstones' at Michigan State University, Cleaves helped the Spartans win the 2000 NCAA National Championship and was named the MVP of the Final Four. He was Michigan State's only three-time all-American and was twice named the Big Ten Player of the Year. He also has the Big 10 and Michigan State records for assists in a season and in a career. He went on to play six years in the NBA.

15. RUDY TOMJANOVICH, F, HAMTRAMCK (1964-1966): "Rudy T" was a basketball standout long before he coached the Houston Rockets. A high school all-American in 1966, Tomjanovich went on to the University of Michigan, where he still holds a number of rebounding records. He was a two-time all-Big Ten player and was an all-American his senior year. Tomjanovich played 12 years in the NBA for the Rockets, where he was a five-time NBA all-star. Rudy T finished his career with over 13,000 points (17.4 avg.) and over 6,000 rebounds (8.1 avg.).

16. DAN "THUNDER DAN" MAJERLE, G/F, TRAVERSE CITY CENTRAL (1980-1983): Majerle began to gain notice throughout the state his senior year when he averaged 37 points and 16 rebounds per game and led the Trojans to the Class A quarterfinals. He gained more success in college when, in his junior year, he helped lead Central Michigan University to the Mid-American Conference title and to the NCAA tournament, where it was knocked out by Reggie Miller and UCLA. Majerle scored 2,055 points in college and was selected by the Phoenix Suns in the first round of the NBA draft. He was a three-time NBA all-star and scored over 10,000 points during his career and had his number retired by the Suns.

17. STEVE SMITH, G, DETROIT PERSHING (1985-1987): Smith burst onto the scene his senior year of high school when he made first-team all-state and finished eighth in the Mr. Basketball voting. Smith went to Michigan State University, where he was a Big Ten MVP and led the Big Ten in scoring in 1991. A two-time all-American, he finished his career with 2,263 points, enough for seventh all-time in the Big Ten and second at Michigan State. Smith was drafted fifth overall by the Miami Heat and played on the 2000 U.S. Olympic team. He played 14 years in the NBA, where he was a one-time NBA all-star. He finished his career with over 13,000 points and 2,900 assists.

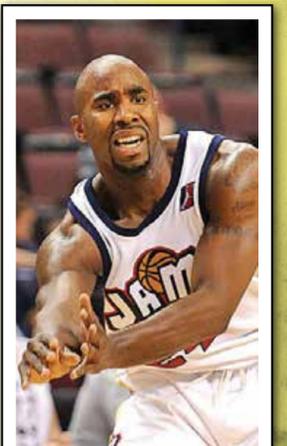
18. DAN ROUNDFIELD, F, DETROIT CHADSEY (1968-1971): Roundfield, an overlooked recruit coming out of Chadsey High School, went on to become one of the top power forwards of all time. During his three years on the varsity at Central Michigan University, he averaged a double-double in points and rebounds. The MAC Player of the Year as a senior, he totaled 1,318 (16.7 avg.) career points and 1,031 (13.1) career rebounds. Roundfield went on to play 12 years in the NBA and NBA. He was a three-time NBA all-star and made the NBA All-Defensive Team five times. Roundfield finished his NBA career with 11,657 points (14.3 avg.), 7,502 rebounds (9.2), and 1,160 blocked shots (1.4).

19. MORRIS PETERSON, G/F, FLINT NORTHWESTERN (1992-1995): Peterson finished eighth in the 1995 Mr. Basketball voting. One of the 'Flintstones' who helped win the 2000 NCAA national championship at Michigan State University, Peterson was the Big Ten Player of the Year his senior year and earned all-American honors when he led the Spartans in scoring. Peterson went on to play 11 years in the NBA after being selected in the first round of the 2000 NBA draft.

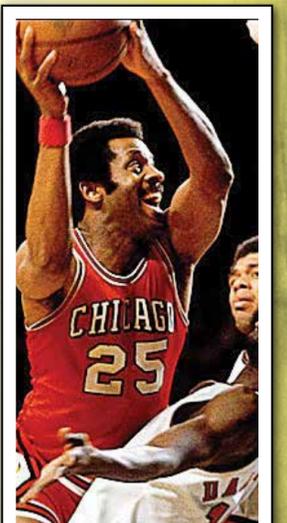
20. MARK MACON, G, BUENA VISTA (1983-1987): Macon was 1987's Mr. Basketball as a senior, and he helped Buena Vista win a state title as a junior. He was also part of Buena Vista's state runner up teams as a freshman and sophomore. As a freshman at Temple University, Macon averaged 20.6 points per game and led the Owls to the Elite Eight in the NCAA tournament. He is Temple's all-time leader in points (2,609) and steals (281), and he went on to play six years in the NBA.

21. JAY VINCENT, C, LANSING EASTERN (1974-1977): If not for Magic Johnson, Vincent might have been the greatest basketball player to come out of Lansing. His games against Magic and Everett were legendary. Vincent went on to win a national title at Michigan State University with Magic, and he led the Big 10 in scoring as both a junior and as a senior. He then played nine years in the NBA and scored over 8,000 points and grabbed over 3,000 rebounds.

22. JEFF GRAYER, G, FLINT NORTHWESTERN (1981-1984): Grayer was third in the voting for Mr. Basketball in 1984, as he helped lead Northwestern to a Class A state title. After high school, he went to Iowa State University, where he was a three-time all-Big Eight player and earned all-American status. Grayer is Iowa State's career scoring leader with 2,502 points. He was a member of the 1988 U.S. Olympic team and played for nine years in the NBA.



Matean Cleaves, a Flint Northern grad helped lead the Michigan State University Men's basketball team to the 2000 NCAA National Championship. (Submitted Photo)



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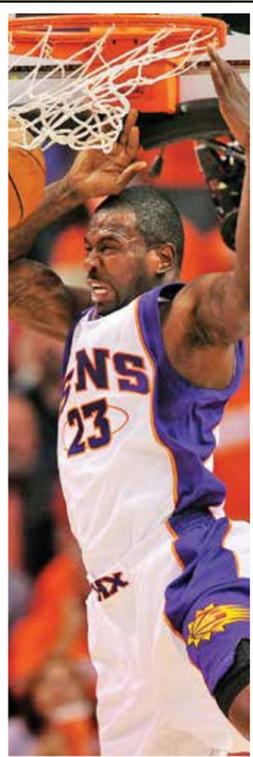
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BEST OF MICHIGAN - SPORTS SCENE'S TOP 100 HOOPSTERS OF ALL-TIME CONTINUED...



Jason Richardson won Mr. Basketball in 1999 while playing for Saginaw Arthur Hill. He was a member of the 2000 Michigan State University men's National Championship team. He will go down as one of the most explosive dunkers in the history of the NBA. (Mark Rebilas Photo)



Rudy Tomjanovich played for the University of Michigan before having a widely successful career and coach for the Houston Rockets in the NBA. (Submitted Photo)

23. SHAWN RESPERT, G, BISHOP BORGESS (1986-1989): Respert was a first-team all-state player who placed fourth in the Mr. Basketball voting his senior year. As a junior, he helped lead Bishop Borgess to the Class B state final. Respert went on to a big career at Michigan State University, where he was a two-time all-American, National Player of the Year, and Big Ten Player of the Year. He totaled 2,531 career points, the second-highest total in Big Ten history and the highest total in Michigan State history. Respert was picked eighth overall by the Portland Trailblazers in the 1995 NBA draft. He played four years in the NBA and several years in Europe and is currently an assistant coach in the NBA.

