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Vol. 6, Issue 63 • February/March 2015

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Well it's here...March Madness. A time to dust off those old Chuck Taylor Converse shoes and the short Larry Bird white gym shorts and hit the pavement, reminiscing about the big shot that didn't go in to win the big game. It's a time where heroes are crowned and every version of 'One Shining Moment' is played in its entirety and makes you cringe every time you hear it. Now down to the real business at hand...the Oscars for the winter sports season. It's time to showcase some of the best moments of the 2014-15 girls' and boys' basketball seasons. And the winners are...

**Best Male Player:** It's tough, but depending on how far Arthur Hill goes this season, Eric Davis should win back-to-back Class A Player of the Year honors.

**Best Female Player:** Goodrich's Tania Davis is the best player in Michigan and should win Miss Basketball.

**Best Male Team:** Hands down, Beecher should win the Class C title.

**Best Female Team:** Bullock Creek, led by seniors Halee Nieman, Elle Juengel, and a strong cast of characters. The Lancers should finish the regular season undefeated and would love to make their third consecutive trip to the Breslin Center.

**Best Director:** This is a no-brainer. Bullock Creek coach Justin Freeland has been deserving of a postseason coaching honor for years. Now he has it. Thanks, Coach Freeland, for a great season.



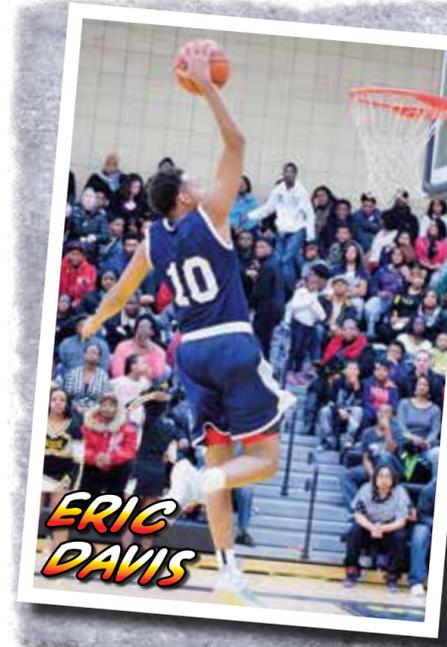
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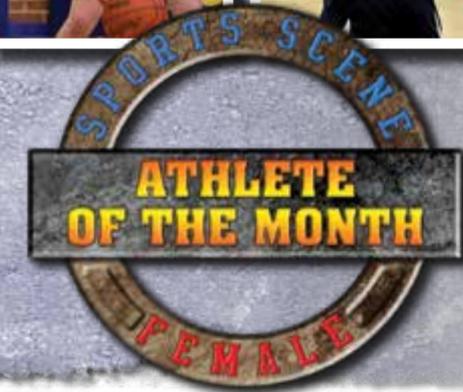
**ERIC DAVIS**



**The Eric Davis File**  
Saginaw Arthur Hill High School  
Sport: Basketball  
**Season Highlights:** The University of Texas commit is averaging 26 points, four rebounds, and six assists for the Lumberjacks. Arthur Hill has a stranglehold on the Saginaw Valley North Division entering the final weeks of the season. Davis and Arthur Hill would love to finish the season strong and bring a Class A state title back to the Saginaw area.



**KYLEE CHAFFIN**



**The Kylee Chaffin File**  
Ithaca High School  
Sport: Basketball  
**Season Highlights:** The standout junior helped lead the Yellowjackets to their first Tri-Valley West title since 2001. Prior to press time, Ithaca was 16-2, with its only losses coming against Bullock Creek and Frankenmuth. Chaffin has been a spark plug for Ithaca on both ends of the court this season. She scored 20 points in a victory over St. Louis.



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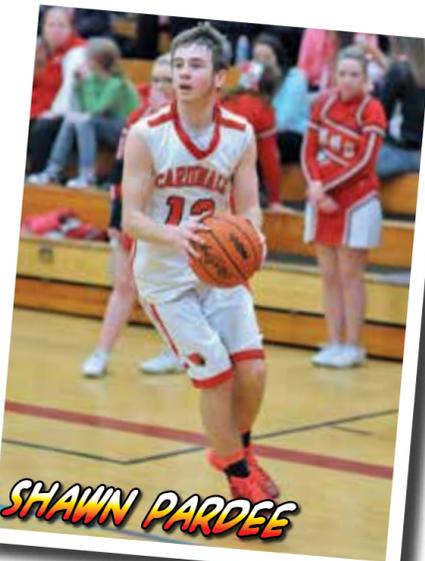
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# MALE AND FEMALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH PRESENTED BY:

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SHAWN PARDEE



SCHOLAR - ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

### The Shawn Pardee File Millington High School

**Sport:** Basketball  
**Season Highlights:** In the five games starting Jan. 30, Pardee has averaged 36 points per game. During a recent game against Birch Run, school officials honored Pardee after he scored the 1,000th point in his high-school career. At press time, Millington was 14-3 and 10-2 in the Tri-Valley East Division. This season, Pardee has connected on 89 percent of his free throws, an improvement from his 82 percent success rate last season.



MARIA MOSS



SCHOLAR - ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

### The Maria Moss File DeWitt High School

**Sport:** Basketball  
**Season Highlight:** Moss hit the game-winning shot for DeWitt in its 51-47 victory over Haslett Feb. 14. The win helped DeWitt pull into a first-place tie with Haslett atop the CAAC Red, with two league games remaining. She had a team-high 16 points while helping DeWitt to its ninth straight victory. DeWitt has been ranked in the top 5 in Class A all season.



# Cedar Springs Standout Ready For Division I College Basketball Career

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Brad Brechting will be going to Oakland University next season to start a Division I men's basketball career.

But right now, the 6-foot-11-inch Brechting is focusing on a strong ending to his high school career at Cedar Springs.

Brechting hesitated when asked if this has been his best season. "I would have to say yes," he responded. "We have a very good defensive team this year. I've become stronger. My game has improved a lot. Last year I was strictly post; this year, I've been shooting threes from behind the arc and driving the ball."

One of the most memorable games Brechting had this season was against Greenville. "One of our players got a technical, threw

the ball, and got kicked out," he said. "Greenville was up on us by 14 points in the fourth quarter with two minutes to go. We came back, and I hit the game-hitting shot. We were just on fire."

Brechting has enjoyed the season. The Red Hawks have posted a 10-6 record and are hoping for a good tournament run. Brechting has been averaging 19.3 points, 10.3 rebounds, and three blocks a game. "We're having a good team season. We have pretty much out-rebounded every team but one. We have a way better defensive team this year than last year," he said. "We're pretty young this year, too. That's not an excuse."

Cedar Springs coach Jeff Patin said that Brechting has improved on his defense and has been more of a leader.

Brechting averaged 15.5 points, 9.2 rebounds, and 3.0 blocks per

game, and shot 62 percent from the floor during his junior season. He was at 14 points and nine rebounds as a sophomore.

"For a sophomore, he was 6'9" or 6'10", so he's grown up a little since then," Patin said. "He could run the floor real well, even as a sophomore, for someone his height. He really got better his sophomore year on his understanding of how to play the post."

Brechting decided to play Division I basketball at Oakland University. The Golden Grizzlies started contacting him his junior year when he was in AAU, and he signed last November. "I went to a few of their games, did some research online, and I've been watching Oakland," he said. "I wanted to go to Oakland's program. My coach was telling me about them. I just love what they do with their big guys. They run

a lot of plays for them. I loved the atmosphere at Oakland when I went there. It was fun when I went there."

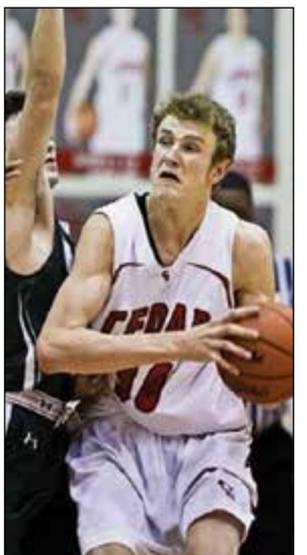
Brechting also considered Central Michigan University and Cleveland State University.

After he graduates from high school and starts focusing on college, Brechting will be looking to do some things to increase his success at the next level, including gaining some weight.

"Oakland is thinking of having me at a forward," he said. "So I want to get stronger in handling the ball."

It's a transition that Brechting is confident he can make. "I'm a pretty good ball handler for my height," said Brechting, who hit 6'11" when he was a junior. He's always been taller than his classmates, even during elementary school.

The prospect of being a Division I college basketball player excites Brechting. "I can't wait to go in and have the experience," he said



Cedar Spring's Brad Brechting will play his college basketball at Oakland University. (File Photo)

# Vestaburg Boys Hoop'in It Up

## John Raffel Sports Scene

Todd Halcomb has guided a talented Vestaburg boys basketball team to a successful regular season in the 100th year of Wolverine basketball, and he is hoping that there will be plenty of magic in March.

It's his seventh year with the Wolverines, who got out to an 11-2 record overall. "This is one of the better seasons," Halcomb said. "We had the best start in school history (at 9-0). I knew coming in we'd be a good ballclub. It was a matter of how we'd come along with some of our returning people, how much they improved from the year before, and also the people we'd count on to come off the bench for us. I pretty much expected for us to be where we're at right now."

Halcomb said that having

two three-year starters has been among the keys for Vestaburg. Seniors Keegan Scott at point guard and Jared Hilden at wing guard are both in their third varsity season. Two other starters for Vestaburg are in their second varsity seasons.

"The big thing is that we can create a lot of mismatches with our height we have, and the speed we have, and some of the shooting we have," Halcomb said. "Defensively at times, we play very well. At other times, we lose our focus and concentration and get a little frustrated and make some foolish turnovers. There are times our kids put things together, and we're fun to watch. The big thing is the experience, with the starters coming back."

Scott is averaging 14.5 points, 5.0 assists, 5.0 rebounds, and 2.0 steals a game and is shooting 81

percent from the free-throw line. Hilden is averaging 12.0 points, 2.0 assists, and 5.2 rebounds per game.

Halcomb indicated that both are having their best varsity seasons. "I would say so, even though some of their stats might be the same as what they've been in the past, but what they're giving the team in leadership to other guys, and by expectations, what they expect from them on varsity and how we do things," Halcomb said. "Also, they're more of a marked person. We go into games and people try to take them out of the game. They adjust to that. They're key at that."

Collin Dove and Kristian Gostomski are also returning players. "Collin is a junior and gives us a real height advantage inside," Halcomb said. "He's about 6'5", but his arm length makes him about 6'8" to 6'9", depending on how much he stretches out. Collin gives us mismatch

[advantages] problems inside, but he's made a big leap from last year from midseason. Dove is at 13 points a game and shooting 69 percent from the free-throw line. He has 2.5 blocked shots and 8.1 rebounds a game.

Gostomski "is kind of a grind-it-out player but is a basketball player that is very coachable and teachable and catches on to things real quick," Halcomb said. "He's probably our best driver to the hole and finisher at times going to the hole." Gostomski, a power forward, is averaging 6.0 points and 5.2 rebounds a game.

The Wolverines will be battling it out against Carson City-Crystal for the MSAC title. "Everything is still in our own hands," Halcomb said. "If we win our last three games, we'll be outright conference champs."

Vestaburg's only two losses have been to undefeated Beaverton and to Carson City-Crystal.



The Vestaburg boys basketball team has had a solid season, now they are determined to have a long tournament run when districts get underway. (Skip Traynor Photo)

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# CLASS A BOYS' BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

## Can Muskegon Repeat In Class A?

**Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene**

The story lines will be wide-ranging when the boys' basketball state tournament tips off. Familiar names dot the list of favorites in Class A and Class B along with some new names. Classes C and D also have some old standbys and some squads that have not been heard from in a while. High School Sports Scene takes a look at this year's state tournament and who to look for at the Breslin Student Events Center come March.

**CLASS A**

Statewide outlook: Defending state champion Muskegon will be the team to beat. Senior standout and Michigan State University recruit Deyonta Davis has been dominant this year while leading his Big Reds teammates through one of the most challenging schedules in the state. Davis can dominate a game in the post and is a rim protector on defense. Fellow senior Jovair Kennedy is one of the most athletic players in the state and gives the Big Reds another key scoring option.

The west side of the state has three of the top four teams in Class A, and the regional at West Ottawa will be a battle royale. East Kentwood, the only team to defeat Muskegon this season, could be bringing an unbeaten record into the tournament. The Falcons are one of the most entertaining teams in the state to watch, with their blend of outstanding guard play, quickness, and multiple players who can score.

Forest Hills Central is also unbeaten and has a multi-talented big man who is being recruited by the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Xavier Tillman (6'9") is averaging a double-double in points and rebounds and is also a high-volume shot blocker.

Area outlook: In the Lansing area, the district at Okemos will be must-watch basketball. Undeclared Grand Ledge and Lansing Everett have battled it out in the league all season and are on a collision course for the district championship game.

Grand Ledge has been among the surprise teams in Class A this season. The

Comets play solid defense, share the ball on offense, and have a variety of players who can do damage on the offensive end. Senior guards Cassell Jones and JT Houghton and junior guard Malek Adams lead a deep and talented backcourt. Jordan Goebel and Justus Dodds have also played key roles for the Comets this season.

Everett counters with one of the premier players in the state in 6'9" University of Oregon-bound Trevor Manuel. Manuel is a dominating offensive player and rim protector on defense. The Vikings also have a talented crew of quick, skilled guards in Jamyryn Jackson, Deshae Doll, and Devon Hudson.

The district also includes a pair of teams capable of the upset in host Okemos and East Lansing. Both teams feature a dominating senior capable of leading his team to a run, as Conner George is averaging over 24 points per game for Okemos and Mikhail Myles is averaging 17 points per game for a talented East Lansing squad.

The St. Johns district features a Saginaw Arthur Hill team that is capable of making it to the Breslin Center. Super senior Eric Davis has been filling up the hoop for the Lumberjacks all season and is half of a dominating one-two punch with super sophomore Bryan Bowen. Arthur Hill is a deep, athletic team that has been playing its best basketball at the end of the season and has been tested by one of the most difficult schedules in the state.

Saginaw will be waiting for Arthur Hill in the semifinal round at St. Johns. Ronquavious Southward has been leading the way for the Trojans, while Javon Pratt has also contributed.

The Heritage district will be very competitive. Midland and Midland Dow are on course to meet in the final, however, Dow will have to navigate a tough opening-night game against Mt. Pleasant first.

Dow junior Mike Robb (6'6") has been a dominating force this season

in both scoring and rebounding. Alec Marty has also been one of Dow's main sources of points.

Payton DeWildt and Virgil Walker have led the way for Midland this season. Dow and Midland split a pair of games this season, and a rematch in the finals will be one to watch.

Davison has been enjoying one of its finest seasons in recent years. Sophomore guard Dylan Alderson is one of the top sophomore guards in the state. The Cardinals also have a big presence in the post in senior Frank Vukaj (6'9") who is averaging a double-double in points and rebounds.

In Oakland County, Clarkston has been on a tear all season. Freshman guard Foster Loyer has been enjoying a huge debut season. He is averaging over 15 points per game, shooting over 40 percent from three-point range, and dishing out over four assists per game. The Wolves have great senior leadership in Andrew Myers and Merrick Canada and good size up front with Michigan State University football recruit Cole Chewins (6'8", 240 pounds) and Jonah Newblatt (6'5").

North Farmington is another Oakland County team to watch. Senior Jeron Rogers (6'7") is headed to Cleveland State University and is putting up big numbers this season.

At the Milford district, look for Howell and Brighton to battle it out for the top spot. The two rivals meet in the semifinal round, with the winner having the inside track to win the district title. Dylan Bennett has paced the Brighton offense this season.

HSSS projected FINAL FOUR: Muskegon vs. Saginaw Arthur Hill, Detroit Western International vs. Clarkston

HSSS projected STATE CHAMPION: Muskegon over Detroit Western International



Don't be surprised if Arthur Hill and Muskegon meet up at the Breslin Center during the Class A state finals. Muskegon defeated the Lumberjacks 65-63 earlier this season on a last second block by Denota Davis. Arthur Hill is led by Texas commit Eric Davis and sophomore Brian "Tugs" Bowen. (Scott Keyes Photo)



Clarkston is expected to make a long tournament run, as freshman Foster Loyer leads the way for his team. Loyer is averaging 14 points a game and shooting over 40 percent from 3-point range. (Scott Keyes Photo)

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# CLASS B BOYS' BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

## Area Teams Chasing Defending Class B State Champ Milan

**Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene**

Statewide outlook: Defending Class B state champion Milan has picked up where it left off last year. Led by standout senior guard Latin Davis and senior big man Nick Perkins, Milan enters the tournament ranked No. 1 in the state.

In southwest Michigan, Benton Harbor is again one of the premier teams. The Tigers reached the state final last year before falling to Milan. Otsego and Harper Creek are two other solid teams from southwest Michigan that will be battling it out at the Comstock regional. Otsego, led by 7'0" Western Michigan University recruit Seth Dugan, is capable of making a deep tournament run.

In West Michigan, the Godwin Heights district will be the place to be. That is where a district title matchup between No. 3 Godwin Heights and No. 7 Wayland could be in the cards. Before that happens, though, Wayland will have to get past rival South Christian and its senior guard Jon Wassink, who is headed to Western Michigan University to play quarterback on the football team. In eastern Michigan, New Haven and Yale are a pair of top-five teams that will battle it out at the Yale district for a spot in the elite eight.

Area outlook: Locally, the Haslett district will be one of the most competitive. Host Haslett has turned in a solid

season but may have a difficult time getting out of the district, as it has an opening-night game against Lansing Sexton, a semifinal match with Perry, and a possible showdown with Williamston in the final. Junior guard Brandon Allen has been leading the way for Haslett, averaging over 21 points per game. John Hudgins (6'7") has been providing strong play in the post, both on the boards and offensively.

Williamston has a bye in the first round and plays the winner of Lansing Catholic /Fowlerville in the semifinal. Riley Lewis has been averaging over 22 points per game for Williamston, and Keyen Shepler is averaging over 15 points a game.

Lansing Catholic has the potential to come away with the district title, as well. The Cougars defeated Haslett this season and have a solid one-two punch in Matthew Fata and Tyler Poljan up front. Fata is averaging over 20 points per game, while Poljan is averaging 20 points and close to 10 rebounds per game.

Fowlerville has a talented offensive player of its own in Conner Collins, who is averaging over 15 points per game.

The Lakewood district is a wide-open battle. Ionia is a dangerous team, led by Austin Gregory, who is averaging over 23 points per game.

Charlotte has a balanced squad that will be tough to beat if it can get past host Lakewood

in the semifinal round.

Alma is poised to begin a deep tournament run at the Central Montcalm regional. The Panthers have been turning in a solid season, led by versatile 6'10" big man Dylan Carl. Carl has been solid on the boards and at blocking shots and has also been a force on the offensive end, finishing and passing. Konner Vedrode has also been turning in a big season for Alma, as he is averaging over 16 points per game.

Alma faces a dangerous Lakeview team in the first round of the district. Lakeview, which won a district title a year ago, has been led by Nate Shurlow and Caleb Ruvalcaba this season.

On the other side of the bracket, host Central Montcalm has a solid team, led by Lane Ledford, Todd Switzer, and guard Mason Barnwell.

At the Clare district, Clare and Big Rapids face off on opening night. Both teams have been playing solid basketball this season. With Scott Smith leading the way for the hosts, the Pioneers will be tough to beat.

The Pinconning district has a number of solid teams in the mix. On one side of the bracket, Gladwin and John Glenn will battle. Essexville-Garber is the favorite on the other side of the bracket, provided it can get past Standish-Sterling on opening night.

Another wide-open district is Chesaning. On one side of the bracket, Freeland and Birch Run will battle. The other side of the bracket is even tougher, with Swan Valley and Hemlock opening things, with the winner getting Carrollton.

Birch Run has been hot after a mid-season slump. Peyton Miller has been leading the offense, while Jordan Martinus has been lighting up things from outside.

Hemlock has challenged Alma all season in the TVC Central and has a strong one-two punch in Brad Fleishman and Brady Rich.

A showcase game to watch at the Caro district will be Flint Northwestern and Frankenmuth in the semifinal round. Northwestern has been on a roll all season and is set up for a run to the final four if it can get by Frankenmuth in the district and either Powers Catholic or Goodrich at the Goodrich regional.

Goodrich is at the Lake Fenton district, where it is the favorite, but it has a few stumbling blocks in its way. The Martians open the district with a difficult challenge in Flint Southwestern. If they get past that game, they will have Powers Catholic waiting in the semifinal.

HSSS projected FINAL FOUR: Milan vs. Wayland, Flint Northwestern vs. New Haven

HSSS projected STATE CHAMPION: New Haven over Milan



Frankenmuth may have to face Flint Northwestern early in its district. (Chip Degrace photo)



Lansing Catholic is led by junior Tony Poljan. Poljan is currently being recruited in both football and basketball. (Alan Holben Photo)

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# CLASS C BOYS' BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

## Can Anyone Stop Flint Beecher In Class C?

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

**CLASS C**

Statewide outlook: The buzz in Class C basketball this season has been about the Beavers of Beaverton. Located about 15 minutes northeast of Clare, Beaverton was undefeated as of late February and ranked second in the state behind Beecher. Beaverton is not a newcomer to success, as coach Roy Johnston has been churning out successful teams for 42 years. This year's squad is extra special for Johnston, as his grandson, Spencer Johnston, is leading the way. Spencer is averaging 20 points per game and is a crafty ball handler. The Beavers have also received strong play from Ryan Duvall, Ronnie Rener, and Hogan Hayes along with sophomore Carter Johnston, Spencer's younger brother. Beaverton will open district play at the Farwell district, where it will face Houghton Lake in the first round.

Beecher enters the tournament as the No. 1 team in Class C, and the Buccaneers are determined to regain the state title after being upended by Pewamo-Westphalia in one of the most thrilling games of last year's tournament. This year's Beecher team is tested tough, having won games against Saginaw, Flint Northwestern, Flint Southwestern, Goodrich (twice), and River Rouge. The team has a dynamic backcourt led by Aquavius Burks, Malik Ellison, and Sammy Toins, who all feature outstanding all-around skills. Up front, senior forward Cedric Moten is an explosive player who can score, rebound, and defend. Beecher is a tremendous defensive team that can also score points in bunches and is the favorite to cut down the nets at the Breslin Center.

In western Michigan, Shelby has another outstanding all-around squad. The Tigers play

suffocating defense and have won all but two games by more than double digits this season.

Southern Michigan has a trio of outstanding teams in Lumen Christi Catholic, Hanover-Horton, and Hillsdale. The three teams have lost a combined total of only two games this season. Lumen Christi and Hanover-Horton are poised to meet in the Hanover-Horton district final, with the winner of that district to meet undefeated Hillsdale at the Madison regional.

Area outlook: Locally, one of the best districts will be at Pewamo-Westphalia. Laingsburg, ranked ninth in the state in Class C, is setting up for a district semifinal match with the host Pirates. The two teams played twice this season, with Laingsburg winning by five and eight points, but beating a tough rival three times in a season is always difficult.

Senior guard Ryan Wade is pouring in over 18 points per game for the Wolfpack, while senior Cole Franks is adding eight points per game and Bryson Mitchell seven.

Pewamo-Westphalia features a balanced attack. Jared Hengesbach is averaging 11 points per game, while Ryan Smith, Mitch Krausz, and Bryce Thelen are averaging between seven and eight apiece.

The winner of a semifinal showdown between the two would likely face Carson City-Crystal in the title game. The Eagles have the firepower to win the district, led by senior standout Grant Gage, who can attack defenses on the drive or from three-point range. Sophomore Kaleb Barrett can heat up on offense, while senior Kolton Kavanaugh can knock down the three.

At the White Cloud district, look for a final between Beal City and Vestaburg. Vestaburg got out to a strong start this

season and is capable of a deep run in the tournament.

Ithaca is also capable of a long run. Junior Spencer DeMull has taken his game to another level this season and is one of the top offensive performers in the area. Sophomore Levi Lehman (6'6") continues to develop into a force in the paint, while sophomore guard Nick Radak continues to expand his game. Ithaca has posted impressive wins against Frankenmuth and Alma this season and is a big favorite at the Merrill district.

Michigan Lutheran Seminary has been ranked in the top ten for most of the year and is the favorite at its own district. Andrew Schroeder gives the Cardinals a strong post presence along with Ben Burger. Sophomore Casey Williams continues to develop into one of the top guards in the area, while Nate Lindloff has a solid all-around game.

Millington is the only team to defeat MLS this season, and it did it without super senior Austin Levan, who was out with a shoulder injury. Junior Shawn Pardee poured in 39 points in the win against MLS and is one of the top junior guards in the area. With Levan due back by the start of the tournament, Millington is capable of a deep tournament run.

At the Bad Axe district, look for the winner of the Harbor Beach/Bad Axe semifinal game to emerge with the district title.

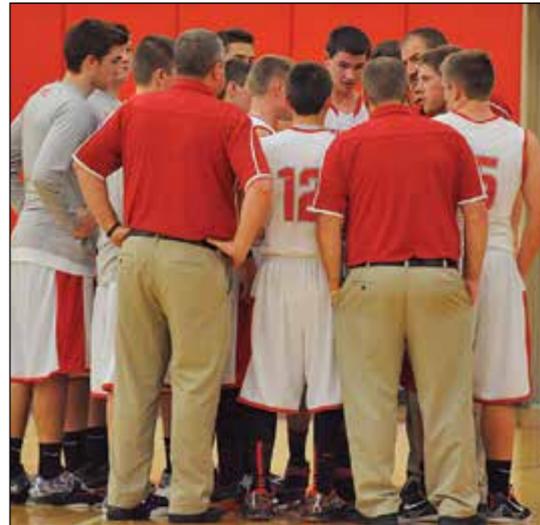
The Reese regional will be the place for sizzling action, with potentially Ithaca, MLS, Millington, and the winner of Harbor Beach/Bad Axe battling it out.

HSSS projected FINAL FOUR: Shelby vs. Beaverton, Beecher vs. Lumen Christi Catholic

HSSS projected STATE CHAMPION: Beecher over Shelby



Michigan Lutheran Seminary is hoping to make a long tournament run similar to what its football team did in the fall. (Skip Traynor Photo)



The Laingsburg boys basketball team is hoping to regain its tournament magic from two years ago that saw the Wolfpack make it all the way to the Class C title game. (Submitted Photo)

# CLASS D BOYS' BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

## Class D Title Up For Grabs

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

**CLASS D**

Statewide outlook: Class D boys basketball definitely has a northern feeling to it this season. Eight of the top ten teams in the state are from the northern reaches of the state, including five teams from above the Mackinac Bridge. Four of the top 10 teams in the state could potentially battle it out for the regional title at Negaunee, including undefeated No. 1 North Central, undefeated No. 4 Munising, undefeated No. 9 Lake Linden-Hubbell, and No. 10 Forest Park.

The Pellston regional could include unbeaten Cedarville, which is ranked second in the state, and once-beaten Hill-

man, which is ranked seventh in the state.

Area outlook: In mid Michigan, Fulton and Sacred Heart Academy have squads capable of making deep post-season runs.

Fulton hosts its own district and is a strong favorite to win the title. It opens the tournament by facing rival Fowler in the semifinal round. Fulton defeated Fowler 78-70 earlier this season and has also defeated strong Class C teams Ithaca and Pewamo-Westphalia. Gregg Jones is leading the Pirates in scoring at more than 18 points per game, while Colton Antes is adding over 12 points per game, and Talon Hyde is adding nine.

Fowler has a solid team of its own and is capable of coming away with the district title.



Jeremy Pung, Austin Cook, and Derek Bengel are all averaging in double digits for the Eagles.

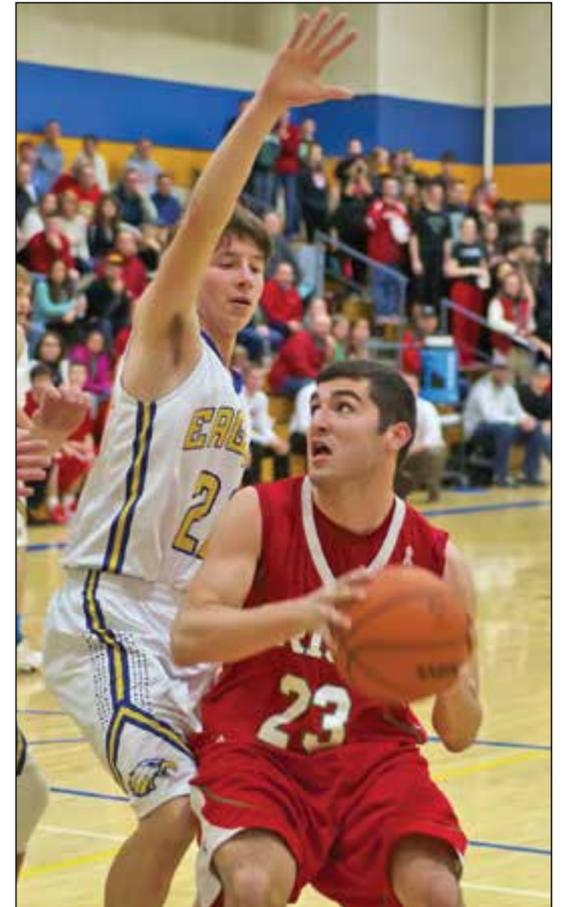
Sacred Heart went on a memorable postseason run last season, and the Irish have the potential for another deep tournament run. Ben Goenner has been leading the way and has been assisted by strong play from Tomas Krepostman and Kyle Szymanski. The Irish have given glimpses of how strong they can be with wins against strong Class C squads like Clare and Carson City-Crystal.

Sacred Heart and Fulton are both looking to make it to the Crossroads Academy regional in Big Rapids, where Baldwin could be waiting. Led by Central Michigan University football recruit Brandon Childress, Baldwin has tested itself against some Class B and C teams this year and has dominated area Class D schools. The regional shapes up as one of the most interesting Class D regionals in mid Michigan.

At the Lansing Christian district, the host Pilgrims may have the edge, playing on their home floor. Christian plays Morrice in semifinal action, while Webberville may be the team to beat at the district.

In the Thumb, there are a pair of interesting districts. At the All Saints Catholic district, All Saints, Akron-Fairgrove, and North Huron will be fighting it out for the title.

At Kingston, Peck



Don't be surprised if Fulton and Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart meet up for another regional showdown in Class D. The two teams met a year ago and the Irish won on a dramatic last-minute shot by Dustin Neyer. (Skip Traynor and Hayley Estill Photos)

and Kingston appear headed for a showdown in the district title game.

In Oakland County, Our Lady of the Lakes is the team to beat at the Everest Collegiate district in Clarkston. Our Lady of the Lakes has been ranked in the top five in the state for much of the season and is led by standout senior Nick Robak.

It has the potential to reach the final four this season, as it has a strong all-around team.

HSSS projected FINAL FOUR: Our Lady of the Lakes vs. Lawrence, North Central vs. Frankfort

HSSS projected STATE CHAMPION: North Central over Our Lady of the Lakes

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### The Keegan Scott file

School: Vestaburg

Class: Senior

Sport: Basketball

Highlights: "He's the glue of our team and is the one that makes us go. He's a basketball junkie. He plays as much basketball as he can. He stays after practice and works on his skills. He'll play at the next level somewhere," coach Todd Halcomb said. Scott had 12 points against Montabella, 10 against Beaverton, and 19 against Ashley.



### The Mikayla Duflo File

School: Carson City-Crystal

Class: Senior

Sport: Basketball

Highlights: Duflo leads the Eagles, averaging 19 points, 4.6 assists, and 3.2 steals per game. She scored 22 points in a win over Sacred Heart Academy and helped her school secure its fourth straight MSAC title. She will be an all-state candidate this season.



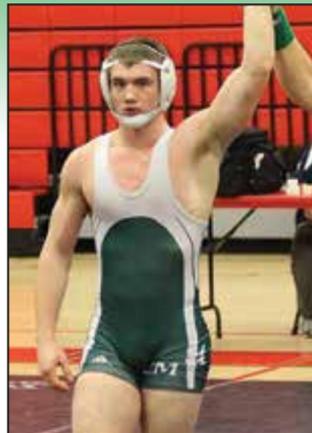
### The Gregg Jones File

School: Fulton

Class: Senior

Sports: Basketball

Highlights: Jones is a 6'1" guard for coach Todd Walden's team. He averaged 21 points per game in his last seven contests, which included performances of 25, 33, and 30 points. He also has been averaging three steals and three assists per game.



### The Trent Braman File

School: Central Montcalm

Class: Junior

Sport: Wrestling

Highlights: Braman wrestles at 160 pounds pounds, has a 30-11 record, and has been among the top wrestlers for the Green Hornets and in the Central State Activities Association Gold Division. "He has been a very outstanding wrestler," coach Dan VanderVlucht said.



### The Levi Lehman File

School: Ithaca

Class: Sophomore

Sport: Basketball

Highlights: Lehman, a 6'6" center, is leading the team with 13.1 points and 8 rebounds per game. "He's really come a long way," coach Jim Thompson said. "I had him up last year as a freshman on the varsity."



### The Austin Hopkins File

School: Carson City-Crystal

Class: Senior

Sport: Wrestling

Highlights: Hopkins dropped to 189 pounds for the team's sake in the conference meet, placing second in his weight class and winning his third straight CMAC title. He placed fourth at individual districts and helped beat St. Louis and Fulton in team districts for Carson City-Crystal's third straight district title. He has 38 wins this season.



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# RECRUITING: Cole Chewins Rises Above During Clarkston's Glory Days

Dan Stickrad  
Sports Scene  
Twitter: @LocalSportsFans

CLARKSTON — Cole Chewins can vividly recollect growing up in Clarkston, walking through the hallways of the high school and viewing trophy cases, attending basketball and football games, and dreaming one day of suiting up for the Wolves.

He is now living the dream and enjoying every minute of the storybook motion picture.

Now a senior at Clarkston, Chewins, who stands about 6-foot-8-inches tall and checks in around 240 pounds, was a key cog in Clarkston's stellar success on the football field the past three campaigns and is also a contributor to the Wolves' undefeated basketball team.

"I grew up here, and when we were younger, we would always go to the games and camps, and we talked about what it would be like to play for Clarkston," noted Chewins, who also used to play baseball and run track to become a well-rounded athlete. "We knew the history, and we understood what sports mean in this community. There's no other [high school] I ever wanted to suit up for."

Chewins was a three-year varsity performer on the gridiron for the Wolves, who reached the Division 1 regional final in 2012 and who won back-to-back Division 1 state titles in 2013 and 2014. Named all-state by multiple publications, Chewins committed to Miami University in Ohio last summer but verbally switched to Michigan State University in early January and eventually signed his NCAA letter of intent with the Spartans on Feb. 4.

"I think, although it is close, the thought of playing in the Big Ten and for a top 25 program is what really got me interested," said Chewins, who carries a 3.9 GPA. "When they offered right before Christmas, I gave it some serious thought. I made up my mind in January. I've dreamed of playing sports in the Big Ten ever since I was little."

Veteran Clarkston football coach Kurt Richardson is not surprised that Chewins, who was moved to offensive tackle from tight end as a senior due to a rash of pre-season injuries, has blown onto the scene as a top 100 offensive lineman recruit nationally. He is currently drawing comparisons to Rochester Stoney Creek graduate Eric Fisher, who went on to star at Central Michigan University and who became the No. 1 pick in the 2013 NFL draft selection show.

"He's such a great kid. When we needed him to switch, he did it without ever complaining," said

Richardson. "Look at him now. He keeps getting better and better, and the opportunities are opening up for him. He is similar to Fisher at that age, which is why he is drawing comparisons. I think he has a lot of potential to be a very good college player. He works hard, has the size, and is willing [to adapt]."

On the basketball court, Chewins does not start but is part of a tenacious and deep 12-man rotation that is wearing down opponents. As of Feb. 19, Clarkston was 15-0, on course for its 11th league title in 12 years, and ranked in the Class A top 10 by the Associated Press, State Champs Network, Detroit News, and Detroit Free Press.

"My job is to go out there and grab rebounds, score a couple of points, and play solid defense — whatever it takes for us to win," admitted Chewins, who played spot minutes as a junior when the Wolves advanced to the Class A regional final round.

"I know my role. I am not a finesse-type player, and I'm not going to score a ton of points," he continued. "But play defense and get rebounds, that's what my job is. I think what makes us so strong is that every one of us understands our roles. The same in football. We grew up together, play multiple sports with one another, trust one another."

Clarkston is having one its best basketball seasons in school history, and the Wolves' history includes 22 district titles in the past 25 seasons. The school is eyeing a trip to the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing.

Clarkston reached the Class A Final Four in 1980 and in 2009, yet the Wolves have never won a state title.

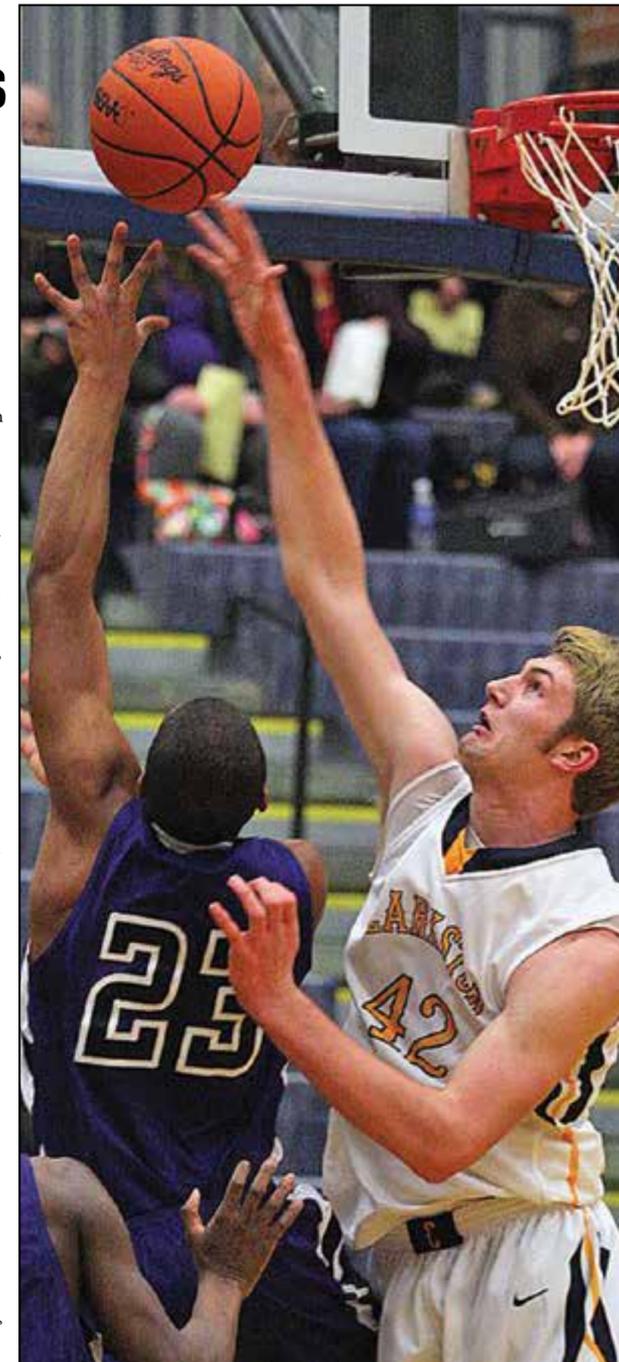
"We did it in football. I know we want to try to make a run in basketball, too, and try to get to the Breslin," smiled Chewins. "Our school has never won it all in basketball — and we know how important that would be for the community of Clarkston. That is something we dreamed about."

Afer once walking the hallways as a youth, Cole Chewins has become part of something special as a high school athlete, making memories, adding trophies, and etching a few pages in Clarkston's glory years.

"It's been an unbelievable experience," noted Chewins. "As kids we talked, dreamed about this."

And now Cole Chewins and his friends are living the dream.

dan.stickrad@northoaklandsports.com



Although Cole Chewins will be attending Michigan State University to play football, the Clarkston senior has also had a solid season on the basketball court this season. (Submitted Photo)

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## Ithaca Boys Putting Together Solid Season Lehman Has Emerged As Go-To Post Player For 'Jackets

John Raffel Sports Scene

Levi Lehman has been holding his own as a sophomore on an Ithaca Yellowjacket boys basketball team that boasts several talented players.

Ithaca started out 14-2 overall and 8-1 in the TVC. The only losses were to Michigan



Junior Jake Smith is on the verge of breaking the season assist record for Ithaca. (Randy Miniard Photo)

Lutheran Seminary and Fulton.

"The first thing you have to understand is that when you play [MLS], they're a very smart team," Ithaca coach Jim Thompson said. "To beat them, you have to beat them, because they don't beat themselves. You have to do all the little things. I know it sounds cliché. We lost to them 49-43 at our place and were 0 of 17 in threes. We're a much better basketball team than we were earlier, from the standpoint the kids are starting to understand that. We're getting much better balanced scoring now. That's what you need, distribute the ball and give it to the right people. Play defense and rebound against them."

Lehman, a 6-foot-6-inch center, is leading the team with 13.1 points and 8 rebounds per game.

"He's really come a long way," Thompson said. "I had him up last year as a freshman on the varsity. We had a good group of seniors last year. We had Logan Hessbrook, just an outstanding kid, the type of kid you want your younger kids to emulate. I don't think Levi was ready to play varsity basketball last year, more so than the mental aspect of it. But I wanted him around a kid like Logan, so Logan can teach him the ropes a little bit."

"Levi had some really good practices last year. By the end of the year, he was giving us some good minutes. Now, all that time he got to spend around those kids is paying off for him. He's still young. He's worked really hard and is very diligent in the things he's done to get better. He's a good team player, too. He's starting to find guys and make the extra pass and is realizing when the double team is coming at him. Those are the things he's going to get better as he gets more experience."



Ithaca's Levi Lehman is averaging 13 points, eight boards a game this season for the 'Jackets. (Randy Miniard Photo)

Thompson noted that Lehman is especially coachable. "He wants to get better and is listening," he said.

The Yellowjackets have also been getting key contributions from other players, including Spence DeMull. "His all-around game has really improved," Thompson said. "He's averaging 11.5 [points] and is leading us in assists as a two-guard. The last month of the season, he has tried to make his teammates better, and he has. Spence is by far our highest IQ basketball player in terms of overall game, dribbling, passing, shooting. He knows the game well and has played a ton of basketball. He's trying to instill that in

other players."

It's the second varsity year for DeMull, a junior. Thompson has also been happy with the work of juniors Nick Radek and point guard Jake Smith. Sophomore forward Isaiah Hoag is also getting some starting time.

"We're really young," Thompson said. "Next year, we'll have a lot of seniors. These kids are getting some great experience."

"We have two guards, Smith and DeMull, who are really smart basketball players, IQ-wise," Thompson said. "If they can get the ball in people's hands, you're going to score some points."

## Alma's Vedrode Family Stays Active In Sports

John Raffel Sports Scene

The Vedrode family has been a prominent name in Alma athletics over the past several years in baseball and softball.

But Vedrode has also become a big name for the basketball teams. Senior Kendall Vedrode is on the girls' team, and Konner is a 6'0" sophomore guard for the boys'.

Their brother, Kyle, is now at Muskegon Community College on the baseball team.

Konner is averaging 15.8 points, 2.9 steals, and 2.5 assists per game, while shooting 48.2 percent from the floor.