24. ANTOINE 'THE JUDGE' JOUBERT, G, DETROIT SOUTHWESTERN (1980-1983): Joubert was one of the most celebrated players in the state during his career at Southwestern. Mr. Basketball in 1983, Joubert helped lead Southwestern to back-to-back Class A state final appearances in 1982 and 1983. He averaged 31.3 ppg as a senior and 30.6 ppg as a junior and ended his career with 2,208 points. At the University of Michigan, Joubert scored over 1,500 points and totaled over 500 assists during his career.

25. SAM VINCENT, G, LANSING EASTERN (1978-1981): Sam was the very first Mr. Basketball in 1981. As a senior, he scored 61 points in a game and broke the Lansing city scoring record of 54 points that had been held by Magic Johnson. Vincent went on to win a Big Ten scoring title at Michigan State University, where he was also named an all-American. He then played seven seasons in the NBA.

26. ERIC TURNER, G, FLINT CENTRAL (1979-1981): One of the finest point guards to ever come out of the state, Turner finished second to Sam Vincent for 1981 Mr. Basketball. A McDonald's all-American, Turner averaged 20.9 points and 8.9 assists per game as a senior and helped Central win the 1981 Class A state title. He holds MHSAA state records for assists in a game (25), a season (341), and a career (726). He went on to star at the University of Michigan, where he was an all-American and is sixth all-time in assists.

27. JASON RICHARDSON, F, SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (1996-1999): Richardson won the 1999 Mr. Basketball Award, as he led Arthur Hill to the Class A state title game. He was a McDonald's all-American who went on to play at Michigan State University. Richardson earned all-American honors his sophomore season when he helped lead the Spartans to the Final Four. He was selected as the fifth pick of the 2001 draft by the Golden State Warriors. One of the greatest dunkers of all time, Richardson won back-to-back NBA Slam Dunk titles, becoming only the second player after Michael Jordan to achieve the feat.

28. TERRY 'THE TRIGGER' FURLOW, G, FLINT NORTHERN (1971-1972): Furlow was a memorable outside shooter who was a member of Flint Northern's 1972 team that went a perfect 25-0. At Michigan State University, Furlow led the Big Ten in scoring in 1976 with a school-record 29.4 points per game and finished his Spartan career with 1,717 points. He has the two top-scoring games in Spartan history, as he scored 50 and 48 points in games before the advent of the three-point line. Furlow became the first player from Flint to be drafted in the first round of the NBA draft. He played four years in the NBA and averaged 10 points per game before he died in an automobile accident.

29. ROY MARBLE, G/F, BEECHER (1981-1985): Marble was the runner-up for the Mr. Basketball Award in 1985 when he led the Buccaners to the Class B state title that they won in a dramatic double-overtime game against Buena Vista. Marble continued his career at the University of Iowa, where he scored a school-record 2,116 points. He was then drafted in the first round of the NBA draft by the Atlanta Hawks.

30. ROY TARPLEY, C, DETROIT COOLEY (1980-1982): Tarpley was one of the finest all-around centers to ever come out of the state. An all-PSL player his senior year, Tarpley went on to the University of Michigan, where he was a two-time All-American and was the Big Ten Player of the Year in 1985. Tarpley was selected seventh overall by the Dallas Mavericks in the 1986 NBA Draft. He played five years in the NBA and averaged 12 points and 10 rebounds per game. Off-court issues, however, led to him being banned by the NBA, and he spent the bulk of his career playing in Europe and in various minor leagues.

31. JOHNNY DAVIS, G, DETROIT MURRAY-WRIGHT (1971-1973): Davis is one of the most overlooked players in the state. He averaged 27 points per game as a junior and 31 points per game as a senior. Davis went on to play at the University of Dayton, where he twice averaged over 21 points per season and finished with 1,562 points in three years. He then played 10 years in the NBA, won an NBA title with Portland, and finished his career with over 9,500 points, 3,300 assists, and 1,500 rebounds. Since retiring, he has been a head coach or assistant coach in the NBA for almost 20 years.

32. CURTIS JONES, G, DETROIT NORTHWESTERN (1965-1968): A Detroit playground legend, Jones was also a dynamic high school player. A three-time all-PSL selection, Jones had some legendary performances against Detroit Pershing, including a win over Pershing in the PSL finals that was broadcast live on Detroit television and a regional semifinal game against Pershing that was also broadcast live. Jalen Rose has been quoted as saying that Jones was "Magic Johnson before Magic Johnson," and George Gervin said that Jones was the "best player he ever played against."

33. TRENT TUCKER, G, FLINT NORTHWESTERN (1976-1978): Tucker was a sharp-shooting guard who lit up the nets for Northwestern in the late 1970s. After high school, he went on to the University of Minnesota, where he helped lead the Golden Gophers to the 1982 Big Ten title and eventually had his number 32 retired. Tucker was drafted sixth overall by the New York Knicks and played 11 years in the NBA, winning an NBA title with the 1993 Chicago Bulls. He finished his NBA career with over 6,000 points and 1,500 assists.

34. LARRY FOGLE, F, DETROIT COOLEY (1970-1972): Few players could fill up the basket like this cult hero of the Detroit PSL in the early 1970s. Fogle scored 73 points in a game in which he only played three quarters. His senior year, he averaged over 35 points per game. At Canisius College, Fogle led the NCAA in scoring his junior year with 33.4 points per game. He was drafted in the second round of the NBA draft by the New York Knicks.

35. LINDSAY HAIRSTON, C, DETROIT KETTERING (1971-1973): Hairston was a dominating center during the early 1970s for Kettering. A two-time first-team all-state player, he averaged 23 points, 21 rebounds, and five blocked shots his senior season as he helped lead Kettering to the Class A title game, where it lost by a single point to Flint Northern. Hairston finished his high school career with 1,390 points. He went on to play at Michigan State University and averaged 15.8 points and 14 rebounds during his three years there. Hairston was drafted by the Pistons and played one year for Detroit before a successful professional career in France.

36. MIKE ROBINSON, G, DETROIT NORTHEASTERN (1968-1970): Pound for pound, Robinson was one of the greatest players to come out of the state. He was a two-time, first-team all-PSL player who was second to George Gervin in the PSL in scoring as a senior. Robinson, who was 5'10" and 140 pounds in high school, went on to Michigan State University, where he averaged 34 ppg on the freshman team and was twice called for

goaltending. He led the Spartans in scoring all three seasons he played varsity and was the Big Ten scoring champion his junior and seniors seasons. Robinson averaged 24.7 ppg as a junior and 25.3 ppg as a senior and during his Spartan career averaged 24.2 ppg over 71 games.

37. GREG 'SPECIAL K' KELSER, F, DETROIT HENRY FORD (1973-1975): Kelsel was an all-state player his senior year who went on to a memorable career at Michigan State University, where he was part of the 1979 national championship team with Magic Johnson. Kelsel scored 2,014 points during his Spartan career. He led MSU in scoring three seasons and was an all-American his senior year. Kelsel then played seven seasons in the NBA.

38. KEVIN WILLIS, C, DETROIT PERSHING (1978-1980): The classic 'late bloomer', Willis only earned honorable mention all-PSL honors his senior year. He played one year at Jackson Community College before playing three years at Michigan State University. Willis was then drafted by the Atlanta Hawks and played over two decades in the NBA for seven different teams. He won an NBA title and was a one-time NBA all-star. He finished his career with over 17,500 points and over 11,900 rebounds.

39. REGGIE HARDING, C, DETROIT EASTERN (1959-1961): Arguably the best center to play high school basketball in the state, the 7-foot-tall Harding averaged 25 points per game during his three-year high school career. He averaged 29 points per game as a senior when he was a first-team all-American after earning all-American honors the year before. Harding never played college basketball, as he played for the Harlem Globetrotters after high school and then went to the Detroit Pistons in 1963.