"Last year, Konner was moved up late in the season to be our backup point guard," coach JT Cleveland said. "He did a nice job handling the ball and running our plays. This season, he has emerged as a reliable scorer and a much-improved defender. Konner has worked hard on his jump shot, moves to the basket, and finishes over defenders."

"We knew Konner was going to be good this year. The best surprise has been his exceptional play on the defensive end. Often, we have called on him to guard the best player on the opposing team. Konner handles the ball well, can shoot the three, and finishes over and around defenders incredibly well. He also has a knack for anticipating and creating steals on the ball and in the passing lanes."

Konner indicated that he's lived up to his expectations at the wing. "I can shoot the three ball, and I have a mid-range game," he said. "If people close me higher, I can go to the basket. I can dribble and I can shoot."



Konner and Kendall Vedrode have both played key roles in their teams' successes this season for the Alma Panthers. (File Photos)

He scored 30 points against Millington, 29 in the season opener against Portland, and 24 against Hemlock.

"Against Ovid-Elsie, I hit a couple of big shots at the end of the game to close out that game," Vedrode said. "It's definitely been a team effort. We've had a lot of guys step up, even guys off the bench score in double digits. It's always different guys stepping up. We're definitely young."

"Basketball is probably my second-best sport behind baseball," Konner said. "We're a baseball/softball family for sure. Softball is my sister's big thing."

But Konner has proven how talented he is in basketball.

"Defenses have tried to deny the ball and rotate early on Konner," Cleveland said. "Three times he has had at least five assists when this happens. He also has developed a great pull-up jumper to avoid charges. Konner spent hours every day working on his ball-handling and shooting. He came in on the weekends this fall to shoot with the coaching staff. He prepared hard, and it has shown on the court."

"Konner has been vital to our success. We have had a rash of injuries, but Konner's play has been consistent. He has stepped into the scorer and ball-hawking defender roles for us. Filling these roles has catapulted our team to new heights."

Konner Vedrode plays everywhere in baseball and doesn't focus on a position.

As for a post high school career, Konner is only a sophomore and "a terrific three-sport athlete, but if he desires to play collegiate basketball, there will be plenty of opportunities for him in the future," Cleveland said. "Konner is the

hardest-working player every day in practice. He gets after it every play and every drill. This attitude is a huge reason why he achieves at a high level so quickly, and why he will continue to improve in the future."

Kendall Vedrode is in her third varsity basketball season. "It's been a good season," she said. "It started out rough, but we turned it around at Christmas break. We all came together and we've played as good as we have."

It's been her best season. "I'm starting to drive more; it's been a lot better season," she said.

She's averaging 10 points per game, similar to what she averaged in past years.

"I'm definitely taking more of a leadership position this year than I did last year," Kendall said. "We upset Freeland last week, and that was a huge win for us, a confidence-booster for our team. They're the second team in our conference."

She acknowledged that she and Konner like basketball a lot, but that they especially have a passion for the ball diamond. In the spring, she'll play her fourth varsity softball season.

She agreed that basketball keeps her in shape for softball, but admits that she will miss basketball. "I'll miss the atmosphere, the fans, not having everyone there to support us," she said.

Kyle Vedrode is focusing on his second year at Muskegon Community College and transfers to Northwood next year. At MCC, he's a pitcher and third baseman. He had Tommy John surgery last year but is ready for this season. "Last year, we won the conference; we have a lot of expectations," he said. "We have a real good pitching staff."

Athletics has played a huge role in his family. It led to a lot of opportunities, "at least for me it did," Kyle said. "I'm sure it will for my brother and sister."

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# Tall Order

## Alma's Carl Getting It Done On Hardwood

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Dylan Carl was definitely impressive last year as a sophomore basketball player for the Alma Panthers. He averaged 13.2 points, 10.5 rebounds, 2.9 assists, 3.4 blocks, and 1.5 steals per game and shot 49 percent from the floor. Those numbers earned him first-team all-conference, first-team all-area, and honorable mention all-state.

Considering last year's performance, it's no major surprise to his coach, JT Cleveland, and to others that Carl is putting up impressive numbers this season. So far, he's averaging 13.7 points, 11.9 rebounds, 4.6 assists, 4.4 blocks, and 1.5 steals per game and is shooting 59.5 percent from the floor.

"Everything is a gradual increase as he steadily improves, but his shooting percentage has jumped 10 percent," Cleveland said. "That is from his skill and strength improvement in the offseason. His assists have a nice jump as well, which shows his decision-making continues to improve, but also from teams keying on him with zones and double teams. He has been very unselfish and happy to set up his teammates."

"Some special moments from this season right now have been going undefeated in the conference in the first half of the season, and against Bullock Creek when I had four dunks," Carl said. "My varsity career has been decently successful so far, other than losing in the district

championship last year. This season has been pretty successful so far. I have been playing a lot better as the games go on, so I will be playing my best during playoffs."

"He has really improved our team offense, points per game, and obviously wins this year," Cleveland said. "Dylan is stronger, faster, better ball-handler, decision maker, shooter, and a better leader. Dylan was very good last year, but now he dominates games. He had the first triple double I have ever coached vs. Swan Valley with 11 points, 11 rebounds, and 10 blocks."

"Areas of my game I feel I have especially improved on this year is my shooting and ball handling," Carl said. "Areas of my game I am still focusing to get better on is my shooting and my ball handling. I have improved on them, but there is still a lot of improving to do on those two things."

In a recent game against Shepherd, there was a four-minute span during which Carl grabbed every rebound on both ends of the floor. During that time, he totaled four defensive and two offensive boards, and Alma's lead went from 13 to 25 points. Cleveland figures that while Carl's blocks are up, the number of shots he changes is also higher. As many as 10 shots a game are affected by his presence.

"My expectations are so high for Dylan, but at times he still amazes me with his play," Cleveland said. "He has become the dominant force

Alma junior Dylan Carl throws one down during a recent game. Carl and the Panthers are hoping for a long postseason run this year. (Skip Traynor Photo)

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I knew he could be, but he can still improve. His potential is almost limitless. He is blessed with size, speed, and coordination. This is why he is so versatile for us on the court. We may post him at the start of the game, then he may play high post, then shoot a three, then drive and finish later in the game. We can play him all over the court. On long rebounds this year, we have even encouraged him to bring the ball up on the break."

It's not surprising that defenses have focused on stopping Carl. "Some defenses have tried double teaming him out of a man-to-man, but he is too good a passer," Cleveland said. "He always finds the open man. Most teams have tried to zone us, but he is great at finding a gap in the middle and then being a playmaker. He decides whether to shoot, drive, or pass. When we scored 76 points vs. Big Rapids, they played us zone the entire way, and Dylan scored and set up his teammates over and over all night."

Cleveland estimates that Carl works on his game 2½ hours a day. "He spends time lifting weights, shooting, and playing," Cleveland said. "He has gained almost 20 pounds since last season. His vertical is four inches higher. His shooting is much better and more consistent.

Dylan is a one-sport athlete, but he works on it year round."

"Dylan is blessed with talented teammates, and they are blessed with



the most unselfish star ever. Dylan is one of the best passers I have ever coached. He is as happy with a no-look pass for a layup as he is with a thundering dunk. The constant attention he draws from zones and double teams helps his teammates get open three[-pointer]s and easier drives to the basket."

Carl is getting a lot of looks from colleges, and among the top schools he is considering are the University of Detroit, Lehigh University, Central Michigan University, and Western Michigan University.

After Alma's first 15 games, the Panthers were 12-3. "Our season this year has been pretty successful so far," Carl said. "We pretty much beat ourselves in those three losses. The keys behind the team's success is how hard and competitive we go in practice. We are always giving it all we can and being very competitive.

"Some team goals for the rest of the year are to win the conference, win districts, and then win regionals and go from there. It will take a lot to reach those goals. We have to get better every day and always give it everything we have."

Alma's Dylan Carl has averaged a double-double most of the season and has been equally impressive on both ends of the court. Carl and the Panthers have the opportunity to advance far in the Class B playoffs, but will have a lot very good teams standing in their way. (Skip Traynor photos.)



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## Team of the Month

### St. Charles Girls Basketball Team

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# CLASS A GIRLS' BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

## Heritage, Dewitt Have High Hopes Entering Tournament

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

A thrilling girls' basketball season comes to an end in March with the state tournament. High School Sports Scene takes a look at this year's state tournament and who will likely be playing at the Breslin Student Events Center come mid-March.

#### CLASS A

State-wide outlook: The Detroit area again dominates Class A. Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills was atop the polls in February

and has been rolling all season. Southfield-Lathrup had one loss at press time and was ranked third in the state. Marian and Lathrup are headed for a collision course at the Southfield regional.

Waterford Kettering has been enjoying a big season and was 16-0 in mid February. It is a strong favorite to advance to at least the state quarterfinal round, where it would face either Marian or Lathrup.

Detroit King is on track for a perfect regular season, as it

was undefeated at 16-0 in mid February. It is on track to make it to the quarterfinal round, with its only stumbling block in the district and regional rounds being Grosse Pointe South.

Area outlook: The can't-miss district action this year will be at Midland Dow, where a pair of top-ten teams, Heritage and Dow, will battle it out. Heritage was paced by Allie Miller, Jaela Richardson, and Jenna Falkenberg and split the season series with Dow. Heritage won the first meeting by 10 points, and Dow won the rematch by six.

Heritage, however, will have to clear the major hurdle of Midland before a district title showdown with Dow can occur. Midland split a pair of games with Heritage this season and will have another crack at the Hawks in the district semifinal. Jayden Williams and Alex VanSumaran have been a strong one-two punch for Midland.

Dow may be the favorite at the district, as it hosts the tournament and avoids Midland in the semifinal. Ellie Taylor and Asjia Blanton have led the way for Dow this year, with strong play in the post by Kaylee Wasco.

The winner of the Dow district will advance to the Bay City Western regional, where a number of challenges await.

Marquette is undefeated in the Upper Peninsula and has been ranked in the top ten all season.

Flushing was undefeated as of mid February and will be favored at the Owosso district. Lauren Newman and Clare Glowniak have given Flushing a solid one-two scoring punch, while Breanna Perry has been strong in the post.

St. Johns will be Flushing's main threat at Owosso. Maddie Maloney has been one of the leaders for St. Johns this season, along with sophomore guard Erika Ballinger.



Heritage has been one of the top teams in Class A this season and looks to make a long tournament run in March. (Scott Keyes Photo)

DeWitt has enjoyed a big season and is gearing up for a deep tournament run, behind its talented cast of players, led by Abby Nakfoor, Claudia Reed, and Lilly George. DeWitt will be at the Grand Ledge district, where its main roadblock will be Waverly and Breanna Mobley in the semifinal. DeWitt has defeated Waverly twice this season, however, the first meeting was decided by just three points. Grand Ledge is potentially waiting in the district final. If DeWitt survives the district, it will face a major test in Ann Arbor Huron at the Portage Central regional.

At the Holt district, the host Rams will take on Mason in the first round. The winner of that matchup would have the upper hand in the district, with a final test against a strong Gull Lake team possible.

The Lowell girls have enjoyed a strong season, and the Red Arrows are one of the favorites at the Forest Hills Central district. Kate Montgomery has led the way this season. Bridget Garter and Katie Holzhuetter have also stepped up on the offensive end for Lowell,

which will have a test against Northview in the semifinal.

Rockford could be waiting for Lowell in the final. Maddy Waters has been enjoying a breakout season for the Rams this year. Senior Logan McCane has also been having a solid season for Rockford.

Brighton has been energized by senior transfer Cori Crocker. The Bulldogs will face a tough test with rival Howell in the semifinal at the Howell district. Hartland is on the other side of the bracket and will be awaiting the winner of the Brighton/Howell semifinal.

Lakeland will be tough to beat at the Walled Lake Northern district. If it wins the district, Lakeland will play at the Fenton regional that will include the winner of the Howell district. The Holly district winner will also head to the Fenton regional. Fenton, Holly, and Linden will battle it out for that district title.

HSSS projected FINAL FOUR: DeWitt vs Midland Dow, Marian vs Detroit King

HSSS projected STATE CHAMPION: Marian over DeWitt



Saginaw Heritage senior Aubree Snow goes in for a layup during a recent game against Flint Powers. (Scott Keyes Photo)

# CLASS B GIRLS' BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

## Bullock Creek Eyes A Possible Third Breslin Visit

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

#### CLASS B

State-wide outlook: In western Michigan, Wayland and Grand Rapids Catholic Central have been the cream of the crop. Wayland is paced by sharp-shooting guard Presley Hudson, who has committed to Central Michigan University. Catholic Central has a squad full of Division I prospects and may have the most overall talent in the state.

In the Detroit area, Detroit Country Day has a loaded squad that has been ranked in the top ten all season.

Area outlook: Basketball fans have some great choices when it comes to Class B district action. The prime location will be Fowlerville. In the first round, one of the best games of the entire tournament will take place when Haslett faces Williamston. Both teams have been ranked in the top ten all season and have been enjoying huge seasons. Williamston defeated Haslett 54-50 when the two teams met earlier this season.

Haslett is hoping to have a healthy Makenna Ott back for the tournament. The Vikings have a talented squad capable of reaching the final four. Senior guards Kenzie DeCook and Adrianna Stolicker lead a solid backcourt, with junior Karson Tripp turning in a big season up front.

Williamston is paced by senior forward Sarah Schultz. Junior Renee Sturm and sophomore Elana Lycos are also having big seasons for the Hornets.

The winner of the Haslett/Williamston game will face a talented Perry team in the semifinal. Perry has been enjoying a big season in its own right. The Ramblers have been playing strong defense and have been getting solid play from Chasty Potter inside, along with Victoria Bell and junior point guard Lindsay Crim.



Goodrich's Tania Davis is hoping to lead the Martians to their third Class B state championship in four seasons. (Scott Keyes Photo)



Haslett has been one of the most consistent teams in Class B this season. (Scott Keyes Photo)

The Pinconning district also provides some must-see games. The state's top-ranked team, Bullock Creek, is primed for a showdown with talented John Glenn in one semifinal. Bullock Creek has been dominant this season, with Freeland being the lone team that the Lancers have not defeated by double digits. Ellie Juengel, Hallee Nieman, and Hannah Heldt have been turning in huge seasons for the Lancers, who are on a mission to make it to the state final.

The winner of the Pinconning district heads to Caro, where three of the top nine teams in the state may battle it out.

Goodrich is the overwhelming favorite to win the Corunna district and then head to Caro as a serious challenger for Bullock Creek.

Frankenmuth is ranked ninth in the state and is a favorite to win the North Branch district and also head to Caro.

The final team to make it to Caro will come from the Hemlock district. While there are no state-ranked teams at Hemlock, the district will have good competition. Freeland, with Taryn Taugher, is the favorite at Hemlock. The Falcons open the district with a tough semifinal matchup against Swan Valley, with the winner taking on Carrollton.

On the other side of the bracket, Hemlock and Birch Run should get by their opening-round opponents and then square off in the semifinal. Hemlock is led by Aubrey Alfano and Samantha Krauss, while Birch Run is paced by Savannah Gibson.

The Belding district will be hotly contested by a number of solid teams. Alma and Shepherd open up in one semifinal game. Alma has been on fire during February, picking up road wins at Freeland and Shepherd. Guard Kenzie Seeley has been leading the charge, along with Kendall

Verdrode. Belding vs. Lakeview is another interesting game at the district. Both teams have double-digit wins this season and have been playing strong basketball. Junior guard Katie Wood and sophomore forward Hallee Breimayer have been turning in big seasons for Belding, which will be tough to beat on its home floor. Lakeview has been turning in an equally strong season. Maddie Shurlow and Sadie Massie have led the way. Lakeview was on a roll starting in late January through much of February, winning seven of eight games.

The Portland district will also be very competitive. Ionia and Lakewood meet in one semifinal. The two teams met recently, with Ionia clipping Lakewood by a single point. Jaylynn Williams

HSSS projected FINAL FOUR: Haslett vs. Plainwell, Bullock Creek vs. Detroit Country Day

HSSS projected STATE CHAMPION: Bullock Creek over Haslett



Bullock Creek is hoping to return to the Breslin Center for the third consecutive season. (Scott Keyes Photo)

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# CLASS C GIRLS' BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

## Area Teams Look To Make Long Tourney Run

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

**CLASS C**

Mid-Michigan schools have been ranked among the best in the state in Class C this winter. To win a state title, however, area schools will have to knock off the best teams from the rest of the state. From southwest Michigan, Brandywine and Gobles have been turning in big seasons. In southeastern Michigan, Blissfield has fashioned a perfect record heading into late February. Arbor Preparatory may have the most talented team in the state and will be a major factor. In the North, Traverse City St. Francis is capable of making it to the final four.

Area outlook: For area Class C fans, there



Saginaw Nouvel is hoping to return to the Breslin Center for the third consecutive season after winning the Class C state championship a year ago. (Scott Keyes Photo)

is no question where to be for district basketball action. The Bath district is loaded with some of the finest teams in the state. Laingsburg, undefeated and ranked number one in the state, is the team to watch. The Wolfpack have a balanced team and have cleared every obstacle in their path this season. Defense has been a key, with seniors Sara Hurst and Jalynn Mitchell leading the way. Junior Lindsey Smith has also been a key player for the Wolfpack.

Laingsburg faces a familiar foe in the opening round of the district, when it takes on league rival Pewamo-Westphalia. The Pirates have played Laingsburg tough this season, and if P-W gets on a hot streak from beyond the three-point arc, it can make things interesting. Hannah Thelen and

Emily Spitzley are dangerous three-point shooters. Thelen is a solid, all-around guard who has been leading the team in most categories. Junior forward Alyssa Nurenberg has provided strong play in the front court.

The winner of the P-W/Laingsburg game would face Bath in the semifinal. Bath is another team that can light it up from outside, led by sharpshooting Audrey Mohr. Tessa Hosford is a talented point guard, and sophomore Jessica Stoskopf is averaging a double-double in points and rebounds and gives Bath a solid post presence.

On the other side of the bracket, Carson City-Crystal looms. The Eagles were ranked No. 1 in the state at one point. Standout senior Mikayla Duflo is averaging over 18 points per game. Junior center Madi Weese has also turned in a big year and gives an outstanding option in the post.

A district final showdown between Laingsburg and Carson City will be a must-see game, and the winner could be cutting down the nets at the end of the season at the



Ithaca's Kylee Chaffin has come on towards the end of the season giving the 'Jackets a boost offensively. (Skip Traynor Photo)

Breslin Center.

Morley Stanwood has been having a strong season and is poised for a tournament run. The Mohawks will be favorites at their own district that includes Beal City, Montabella, and Vestaburg. The Mohawks open district play with White Cloud. Mikayla Thumser, Lindsey Veersma, and Mallory Raven have combined to give Morley Stanwood a strong and balanced attack on offense. Strong team defense has also been a key for the Mohawks this season.

Ithaca has turned in a big season will be a heavy favorite to win the district that it will host. Freshman center Kayla Belles has proven to be even better than advertised and has been a steady source of points and rebounds in the post. Kylee Chaffin and Courtney Cooley are accurate outside shooters, while Brooklyn Dolloff has been another reliable scoring threat. The Yellowjackets open up with Breckenridge and then would face Meridian in the semifinal.

St. Louis is on the other side of the bracket at Ithaca. The Sharks have been led by junior guard Ashtyn Maniez, along with talented sophomore Jaelynn Block.

At the Nouvel Catholic Central district, the host team again appears to be the team to beat. Laurel Jacqmain has paced the Nouvel offense this season, while Maddie Graham has proven to be a solid player in the post. Nicole Buckingham has developed into a strong scoring option. Nouvel opens with a tough test against Michigan Lutheran Seminary in the first round.

On the other side of the bracket, Valley Lutheran squares off against St. Charles.

At the Mayville district, Reese and New Lothrop appear to be on a collision course for the final. Reyna Frost has turned in a huge season for Reese, putting up big numbers on offense and on the boards and has also been a shot-blocking force. Emily Fleischmann is another dominating player in the post. Reese plays the winner of the Millington/Montrose game in the semifinal.

New Lothrop is on the other side of the bracket. Sophomore Claudia Freed has been New Lothrop's leading scorer this year, while Kate Merlo and Allyson Sovis have also been key contributors.

Ithaca, Nouvel, and Reese could all meet up at the regional tournament at Millington that should be a barnburner. Nouvel defeated Reese this season and will be the favorite at the Millington regional.

Hamady and Sandusky are heavy favorites to win their districts and will head to the regional at Shrine Catholic in Royal Oak, where they will eventually battle it out for the title. With Jalisha Terry and Aaliah Hill, Hamady has two of the premier players in the state in Class C.

HSSS projected FINAL FOUR: Laingsburg vs. Traverse City St. Francis, Hamady vs. Arbor Preparatory

HSSS projected STATE CHAMPION: Hamady over Laingsburg

# CLASS D GIRLS' BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PREVIEW

## Sacred Heart Hoping For Repeat Performance From A Year Ago

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

**CLASS D**

Statewide outlook: Class D girls' basketball has a northern flavor to it this year. The top-ranked team in the state, Frankfort, comes from northwest Michigan. It hosts a district that has plenty of talent, including Onekama and Bear Lake. Bellaire is another team from northwest Michigan in the top five, while Munising, ranked third in the state, is from the Upper Peninsula.

At the other end of the state, in far southern Michigan, Pittsford is an undefeated team capable of making a deep tournament run.

Area outlook: Big Rapids will be a hot spot for Class D basketball fans. That is where a pair of top-ten teams are poised to collide in a district final at Crossroads Charter Academy. Defending state champion Sacred Heart Academy has turned in a solid season, although it has hit a few bumps in the road. In junior Averil Gamble, the Irish have a proven post player who can be counted on for points and rebounds. Lexi Methner is another solid front court player for the team. In the backcourt, Riley Terwilliger has led the way with solid guard play. While Sacred Heart has three losses this season, all three have come against Class C powers: Carson City-Crystal, Nouvel Catholic Central, and Morley Stanwood. Sacred Heart defeated Crossroads Academy by six points

earlier this season.