40. ROBERT 'BUBBLES' HAWKINS, G, DETROIT PERSHING (1969-1972): One of the greatest high school guards in PSL history, Hawkins was a two-time first-team all-PSL player and a second-team selection as a sophomore. He was a two-time high school all-American who averaged 28 points and 12 assists as a senior. He played two years at Illinois State University, where he set a single-game scoring record with 58 points. Hawkins played for four teams during four years in the NBA, where he averaged 12 points per game during his career.

41. RICHIE JORDAN, G, FENNVILLE (1962-1965): The "Fennville Flash" averaged 44.1 points per game and earned all-American honors his senior year. As a junior, Jordan averaged 35.6 ppg in 16 games. He was not just a shooter, as the 5-foot-7-inch guard could dunk with either hand, and legend has it he had a 51" vertical jump. Jordan played one year of varsity basketball at Michigan State University before concentrating on his baseball career.

42. TERRANCE ROBERSON, F, BUENA VISTA; F, NOUVEL CATHOLIC CENTRAL (1995-1997): Roberson was a highlight-reel player during the mid-1990s at Buena Vista. Part of Class B state title teams as a freshman and as a sophomore, he was a three-time all-state player, who was also named to the Parade All-American team his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. As a senior, he averaged 25 points and 14 rebounds per game and was ranked as one of the top 10 players in the country. Roberson went on to play at California State University, Fresno, where he scored over 1,600 points and averaged in double figures in scoring three seasons. Roberson played one year in the NBA and then had a lengthy professional career in several countries around the world.

43. CHARLIE BELL, G, FLINT SOUTHWESTERN (1995-1997): Bell finished his high school career with 2,146 points (25.6 avg.). He finished runner-up to Shane Battier in the Mr. Basketball voting in 1997. One of the 'Flinstones' who helped Michigan State University win the 2000 NCAA National championship, Bell appeared in three Final Fours during his

career at MSU. He was also a four-time Defensive Player of the Year for the Spartans. He had a lengthy professional career in both Europe and in the NBA. Bell averaged 13 ppg one season for the Milwaukee Bucks.

44. MARCUS TAYLOR, G, WAVERLY (1997-2000): Hailed as the 'Next Magic Johnson' in elementary school, Taylor had a highly productive high school career. He was a two-time Parade All-American and a McDonald's All-American. He captured the 2000 Mr. Basketball Award when he led Waverly to the 2000 Class A state championship. For his career, he finished with 2,448 points (25.5), the seventh-best total in Michigan history. He also totaled 580 career assists, which ranks him sixth in the state. Taylor went on to play at Michigan State University, and in his sophomore season, he became only the second player in Big Ten history, and the first in MSU history, to lead the league in scoring and in assists. Taylor declared for the NBA draft after his sophomore season and was drafted by Minnesota. Since then, he has had a lengthy international career.

45. ANTONIO SMITH, F, FLINT NORTHERN (1992-1995): The original 'Flinstone', Smith was a ferocious rebounder and defender who helped propel the Michigan State University basketball program to where it is today. Smith helped lead Flint Northern to the 1995 state championship with one of the finest high school teams in state history. He led Michigan State in rebounding three times during his career and finished in fourth place with 1,016 career rebounds at MSU.

46. JAMES YOUNG, G, ROCHESTER; G, TROY (2010-2013): A two-time all-state player in high school, Young averaged 25 points, 10 rebounds, and two steals as a junior at Troy and then pumped in 27 points, 16 rebounds, and five assists as a senior at Rochester. Young was an all-American who played in both the Jordan Brand Classic and the McDonald's All-Star games. He went on to the University of Kentucky, where he helped lead the Wildcats to the national championship game. His dunk over a pair of Connecticut defenders in that game may have been the best dunk of the tournament. Young, an outstanding outside shooter, averaged 14 ppg and is expected to be drafted midway through the first round of the 2014 NBA draft.

47. DRYMOND 'DAY DAY' GREEN, F, SAGINAW (2005-2008): One of the most versatile and productive players of all time, Drymond helped lead Saginaw to back-to-back Class A state titles in 2007 and 2008 and finished second in the 2008 Mr. Basketball voting. He then went on to Michigan State University, where he played in a Final Four and became Michigan State's all-time rebounding leader with 1,096. Green was a two-time Spartan MVP and finished 17th in total points with 1,517. He also finished second in MSU history in career steals with 180 and third in career blocks with 117. He is currently in his second year of playing in the NBA with the Golden State Warriors.

48. ANTHONY 'PEEPER' ROBERSON, G, SAGINAW (1999-2002): Roberson was a three-time all-state player at Saginaw. He twice led the Trojans to the state semifinals in Class A, and as a sophomore, he quarterbacked Saginaw's state champion football team. Roberson finished second in the Mr. Basketball voting in 2002 and was a Parade All-American. His senior year he averaged 30 points, seven rebounds, five assists, three steals, and two blocked shots. Roberson played at the University of Florida, where he was twice all-SEC and was runner-up as SEC Player of the Year his junior year. He finished with 1,505 career points and led the Gators twice in scoring and once in assists. He has played for four NBA teams and for a number of international pro teams since college.

49. AL HORFORD, C, GRAND LEDGE (2001-2004): Horford finished fifth in the Mr. Basketball voting in 2004. He was the Class A Player of the Year in 2004, when he averaged 21 points, 13 rebounds, and five blocked shots per game. Hor-

ford is the all-time point leader in school history with 1,239, and he holds seven Grand Ledge records. He played in college at Florida, where he was a member of two national championship teams. Horford finished with 1,123 career points, was sixth in career rebounds with 869, and second in career blocks with 189. He was picked third by the Atlanta Hawks in the 2007 NBA draft and is a two-time NBA all-star.

50. WILSON CHANDLER, F, BENTON HARBOR (2002-2005): Chandler was a dominating player, a three-time all-stater who averaged 22 points and 12 rebounds as a junior. During his senior year, he averaged 24 points, 12 rebounds, five assists, and four blocks per game and was named the 2005 Mr. Basketball. Chandler led the Tigers to an undefeated regular season and no. 1 ranking in Class A. He went on to play two years of college basketball at DePaul University in the Big East, where he was on the all-freshman team and was second-team all-Big East as a sophomore. Chandler was picked in the first round of the 2007 NBA draft by the New York Knicks. He currently plays for the Denver Nuggets and has a 13 ppg career scoring average.

51. LAVELL BLANCHARD, F, ANN ARBOR PIONEER (1996-1999): A two-time high school all-American, Blanchard was a first-team USA TODAY All-American his senior year and was also Mr. Basketball. He averaged 27 points, 13 rebounds, four assists, and two steals per game as a senior as he helped lead Pioneer to the Class A state title. Blanchard was a four-year starter at the University of Michigan and became the fifth player ever to lead an NCAA Division I team in scoring and rebounding all four years. Blanchard was the 2000 Big Ten Freshman of the Year and was a four-time all-Big Ten performer. Since college, Blanchard has played professional basketball in nine different countries and has won numerous honors during his international career.

52. CORPERRVALE 'MANNY' HARRIS, G, DETROIT REDFORD (2003-2007): Harris had a standout high school career. The 2007 Mr. Basketball, Harris led Redford to three PSL championships during his career. His senior year, he led Redford to the Class A state title game, as he averaged 33.5 points and 12 rebounds per game. During his career, he had games of 52 and 50 points. At the University of Michigan, Harris earned all-Big Ten honors all three years and was one of five players at the time to finish in the top ten in a season in scoring, rebounds, and assists. Since college, he has played in the NBA with the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Los Angeles Lakers and also has extensive international experience.