At the Fowler district, Portland St. Patrick Catholic will be the team to beat. Mackenzie Smith is a solid front court player for the Shamrocks. Senior guard Riley Smith has been playing sound basketball, while Brittini Wilcox has developed into a solid scoring option.

St. Patrick squares off against

Ashley in the district opener and will play the winner of the Fowler/Fulton game in the final.

Fowler has defeated Fulton twice this season and looks to move into the district title game. Kara Schafer is averaging over 12 points per game this season for Fowler, while Taylor Schmitt has also proved to be a strong scoring option.

Connor Proctor has been the

leader of the Fulton offense this year, averaging over 12 points per game.

In the Thumb, the feature district is Peck. That is where Deckerville, Kingston, and Carsonville-Port Sanilac all enter the tournament with records well over .500.

All Saints Central is the team to beat at the Owendale-Gagetown district. Shannon Bates and Rachel Anderson lead the offense, while Paige Judd has proved to be a strong rebounder.

Morrice has enjoyed a memorable season and is poised for a

deep tournament run. Courtney Wolf paces the Oriole offense, averaging 16.2 points per game. Junior forward Averi Munroe has been a solid option along the front line. Senior Krysta Smith runs the offense from her point guard spot. The Orioles are the big favorites at the Webberville district, where they face Webberville in the opener and Lansing Christian in the final.

HSSS projected FINAL FOUR: Morrice vs. Roeper School, Frankfort vs. Munising

HSSS projected STATE CHAMPION: Frankfort over Morrice



The Sacred Heart girls basketball team members hope the magic continues as they prepare to defend their Class D state championship. (Hayley Estill Photo)

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# Juniors Pave Ithaca Has High Hopes Entering Post-Season

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Ithaca's girls basketball team has roared to a 16-2 record with a lineup that's dominated with juniors.

Veteran coach Bob Anderson started the year with six juniors, but he's down to five. Madison Castillo, a 6-foot post player who came off the bench, may be out for the year with an injury.

The average score of an Ithaca game has been 64-38.

"So everybody's playing a lot," Anderson said. "I start three juniors on the perimeter and two come off the bench."

Kylee Chaffin and Liz Bentley are a pair of 5'8" juniors. "I took those two girls when they were freshmen and they started for

me," Anderson said. Junior Brooklyn Dolloff is Ithaca's point guard and is in her second varsity season. "Those three started and the rest of them [the junior varsity team] were undefeated at 19-0, and I was starting three on the varsity," Anderson pointed out.

Coming off the bench are 5'9" Claire Reeves and 5'5" Alyssa Betcher.

Chaffin is averaging 10 points a game. "She has court savvy," Anderson said. "She's our most intelligent player, a good passer and, I think, an excellent shooter. Her high game was 15 against [Michigan Lutheran Seminary], and she had 14 against Frankenmuth."

Bentley "takes pride in her defense and is our defensive stopper," Anderson added. "Her high game was 11 against Carrollton and 10 against MLS."

Dolloff had a high game of 17 against



# Way For 'Jackets

Fowler in the season opener. "She brings energy and is a tremendous competitor," Anderson said. "She leads us in steals. You have to run the court, because she's pushing the ball."

Betcher had a high game of 11 points against St. Charles and had 10 against Merrill. "She's an excellent passer and very knowledgeable of the game," Anderson said.

Reeves "is probably our toughest person," Anderson said.

Castillo had a high of 12 points against Carrollton.



"They all have played a lot because of the lopsided scores," Anderson said. "They've been winners all their life. They were undefeated in junior high and were [undefeated] as JVs when I had three of them on varsity. They're a group of close-knit and talented winners. And they're friends. They're all wonderful young ladies and good students, too." Senior Lacie Mates also contributes on both ends of the court.

The Ithaca girls basketball team is led by a strong group of juniors that includes Brooklyn Dolloff, Alyssa Betcher, Kylee Chaffin, Claire Reeves, Madison Castillo, and Liz Bentley. The Yellowjackets won their first league title since 2001 and have their sights on a long postseason run as tournament play is about to get underway. (Staff Photos)



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### The Jared Baublitz File

School: Ithaca  
Class: Senior  
Sport: Bowling

**Highlights:** Baublitz continued to lead the Ithaca team, which was ranked seventh in Division 4 in recent state-wide bowling rankings. Ithaca went 2-0 in early February, defeating Alma (20-10) and Shepherd (25-5). Leading Ithaca over Alma was Baublitz with a 254. He also bowled a 254 and led the way over Shepherd.



### The Meggan Andrews File

School: Ashley  
Class: Senior  
Sport: Basketball

**Highlights:** Andrews, a senior forward, has played on the varsity team all four years of her high school career. She is averaging 18 points, 15 rebounds, and 2 steals per game for the month of February. Her coach is Steve Hardman.



### The Wade SanMiguel File

School: Breckenridge  
Class: Senior  
Sport: Basketball

**Highlights:** San Miguel scored 10 points in a recent victory over St. Louis. He has helped the Huskies to a 7-9 overall record and a 5-6 record in the TVC West. In February, Breckenridge had wins of 43-32 over St. Louis and 71-31 over Merrill.



### The Kenzie Seeley File

School: Alma  
Class: Sophomore  
Sport: Basketball

**Highlights:** Seeley has been averaging 14.3 points per game. She scored 20 points in a mid-February victory over Chesaning. Earlier in the month, against Freeland, she scored 13 points in the third quarter to lead her team on an 18-8 run that wiped out a 28-22 Freeland halftime lead. Seeley had 20 points in that game.



### The Jayce Kuehnlein File

School: St Louis  
Class: Freshman  
Sport: Wrestling

**Highlights:** Kuehnlein turned the corner as a freshman, bumping between 130 and 135 pounds, and went 4-1 at a very tough TVC tournament and earned a third-place finish. He took second place at the New Lothrop district, third at Leslie, and third at Ithaca. Coach Kevin Kuhn has been extremely impressed with Kuehnlein's performance this season.



# Coaches Mull Consistency Of New Hand Check Rule

## John Raffel Sports Scene

The Michigan High School Athletic Association informed basketball coaches and referees prior to the 2014-15 season that under existing rules and guidelines, the hand check would be scrutinized more than it has been in the past.

But has that been the case?

Some coaches would argue the hand check is being called more often, while others would suggest it isn't.

Here's the rule from the MHSAA:

"The definition of personal foul was added to eliminate excessive contact on ball handlers outside of the lane area. The following additions constitute a foul when committed against the ball handler/dribbler: placing two hands (fronts or backs of hands) on the player, placing an extended arm bar (forearm away from the body) on the player, placing and keeping a hand on the player, and contacting the player more than once with the same hand or alternating hands."

Area coaches have various assessments of the rule.

Kent Ingles, who has been coaching in Big Rapids for 10 seasons and who previously coached at Cedar Springs and Greenville in what's been a nearly 40-year coaching career, isn't sure of the impact of the new enforcement. "I figured it would be like always, enforced early and then ignored, and that has happened," he said. "It was probably 50 percent enforced early, maybe 10 percent now."

Ingles noted that most teams run dribble-drive offenses. "It is hard to defend without some bumping," he said. "A small hand check might be called, but nothing on hip and leg contact. I would rather see a shooter and the airborne shooter protected and proper calls on a block/charge, which can be a dangerous play."

Ingles also isn't sure how reliable officials can be to call the hand check consistently. "In a long season, with too few officials, refs get worn down mentally and physically," he said.

Beal City girls' basketball coach Brad Henry has similar thoughts. "I was okay with it if it was impeding a player's progress towards the goal," he said. "I still feel like it is a good rule, but there should be a warning given to the player first. Obvious hand checks that are too much need to be called the first time. I don't think it should be called late in games if it has not been called at all throughout the game."

"If it is not impeding progress, I'm not sure that the foul should be called."

"A defensive player should not be able to use their hands on the drive. Calling this foul should help with this. This rule also helps to control the defensive player from impeding progress towards the rim by extending the arm and holding the offensive player from getting to the rim."

Cedar Springs girls' coach Brandon Miller concurs. "I think the rule is well-intentioned, as the game has become more physical over the years," he said. "Realistically, the rule has always been in place, as you are not supposed to be able to gain an advantage by using your hands. But as the game has evolved, the way defense is played has changed and hand checking has been allowed to a certain extent. My hope was that defining the hand check would clean up some of the extra physical play and encourage teams to play defense with their feet to gain position."

"It makes people play defense with their feet and not their hands. Too often players today 'ride' the offensive player and use their hands

Some coaches would argue the hand check is being called more often, while others would suggest it isn't. Coaches have differing opinions on the new rule. (Alan Holben photo)

and forearms to direct the offensive player in a different direction."

Miller, too, is unsure of the consistency of the rule's application. "Initially the rule was enforced pretty tightly," he said. "But I would say it was short-lived. As the season progressed, the flow of the game seems to dictate calls more than the rule itself. I would have to say, at this point in the season, I do not see a major difference between this year and last. Physical/pressing teams often gain an advantage as the flow of the game often outweighs the definition of the rule."

"Each year we get focus areas/rules from the MHSAA, and it seems each year they are rules focused on cleaning up physical play. The problem is the rules are not a focus as the season progresses."

Mike Schreiber, boys' coach at Lakeview, hasn't seen any difference in hand check enforcement this season. "A rule change doesn't equate to an enforcement of rule difference," he said.

Schreiber believes that a positive result that would result from enforcement of the rule is that it would make the game more offense-oriented. "It's harder still to keep track of, especially, post players in help situations and on the ball, it's hard to keep a cushion and also regulate penetration right at you," he said. "It's not a rules change that is needed. It's

like so many other rules. Traveling or steps isn't a violation anymore. Kids walk out to the 3-point line all the time. Or, remember the verticality rule? Good joke. If you have a big center and contact is made, it's automatically blocking. If you have a little forward who flops, he has a much better chance for a call."

Nate Hampton of the MHSAA said that he and his staff haven't heard anything negative concerning the hand check enforcement. "I think people saw it coming," he said. "It started at levels a little bit above us. I think people anticipated we would be making it a huge point of emphasis. The idea of contact on an opponent has been our point of emphasis for a number of years. I think

people saw it building, both on the officials' side and the coaching side."

It doesn't surprise Hampton that coaches are complaining about lack of consistency of enforcement. "We hear consistency issues across the board, whether it's a hard foul or a not hard foul," he said. "I think for the most part, officials are doing a good job. They're doing as best they can with the game that's being played today."

Hampton emphasized that calling a foul for placing two hands on a player isn't new. "They've always been a part of the game," Hampton said. "We have to try to call it better to try to keep control of the game we have today. The game is moving."



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**The Ryan Wade File**  
Highlights: Laingsburg's senior guard continues to light up CMAC basketball this season. Wade is averaging over 18 points per game for the Wolf-pack, who are closing in on a CMAC title. He recently had a 22-point game against Dansville.



**The Jalen Weekley File**  
Highlights: The Owosso senior has been the main man for the Trojans basketball team all season. Weekley is pouring in over 21 points per game and is also a standout on the defensive end, with three steals per game. He is one of the top three-point shooters and poured in 24 points in a game against St. Johns.



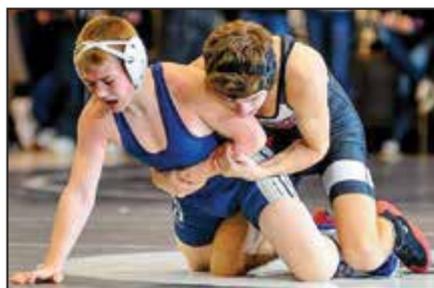
### The Corunna Wrestling File

Highlights: The Corunna wrestling team came up big at the individual district tournament. A total of eight wrestlers became regional qualifiers, led by Dylan Briggs (145 pounds), Jerry Yelinek (152), Emilio Campos (103), and Jarrett Trombley (112), who all won regional titles.



### The Chesaning Wrestling File

Highlights: The Chesaning wrestling team came out of the individual district tournament with five placers. Justin Sloan led the way, taking the district title at 171 pounds. Kolin McAlpine was runner-up at 130, while Kegan McAlpine was third at 135 and Trevor Patterson (145) and Jacob Wright (189) both placed fourth.



### The Durand Wrestling File

Highlights: The Durand wrestling team had four wrestlers earn medals at the individual district tournament. Edward Richter led the way, as he placed third at 125 pounds. Austin Yager (140), Nathan Johnson (215), and Grayson Richter (112) all placed fourth.



### The Perry Wrestling File

Highlights: The Perry wrestling team had three wrestlers advance at the individual district tournament. Jacob Spiess placed second at 103 pounds, Kolten Lauer took second at 171 pounds, and Brandon Lindsay took fourth at 119 pounds.

## SPORTS SCENE'S **EYE ON BOWLING**

# Hare Brothers Continue Their Love For Bowling As Saginaw Heritage Bowling Coaches

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Scott and Todd Hare continue to enjoy coaching success with Heritage's bowling programs. Scott is the girls' coach. Todd, the boys' coach, is his younger brother.

This marks Scott's fourth season as coach at Heritage. He started coaching 2002 at Carrollton and coached there until 2006. He was Tri-Valley Conference coordinator for two years. "I took a couple of years off, then my cousin's daughter, who was coaching Heritage, approached me to take over the girls' program," he said.

He hasn't had a team qualify for the state finals but had a girl bowler at Carrollton qualify for state. His first year at Heritage, he had two girls qualify. "That year, we missed the team event for going to the state finals by one pin," he said. "That was tough to take. Last year, I had one girl, Todd's daughter, Taylor, make it to state. She'll probably make it again this year based on her performance so far."

Scott started coaching youth bowling in 1992 and 1993. "I actually bowled only a couple of years when I was a kid," he said. "I got back into bowling because of my wife, who was a good bowler."

Scott got involved at Carrollton with his daughter, who graduated in 2006. She was the conference MVP that year for the Tri-Valley.

"With this sport, anybody can do it," Scott said. "On a high school level, you reach a different group of kids. They're not necessarily the athletic type. They might be band members or things like that. Once you have them participating in the sport, you can instill in them the academic standards. It's all about grades, school. They're supposed to be getting an education. I thoroughly enjoy being around the kids and watching them grow, getting them when they're freshmen and working with them and seeing what their improvements have been in the four years."

Scott is hopeful of having this year's girls' team compete in the state finals. He

was selected by the statewide coaches association as Division 1 girls' coach of the year.

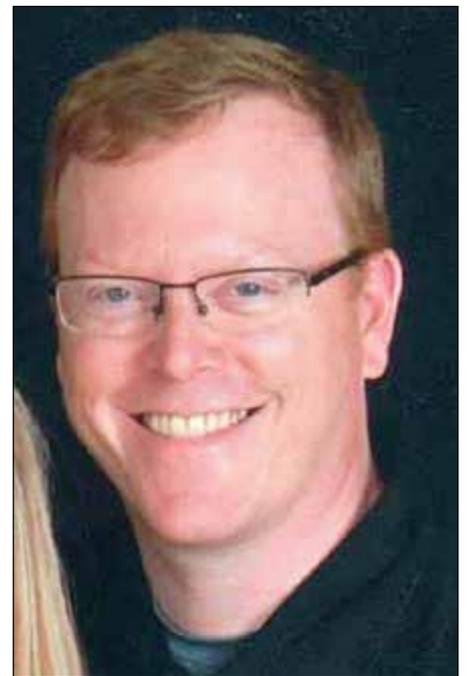
Todd has been coaching the Heritage boys' team since 2009. "The first couple of seasons we won conference championships," he said. "Probably our best season was two years ago, when we got all the way to the state championship game and lost, so we were state runners-up."

He has coached youth league since 1989. This was his first high school coaching spot. "I started bowling when I was 5 or 6 years old," Todd said. "I started bowling leagues when I was seven or eight. I've been bowling ever since."

The Hare family has a history in bowling. Scott and Todd's father, Marv Hare, a former Saginaw Country treasurer, was also an active bowler, and bowling has remained an attractive sport for the Hare family.

"It's an easy game to learn but not so easy to master," Todd said. "It's one of those recreational games that the family can go out and have fun. It can also be competitive. I've always been a real competitive person, whether it be bowling youth leagues or with my brothers."

He has found that bowling is growing at the high school level, "but youth leagues seem to be diminishing a little bit," he said. "I wish we could get rule changes at the high school level to allow them to participate in the youth league as well as the high school league. The proprietors are the ones losing



Todd Hare

out. The proprietors are the lifeblood of the program. They provide lanes for matches and practice. They're supporting the game."

Todd Hare has high hopes for his boys' team. "We essentially have the same nucleus of players we had two years ago when we went to the state championship," Hare said. "We did have a couple of seniors that year but no juniors. Our team from last year stayed intact. We've been bowling really well. Hopefully, we'll be able to make a run at the state championship again."



Scott Hare



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**SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON HOCKEY**

# Midland Dow Remembers Coaching Legend

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

A Midland Dow coaching legend was remembered affectionately by the school after his death following a battle with cancer.

Dick Blasy, a member of the Midland County Sports Hall of Fame and the Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame, coached the Dow hockey team for 26 years and the Dow softball team for 12 years.

When he retired as Dow's hockey coach in 2003, his teams had amassed a record of 373-193-30 and had earned eight Saginaw Valley League titles, including four in a row from 1995-98. His teams reached the state semifinal round in 1983 and in 2000.

Dick Blasy, Jr. took his father's place as Dow hockey coach and still has the position. Prior

to becoming head coach, he served as assistant coach with his dad for eight years.

"I happened to get a teaching job at Dow High, where I went to high school, as well, and played for my dad," Blasy said. "I knew I wanted to work at a high school that had a hockey program. When they offered me a teaching job, I couldn't turn it down. Obviously, it was a natural fit for me to learn from my dad."

And Blasy learned plenty from his dad. "The most important thing I learned from him is that coaching hockey allows me to help develop these young boys into becoming young men," he said. "Ultimately, that's the most important thing my dad always did. It was always life lessons, and I hope that's what I convey to the boys. Becoming a man is something that they will take with them for the rest of their lives."

"The most important thing strategy-wise I learned from him is, back in the 1970s, he used to really study the Russian coaches and

the way that they play. It's all read and react and flow. Strategically, that's the most important thing I learned from my dad is that hockey is not a robotic game, but is taking what the opponent gives you and reading and reacting and being creative. Those are the things my dad stressed when he was coaching."

The elder Blasy won 11 state championships as a speed skater, four Midwest U.S. Championships, and the North American Olympic Style Championship for the 500 meters, in which he set a North American record. He qualified for the 1968 U.S. Olympic team in speed skating, but an injury prevented him from participating in the Olympics.

"He never was a hockey player," Blasy said. "What he was, around here, was the master of skating fundamentals. He was really big in off-ice training for skating. He didn't pick up on hockey until the mid 1970s, when he would really study it. Sometimes, I wondered if that was a benefit. Sometimes, I think coaches get caught up too much in the Xs and Os of hockey."



Legendary Midland Dow hockey coach Dick Blasy Sr. died recently after a long bout with colon cancer. Blasy was 70-years old. (Submitted Photo)

The younger Blasy recalls the sense of humor that his dad maintained. "He was always making jokes, always trying to make people laugh," Blasy said. "That's what probably the players will remember the most."

**SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON SWIMMING**

# Brother Rice Outguns Seaholm, Cranbrook For Oakland County Title

**Dan Stickrad Sports Scene**  
Twitter: @LocalSportsFans

LAKE ORION — There's a long-standing adage that performing well at the prestigious Oakland County Boys Swimming & Diving Championships is a harbinger of better things to come down the road

Especially hailing from a loaded talent pool like Oakland County.

Brother Rice, the defending Oakland County and Division 1 state champion, fended off a talented field Feb. 7 at Lake Orion High School to win its 16th county crown since 1993.

The Warriors, the top-ranked school in Division 1, edged out Birmingham Seaholm, No. 11 in Division 2, and Cranbrook Kingswood, No. 1 in Division 3, to reign again in one of the biggest meets in the state outside of the state finals.

The event featured a dozen schools that were ranked in the top 10 or listed as honorable mention in the three divisions of the MISCA state polls, and Brother Rice, Seaholm, and Cranbrook all finished as state champions last March. The field also featured many state-ranked individuals and relays teams that are destined for great things down the home stretch.

"It's always such an important meet to see

where you stand. You do well here, and chances are you'll be competitive at the state meet," noted Brother Rice coach Mike Venos. "What I like about it is you know that there is always going to be teams that will push you. Seaholm and Cranbrook are very good, there's a bunch of other really good teams, and Lake Orion has a couple of very good swimmers, as does Catholic Central. There's so much talent here every year. It's nice to come in and have a big target on your back and then perform well. It's not easy to win, especially when you have [three No. 1 teams] in the state."

Brother Rice pulled away over the final four events to collect 363 points. Seaholm was second with 293 points, and Cranbrook claimed third with 234 points.

It marked the 15th straight season that a Birmingham-based school won the county title. The last non-Birmingham school to emerge as the victor was Rochester Adams back in 2000.

Detroit Catholic Central (165), Novi (164), Rochester Adams (157), Birmingham Groves (151), Troy (139), West Bloomfield (119), and Clarkston (115) rounded out the top 10 in a field where 24 schools out of 35 scored points.

Cranbrook, one of the smaller schools with a swimming and diving program in talent-laden Oakland County, had one of its best county finishes to date.

"I have been trying to get these kids to

understand that they can compete with just about anybody," said Cranbrook coach Karl Hodges. "I think doing this well here, that these guys can believe. We won't see this much competition again until the state meet. Here are little Cranbrook compared to some of these D-1 and D-2 schools... to come in here and do so well again will help us prepare for the state finals."



The Brother Rice boys swim team will look to defend its Division 1 title during the middle of next month. (File Photo)

Rudy Aguilar captured the 500 free (4:41.27), and he joined forces with Bobby Powrie, Gust Kouvaris, and Mark Blinstrub for a win in the meet-ending 400 free relay (3:08.74) to lead Brother Rice. Although the Warriors only won two of the 11 events, they had superior depth, with legions of top-16 placers to add to their impressive point total and 70-point win.

"I think depth is what really helped us again," said Venos. "We lost some really good kids [to graduation], but we had a bunch of kids that have stepped up and turned in their top time today or came really close. We had a few nice surprises again today, and you'll always need that in a meet this big."

Seaholm's foursome of Evan Burke, Jack Russell, Nick Ross, and Enrique Hernandez captured the 200 medley title (1:34.98). Ross came back to touch first in the 100 free (46.95), while Ross, Hernandez, Russell, and Liam Little had the winning effort in the 200 free relay (1:25.30).

Burke gave Seaholm its fourth win on the day, with a victory in the 100 breaststroke (58.57).

Cranbrook's sole win came from Andrew Guan in the 200 free (1:42.48).

Catholic Central's Jack Walsh won the 200 IM in 1:50.02, one of three county-meet records set on the day. He then claimed the 100 backstroke title in 50.54 seconds. The senior has won county titles in each of the past three years.

Troy's Zachary Chen won the 50 free in 21.22 seconds, another county record; Lake-land's Shinya Kondo captured the one-meter diving event with 430.55 points; and Lake Orion's Devon Nowicki touched first in the 100 butterfly in 49.93 seconds, another county mark, to round out the winners.

**SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON SKIING**



Petoskey continued its decade of dominance by picking up its fifth straight Division 2 boys skiing championship Feb. 23 at Nubs Knob. Brother Rice finished second. Meanwhile the Harbor Springs girls captured the girls title. Houghton's Jenna Steain was the individual champion in the giant slalom. In Division 1 the Marquette boys team took first place and Traverse City West captured the girls championship. (Scott Keyes and Skip Traynor Photos)

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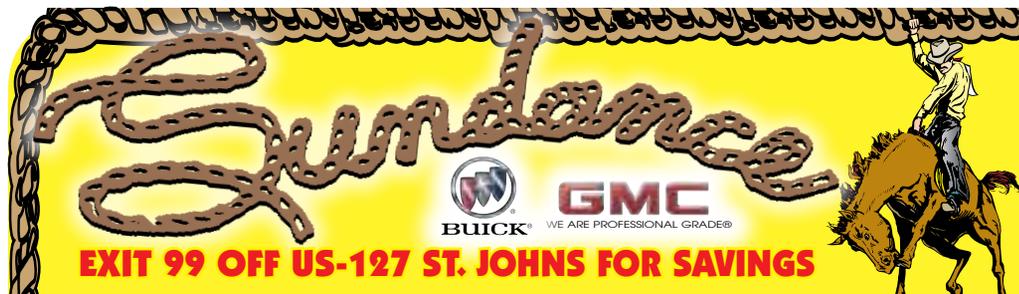
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2015 Wrestling Special Edition

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hey Sports Fans,  
It's another great day at Sports Scene! Featuring our high schools and student athletes of today, with a pleasant sprinkling of the past, is what we do!!

HSSS has nearly six years behind us, and we are looking forward to the years to come. Six years ago, I thought we could help give mid-Michigan high school students/athletes more coverage in light of the decline of coverage in the major and community-based publications, as they went toward online streaming. Sports Scene has definitely done that. We started with 37 high schools and now do monthly coverage of over 150 of our statewide schools.

This is my favorite time of year, because I am a former wrestler, for those who don't know me. Winning a state wrestling title back in 1985 for Ithaca High School helped mold me into who I am today, in business and as a coach, husband, father, son and friend. As I proofread this All Michigan, All Wrestling issue, I could not have been any prouder! Even though I am sure that we missed some greats, I see so many past names of wrestling allies and foes, current and past, great memories of great people!! Wrestling is the backbone of a lot of people's and communities' lives! There is nothing like it, no how, no way.

Speaking of memories, I want to thank my senior class (my family) at Alma High School, where I have coached for the last four years. We won a District title for the first time since 2004, great job fellas! I would also like to thank Boyd Hubbard and Damian Castillo for all the leadership you two provided over the last 4 years. You both deserve the best and another title awaits you and is within your grasps. I would take 100 of each you and battle anybody anytime!!

Enjoy our first ever Michigan Wrestling Issue! Check us out online for all your MHSAA team and individual finals photos at [www.highschoolsportsscene.com](http://www.highschoolsportsscene.com)



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# MHSAA's Mark Uyl Aids In Wrestling's Continued Growth Across The State

## Jeff Chaney Sports Scene

Mark Uyl is a self-described baseball junkie. As a former player, coach, and umpire of the sport, he loves America's pastime.

But in the course of his working career, Uyl has found a new love.

Uyl is one of the Assistant Directors of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, in charge of officiating baseball and wrestling in the state.

In his 11 years as Assistant Director, Uyl has developed a fondness for the sport of wrestling and the excitement that the sport brings.

And as February ends, March ushers in his favorite time of the year, the MHSAA state wrestling tournament.

"I always tell everyone, this is my favorite two weeks of year, and I say the next two weeks," he said, as individual regionals began on February 21. "I love wrestling, I love the people in wrestling."

Wrestlers, former wrestlers, coaches, officials, and families of wrestlers knows what it takes to be successful in the sport, and they all know the ups and downs of a sport that has a team aspect but that is centered around the individualism of competition.

Uyl sees that firsthand as he works on improving the sport of wrestling in the state.

"I love the mentality of the sport and love the people," he said. "Wrestling is on each kid's shoulders. There is no place to hide, no excuses, and I have found wrestling people are straight-shooting and hard-working and will tell you like it is. And I wish there was more of that in other sports. I wish we saw that kind of work ethic in all of sports. To me, it's the most difficult six minutes in all sports."

Dealing with people who have competed in has helped Uyl make the sport better in the past decade.

"The biggest thing I have tried to bring to wrestling, not being a wrestler, coach, or official, is trying to be the best listener," Uyl said. "To try and do everything we can and have done in wrestling to come from our membership, or coaches, and the whole wrestling community."

"One reason we have been effective, if you ask me something in baseball, I have sacred cows and say 'not doing something over my dead body,' because I have done that; I don't have that baggage in wrestling. So I listen, and I have taken what I have heard and try and implement it."

One of the changes that Uyl

has accomplished is limiting the paperwork with which coaches have to deal. And for the fans and wrestlers, the big change is to seed teams in the Team Finals to try and give the best matchups as the weekend in Battle Creek progresses.

"[Former Assistant Director in charge of wrestling] Bill Bupp did some great things, and I tried to take things and improve and streamline them," Uyl said. "I wanted to get right to the issues, and be straight-forward."

Some issues that Uyl still wants to tackle are transfer rules and helping the sport expand and grow throughout the state.

"The overall quality of wrestling in our state has never been better," he said. "You look at some of our top teams and top individuals, and they would stack up anywhere. The downside, the thing I worry about, we are losing those middle-of-the-road programs. You look at league scores, you see some strong teams, but there are other teams at the other end of that. We are losing those middle-of-the-road programs. Whether it's number of kids taking part, or transfers, and we see that in other sports, but we lose some of those middle-of-the-road programs. Twenty years ago, the top programs were maybe not as good as today, but



Mark Uyl and John Johnson take time out of their busy schedules during a crazy state finals weekend to pose for the camera last year. Uyl and his staff have continued to make the wrestling finals one of the premier events of the year. (File Photo)

I would like to see some of those programs in the middle have some success."

Uyl also has opinions on how transfers affect wrestling in the state. "We have strengthened the transfer rule over last year," Uyl said. "There are several instances now where kids are now ineligible for full year. But from an education standpoint, it is a choice world in academics, as well, where we have school of choice. But

the problem is amplified in wrestling, where kids can transfer and not figure into an offense or defense in a team sport. You have it where kids graduate and have openings in a certain weight class, and parents pull off a transfer or move kids. Rules are not perfect yet, but tougher than they have been."

So Uyl will continue to listen and learn and enjoy his new love – the sport of wrestling.

## Team of the Month

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# 32 TEAMS, 1 DREAM



## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

### DIVISION 1

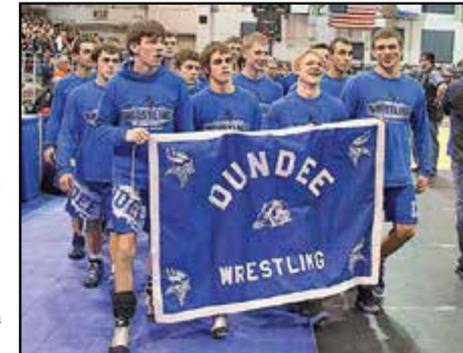
- Brighton:** The Bulldogs enter the finals ranked No. 1. With 10 wrestlers ranked in the top ten in their weight classes, Brighton is both deep and talented and comes into the finals as the team to beat.
- Hartland:** The Eagles have looked up at Brighton in the league standings all season and will try to get past their league rivals in one final opportunity at the state meet. Reece Hughes and Jacob Gorial lead a Hartland squad that has proven it is capable of the big upset, a fact to which Lowell would attest.
- Davison:** The Cardinals have been state runners-up the last two seasons. They have seven wrestlers among the top ten in the state, led by Lincoln Olson at 135 pounds. However, they will need to be at their best if they are to return home with a state title.
- Detroit Catholic Central:** Catholic's run of three straight state titles is in danger of coming to an end. In Myles Amine and Nick Giese, it has high-powered wrestlers, but it is not quite as deep and loaded as past years.
- Anchor Bay:** Anchor Bay comes into the tournament ranked No. 2. While it has good depth, it may not have the firepower needed to reach the championship match in Battle Creek.
- Grand Haven:** The Buccaneers defeated conference rival Grandville by one point to earn a trip to the finals. They are led by heavyweight Chase VanHoef and by Cam Bertucci, who is ranked second in the state at 125 pounds.
- Monroe:** Monroe was ranked 10th in the latest Division 1 poll. Carl Antrassian is ranked third in the state at 112 pounds, while Tyler Hammack is ranked fourth at 171. Monroe, however, will have knock off one of the tournament's big guns to advance to Saturday.
- Oxford:** Although not ranked in the top 10, Oxford was a state runner-up in 2012 and was the last team other than Catholic Central to win the Division 1 title. Alex Hrisopoulos, ranked third at 125 pounds, leads the way.

### DIVISION 2

- Lowell:** The Red Arrows enter the tournament as a strong favorite to repeat. Lowell has outstanding talent and depth, with nine wrestlers ranked in the top ten in their weight classes. Lucas Hall, Zeth Dean, and Josh Colegrove are three top-ranked wrestlers in their classes.
- Niles:** Wrestling fans in southwest Michigan are confident that this team can bring home the hardware. Niles has dominated its foes this season and has a lineup that lists 10 wrestlers ranked in the top ten in the state. A Lowell/Niles finals matchup could be a classic.
- Eaton Rapids:** The Greyhounds are back at the top of the heap of wrestling powers mid Michigan after their 34-27 win over St. Johns at the regional. With standouts like Jaedin Sklapsky and Lane McVicker leading the way, they could make it to the title match.
- Gaylord:** The power from the north country has a loaded lineup, led by Dom Lajoie at 112 pounds. Gaylord is no stranger to the big stage and has a deep squad, with six top-ten-ranked wrestlers capable of reaching the finals.
- Kearsley:** A one-time member of the old Big Nine with Davison, Kearsley has seen its program steadily improve the past few years. This year's squad has plenty of talented wrestlers who are tested tough, including Jakob Chapman and James Davis.

- Tecumseh:** Tecumseh was ranked 10th in the final Division 2 poll and has been a regular in Battle Creek the past few seasons. Landon Pelham is one of the top 215-pounders in the state, while Drew Marten is a standout at 119.
  - Lincoln:** The Abes wrestling program has made it back from an extreme down period in the late 2000s. With wrestlers like Khannor and Garrett Kaercher and Jelani Embree, they are poised for another era of strong wrestlers.
  - Comstock Park:** After years of coming close at the regional level, the Panthers broke through this year. Veteran coach Jim Olsen always puts a tough, gritty team on the mat that will never get outworked. Aaron Martin leads the way for the Panthers this year.
- ### DIVISION 3
- Dundee:** The Vikings have won the last two Division 3 state titles and are favored to make it three in a row and continue the dynasty. Freshman Brandon Whitman at 171 pounds leads a talented lineup that includes eight wrestlers ranked in the top 10 in their weight classes.
  - Richmond:** The Beast from the East will again challenge Dundee for the state title. The Blue Devils have reached the state title match the past five years and are a strong bet to make it six this year behind super-senior Dylan Skatzka.
  - Chippewa Hills:** This could be the year that Chippewa Hills breaks through and reaches the title match. With standouts like Mason Dey, Kevin Briscoe, and Jaycob Sharp, it has plenty of firepower and will be a major player.
  - Birch Run:** The Panthers have been on a

- roll in recent years, and this squad only adds to the legacy. Jerry Fenner is the top-ranked 125-pounder in Division 3 and is joined by standouts like George Lahar and Tyler Childs.**
  - Grand Rapids Catholic Central:** Few teams in any class can match the firepower that the Cougars offer in Devin Schroder, Nate Limmex, and Foster Karmon. The key will be how the rest of the team wrestles for veteran coach B.J. Schroder.
  - Allegan:** The powerhouse from southwest Michigan has another solid squad. Chase Beard is a dominating wrestler at 189 pounds, while Davynn Schneider, Austin Farrell, and Jacob Holmes are other standouts for the Tigers.
  - Swan Valley:** Swan Valley has been a regular lately, and this year's squad also has plenty of talent. Matt Santos at 130 pounds leads the way for a team that is strong in the lower weights, with Edwin and Jose Hernandez, Colin Dole, and KJ Suitor.
  - Mason County Central:** Central is not ranked in the top ten in the state, but that does not mean this team is not dangerous. Josh Quinn is a standout at 189 pounds, while Spencer Kuizacky is a talented wrestler at 160 pounds.
- ### DIVISION 4
- New Lothrop:** One of the finest programs in state wrestling history is looking to make it back-to-back titles this season. The Hornets are ranked first in the state in Division 4 and have 11 wrestlers ranked in the top ten in the state.
  - Hudson:** Hudson's streak of five state titles came to an end last season, and veteran coach



The MHSAA Team Wrestling finals is two very long days, where 32 teams give it their all for the right to hoist a state championship. Lowell, New Lothrop, Dundee and Detroit Catholic Central look to repeat, but teams like Davison, Brighton, Niles and Hudson look to knock them off the top of the mountain. Stay tuned for next issue to see who prevailed. (File Photos)



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# DIVISION 1 WRESTLING RANKINGS

## Davison's Olson Gunning For Fourth State Title

The big question at the Division 1 individual tournament this year will be if Lincoln Olson of Davison can win a fourth state championship. Olson captured the 125-pound title last season. Ben Freeman (Walled Lake Central), Max Johnson (Davison), Trevor Zdebski (Detroit Catholic Central), and Myles Amine (Detroit Catholic Central) will be attempting to win their second consecutive titles. East Lansing heavyweight Brian Darios placed second last season and is ranked first this year. Carl Antrassian of Monroe and Alex Hrisopoulos of Oxford also took second last year.

**103 Pounds:** 1 Brendan Stevens, Lakeview; 2 Elijah Weaver, Roseville; 3 Michael Mars, Westland John Glenn; 4 Ben Kamali, East Lansing; 5 Nick Freeman, Walled Lake Central; 6 Daniel Poupore, Saline; 7 Noah Lopez, Hartland; 8 Nolan Klapac, Lakeland; 9 Terrin Machart, Utica Ford; 10 Kevin Thomas, Troy

**112 Pounds:** 1 Donte Rivera-Garcia, Southgate Anderson; 2 Max Johnson, Davison; 3 Carl Antrassian, Monroe; 4 AJ Facundo, Davison; 5 Jack Medley, Anchor Bay; 6 Layne Malczewski, Macomb Dakota; 7 Kaleb Marion, Walled Lake Central; 8 Garnett Potter, Hartland; 9 Lee Grabowski, Brighton; 10 Tyler Rogaliner, Bedford

**119 Pounds:** 1 Benny Gomez, Holt; 2 Noah Gosner, Grand Blanc; 3 Brendan Hazelton, L'Anse Creuse; 4 Xavier Graham, Woodhaven; 5 Deven Perez, Davison; 6 Jackson Renicker, Brighton; 7 Jack Snauko, Grand Ledge; 8 Kevin Fuller, Saline; 9 Chris Brown, Belleville; 10 Grant Morrison, Brighton

**125 Pounds:** 1 Ben Freeman, Walled Lake Central; 2 Cam Bertucci, Grand Haven; 3 Alex Hrisopoulos, Oxford; 4 Romeo Riley, Kalamazoo Central; 5 Chase Spanos, Westland John Glenn; 6 Tommy Hermann, Detroit Catholic; 7 Will Marano, Dearborn Edsel Ford; 8 Vince Marceau, Utica Eisenhower; 9 Andrew Hansen, Rockford; 10 Dom Paterra, Walled Lake Central

**130 Pounds:** 1 Reece Hughes, Hartland; 2 Trevor Zdebski, Detroit Catholic; 3 Carlo Marceau, Utica Eisenhower; 4 Abe Ajami, Dearborn Fordson; 5 Dante Latora, Portage Central; 6 Kyle Bohnsack, Brighton; 7 Josh Brower, Grandville; 8 Jon Price, Chippewa Valley; 9 Adam Wiscombe, Anchor Bay; 10 Nick Robertson, Livonia Franklin

**135 Pounds:** 1 Lincoln Olson, Davison; 2 Dan Shear, Walled Lake Central; 3 Mino Trevino, Holt; 4 Joey Dombrowski, Anchor Bay; 5 Colin Campbell, Oxford; 6 Dylan Dwyer, Plymouth; 7 Collin Vargo, Wyandotte Roosevelt; 8 Kajaan Caldwell, Bloomfield Hills; 9 Sage Castillo, Hartland; 10 Danny Pfeiffer, Fraser

**140 Pounds:** 1 Dylan Steward, Grand Ledge; 2 Connor McDill, Utica Eisenhower; 3 Matt Gudenau, West Bloomfield; 4 Nathan Atienza, Livonia Franklin; 5 Owen Donovan, Utica Eisenhower; 6 Ty Jasman, Canton; 7 Brandon Bellant, Belleville; 8 Hunter Fifield, Davison; 9 Andrew Ellicott, Troy; 10 David Joyner, Milford

**145 Pounds:** 1 Logan Parks, Southgate Anderson; 2 Dillon Ellsworth, Lapeer; 3 Seth Decent, Romeo; 4 Kendall Freeman, Lincoln; 5 Brad Stewart, Bedford; 6 Patrick Powers, Grand Ledge; 7 Mike Shaw, Holt; 8 Timmy Hagelin, Waterford Kettering; 9 Logan Vish, Hartland; 10 Ryan Salmon, Brighton

**152 Pounds:** 1 Jacob Gorial, Hartland; 2 Blake Montrie, Bedford; 3 Tyler Grimsley, Anchor Bay; 4 Jacob Balogh, Southgate Anderson; 5 Tristan Szajna, Chippewa Valley; 6 Kolin Leyrer, Holt; 7 Noah Kinne, Lapeer; 8 Tanner Maschke, Brighton; 9 Boony Merryweather, Grandville; 10 Corbin Moorer, Waterford Mott

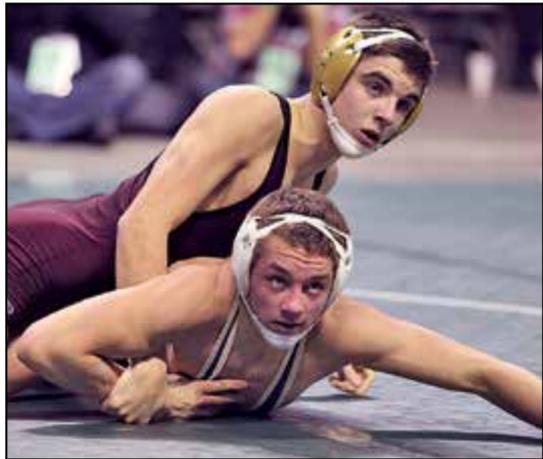
**160 Pounds:** 1 Myles Amine, Detroit Catholic; 2 Milik Dawkins, Carman-Ainsworth; 3 Brenden McRill, Davison; 4 Beau Mourer, Brighton; 5 Ahmed El-Sayed, Crestwood; 6 Matt Mills, Forest Hills Central; 7 Aaron Cummings, Grand Haven; 8 Kamyab Kamali, East Lansing; 9 Michael Bowden, Grosse Pointe North; 10 Jon Cox, Lakeview

**171 Pounds:** 1 Devon Pingel, Lapeer; 2 Nick Brish, Brighton; 3 Andrew Price, Rochester Hills Stoney Creek; 4 Tyler Hammack, Monroe; 5 Ross Morrisette, Anchor Bay; 6 Stephen Slattery, Saline; 7 Lucas LaForge, Hartland; 8 Sam Greco, Grandville; 9 Tru Wilson, De La Salle Collegiate; 10 Tyler Morland, Detroit Catholic

**189 Pounds:** 1 Nick Giese, Detroit Catholic; 2 Alex Sovel, Walled Lake Central; 3 Andy Bovay, Lakeview; 4 Jake Perry, Lapeer; 5 Wyatt Harden, Oxford; 6 Zane Gorby, Caledonia; 7 Hussein Youssef, Plymouth; 8 Mitchell Gross, Salem; 9 Prince Onwenu, Walled Lake Central; 10 Austin Hansen, Howell

**215 Pounds:** 1 Luke Ready, Brighton; 2 Antonio Balabani, Macomb Dakota; 3 Cody Tis, Southgate Anderson; 4 Eric Rogers, De La Salle Collegiate; 5 Baker Hadwan, Livonia Churchill; 6 Eric Conquest, Brighton; 7 Tim Fischer, Holt; 8 Jacob Economou, Hartland; 9 Jake Ellis, Davison; 10 Epe Saarenheimo, Grandville

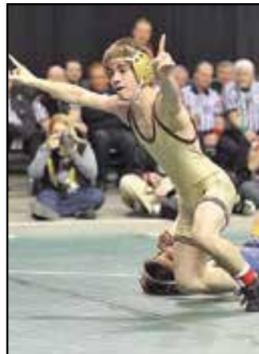
**285 Pounds:** 1 Brian Darios, East Lansing; 2 Dan Perry, Lapeer; 3 Ali Wahab, Crestwood; 4 Ramon Correa, West Ottawa; 5 Chase VanHoef, Grand Haven; 6 Brandon Krol, Milford; 7 Justin Hollins, West Bloomfield; 8 Jamie Demers, Walled Lake Northern; 9 Dominic Trevino, Port Huron; 10 Matt Lloyd, Grand Ledge



Davison's 3-Time State Champion Lincoln Olson



Trevor Zdebski, DCC, Returning State Champ



Max Johnson, Davison, Returning State Champ



Myles Amine, DCC, Returning State Champ

# DIVISION 2 WRESTLING RANKINGS

## Massa, Smith Gunning For Third D2 State Title

A pair of wrestlers will be aiming to become three-time state champions in Division 2. Mason Smith of Clio and Logan Massa of St. Johns have both won back-to-back state titles. Dom Lajoie of Gaylord, Lucas Hall of Lowell, Austin Thompson of Marysville, Logan Ritchie of Huron, and Josh Colegrove of Lowell are aiming to become back-to-back state champions.