53. TERRY TYLER, F, DETROIT NORTHWESTERN (1971-1974): A true 'skywalker', with a 45" vertical jump, Tyler was an all-state player in 1974. He went on to a memorable career at the University of Detroit, where he helped lead the Titans, under then-coach Dick Vitale, to the 'Sweet 16' in the 1977 NCAA tournament. Tyler averaged a double-double in points and rebounds for his college career. He then played 11 years in the NBA and was a member of the NBA all-Rookie Team in 1979. He never missed in a game in seven years of playing for the Detroit Pistons and set a record of 574 consecutive games played. For his career, he totaled over 8,800 points (10.2 avg.), 4,600 rebounds (5.4 avg.), and 1,342 blocked shots.

54. KELVIN TORBERT, G/F, FLINT NORTHWESTERN (1997-2001): Few players in the state have had the four-year career that Torbert did at Northwestern. After earning honorable-mention all-state honors as a freshman when he averaged 16.3 points per game, Torbert was first-team all-state the next three years and capped off his high school career by winning the Mr. Basketball Award as a senior. He was named the Sporting News and Gatorade National Player of the Year as a senior when he averaged 26 points, 8.2 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 2.5 steals per game. Torbert averaged 19 points as a sophomore and 25 as a junior and finished with 1,978 career points, second-best in Flint

history. He was a four-time all-city and all-Saginaw Valley selection who led his team to four district titles and three Flint city titles. Torbert went on to score 1,195 career points at Michigan State University and has had a lengthy international basketball career as a professional.

55. JOHN LONG, G, ROMULUS (1971-1974): An all-state pick at Romulus, Long also played at the University of Detroit, where he totaled 2,167 career points and helped the Titans to the 1977 Sweet 16. He also played 10 years in the NBA with the Detroit Pistons, where he scored over 9,000 points. Long played a total of 14 years in the NBA and finished with 12,131 career points. He last played in the NBA in 1997 at the age of 41 with the Toronto Raptors.

56. ED BURTON, F, MUSKOGON HEIGHTS (1955-1957): Burton was a two-time high school all-American. He helped lead the Tigers to back-to-back Class A state championships in 1956 and 1957. He ended his high school career with 1,143 points. He went to Michigan State University for one year before leaving early to play for the Harlem Globetrotters. Burton later played two years for the New York Knicks and a year for the Atlanta Hawks.

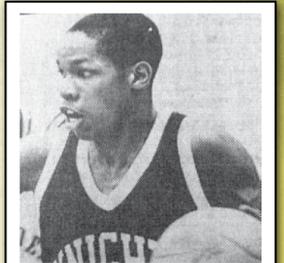
57. PAUL DAVIS, C, ROCHESTER, (1998-2002): The 2002 Mr. Basketball, Davis averaged 29.7 points, 13.8 rebounds, and 4.1 blocked shots his senior year. He was also a Parade and McDonald's All-American and was named the No. 1 prep in the nation by Bob Gibson's All-Star Report. Davis finished his high school career with 1,394 points. A four-year player at Michigan State University, Davis finished his Spartan career ninth in scoring with 1,718 points and fifth in career rebounds with 910. He then played four years in the NBA and is currently playing internationally in Russia.

58. DREW NEITZEL, G, WYOMING PARK (2001-2004): Neitzel was an incredible outside shooter, who was also a crafty passer. He finished his high school career with 2,462 points (26.5 avg.), the sixth-best mark in Michigan high school history. He won the 2004 Mr. Basketball Award and finished second in Michigan high school history in career assists with 692. Neitzel continued that success in college at Michigan State University, where he finished fourth in career assists at MSU with 582. He also scored the 16th-highest point total in Spartan history with 1,534 points.

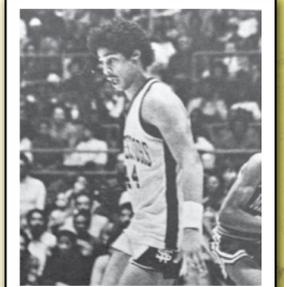
59. KEITH APPLING, G, DETROIT PERSHING (2007-2010): Appling was the 2010 Mr. Basketball and went on to a successful four-year career with Michigan State University. He cemented his place in Michigan high school lore as a junior when he scored a state finals record 49 points in Pershing's 2009 Class A state title win over Kalamazoo Central. As a senior, he was a McDonald's All-American and averaged 28 points, six rebounds, five assists, and three steals per game. Appling finished his Michigan State career with 1,509 points.

60. TOM LAGARDE, C, DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL (1971-1973): LaGarde was a dominant center who averaged 25 points per game his senior year. He went on to play college basketball at the University of North Carolina and was a member of the 1976 USA Olympic team that won a gold medal. LaGarde then went on to play six years in the NBA.

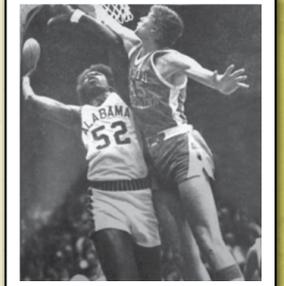
61. BOB ELLIOTT, C, ANN ARBOR PIONEER (1971-1973): One of the best to ever come out of Ann Arbor, Elliott led Pioneer to a 24-1 record his senior year, as he averaged 28 points per game. He went on to star at the University of Arizona, where he was a three-time academic and basketball all-American. Elliott finished with a school record 2,131 points at Arizona and averaged 18.6 ppg during his career. He later played three years in the NBA for the Nets.



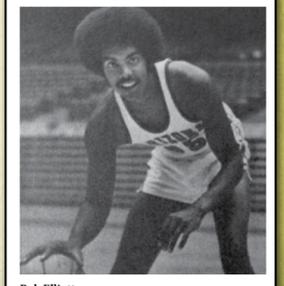
Mark Macon was a star at Saginaw Buena Vista before enjoying a stellar career at Temple University. (Submitted Photo)



Antoine 'The Judge' Joubert



Tom Lagarde



Bob Elliott

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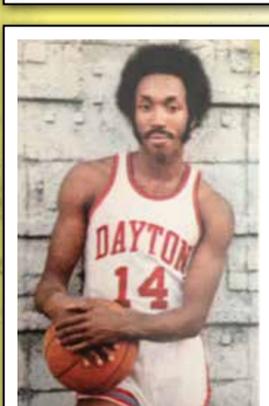
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BEST OF MICHIGAN - SPORTS SCENE'S TOP 100 HOOPSTERS OF ALL-TIME CONTINUED...



62. DRAYMON GREEN, G, DETROIT REDFORD (1999-2003): Harris helped to lead Redford to the PSL title as a sophomore and to the Class A state final as a junior. Three times during his high school career, Harris and Redford went up against LeBron James and his St. Vincent-St. Mary team. The 2003 Mr. Basketball, Harris went on to play at the University of Michigan, where he reached double-digits in scoring all four years and finished with 1,573 career points and 396 career assists.



63. MONTE 'MAN-MAN' MORRIS, G, BEECHER (2009-2013): One of the most productive high school point guards in state history, Morris was a three-time Class C Player of the Year, a three-time all-state player and the 2013 Mr. Basketball, who led Beecher in points, assists, and steals all four seasons. He also helped Beecher to four state semifinal appearances and state titles as a junior and as a senior. Morris averaged 23.8 points, 8.8 assists, and 5.1 steals as a senior. For his career, he totaled 2,006 points. Morris made a huge impact in college basketball this year at Iowa State University, as he averaged 6.8 points, 3.7 assists, and 1.3 steals. He also became the second freshman ever to set an NCAA basketball record, when he shattered the all-time assist-to-turnover ratio with 4.96-1, as he totaled 134 assists and 27 turnovers.

64. TONY SMITH, G, SAGINAW (1971-1974): Smith was a crowd-pleasing guard in the early 1970's. A high-school all-American with a variety of moves and unlimited range, Smith averaged 23.3 ppg and nine assists as a senior. He also twice dunked over hall of fame center Moses Malone in a high school all-star game. Smith played college basketball at both UNLV and the University of Houston.



65. B. J. ARMSTRONG, G, BROTHER RICE (1982-1985): Armstrong finished fifth in the 1985 Mr. Basketball voting and was one of the premier point guards in the state in the mid-1980s. He went on to play at the University of Iowa, where he finished his career fourth all-time at Iowa in scoring with 1,705 points, fourth in assists with 517, and sixth in steals with 178. Armstrong went on to play 11 years in the NBA, where he was part of three NBA championship teams with the Chicago Bulls. A one-time NBA all-star, Armstrong finished his career with over 7,300 points (9.8 avg.) and 2,400 assists (3.3 avg.).

66. MICHAEL TALLEY, G, DETROIT COOLEY (1985-1989): Talley was the point guard for Cooley teams that won three straight Class A state titles from 1987 through 1989. As a senior, he averaged 21 points, four assists, and three steals per game and was named Mr. Basketball. In the state title game against Detroit Southwestern, he scored 27 points and dished out eight assists.

67. ROBERT 'TRACTOR' TRAYLOR, C, DETROIT MURRAY-WRIGHT (1994-1996): Traylor helped lead Murray-Wright to the Class A state title as a junior, and his senior year he won the Mr. Basketball Award. Traylor played three years at the University of Michigan, where he was the 1997 NIT MVP and was also the MVP of the inaugural Big Ten Tournament in 1998. Traylor averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds his junior year and was picked sixth overall by the Dallas Mavericks in the 1998 NBA draft. He went on to play seven seasons in the NBA before playing internationally.

68. ERIC MONEY, G, DETROIT KETTERING (1970-1972): Money was an all-state point guard in 1972. After high school, he went on to star at the University of Arizona, where he twice led the Wildcats in assists. Money was drafted by the Detroit Pistons and played six years in the NBA. He finished with over 5,200 career points (12.2 avg.) and over 1,600 assists (3.8 avg.).

69. MARK HARRIS, G, FLINT CENTRAL (1979-1982): Harris was a legendary offensive dynamo on the Flint Central teams of the early 1980s that won three straight Class A state titles. He poured in 44 points on 20 of 25 attempts from the floor in Central's 108-90 win over Detroit Murray-Wright in the 1981 title game. Harris finished third in the voting for Mr. Basketball in 1982. He later played college basketball at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, where in two years of play, he averaged 21.2 ppg and finished sixth on the career scoring list.

70. CHRIS KAMAN, C, TRI-UNITY CHRISTIAN (1997-2000): Coming out of a small Class D school, Kaman finished fifth in the 2000 Mr. Basketball voting. He finished seventh in career blocked shots with 297 and recorded the third-highest single-season total of 159 his senior year. At Central Michigan University he helped the Chippewas win the MAC title in 2003 and win one game in the NCAA tournament that year. He finished his college career with 1,250 points (15.1) and 707 rebounds (8.5). Kaman was picked sixth overall by the Los Angeles Clippers in the 2003 NBA draft and has played 11 seasons in the NBA. During his NBA career, he has totaled over 7,500 points (11.7 avg.), over 5,000 rebounds (7.9), and over 850 blocked shots (1.4).

71. ERNIE THOMPSON, F, SAGINAW (1960-1962): Thompson was a standout in the early 1960s. Saginaw was undefeated until falling to Flint Central in the regionals. In 1962, Saginaw won the state title. Thompson scored 42 points and pulled down 27 rebounds in the title game against Benton Harbor. He went on to play in college at Bradley University.

72. MEL DANIELS, C, DETROIT PERSHING (1960-1962): Daniels was a late bloomer. An honorable-mention all-PSL selection, he went on to play college basketball at New Mexico, where he led the team in scoring for three years. He then went on to be an ABA standout for 10 years. Daniels was part of three ABA title teams and was a two-time ABA MVP. He was a seven-time ABA all-star who was the all-time leading rebounder in the league (9,494) and fourth in scoring (11,739). He was also enshrined in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

73. MAURICE TAYLOR, F, DETROIT HENRY FORD (1991-1994): Taylor finished third in the Mr. Basketball voting in 1994. After high school, he played at the University of Michigan, where he was the Big Ten Freshman of the Year. Taylor totaled 1,254 points (12.9) and 592 rebounds (6.1) for his career. He was picked 14th overall in the 1997 NBA draft and went on to play nine years in the NBA before playing in Europe. He totaled over 5,800 points (11.0) and 2,400 rebounds during his NBA career.

74. VOSHON LENARD, G, DETROIT SOUTHWESTERN (1989-1991): Lenard was a long-range shooting specialist who was part of back-to-back state title teams at Southwestern in 1990 and 1991. He went on to star at the University of Minnesota, where he totaled over 2,100 career points. Lenard then played 11 years in the NBA, where he scored over 6,700 points.

75. TERRANCE GREENE, G, FLINT CENTRAL (1982-1985): As a sophomore, Greene was part of Central's 1983 Class A state title team. He went on to finish fourth in the Mr. Basketball voting his senior year. He then played at DePaul University, where he scored 1,334 (10.7 avg.) career points. Greene was a captain his senior year and played in four NCAA tournaments. He went on to play professionally overseas following his college career.

76. DARRYL JOHNSON, G, FLINT CENTRAL (1980-1983): Johnson was part of all three Flint Central Class A title teams from 1981-1983. In the 1983 game against Detroit Southwestern, he scored 25 points, and Central defeated Antoine Joubert and Southwestern 79-60. Johnson finished third in the Mr.

Basketball voting that season. He went on to star at Michigan State University, where he totaled 1,383 points (12.9 avg.). His senior year, he earned all-Big Ten honors, as he averaged 22 points per game. Johnson played one year in the NBA and several years in the CBA and internationally.

77. WILLIE GREEN, G, DETROIT COOLEY (1996-1999): Although he was a second-team all-state pick as a senior, Green was overshadowed coming out of high school. He went on to play college at the University of Detroit, where he totaled 1,779 career points (14.3 avg.) and was an honorable-mention all-American his senior year. Green has played 11 seasons in the NBA and is currently a member of the Los Angeles Clippers. For his career, he has scored over 5,700 points and dished out over 950 assists.

78. KALIN LUCAS, G, ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY (2004-2007): An electrifying point guard, Lucas finished third in the Mr. Basketball voting as a senior. He went on to star at Michigan State University, where he helped lead the Spartans to the Final Four. He finished his career as the fifth-best scorer in Spartan history with 1,996 points. He led Michigan State in scoring three years and also finished sixth all-time in assists with 558.

79. ANTHONY 'YANKEE' PENDLETON, G, FLINT NORTHWESTERN (1983-1986): Pendleton was a member of Class A state title teams at Northwestern as a sophomore and as a junior. His senior year, he finished runner-up in the Mr. Basketball voting to Terry Mills. A high-scoring, big guard, Pendleton was a high school all-American who went on to play at USC. Pendleton played two years at USC and averaged 15 points per game in 1989.