**103 Pounds:** 1 Cameron Mahlich, Ionia; 2 Trevor Giallombardo, Gaylord; 3 Andrew Flick, Niles; 4 Sam Russell, Lowell; 5 Jordan Ringler, Cedar Springs; 6 Kyle French, Marysville; 7 Daniel Manier, Farmington; 8 DeMarco Dixon, Lincoln; 9 Andy Runstorfer, Kearsley; 10 Seth Bunting, Mason

**112 Pounds:** 1 Austin Franco, Lakeshore; 2 Dom Lajoie, Gaylord; 3 Dylan Wilkins, Sparta; 4 Michael Higley, Edwardsburg; 5 Randy Smith, Forest Hills Eastern; 6 Jordan Richardson, Ionia; 7 Austin O'Hearon, Eaton Rapids; 8 Emilio Sanchez, St. Johns; 9 Larry Beek, John Glenn; 10 Luke Zimmerman, Linden

**119 Pounds:** 1 Lucas Hall, Lowell; 2 Mike Volyanyuk, Farmington Hills Harrison; 3 Jakob Chapman, Kearsley; 4 Drew Marten, Tecumseh; 5 Noah Schoenherr, Bay City Western; 6 Nino Bastianelli, Marysville; 7 Trent Lashuay, St. Johns; 8 Josh Dayhuff, Niles; 9 Stephen Hilliker, Greenville; 10 Judah Caballero, Huron

**125 Pounds:** 1 Ian Parker, St. Johns; 2 Jake Busing, Byron Center; 3 Bryan LaVearn, Brandon; 4 Chris Poland, Thornapple-Kellogg; 5 Jon Martin, Gaylord; 6 Aaron Ward, Lowell; 7 Austin Eldred, Eaton Rapids; 8 Branden Hall, Niles; 9 Brendan Ladd, Brandon; 10 Hunter Truba, Hazel Park

**130 Pounds:** 1 Zeth Dean, Lowell; 2 Garret Kaercher, Lincoln; 3 Luke Raczkowski, Parma Western; 4 Nathan Ellis, Goodrich; 5 Mitch Findieson, Niles; 6 Warren Smith, Niles; 7 Blake Jackson, Bay City Western; 8 Brad Ronning, Sparta; 9 Conor Boike, Flushing; 10 Josh Schafer, Mt. Pleasant

**135 Pounds:** 1 Mason Smith, Clio; 2 Jaedin Sklapsey, Eaton Rapids; 3 Jordan Hall, Lowell; 4 Chase Yeydt, Parma Western; 5 Dustin Vires, Edwardsburg; 6 Noah Hall, Niles; 7 Tom Schoenherr, Bay City Western; 8 Tyler Brewer, Comstock Park; 9 Travis Wildfong, Kearsley; 10 Coby Moore, Bay City Western

**140 Pounds:** 1 Austin Thompson, Marysville; 2 Austin Melton, DeWitt; 3 Noah Hanau, Lakeshore; 4 Jon Wellman, Huron; 5 Paul Douglas,

Reeths-Puffer; 6 Connor Charping, Trenton; 7 Jeremiah Schaffer, Hastings; 8 Tyler Bundon, Yale; 9 Stephen Orlando, Saint Clair Shores Lakeshore; 10 Austin Beardsley, Thornapple-Kellogg

**145 Pounds:** 1 Chris Schoenherr, Bay City Western; 2 Lane McVicker, Eaton Rapids; 3 Brandon Garcia, Riverview; 4 Bret Fedewa, St. Johns; 5 Jeff Heinz, Gaylord; 6 Jake Dault, Forest Hills Eastern; 7 Connor Clark, Mason; 8 Derek Droste, St. Johns; 9 David Kruse, Lowell; 10 Dustin Gross, Dearborn Heights Annapolis

**152 Pounds:** 1 Connor Myers, St. Joseph; 2 Khanor Kaercher, Lincoln; 3 Jason Slaughter, Hastings; 4 Chase Smith, Clio; 5 Ethan Smith, John Glenn; 6 Anthony Castillo, Forest Hills Eastern; 7 Blaine Millheim, Eaton Rapids; 8 Kyle Humphries, Tecumseh; 9 Dan Kruse, Lowell; 10 Dylan Tarrance, Kearsley

**160 Pounds:** 1 Logan Ritchie, Huron; 2 Jaxon Smith, Byron Center; 3 Trenton Holyfield, Hamilton; 4 Tristen Elkins, Northwest; 5 Derrien Perkins, Lincoln; 6 Luke Carver, Sturgis; 7 Thor Wardell, Brandon; 8 Trevor Piggott, Ionia; 9 Caleb Norris, Eaton Rapids; 10 Sean McWilliams, Reeths-Puffer

**171 Pounds:** 1 Logan Massa, St. Johns; 2 Kane Williams, Clio; 3 Jelani Embree, Lincoln; 4 James Davis, Kearsley; 5 John Penfold, Goodrich; 6 Zach Wamser, Cedar Springs; 7 Jacob Taylor, Battle Creek Central; 8 Anthony Neal, Sturgis; 9 Tyler Blagg, Ogemaw Heights; 10 Manuel Roldon, Melvindale

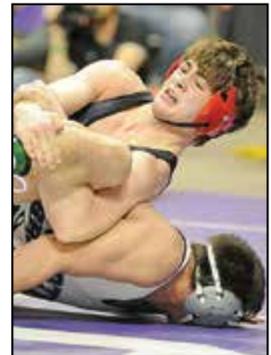
**189 Pounds:** 1 Ty Wildmo, St. Johns; 2 Diallo Matimella, Dearborn Heights Annapolis; 3 Mason Litz, Fowlerville; 4 Tristan Gregory, Gaylord; 5 Ryan Vasbinder, Byron Center; 6 Cody Okes, Bay City Western; 7 Aaron Martin, Comstock Park; 8 Brad Wilton, Mason; 9 James Donahue, South Lyon; 10 Kody McKrate, Tecumseh

**215 Pounds:** 1 Josh Colegrove, Lowell; 2 Shane Foster, Gaylord; 3 Landon Pelham, Tecumseh; 4 Nathan LaJoie, Sault Ste Marie; 5 Clayton Higel-mire, Eaton Rapids; 6 Cody Bryant, DeWitt; 7 Nic Sturgis, St. Johns; 8 Austin McNeil, Linden; 9 Cole D'Haese, Sturgis; 10 Tate Knapp, Hamilton

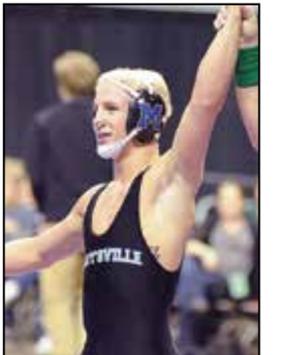
**285 Pounds:** 1 Cole Antcliff, Greenville; 2 Dallas Recker, Three Rivers; 3 Logan Wilcox, Lowell; 4 Jacob Gnegy, St. Johns; 5 Joshua Dabney, St. Mary's Preparatory; 6 Austin Catt, Parma Western; 7 Ean Purcell, Trenton; 8 Tom Rock, Sparta; Pat DiPiazza, Cedar Springs; Sam Benson, Mason.



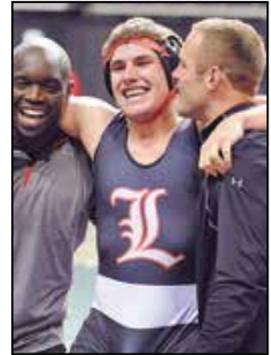
Logan Massa, St. Johns, 2x Returning State Champ



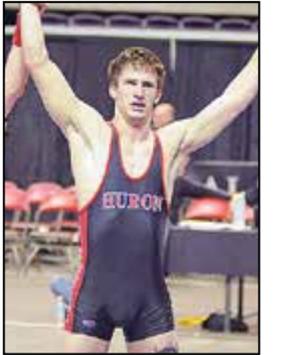
Max Dean, Lowell, Returning State Champ



Austin Thompson, Marysville, Returning State Champ



Josh Colgrove, Lowell, Returning State Champ



Logan Ritchie, New Boston Huron, Returning State Champ

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# DIVISION 3 WRESTLING RANKINGS

## Many Area Wrestlers Looking To Bring Home Coveted State Title In Divison 3

In Division 3, one wrestler is looking for the golden fourth state title of his career, while another wrestler is looking for his third in three tries. Devin Skatzka of Richmond is poised to close out his career as a four-time champion. Devin Schroder of Grand Rapids Catholic Central, a junior, is looking for his third straight state title. Schroder's teammate, senior Nate Limmex, is also poised to become a three-time state champion. Defending champions Tristan Serbus of Corunna, Aaron Kilburn of Richmond, and Foster Karmon of Grand Rapids Catholic Central are also looking to repeat this season. Senior Jerry Fenner of Birch Run won his 200th career match recently and is looking to reach the top step this season. A state champion as a sophomore, Fenner took second last season. Kanon Storr of Leslie is also looking for a second title after placing second last year.

**103 Pounds:** 1 Dakota Greer, Tri-County; 2 Emilio Campos, Corunna; 3 Roy Costello, Richmond; 4 Davynn Schneider, Allegan; 5 Garret Cleveland, Berrien Springs; 6 Blain Wood, Caro; 7 Dennis Rayford, South Haven; 8 Stuart Massa, Hemlock; 9 Jake Couturier, Grand Rapids West Catholic; Mitchell Christensen, Essexville-Garber

**112 Pounds:** 1 Jarrett Trombley, Corunna; 2 Tristan Serbus, Corunna; 3 Nick McGhan, Tri-County; 4 Connor Behem, Richmond; 5 Corey Robinson, Whitehall; 6 Hunter Lajiness, Monroe Jefferson; 7 Brandon Robinson, Shepherd; 8 Edwin Hernandez, Swan Valley; 9 Spencer Good, Lumen Christi Catholic; 10 Nick Dankowski, Allendale

**119 Pounds:** 1 Devin Schroder, Grand Rapids Catholic Central; 2 Nolan Saxton, Lakeview; 3 Aaron Kilburn, Richmond; 4 Dominic Gardner, Portland; 5 Jose Hernandez, Swan Valley; 6 Mason Breece, Birch Run; 7 Hunter Corcoran, Lake Fenton; 8 Landon Honsinger, Hemlock; 9 Kyle Hughes, Jefferson; 10 Drew Scholl, Dundee

**125 pounds:** 1 Jerry Fenner, Birch Run; 2 KJ Sutor, Swan Valley; 3 Reilly Brown, Whitehall; 4 Alex Martinez, Ida; 5 Dylan Felt, Shelby; 6 Mike Felix, Chippewa Hills; 7 Tylor Orrison, Dundee; 8 Devan Melick, Lake Fenton; 9 Don Nguyen, Godwin Heights; 10 Patrick Ford, Caro

**130 Pounds:** 1 Matt Santos, Swan Valley; 2 Glenn Beardsley, Farwell; 3 Jackson Lambdin, Allendale; 4 Kole Krauss, Grand Rapids Catholic Central; 5 Damian Castillo, Alma; 6 Jesse Scheidel, Belding; 7 Joe Shuler, Meridian; 8 Brandon Turner, Crosswell Lexington; 9 Kenny Reinhart, Dundee; 10 Adam Crimm, Birch Run

**135 Pounds:** 1 Kanon Storr, Leslie; 2 Grant Turnmire, Almont; 3 Zack Blevins, Dundee; 4 Jwan Britton, Whitehall; 5 Dylan Wibert, Corunna; 6 Kolten Radaz, Freeland; 7 Jacob Shoop, Mason County Central; 8 Jesse Britton, Tri-County; 9 Slade Todd, Chippewa Hills; 10 Brandon Watson, Otsego

**140 Pounds:** 1 Nate Limmex, Grand Rapids Catholic Central; 2 Dakota Ball, Ida; 3 Marshall Conley, Caro; 4 Collin Dole, Swan Valley; 5 Jaycob Sharp, Chippewa Hills; 6 Jared Flemming, Williamston; 7 Nate Cooley, Belding; 8 Brady Payne, Millington; 9 David Dumond, Corunna; 10 Zach Cheney, Grayling.

**145 Pounds:** 1 Foster Karmon, Grand Rapids Catholic Central; 2 Sean Sterling, Dundee; 3 Mason Dey, Chippewa Hills; 4 Dylan Briggs, Corunna; 5 Austin VanAtter, Richmond; 6 Tyler Childs, Birch Run; 7 Dom Forbes, Grand Rapids Catholic Central; 8 Keanyn Brown, Whitehall; 9 Logan Merrick, Mason County Central; 10 Bobby Beauchamp, Gladstone

**152 Pounds:** 1 Kevin Briscoe, Chippewa Hills; 2 Brandon Dyke, Allendale; 3 Jordon Bennett, Lakewood; 4 Collin Lieber, Crosswell-Lexington; 5 Hunter Gasper, Standish-Sterling; 6 Sam McClean, Swan Valley; 7 Jerry Yelinek, Corunna; 8 Garrett McQuiston, Farwell; 9 Brett Green, Caro; Nick Humphrey, Jefferson

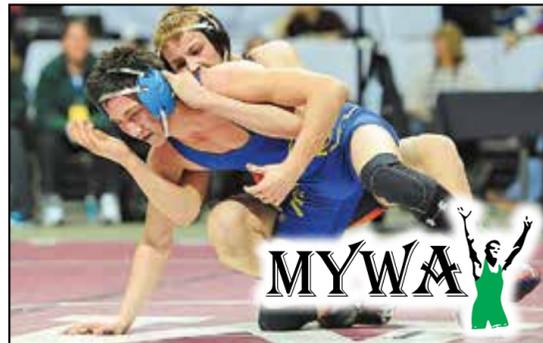
**160 Pounds:** 1 Devin Skatzka, Richmond; 2 Spencer Knizacky, Mason County Central; 3 Donny Mandell, Dundee; 4 Adam McCann, Bullock Creek; 5 Alex Phillips, Ida; 6 Tristan Nevadomski, Lake Fenton; 7 Logan Bovee, Birch Run; 8 Colton Toney, South Haven; 9 Jordan Stieger, Mason County Central; 10 Mike Parker, Orchard View

**171 Pounds:** 1 Brandon Whitman, Dundee; 2 Justin Sloan, Chesaning; 3 Boyd Hubbard, Alma; 4 Jordan Adams, Richmond; 5 Kevin Curby, Hillsdale; 6 Cash Thompson, Lakewood; 7 Dominick Reo, Paw Paw; 8 Levi Sabin, Allegan; 9 Harold Thommen, Whitehall; 10 Michael Walker, Belding

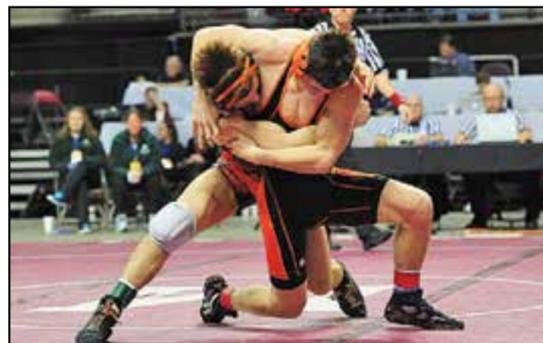
**189 Pounds:** 1 Jared Roehl, Millington; 2 Chase Beard, Allegan; 3 Josh Quinn, Mason County Central; 4 Jon Nielson, Allendale; 5 Tye Thompson, Dundee; 6 Austin Farrell, Allegan; 7 Tyler Deming, Caro; 8 Ben McCann, Bullock Creek; 9 Jarrod Tague, Tri-County; 10 Greg Stark, Armada

**215 Pounds:** 1 Trent Hilger, Lake Fenton; 2 Grant Tennihill, Grand Rapids Catholic Central; 3 George Lahar, Birch Run; 4 Brenden Hensley, Clare; 5 Devin Philo, Benzie Central; 6 Brad Harris, Capac; 7 Jack Cronick, Gladstone; 8 Evan Skiver, Reed City; 9 Tyden Ferris, Delton Kellogg; 10 Gabe Heiserman, Dundee

**285 Pounds:** 1 Tristan Howard, Dowagiac; 2 Tim Smith, Benzie Central; 3 Maddox Maki, Williamston; 4 Adam Boyd, Richmond; 5 Austin Morley, Carrollton; 6 Taylor Dean, Pennfield; 7 Trent Montambo, Shelby; 8 Britt Swaenepoel, Napoleon; 9 Colin Slavik, Birch Run; 10 Eric Antolak, Flat Rock



Jerry Fenner, Birch Run, 2013 State Champ, 2014 Runner Up



Almont Grant, Turnmire, Returning State Champ



Foster Karmon, Allegan - Now At GRCC, Returning State Champ



Nate Limmex, GRCC, 2x Defending State Champ

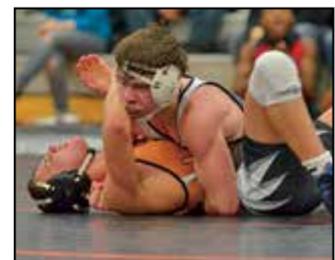
# DIVISION 4 WRESTLING RANKINGS

## Area Wrestlers Looking To Enter Their Names In State Record Books

The storyline in Division 4 is a pair of wrestlers looking to win their third consecutive state titles. Jacob Cooper of Springport is 51-0 this year and placed second as a freshman before winning state titles the past two seasons. Ryan Prescott of Whittemore-Prescott has a similar resume, as he is 27-0 this year, was state-runner-up as a freshman, and then won back-to-back state titles. Cooper has no easy shakes at the 215-pound weight class, as Kevin Koenig of Laingsburg, the defending state champion and two-time state finalist, is 53-1 entering the tournament. Joe Traynham of Onaway and Logan Griffin of Erie Mason are two more wrestlers looking to repeat as state champions.

**103 Pounds:** 1 Anthony Mack, Dansville; 2 Seth Harvey, Addison; 3 Reese Wallis, Montrose; 4 Mason Rife, Webberville; 5 Tommy Malloy, New Lothrop; 6 Nathan Park, Pine River; 7 Andrew Park, Pine River; 8 Stephen Whitmore, Mio; 9 Frankie Najera, Madison; 10 Nic Andaverde, White Pigeon

**112 Pounds:** 1 Brendan Abrigo, Manchester; 2 Joe Traynham, Onaway; 3 Robert LeFevre, Erie Mason; 4 Jeremiah Durin, Bloomingdale; 5 Alex Baker, Carson City-Crystal; 6 Connor Krupp, New Lothrop; 7 Dayton Vanderploeg, Martin; 8 Rogelio Segundo, White Pigeon; 9 Jared Dekoning, Lawton; 10 Jordan Stone, Pine River



Dansville's top ranked Dresdon Simon knocks off number 1 Kanon Storr at Leslie invite.