80. MATT COSTELLO, C, BAY CITY WESTERN (2009-2012): Costello had a legendary career at Bay City Western. The 2012 Mr. Basketball winner, Costello was the Gatorade Player of the Year in Michigan both his junior and senior seasons. A Parade All-American as a senior, he averaged 25.1 points, 19.1 rebounds, four assists, and four blocked shots. As a junior, he helped lead Western to the Class A state semifinals, as he averaged 19.8 points, 13 rebounds, and 3.8 blocked shots. Costello finished his career with 1,518 points and 1,069 rebounds along with 280 blocked shots. He just finished his sophomore season at Michigan State University, where he averaged four points and three rebounds per game.

81. GRANT LONG, F, ROMULUS (1981-1984): Long was a rugged defender and rebounder from his power forward position. An honorable-mention all-state player as a senior, he went on to star at Eastern Michigan University, where he totaled 1,469 points and 863 rebounds and was MAC Player of the Year as a senior. He then played 15 years in the NBA, where he totaled over 9,500 points (9.5 avg.) and over 6,000 rebounds (6.1 avg.).

82. LOY VAUGHT, F, EAST KENTWOOD (1984-1986): Vaught was a dominating power forward who went on to play at the University of Michigan. A member of the 1989 National Championship team, Vaught averaged a double-double in points and rebounds as a senior and finished his Michigan career with 1,451 points and 917 rebounds. He was drafted 13th overall in the 1990 NBA draft. He played 11 years in the NBA and totaled over 6,900 points (10.1 avg.) and over 3,300 rebounds (7.1 avg.).

83. BARRY STEVENS, G, FLINT NORTHWESTERN (1978-1981): An all-state player in 1981, Stevens was a high-scoring guard who could take it to the rim or shoot the outside shot. He went on to star at Iowa State University, where he was a two-time all-Big 8 player. Stevens finished his career with a then-record 2,189 points and is still ranked no. 2 in Iowa State scoring history behind Jeff Grayer. Stevens played one year in the NBA and several seasons in the CBA.

84. TIM MCCORMICK, C, CLARKSTON (1978-1980): McCormick was a Parade All-American in high school, where he averaged 24 points and 17 rebounds per game his senior year. McCormick went on to play for the University of Michigan and was picked 12th overall in the 1984 NBA draft. He played eight seasons in the NBA for six different teams and finished his career with over 4,000 points and 2,300 rebounds.

85. PAUL GRIFFIN, F, SHELBY (1969-1972): Griffin and his Shelby teammates dominated Class C basketball during the early 1970s. Griffin helped Shelby win state titles in 1971 and 1972. He is second in career rebounds in Michigan with 1,323. His senior year, he pulled down a record 671 rebounds. He also had the fourth-highest single-game rebound total with 41. Griffin went on to star at Western Michigan University and played for seven years in the NBA.

86. MIKE PEPLOWSKI, C, DE LA SALLE COLLEGIATE (1985-1988): Peplowski finished second in the Mr. Basketball voting in 1988 and led his Pilots to a memorable run to the Class A state semifinals. At Michigan State University, Peplowski led the Spartans in rebounding three seasons and finished sixth on the career rebounding chart with 906. He also totaled 1,185 career points. After college, Peplowski played three years in the NBA.

87. DARQUAVIS "DAR" TUCKER, G, SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (2003-2007): Tucker was one of the most explosive athletes ever in Michigan history. A deadly outside shooter with highlight-reel dunking skills, Tucker was the Class A Player of the Year as a senior and Mr. Basketball runner-up. He averaged 24 points and 11 rebounds as a senior and helped lead Arthur Hill to the Class A state title as a junior, when he averaged 28 points and 15 rebounds per game. Tucker played two years at DePaul University. He was all Big-East Conference as a freshman when he averaged 14 points and 5 rebounds per game. He then scored 18.5 ppg as a junior. Since then, Tucker has played internationally and in the D League where he is a two-time D-League slam-dunk champion.

88. TORY JACKSON, G, BUENA VISTA (2002-2006): Jackson was a four-time all-state and all-city player. He was a two-time Class C Player of the Year and helped to lead Buena Vista to a pair of state titles. His senior year, he averaged 30.5 points, 10 assists, eight rebounds, and seven steals per game. For his career, he totaled 2,518 points, third-most in Michigan prep history. Jackson went on to play four years at Notre Dame, where he played in all 136 games. He led the Big East in assists three times and finished his career second in assists at Notre Dame with 694 and second in steals with 211. He totaled 1,231 career points and is one of only two Notre Dame players to score over 1,000 points and total over 600 assists.

89. DEMETRIUS GORE, G, DETROIT DENBY (1981-1984): Gore was one of the most prolific scorers in Detroit PSL history. The winner of the 1984 Mr. Basketball Award, Gore averaged 32 ppg as a junior and 34 ppg as a senior. He went on to play for Pittsburgh of the Big East, where he was a three-year starter and finished with 1,555 career points.

90. JESSE CAMPBELL, C, STOCKBRIDGE (1969-1972): Campbell was a Class C dynamo who put up some amazing numbers during his high school career. A high school all-American his senior year, Campbell is the state's all-time rebound leader with 1,624 and had the second, fifth, and sixth-highest single season rebound totals of all time. Campbell also had high-rebound games of 41 and 35 and an all-time record of 25 blocked shots in a single game. Campbell played at Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania and was drafted by the Golden State Warriors.

91. DANE FIFE, G, CLARKSTON (1995-1998): Fife was the Mr. Basketball Award winner in 1998. He also was selected a McDonald's and Parade All-American his senior year. Fife went on to play at Indiana, where he scored 736 career points. Fife was a defensive specialist who totaled an Indiana-record 180 career steals and was the 2002 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. He went into coaching after college and became the youngest coach in NCAA basketball at the age of 25 and is currently an assistant at Michigan State University.

92. MARTY EMBRY, F, FLINT CENTRAL (1980-1982): Embry provided the muscle on the legendary Flint Central teams of the early 1980s and played on two state title teams. He posted the 10th highest single-season rebound total of all-time, with 399 during his senior season and finished his career with 706 career rebounds. Embry went on to play four years at DePaul University, where he was part of three NCAA tournament teams. After college, he played professionally in Europe and Asia for 13 seasons.

93. MARK BROWN, G, HASTINGS (1982-1985): Brown put up legendary numbers in western and southwestern Michigan during the mid 1980s. A blistering shooter, Brown set the single-season scoring record with 969 points (37.3 avg.) during the 1985 season. He also scored 917 points as a sophomore. For his career, he ended up with 2,789 points, the second-highest figure in state history. Brown went on to play college basketball at both Michigan State University and Western Michigan University.

94. DENZEL VALENTINE, G, LANSING SEXTON (2009-2012): Valentine was the Class B Player of the Year in 2012 and was runner-up for Mr. Basketball. He helped lead Sexton to the 2010 Class B state title game as a sophomore and to back-to-back state titles in 2011 and 2012. His junior year, he averaged 12.7 points, 7.9 rebounds, 8.5 assists, and 5.4 steals, while his senior year he averaged 14 points, 11 rebounds, and nine assists. Valentine just completed his sophomore season at Michigan State University, where he averaged eight points, six rebounds, 3.8 assists, and one steal this season.

95. WILLIE MITCHELL, F, DETROIT PERSHING (1991-1994): Mitchell was a dominating forward who averaged 21 points and 11 rebounds his senior year, as he won the Mr. Basketball Award. Mitchell helped Pershing to state titles as a sophomore and as a junior and to a runner-up finish as a senior. During his four-year career at Pershing, the Doughboys went 92-11. Mitchell was a three-time all-state player who was a McDonald's All-American his senior year. He played in college at the University of Michigan and Alabama-Birmingham. Mitchell had a lengthy international career in professional basketball after college.

96. JAY SMITH, F, MIO (1976-1979): Smith is the all-time scoring leader for the state of Michigan, as he totaled 2,841 points (29.0 avg.) during his career. He scored 952 points his senior year, the third-highest total in state history, and scored 912 points as a junior. Smith played three years of college basketball at Saginaw Valley State University. Smith has been a college assistant and head coach for over 20 years.

97. BRAD REDFORD, G, FRANKENMUTH (2004-2008): One of the finest outside shooters of the three-point era, Redford compiled the second-highest point total in a season when he scored 953 points (36.7 avg.) in 2007-08. Redford, who won the Mr. Basketball Award in 2008, finished his career with 2,146 points and was one of the most prolific three-point shooters of all-time. He went on to play college basketball at Xavier.

98. MAURICE JONES, G, SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (2007-2010): Standing just 5-foot-7-inches, Jones got the most out of his height. A Mr. Basketball finalist in 2010, he was also the Class A Player of the Year, as he scored 30 points per game and

also contributed 12 assists, five rebounds, and four steals. He scored a school-record 49 points against 2009 Class A state champion Detroit Pershing. As a junior, Jones averaged 27 points and 13 assists. He finished his career with over 1,800 points, 705 assists, over 300 rebounds, and over 200 steals. He went on to play two years at USC, where he set numerous freshman records and averaged 13 points per game as a sophomore before transferring.

99. WINFRED WALTON, C, DETROIT PERSHING (1993-1996): Walton was one of the premier centers in the state during the mid 1990s. He led Pershing to state titles his junior and senior seasons. Walton won the Mr. Basketball Award as a senior when he averaged 28 points, 16 rebounds, and six blocked shots per game. After high school, Walton attended Syracuse and played one year at Fresno State before leaving for professional basketball.

100. MATT STEIGENGA, F, GRAND RAPIDS SOUTH CHRISTIAN (1984-1988): Steigenga was a legend in the mid 1980s in West Michigan. The Mr. Basketball winner in 1988, Steigenga was a McDonald's All-American and won the slam dunk contest at the McDonald's All-American Game. He eventually chose Michigan State University over the University of North Carolina and went on to be a three-year starter for the Spartans and finished his career with 1,296 points. Steigenga was drafted by the Chicago Bulls, where he played for part of one season.

101. Others Under Consideration: Maurice Ager, Detroit Crockett (2002); Vic Alexander, Detroit Denby (1987); Tim Andree, Brother Rice (1979); Dave Besonen, Ewen-Trou Creek (1982); Emmanuel Bibb, Detroit Denby (1990); Waymon Britt, Flint Northern (1971); Renardo Brown, Highland Park (1982); Willie Burton, Saint Martin de Porres (1986); Mike Chappell, Southfield (1996); Archie Clark, Ecorse (1961); Fred Corbus, St. Louis (1952); Brandon Cotton, Saint Martin de Porres (2003); Joe Crawford, Detroit Renaissance (2004); Brett Darby, River Rouge (1999); Lou Dawkins, Saginaw (1989); Terry Deurod, Highland Park (1975); Craig Dill, Saginaw Arthur Hill (1963); Howard Eisle, Detroit Southwestern (1990); Bruce Flowers, Berkley (1975); Patrick Ford, Detroit Cass Tech (1982); John Garavaglia, Aquinas (1993); Derek Hall, Detroit Mackenzie (1988); Darvin Ham, Saginaw (1991); Alan Hardly, Detroit Northwestern (1975); Chris Hass, Pellston (2012); Robert Henderson, Lansing Eastern (1982); Tom Herzog, Powers Catholic (2004); LaDon-tae Hinton, Lansing Eastern (2008); Stuart House, Detroit Denby (1976); Anderson Hunt, Detroit Southwestern (1987); Webster Kirksey, Saginaw (1951); David Kool, Grand Rapids South Christian (2006); Mark Kraatz, Infe-City Baptist (1985); George Kubiak, Carrollton (1970); Lee Lafayette, Grand Rapids South (1964); Cyrus Mann, Detroit Southeastern (1974); Tom "Cookie" Marsh, Detroit Northern (1969); Ray McCallum, Detroit Country Day (2010); James McElroy, Detroit Murray-Wright (1971); Melvin "Sugar" McLaughlin, Grand Rapids Creston (1979); Anthony "Pig" Miller, Benton Harbor, (1990); Leighton Moulton, River Rouge (1972); Kenyon Murray, Battle Creek Central (1992); Drew Naymick, North Muskegon (2003); Derrick Nix, Detroit Pershing (2009); Josh Ode, Freeland (1996); Lorenzo Orr, Detroit Pershing (1990); Ben Poquette, East Lansing, (1972); Andre Rison, Flint Northwestern (1985); Chris Douglas-Roberts, Detroit Cass Tech (2005); Walker D. Russell, Pontiac Central (1979); Larry Savage, Saginaw (1942); Sander Scott, Northport (1989); Steve Sheffield, Forest Hills Northern (1986); Michael "Pops" Sims, Union (1984); Doug Smith, Detroit Mackenzie, (1987); Kevin Smith, Brother Rice (1979); Barry Spencer, Detroit Catholic Central (1980); Matt Stuck, Manton (1991); Frank Tanana, Detroit Catholic Central (1971); Gary Thompkins, Jackson (1984); Brad VanPelt, Owosso (1969); Mark Veenstra, Hudsonville Unity Christian (1973); Derrick Walton, Detroit Chandler Park (2013); Jeff Warren, Litchfield (1989); Edgar Wilson, Dowagiac (1973); Trey Ziegler, Mt. Pleasant (2010)

100. MATT COSTELLO, C, BAY CITY WESTERN (2009-2012): Costello finished his career with 1,518 points and 1,069 rebounds along with 280 blocked shot. (Alan Holben Photo)

99. DENZEL VALENTINE, G, LANSING SEXTON (2009-2012): Valentine helped lead Sexton to the 2010 Class B state title game as a sophomore and to back-to-back state titles in 2011 and 2012. Valentine just completed his sophomore season at Michigan State University. (Alan Holben Photo)

98. MAURICE JONES, G, SAGINAW ARTHUR HILL (2007-2010): Standing just 5-foot-7-inches, Jones got the most out of his height. A Mr. Basketball finalist in 2010, he was also the Class A Player of the Year, as he scored 30 points per game and

also contributed 12 assists, five rebounds, and four steals. He scored a school-record 49 points against 2009 Class A state champion Detroit Pershing. As a junior, Jones averaged 27 points and 13 assists. He finished his career with over 1,800 points, 705 assists, over 300 rebounds, and over 200 steals. He went on to play two years at USC, where he set numerous freshman records and averaged 13 points per game as a sophomore before transferring.

97. WINFRED WALTON, C, DETROIT PERSHING (1993-1996): Walton was one of the premier centers in the state during the mid 1990s. He led Pershing to state titles his junior and senior seasons. Walton won the Mr. Basketball Award as a senior when he averaged 28 points, 16 rebounds, and six blocked shots per game. After high school, Walton attended Syracuse and played one year at Fresno State before leaving for professional basketball.