**119 Pounds:** 1 Arthur Payne, Montrose; 2 Julian Torres, Lawton; 3 Logan Griffin, Erie Mason; 4 Roddy Hamdan, Hudson; 5 Ethan Woods, Manchester; 6 Noah Teague, Springport; 7 David Helmuth, Decatur; 8 Tony Moore, Pine River; 9 Freddie Burtchett, Hartford; 10 Alex Anderson, Gwinn

**125 Pounds:** 1 Dallas O'Green, Carson City-Crystal; 2 Clay Ragon, Dansville; 3 Marcus Richardson, Addison; 4 Tyler Roberts, Hudson; 5 James Spencer, Rudyard; 6 Robert Rogers, Bentley; 7 Caleb Henckel, Mendon; 8 Isaac Nave, Onaway; 9 Justin Braford, Schoolcraft; 10 Spencer Fox, Schoolcraft

**130 Pounds:** 1 Dresden Simon, Dansville; 2 Alex Edwards, Iron Mountain; 3 Lamont Cannon, Highland Park; 4 Savion Willis, Bangor; 5 Pat Lynch, Watervliet; 6 Sean O'Hearon, Springport; 7 Michael Prock, Hudson; 8 Ethan May, Decatur; 9 Jonah Grimm, Mendon; 10 Dalton Birchmeier, New Lothrop

**135 Pounds:** 1 Cole Hersch, New Lothrop; 2 Kyle Barkovich, Lawton; 3 Gerritt Yates, Hesperia; 4 Kahle Scheenkes, Bronson; 5 Dillon Solomon, Michigan Lutheran Seminary; 6 Clint Kupiec, Fulton; 7 Ethan Sharp, Schoolcraft; 8 Austin Beach, Lawton; 9 Nick Dettling, Manchester; 10 Noah Nieman, Blissfield

**140 Pounds:** 1 Cole Menck, Lawton; 2 William Young, Carson City-Crystal; 3 Trent Roesly, Hesperia; 4 Hayden Cregg, Holt; 5 Cole Gonzales, Norway; 6 Todd Noblin, Vassar; 7 Brock Vlcek, Manchester; 8 Gabe Bennett, New Lothrop; 9 Stahl McCoy, Highland Park; 10 Cameron Urban, Rogers City

**145 Pounds:** 1 Steve Garza, New Lothrop; 2 Jake Sobek, Rogers City; 3 Mason Lopinski, Hudson; 4 Mauricio Diaz-Reyes, Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port; 5 Trevor Copes, New Lothrop; 6 Jacob Weslin, Iron Mountain; 7 Corey Johnson, Manchester; 8 Scott Blamer, Mio; 9 Hunter Trubiano, Clinton; 10 Todd Myers, Martin

**152 Pounds:** 1 Hunter Bell, Decatur; 2 Darren Decker, Carson City-Crystal; 3 Zac Sharp, Schoolcraft; 4 Zeth Caudill, Springport; 5 Kyle Johnson, Hudson; 6 Zack Taubitz, Montabella; 7 Jeremiah Osterhout, Bentley; 8 Johnny Robinson, New Lothrop; 9 Austin Howard, Whittemore-Prescott; 10 Tanner Gonzalez, Norway

**160 Pounds:** 1 Dillen Decker, Carson City-Crystal; 2 Trevor Humphrey, Manchester; 3 Taylor Bonetti, Norway; 4 Joey Durham, Montabella; 5 Chris O'Donnell, Lawton; 6 Chris Gillissie, Elk Rapids; 7 Sam Hovie, Charlevoix; 8 Erik Birchmeier, New Lothrop; 9 Mason Lawson, Gobles; 10 Zack Towne, Michigan Lutheran Seminary

**171 Pounds:** 1 Shane Rodenburg, Kent City; 2 Daniel Waterman, Constantine; 3 Brett Burtrum, Bronson; 4 Alex Elsavich, Montrose; 5 James Cryderman, St Ignace; 6 Juokada Sexton, Bronson; 7 Nick Cooper, Springport; 8 Clayton Brockway, Hudson; 9 Charlie Kelley, Eau Claire; 10 Bert Saldana, Hartford

**189 Pounds:** 1 Brody Conner, Lawton; 2 Caleb Symons, New Lothrop; 3 Cole Southworth, Decatur; 4 Charlie Robertson, Sand Creek; 5 Mitch Ely, Hudson; 6 Tyler Games, Hudson; 7 Adam Lammers, Springport; 8 Tyler McCurry, Leroy-Pine River; 9 Clayton Howd, St Louis; 10 Gabe Zimmer, Ravenna

**215 Pounds:** 1 Jacob Cooper, Springport; 2 Kevin Koenig, Laingsburg; 3 Quintin Wilber, Montrose; 4 Devon Kozel, Bangor; 5 Ethan Simmons, Martin; 6 Dom Garcia, Leroy-Pine River; 7 Tymar Brown, Cassopolis; 8 Josh Jackson, Pine River; 9 Charlie Rodriguez, Brandywine; 10 Nathan Caudill, Bronson

**285 Pounds:** 1 Ryan Prescott, Whittemore-Prescott; 2 Nick Burt, Addison; 3 Chase Morrison, Pine River; 4 David Robertson, New Lothrop; 5 Logan Kennedy, Decatur; 6 Josh Ehrke, Hesperia; 7 Bobby Livermois, Erie Mason; 8 Reese Velfing, Forest Area; 9 Bruce Persails, Montrose; 10 David Curl, Watervliet



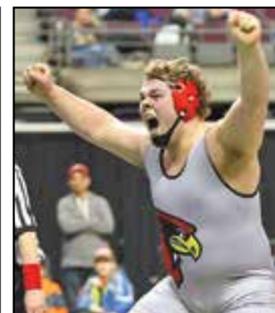
Jacob Cooper, Springport, Returning 2x State Champ



Kevin Koenig, Laingsburg, Returning State Champ



Joe Traynham, Onaway, Over Roddy Hamdan, Returning State Champ



Ryan Prescott, Whittemore Prescott, 3x Finalist, 2x Returning State Champ

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# 2014 Team Wrestling Recap



The 2014 Michigan High School Athletic Association Team Wrestling Finals saw a pair of winning streaks come to an end and two other winning streaks gather steam.

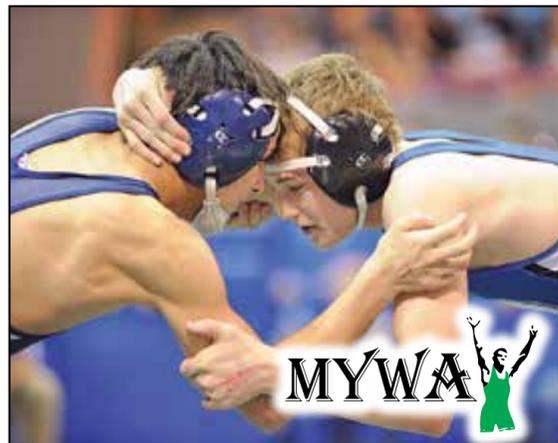
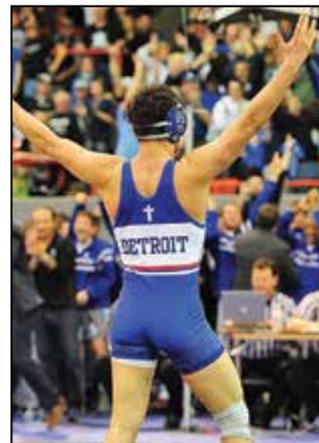
In Division 1, Detroit Catholic Central won its third straight state championship and fourth in the past five years. The Shamrocks came from behind to defeat No. 1 seed Davison, 34-19, in the finals. Catholic Central went on a 21-0 run in the final six matches to win the title.

In Division 2, the most exciting dual of the tournament saw Lowell snap St. Johns' four-year winning streak, with a 35-34 win on criteria. Garrett Stehley won the final match on a disqualification, giving Lowell the points it needed to send out coach Dave Dean a winner in his final match as Lowell's coach. The win was even sweeter for Lowell, because St. Johns had ended Lowell's season the three previous seasons that the M-21 rivals had met in the state tournament.

Another matchup of long-time rivals took place in the Division 3 finals, where Dundee and Richmond met for the fifth consecutive year. A big pin by Ryan Heiserman keyed the win for Dundee, and the Vikings defeated Richmond 34-24. The state title was the second in a row for Dundee, which had to overcome an early 9-0 deficit against the Blue Devils.

In Division 4, New Lothrop got the matchup with Hudson for which it had been waiting for years. Hudson, winner of five state titles in a row, saw that string snapped, as New Lothrop claimed a 33-22 victory. Although Hudson took a 22-10 lead, the margin was not big enough, as the heart of the New Lothrop lineup came through and delivered the school its 13th team state championship.

There were 32 teams that made it to the finals, but only four walked away state champions. Last years state champions included Detroit Catholic Central (Division 1), Lowell (Division 2), Dundee (Division 3) and New Lothrop (Division 4). (File Photos)



## Lowell Wrestlers Prepare For State Finals

After breaking St. Johns' grip on the Division 2 team wrestling title last year, the Lowell wrestling team is looking to pick up its second straight state championship this weekend.

The Red Arrows were in high gear at the Thornapple-Kellogg regional. They turned in a 58-9 win against Zeeland West in the semifinal and a 53-19 win against Hastings in the title match.

They are now focused on the task of bringing home the state title. "If all of us wrestle the way Lowell wrestlers are supposed to wrestle, we will get the job done," said senior Josh Colegrove. "We have to keep our eyes on the task at hand."

Colegrove is one of the Red Arrows wrestlers who will be busy the next two weekends. A total of 10 Lowell wrestlers qualified for the individual state finals. Colegrove won the 215-pound title at the Byron Center regional. Lucas Hall (119 pounds), Zeth Dean (130), and Jordan Hall (135) also won regional titles. Sam Russell (2nd at 103 pounds), Aaron Ward (3rd at 125), David Kruse (3rd at 145), Dan Kruse (2nd at 152), Logan Blough (4th at 189), and Logan Wilcox (2nd at 285) also qualified for state.

"It's a bummer that St. Johns will not be there," Jordan Hall said. "It would've been nice to face them in the finals. All of my teammates are working hard, and we all have the same mentality. This is what a program like Lowell's lives for."



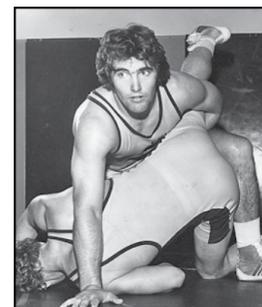
Lowell is looking to defend its Division 2 state title this season. (File Photo)

# All In The Family

## Severns, Amines Help Put Michigan Wrestling On The Map



Austin Severn carries on the Severn legacy at New Lothrop High School. Severn currently wrestles at Central Michigan university. (File Photo)



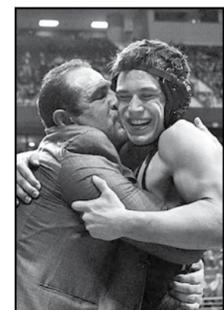
Dan "The Beast" Severn starred at Montrose High School before making a name for himself at Arizona State University and in the MMA. Pound for pound one of the toughest wrestlers ever to come out of the state of Michigan. (File Photo)

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

"It's a family tradition."

Hank Williams, Jr. sang about family tradition, but thousands of families across Michigan have lived out a family tradition on wrestling mats since high school wrestling evolved in the state. High School Sports Scene takes a look at just a few of the many families who have left their imprints on high school wrestling.

The Severn family has left an undeniable footprint on wrestling in Michigan. Brothers Dave, Dan, Mike, Mark, and Rod all wrestled for Montrose in the 1970s and 1980s, but if not for a washed out bridge on a dirt road, they may have donned the black and white of New Lothrop. "We lived on the border of Montrose and New Lothrop, but a bridge washed out down the road from our house and we ended up going to Montrose," Dan Severn said. "There was always a rumor that the New Lothrop coaches were going to go down there and rebuild the bridge so that we would go to New Lothrop." During their wrestling careers at Montrose, the Severn brothers combined for 10 state titles. A second generation continued the standard of excellence. Dan's son Dave Severn was a two-time state champion at Bronson High School, Rod's son Austin was a two-time state champion for New Lothrop, and



The Amines are a family with whom wrestling fans in Michigan are familiar. Mike and Sam both were state title holders in the mid '80s and currently Myles Amine is chasing his second state title. (Submitted photos)

Dave's son Jake won a state title in Arizona.

Like the Severn family, the Amines have made an impact across two generations as wrestlers and coaches. Graduates of Lincoln High School in Warren, brothers Mike and Sam Amine collected three individual state titles. Both went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan, where they combined for 156 total wins. Mike placed second at the 1988 NCAA state championship and was a three-time Big Ten placer as well as an alternate for the 1992 Olympics. Sam made a major

impact as a coach and became the youngest coach to win a state title, when he led Lincoln to the 1994 title at the age of 24. He was also the youngest coach to lead a team to three state finals. During his 23 years coaching, he was twice named Michigan Coach of the Year. Sam's son Jordan Amine was a two-time state placer at Brighton who won 203 career matches. Mike's sons Myles and Malik have made their marks at Detroit Catholic Central. Malik was a four-time state placer and two-time state champion who now wrestles at the University of Michigan. Myles was a state champion last year who is looking to add a second title this season.

The Simaz brothers from Allegan made a habit of collecting titles. Brothers Cam, Taylor, Kyle, and Eric combined to win 10 individual state titles. In total, the four won an incredible 911 high school matches with just 46 defeats. All went on to wrestle at the college level. Cam was a four-time national qualifier and also an NCAA champion for Cornell University. The Simaz brothers carried on the traditions of their father and uncle. Uncle Mike Simaz won a state title at Lake Michigan Catholic High School in St. Joseph and is the current coach at St. Francis High School in Traverse City. Dad Joe Simaz was a two-time state placer at Eau Claire and an assistant coach at Allegan.

The Zeerip name has been prominent in West Michigan wrestling for some 40 years. Craig Zeerip wrestled for Fremont High School, was a three-year letterman at Ohio State University, and coached at Hesperia for 10 years. His sons Justin, Brandon, and Collin took the wrestling family to another level. Brandon was a four-time state champion who went 260-0 over his career. Collin was a three-time state champion who went 238-13, and Brandon was a two-time state champion who went 251-7. All three sons went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan.

The Simmons family of Williamston can match its resume with anyone. Scott Simmons was a two-time state champion in 1979 and 1980. Sons Nick and Andy doubled what dad accomplished and then some. Nick was a four-time state champion who finished his career with a 211-0 record. He went on to be a four-time all-American and three-time Big 10 champion at Michigan State University. Andy was also a four-time state champion,

who finished his high school career with a 219-0 record. He also wrestled at Michigan State, where he was a three-time all-American and Big 10 champion.

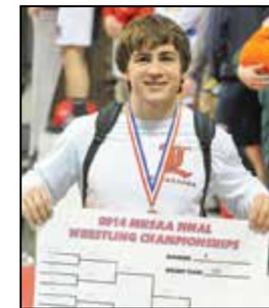
The Mills family has been a big part of high school wrestling for over 40 years. Mike Mills became the first four-time state champion in high school wrestling when he won titles from 1976-9 at Mt. Pleasant. He went on to wrestle at the University of Notre Dame. Dave Mills followed as a three-time state placer, including a state title won as a senior. Dave wrestled in college at Central Michigan University and then went on to win a couple of World Masters titles and had a lengthy coaching career at Forest Hills Central High School and Grand Valley State University. Joe Mills was a state placer for Mt. Pleasant. Dave's son Matt is a junior at Forest Hills Central and is state-ranked, while son Jake was a two-time captain and is a current assistant coach at Central.

The name Weisenberger has been linked to New Lothrop wrestling for years. A total of five Weisenbergers wrestled at New Lothrop, and at least one Weisenberger was on the team for 17 consecutive years. Tim and Randy combined for four state titles, and the brothers combined to qualify for state finals 18 times and won 12 state medals.

The Knieper family has also left a huge impact on wrestling at New Lothrop. Dan Knieper helped start the New Lothrop youth program. Four Kniepers went on to earn all-state honors, with Duane Knieper winning three individual state titles and Mike Knieper winning one state title.

From the mid 1980s to the mid 1990s, the Kovack brothers of New Lothrop made a huge impact. Randy finished his career with 215 wins, a third-place state finish as a freshman, and three state titles. Tony was also a three-time state champion, while Jamie tallied two state championships and a third-place finish.

The Dean family has had two generations of wrestling excellence. Dave Dean was a two-time state champion at Montrose in the early 1980s and went on to be a two-time all-American at the University of Minnesota. Dave and his brother were also part of a team state title at Montrose in 1983. Dave went on to coach Lowell to a pair of team state championships. His sons Gabe and Max both won individual state titles at Lowell and Gabe earned all-American



Max Dean



The Deans' are a household name at both the state and national level. Gabe Dean is currently a redshirt sophomore at Cornell University and dad Dave was a tremendous wrestler in his own right at Montrose and the University of Minnesota. Dave went on to lead Lowell to two state championships. (File Photos)

honors as a freshman at Cornell University. Dave's nephew Zeth was a state runner-up last year and is ranked No. 1 in the state this year.



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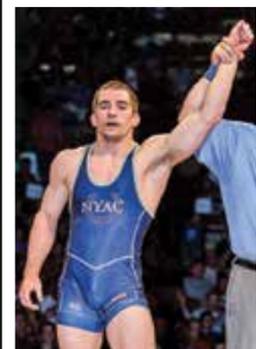
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# BEST OF MICHIGAN



Brent Metcalf is the only wrestler in history to win four state individual titles while leading his high school to four consecutive Division 1 titles. Metcalf's credentials speak for themselves and he is definitely worthy of the No. 1 ranking.

**1. Brent Metcalf, Davison (2002-2005):** Metcalf may be the most successful wrestler of all time in the state. A four-time individual state champion, Metcalf is also a four-time team state champion and is the lone eight-time state champion in Michigan history. He finished his career with a 228-0 record. In college, Metcalf was a three-time NCAA finalist and two-time NCAA champion at the University of Iowa. He finished his NCAA career with a 108-3 record and is one of only three sophomores to win the Dan Hodge Trophy as the best college wrestler. He was also named the Jesse Owens Big 10 Male Athlete of the Year. He is the first American in this decade to make the finals of the Ivan Yarygin Memorial International tournament in Russia twice.

**2. Kevin Jackson, Lansing Eastern (1982-1985):** Jackson was a two-time state champion. After high school, he was a four-time NCAA all-American at Louisiana State University and Iowa State University. He went on to be a two-time gold medalist at the Pan American Games and won a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. He was the first American to win the Takhti Cup in Iran and he has also won a middleweight title in the UFC.

**3. Andre Metzger, Cedar Springs (1978):** Metzger won a state title as a senior and then embarked on one of the most storied careers in wrestling. A four-time NCAA placer at the University of Oklahoma, he was an NCAA champion as a junior and as a senior. Metzger went on to be a seven-time National Freestyle champion and a four-time silver medalist at the World Championships. He has defeated at least six Olympic gold medalists during his career and competed for a spot on the U.S. Greco-Roman team for the 2012 Olympic Games at the age of 52.

**4. Nick Simmons, Williamston (1998-2001):** A four-time state champion, Simmons finished his career with a 211-0 record. He twice set the record for single-season pins with 57, and of his 211 wins, 178 came by pin. Simmons went on to become a four-time all-American at Michigan State University and a three-time Big 10 champion. He is second in wins all-time at Michigan State with 138 and first in career falls with 46. He won 18 matches at the NCAA tournament and was a Pan American Games gold medalist.

**5. Greg Johnson, Lansing Everett (1964-1967):** Johnson was the original "Magic Johnson" at Lansing Everett. A two-time state champion in high school (1966-67), Johnson went on to Michigan State University, where he became the first Big 10 wrestler to win three NCAA national championships (1970-2). Johnson was also a three-time Big Ten champion and is a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He finished his Michigan State career with a 54-5-2 record and the Amateur Wrestling News named Johnson its 118-pound Wrestler of the Decade.

**6. Zeke Jones, Ann Arbor Huron (1982-1985):** Jones won a state title as a senior. At Arizona State University, he was an NCAA finalist, a three-time all-American, and a three-time Pac 10 champion. He then became a six-time National Champion and a four-time World Cup Champion. He was a World Champion in 1991 and won a silver medal at the 1992 Olympics. He also won gold medals at the Pan American and the Goodwill games.

**7. Dan Severn, Montrose (1973-1976):** Severn was a two-time state champion. At Arizona State University, he was a two-time all-American, and he also won 13 National AAU titles. Severn was a U.S. Olympic Team alternate. As a professional wrestler, he was a two-time World Champion. He had a 101-19-7 record as an MMA fighter and is a member of the UFC Hall of Fame.

**8. Andy Simmons, Williamston (1999-2003):** Like his brother Nick, Andy was a four-time state champion. Andy also finished his career with an unbeaten record, going 219-0. He went on to wrestle at Michigan State University, where he was a three-time all-American who won 11 matches at NCAA tournaments. A Big 10 champion, he won 115 career matches with the Spartans.

**9. Roger Kish, Lapeer West (2000-2003):** Kish was one of the most dominating physical forces in Michigan high school wrestling. A four-time state champion, he won state titles at 160 and 171 pounds and two titles at 189 pounds. He ended his career with a 252-2 record. Kish went on to wrestle at the University of Minnesota, where he was a two-time NCAA runner-up and a two-time all-American. He was also a two-time Big Ten champion and finished his career with a 117-27 record.

**10. David Porter, Lansing Sexton (1962-1964):** Porter was a three-time state champion, winning the 185-pound title once and the heavyweight title twice. At the University of Michigan, he finished with a 51-3 record for a 94.4% winning percentage, the best in U-M history. He was a two-time NCAA national champion and a three-time all-American with an NCAA tournament record of 13-1.

**11. Mark Churella, Farmington (1972-1975):** A state champion in 1975, Churella went on to an illustrious career at the University of Michigan. He was a three-time National Champion and was a four-time all-American who went 132-13 during his college career.

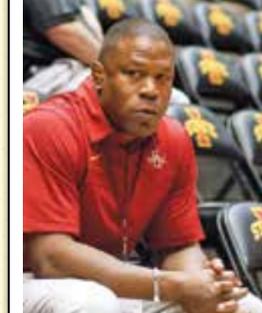
**12. Steve Fraser, Hazel Park (1973-1976):** Fraser was a state champion who went on to be a two-time all-American at the University of Michigan. Fraser then became the first American to win a gold medal in Greco-Roman wrestling at the 1984 Olympics. He also won a gold medal at the Pan American Games, a two-time National Greco-Roman champion, and a U.S. Freestyle champion.

**13. John Fisher, Flint Northern (1981-1984):** Fisher went 54-0 as a senior and won the Class A state title at 126 pounds. He then went to the University of Michigan, where he went 183-21 for his career. Fisher is U-M's all-time leader in wins and was a four-time all-American. He was twice an alternate for the U.S. Olympic team and won a World Cup title.