96. MARTY EMBRY, F, FLINT CENTRAL (1980-1982): Embry provided the muscle on the legendary Flint Central teams of the early 1980s and played on two state title teams. He posted the 10th highest single-season rebound total of all-time, with 399 during his senior season and finished his career with 706 career rebounds. Embry went on to play four years at DePaul University, where he was part of three NCAA tournament teams. After college, he played professionally in Europe and Asia for 13 seasons.

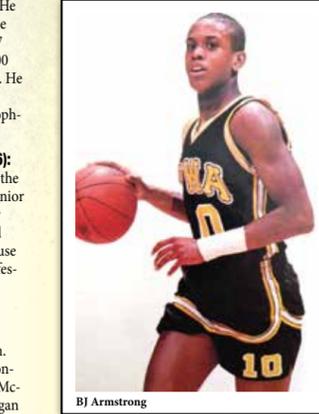
95. MARK BROWN, G, HASTINGS (1982-1985): Brown put up legendary numbers in western and southwestern Michigan during the mid 1980s. A blistering shooter, Brown set the single-season scoring record with 969 points (37.3 avg.) during the 1985 season. He also scored 917 points as a sophomore. For his career, he ended up with 2,789 points, the second-highest figure in state history. Brown went on to play college basketball at both Michigan State University and Western Michigan University.

94. DENZEL VALENTINE, G, LANSING SEXTON (2009-2012): Valentine was the Class B Player of the Year in 2012 and was runner-up for Mr. Basketball. He helped lead Sexton to the 2010 Class B state title game as a sophomore and to back-to-back state titles in 2011 and 2012. His junior year, he averaged 12.7 points, 7.9 rebounds, 8.5 assists, and 5.4 steals, while his senior year he averaged 14 points, 11 rebounds, and nine assists. Valentine just completed his sophomore season at Michigan State University, where he averaged eight points, six rebounds, 3.8 assists, and one steal this season.

93. MARK BROWN, G, HASTINGS (1982-1985): Brown put up legendary numbers in western and southwestern Michigan during the mid 1980s. A blistering shooter, Brown set the single-season scoring record with 969 points (37.3 avg.) during the 1985 season. He also scored 917 points as a sophomore. For his career, he ended up with 2,789 points, the second-highest figure in state history. Brown went on to play college basketball at both Michigan State University and Western Michigan University.

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91. DANE FIFE, G, CLARKSTON (1995-1998): Fife was the Mr. Basketball Award winner in 1998. He also was selected a McDonald's and Parade All-American his senior year. Fife went on to play at Indiana, where he scored 736 career points. Fife was a defensive specialist who totaled an Indiana-record 180 career steals and was the 2002 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. He went into coaching after college and became the youngest coach in NCAA basketball at the age of 25 and is currently an assistant at Michigan State University.



BJ Armstrong



The 2012 Mr. Basketball winner and former Bay City Western standout Matt Costello recently completed his sophomore season at Michigan State University. A Parade All-American as a senior, Costello averaged 25.1 points, 19.1 rebounds, four assists and four blocked shots. As a junior he helped lead Western to the Class A state semifinals as he averaged 19.8 points, 13 rebounds and 3.8 blocked shots. Costello finished his career with 1,518 points and 1,069 rebounds along with 280 blocked shot. (Alan Holben Photo)



Denzel Valentine was the Class B Player of the Year in 2012 and was runner-up for Mr. Basketball. Valentine helped lead Sexton to the 2010 Class B state title game as a sophomore and helped the Big Red to back-to-back state titles in 2011 and 2012. Valentine just completed his sophomore season at Michigan State University. (Alan Holben Photo)



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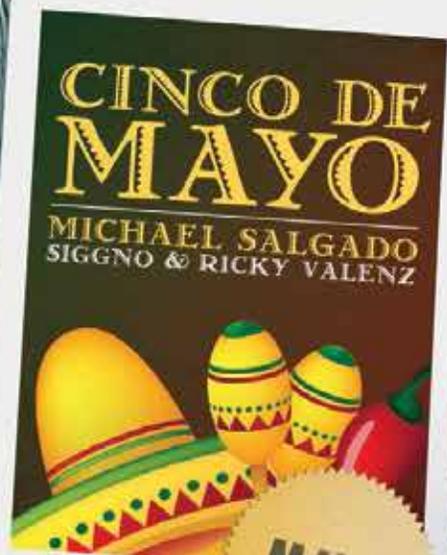
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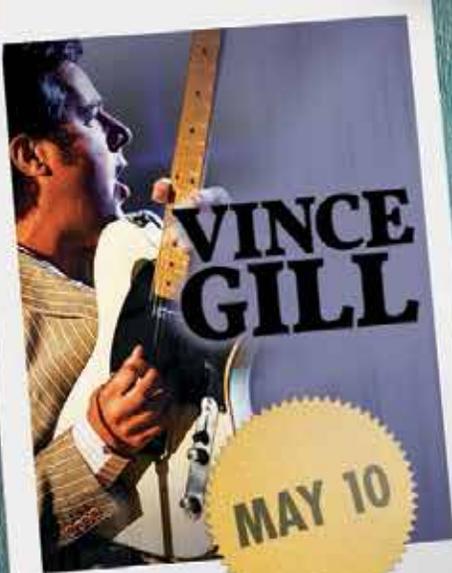
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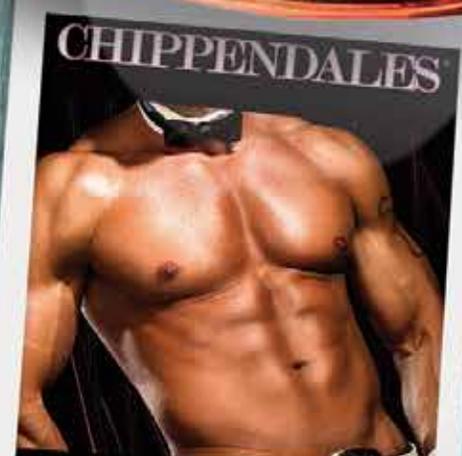
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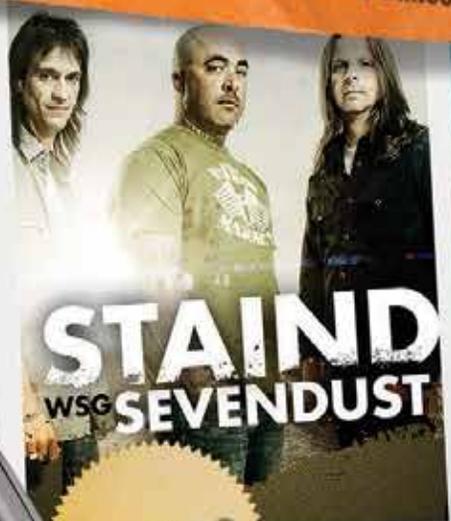
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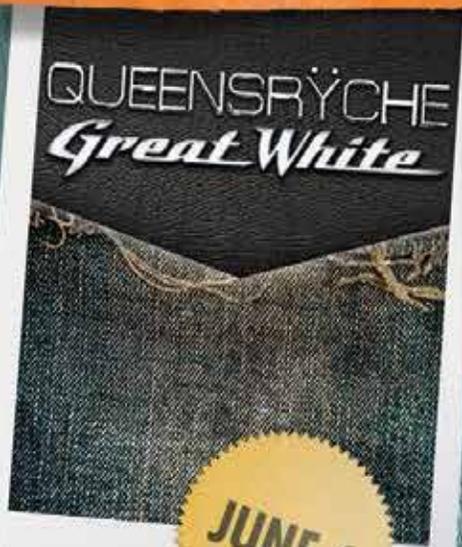
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