**14. Casey Cunningham, Fulton (1991-1994):** Cunningham won state titles as a junior and as a senior and went on to wrestle at Central Michigan University, where he was a two-time NCAA placer and an NCAA national champion. He was a three-time MAC champion and a two-time MAC Wrestler of the Year. He also won a silver medal at the Pan American Games.

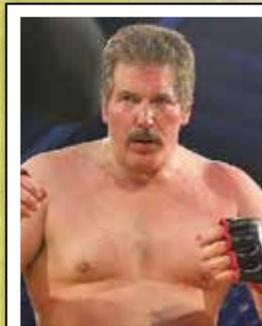
**15. Jon Reader, Davison (2003-2006):** Reader was a seven-time state champion, winning three individual state championships and four team state championships. As a senior, he went 60-0 with 56 pins and ended his career with a 234-6 overall record. He wrestled in college at Iowa State University, where he was a three-time all-American and was a National Champion as a junior with a perfect 39-0 record. A two-time World Team member, Reader finished his college career with a 124-23 record.

**16. Cameron Simaz, Allegan (2004-2007):** Simaz was a three-time state champion in high school. He finished his high school career with a 237-6 record. He wrestled in college at Cornell University, where he was an NCAA champion and a four-time all-American. Two times he was Ivy League Wrestler of the Year, and he finished

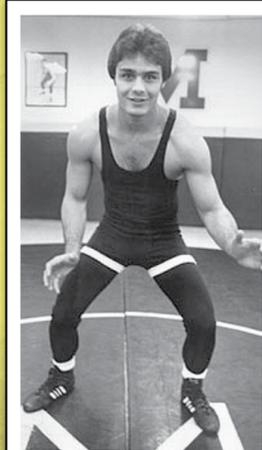


Coming in second on the SportsScene Top 100 wrestlers of all-time is Lansing Eastern's Kevin Jackson. The current Iowa State coach, Jackson, a four-time NCAA All-American at LSU and Iowa State, went on to be a two-time gold medalist at the Pan American Games and won a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Jackson was a two-time state champion in high school.

# SPORTS SCENE'S TOP 100 WRESTLERS OF ALL-TIME



Severn was a two-time state champion at Montrose. At Arizona State he was a two-time All-American and also won 13 National AAU titles. Severn was a U.S. Olympic Team alternate.



Mark Churella, Farmington

his career with a 145-21 record.

**17. Dave Dean, Montrose (1981-1984):** Dean was a two-time state champion in high school. He went on to win a pair of Big 10 championships at the University of Minnesota and also had second- and third-place finishes at the NCAA finals. In 1994, he captured the silver medal at the Greco-Roman Pan American Championships, and he served as an alternate at the 1996 Olympic Games.

**18. Ben Bennett, Rockford (2005-2008):** Bennett was a three-time state champion who finished his career with a 213-3 record. He wrestled in college at Central Michigan University, where he was a four-time NCAA placer, a four-time MAC champion, and a one-time MAC Wrestler of the Year. He finished his college career with a 121-24 record.

**19. Rod Severn, Montrose (1980-1983):** Severn was a three-time state champion. He went on to wrestle at Arizona State University, where he was a three-time all-American and helped lead Arizona State to the 1988 National Championship.

**20. Adam Coon, Fowlerville (2010-2013):** A four-time state champion, Coon won two state titles at 215 pounds and two at heavyweight. He finished his career with three straight undefeated seasons and a career record of 212-3. He currently wrestles at the University of Michigan, where he was 32-5 and an NCAA qualifier last year and is 23-3 so far this season.

**21. Joe Pantaleo, Roseville (1982-1985):** A two-time state champion, Pantaleo went a perfect 86-0 his final two years of high school. He went on to become a two-time all-American at the University of Michigan and a two-time national finalist. Pantaleo went 134-32-1 during his career at U-M and was a Junior World Champion and a two-time U.S. Olympic team alternate.

**22. Gabe Dean, Lowell (2009-2013):** Dean was an undefeated state champion with a 40-0 record his junior year and was a state runner-up his senior year. He is currently a sophomore at Cornell University, where he went 40-3 last year and finished third at the NCAA finals. His only two losses were to the top two wrestlers in his weight class, including a loss to two-time National Champion Ed Ruth, whom he defeated at the Southern Scuffle. Dean has started the current season with a 30-2 record.

**23. Taylor Massa, St. Johns (2008-2012):** A four-time individual state champion, Massa went a perfect 221-0 during his career. He also helped to lead St. Johns to three team state championships. Massa is currently a junior at the University of Michigan, where he has a career record of 67-15.

**24. Justin Zeerip, Hesperia (2004-2007):** Zeerip holds the career record for wins in the state with 260. A four-time state champion, he also totaled a state-record 203 career pins. He finished his career with a 260-0 record. Zeerip went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan, where he had a career mark of 100-68.

**25. Zac Hall, St. Johns (2011-2014):** A four-time individual state champion, Hall just missed being a four-time team state champion, as his Redwings missed a state championship his senior season on criteria. Hall went 100-0 his last two years and had a career record of 198-2.

**26. Roger Wildmo, Durand (2008-2011):** A three-time state champion, Wildmo went 56-1 as a freshman state champion. He went 56-1 as a sophomore, with his lone loss coming in the state finals and went 59-0 as both a junior and as a senior to finish with a career record of 230-2.

**27. Jordan Thomas, Greenville (2009-2012):** A three-time state champion, Thomas was a state runner-up as a freshman. He was 109-0 his final two seasons of high school wrestling and finished his career with a 219-3 overall record.

**28. Trevor Stewart, Detroit Catholic Central (2002-2005):** Stewart was a three-time individual state champion who finished his career with a 200-4 overall record, 152-2 his final three years of high school. He earned all-American honors as a senior and went on to wrestle at Central Michigan University.

**29. Mark Weber, Goodrich (2005-2008):** A four-time individual state champion, Weber also helped lead Goodrich to the 2008 Division 3 state team title. He finished his career with a 224-7 record. He went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan.

**30. Kyle Waldo, Rockford (2006-2009):** A four-time state champion, Waldo also helped Rockford win a pair of team state titles, making him a six-time state champion. He finished his career with a 167-5 record, with just three of the losses coming to in-state wrestlers. Waldo wrestled in college for both the University of Nebraska and Central Michigan University.

**31. Mike Mills, Mt. Pleasant (1976-1979):** Mills was the first four-time individual state champion in Michigan high school history. He helped Mt. Pleasant win state titles as a freshman and as a senior and went on to wrestle at the University of Notre Dame before a shoulder injury ended his career.

**32. Ryan Churella, Novi (1998-2001):** Churella was a state champion as a senior and a state runner-up as a junior. He completed his high school career with a 195-18 record. He went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan, where he became a three-time all-American. Ryan compiled a 117-18 record for his college career.

**33. Travis Piccard, Allendale (1999-2002):** Piccard was a three-time state champion who was undefeated as a junior and as a senior, and who finished his high school career with a 202-3 record. He won 117 matches in college at The Citadel, where he was a Southern Scuffle champion and a Southern Conference champion.

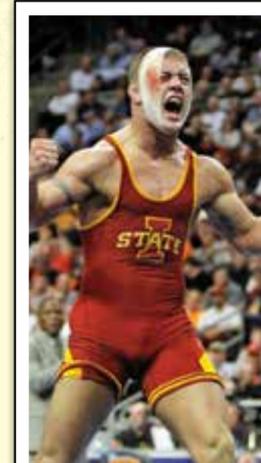
**34. Josh Churella, Novi (1999-2003):** Churella was a three-time state champion. He went on to post a 124-21 record at the University of Michigan and was a three-time all-American.

**35. Jeremiah Tobias, Manchesters (1997-2000):** A four-time state champion, Tobias won titles at 125, 130, 135, and 145 pounds. He went on to wrestle for the University of Michigan, where he has the U-M record for career falls with 57.

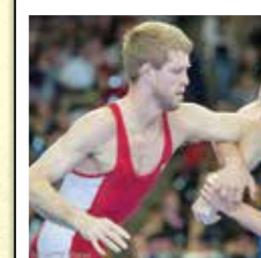
**36. Pat Boyd, Grand Rapids West Catholic, Mt. Pleasant (1982-1985):** Boyd placed third in the state his freshman year and won championships each of the next three years. He finished his career with a 161-1 record. Boyd went on to wrestle at the University of Notre Dame, where he posted a fifth-place finish at the NCAA tournament and won over 100 college matches.

**37. Matthew Brady, Kearsley (1988-1991):** Brady was a high school all-American as a senior when he went a perfect 73-0 enroute to winning his second consecutive state title. The 73 wins is the all-time Michigan high school record for wins in a season. Brady finished his career with a 217 wins.

**38. Joe Warren, East Kentwood (1992-1995):** The takedown king, Warren was a state champion as a senior. He has the fourth most takedowns in Michigan high school history, 784, and the second-best mark for a season with 487. Warren was an all-American at the University of Michigan, where he went 104-33 for his career. He is also a two-time Greco-Roman World Champion.



Jon Reader is another Davison graduate that is high on our list. Reader was a seven-time state champion as he won three individual state championships and was a member of four Davison team state championships.



Nick Simmons, Williamston

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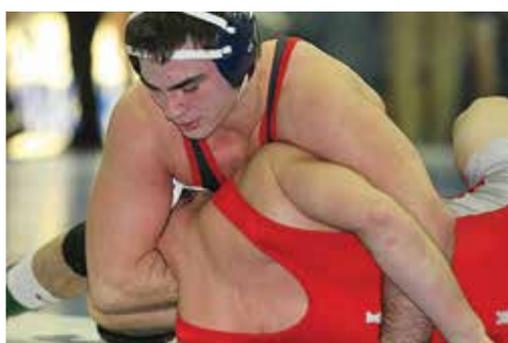
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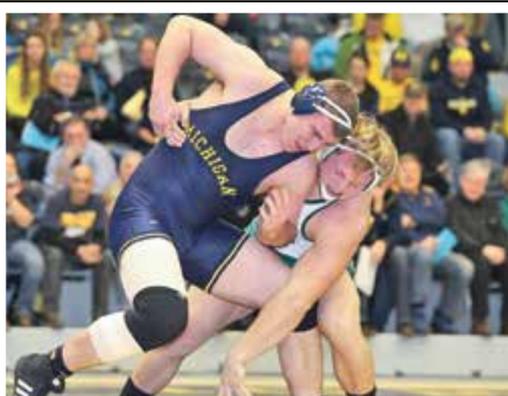
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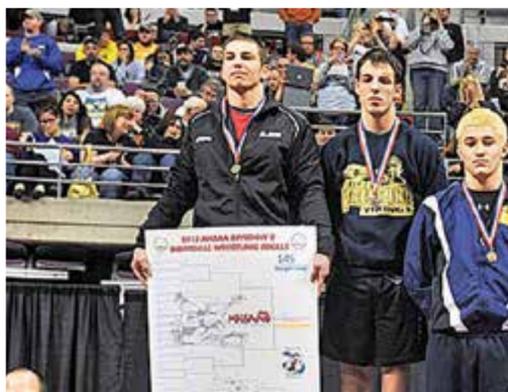
**BEST OF MICHIGAN - SPORTS SCENE'S TOP 100 WRESTLERS OF ALL-TIME CONTINUED...**



A four-time individual state champion, Taylor Massa also went a perfect 221-0 for his career. He also helped lead St. Johns to three team state championships.



Adam Coon, Fowlerville



Ben Whitford, St. Johns

**39. Ben Whitford, St. Johns (2012-2013):** Whitford wrestled his junior and senior years at St. Johns, where he was a two-time undefeated state champion. Of his eight matches at the state finals, he won three by fall, three by technical fall, and one by default. One was won by decision against another unbeaten wrestler. Prior to coming to St. Johns, he won two Illinois state titles. After high school, he won the Junior Nationals.

**40. Dan Yates, Hesperia (2006-2009):** A three-time state champion in Division 4, Yates finished his high school career with a record of 248-9. Yates went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan, where he finished his career with a record of 112-47.

**41. A.J. Grant, Clarkston (1995-1999):** A two-time state champion, Grant finished his high school career with a record of 194-9. He went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan, where he was a two-time all-American who finished his college career with a 116-58 record.

**42. Tim Lambert, Forest Hills Eastern (2009-2012):** A four-time state placer, Lambert won a state title as a senior. He finished his high school career with a 236-5 record and was a perfect 58-0 as a senior. Lambert was 24-13 as a freshman at the University of Nebraska and was an NCAA qualifier.

**43. Paul Donahoe, Davison (2001-2004):** Donahoe was a three-time state finalist and a two-time state champion during high school. After that, he went on to wrestle at the University of Nebraska, where he was a three-time all-American and won an NCAA National Championship.

**44. Chase Metcalf, Davison (1999-2002):** Chase won state titles as a junior and as a senior and placed third at the state meet as a freshman and as a sophomore. He finished his high school career with 223 wins and wrestled in college at the University of Michigan.

**45. Roy Hall, Davison (1985-1988):** Before beginning a legendary coaching career, Hall was a high school standout who finished fourth at the state meet as a freshman and sophomore before winning state titles as a junior and as a senior. He totaled 167 wins during his career and wrestled in college at Michigan State University.

**46. Michael Murdoch, Montrose (1983-1986):** Murdoch was a four-time state champion who won two state titles at 145 pounds and one each at 119 and 132. He won 209 matches during his career.

**47. Tyler Keselring, Greenville (2006-2010):** Keselring was a three-time state champion and also helped the Yellowjackets win a team state title. For his career, he went 192-12. He wrestled in college at Central Michigan University, where he had over 50 career wins.

**48. Mike Amine, Lincoln (1981-1984):** Amine was a state champion who went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan, where he finished second at the NCAA finals in 1988. He was a three-time Big 10 placer and finished his college career with a 104-58-4 record. He was an alternate for the 1992 Olympic Games in Greco-Roman wrestling.

**49. Derek Moscovic, Brother Rice (1988-1991):** Moscovic was a three-time state champion. He went on to wrestle at the University of Indiana, where he was a four-year letterman and a two-time NCAA qualifier.

**50. Pat DeGain, Clarkston (1995-1999):** DeGain was a two-time state champion. He wrestled in college at the University of Indiana, where he was a two-time NCAA qualifier and finished third as a senior. DeGain is fifth all-time in wins at Indiana with 115.

**51. Freddie Rodriguez, Holt/Grand Ledge (2008-2011):** Rodriguez was a three-time state champion in high school. He was also a six-time Michigan Freestyle and Michigan Greco-Roman state champion and won numerous national championships. Originally a Michigan State University recruit, Rodriguez is currently at Iowa Lakes Junior College, where he was an NJCAA all-American last season.

**52. Pat Karslake, Okemos (1964-1966):** Karslake was a three-time state champion and helped lead Okemos to a pair of team state titles in 1965 and 1966. Karslake went on to wrestle at Michigan State University and placed third at the NCAA tournament in 1970 and also won a Midlands Wrestling Championship title.

**53. Tom Minkel, Williamston (1967):** Well known as Michigan State University's head wrestling coach, Minkel was a successful wrestler in his own right. A state champion in 1967, he was a three-time college all-American and two-time NCAA placer for Central Michigan University. A two-time MAC champion, Minkel was 73-13-1 during his college career.

**54. Fred Boss, Addison (1971-1974):** Boss was a two-time state champion. After high school, he wrestled at Central Michigan University, where he was a two-time MAC champion and two-time NCAA placer. Boss finished his college career with an 80-20-2 record.

**55. Ryan Cunningham, Fulton (1993-1996):** Cunningham was a state champion as a junior and as a senior. He finished his high school career with a 200-3 record. After high school, he wrestled at Central Michigan University, where he was a two-time NCAA placer. Cunningham was also a MAC champion and MAC Wrestler of the Year.

**56. Dave Severn, Montrose (1972-1975):** A state runner-up as a junior, Severn won a state title as a senior. He went on to wrestle at Arizona State University, where he was a two-time NCAA all-American and three-time conference champion. Severn recorded a college record of 117-27 and had a 37-match winning streak.

**57. Anthony Biondo, Clinton Township/Chippewa Valley (2003-2006):** Biondo was a three-time state champion and placed third his junior season. He finished his high school career with a 207-9 career record and 120 falls. He was also a freestyle and Greco-Roman all-American. Biondo wrestled in college at the University of Michigan, where he won 105 career matches and was a two-time Big 10 placer and a three-time NCAA qualifier.

**58. Robert Mariucci, Iron Mountain (1981-1984):** Mariucci was a four-time state champion. He finished his career with a 147-16-1 record and was named a high school all-American. He also won a National Junior Olympic Freestyle title in 1982.

**59. Scott Simmons, Williamston (1977-1980):** Before Andy and Nick Simmons wrestled at Williamston, there was Scott. A three-time state finalist, Scott Simmons placed second in the state as a sophomore in 1978 and won state titles in 1979 and 1980. Like his sons, Scott wrestled in college at Michigan State University.

**60. Brandon Chesher, Adrian (1993-1996):** A four-time state champion, Chesher won state titles at 112, 125, 134, and 145 pounds.

**61. Tim Ebenhoeh, Jr., New Lothrop (2001-2004):** Ebenhoeh was part of two team state title teams for New Lothrop and also won three individual state championships. He totaled 238 wins for his career and was 183-2 his final three years of high school. Ebenhoeh then wrestled at Central Michigan University.

**62. Wynn Michalak, Caro (2000-2003):** Michalak was a two-time state champion who finished his career with a 232-8 record. He was 63-0 as a senior. Michalak went on to wrestle at Central Michigan University, where he was a four-time MAC champion and three-time MAC Wrestler of the Year. He was a three-time NCAA placer and finished his college career with a 128-24 record.

**63. Matt Brink, Fruitport (1993-1997):** Brink was a three-time heavyweight state champion. He went on to wrestle at the University of Michigan, where he totaled 106 career wins and was a two-time NCAA placer.

**64. Ryan Gritter, Grandville (2001-2003):** Gritter was a three-time Division 1 heavyweight champion. He went on to wrestle at Central Michigan University, where he was a two-time MAC champion and a two-time NCAA placer.

**65. Joe Ray Barry, Mason (1996-1999):** Barry was a three-time state champion for Mason. He was undefeated as a sophomore and junior and had a 123-match winning streak. He finished his high school career with a 142-7 record and then was a four-year letterman at Central Michigan University.

**66. Randy Kovacak, New Lothrop (1989-1993):** After placing third as a freshman, Kovacak went on to win state titles his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. Kovacak finished his career with 215 wins.

**67. Kevin Vogel, Bedford (1984-1987):** A two-time state champion in high school, Vogel went on to wrestle at Central Michigan University, where he was a three-time MAC champion. He was twice named the MAC Outstanding Wrestler and finished his career with a 131-34-1 record. In Greco-Roman wrestling, he was a World Cup champion, a University National champion, and a U.S. Olympic Festival champion.

**68. Joe Mendez, Lowell (2002-2005):** A four-time state champion, Mendez also helped Lowell win a pair of team state championships. He ended his career with a 211-11 record.

**69. Collin Zeerip, Hesperia (2007-2010):** Zeerip was a three-time state champion who turned in an overall record of 238-13 during his career. He also helped Hesperia to a team state title. Zeerip wrestled at the University of Michigan for three years and was a Big Ten placer. He is currently at Eastern Michigan University.

**70. Paul Lyon, Shephard/Ithaca (1999-2003):** Lyon was a three-time state champion. He won a title at Shephard as a sophomore and was an undefeated state champion as a junior and senior at Ithaca. He was also a JHSCA all-American and wrestled at Central Michigan University and at Cerritos Junior College, where he was runner-up at the JUCO nationals.

**71. Shayne Wireman, Holt (2009-2013):** Wireman was a two-time state champion and a three-time Disney All-American. Wireman finished his high school career with a 198-8 record. He is currently wrestling at Eastern Michigan University and won 19 matches as a freshman.

**72. Josh Cross, Montrose (2000-2004):** Cross was a three-time state champion who also helped Montrose win a team state title. He finished his high school career with a 235-17 record, with 157 career falls. He went on to wrestle in college at Michigan State University.

**73. John Hartupey, Mt. Pleasant (1973-1976):** Hartupey was a three-time state champion. He went on to win 96 matches at Central Michigan University, where he was a two-time MAC champion and placed second at the NCAA tournament. He was also an AAU Greco-Roman National Champion.

**74. Mike Lewis, Addison (1987-1990):** Lewis was a five-time state champion who won three individual state championships and won 60 matches his junior year. For his career, he won 163 matches, 102 by fall. He also helped Addison to back-to-back team state championships.

**75. Stan Marshall, Lakeville (1994-1997):** After taking third at state as a freshman, Marshall went on to win three consecutive state titles. He finished his career with 200 wins.

**76. John Rizqallah, Allegan (2006-2010):** Rizqallah went a perfect 65-0 as a senior after taking second in the state as a junior. He finished his high school career with a record of 230-28. He is currently a senior at Michigan State University, where he won 45 matches and qualified for the NCAA tournament as a sophomore and as a junior.

**77. Curtis Roddy, Montrose (2000-2004):** Roddy was a three-time state champion. He compiled a high school record of 231-15, with 149 career falls. He went on to wrestle at Cornell University.

**78. Drew Garcia, Detroit Catholic Central (2011-2014):** Garcia was the first Catholic Central wrestler to be a three-time individual and a three-time team state champion. Garcia was state runner-up as a freshman before winning the three consecutive individual state titles. He finished his career with a 188-12 record and is currently wrestling at Cornell University.

**79. Ryan Nieman, Bullock Creek (2007-2010):** Nieman was a three-time state champion who finished his high school career with a 231-6 overall record. He had a 177-match winning streak and went on to wrestle at the University of Indiana.

**80. Adam Cunningham, Whittemore-Prescott (1999-2002):** Cunningham was a four-time state placer and a three-time state champion. He went 114-2 his last two years of high school and finished his career with a 232-6 overall record.

**81. Kyler Ellsworth, Goodrich (2005-2009):** Ellsworth was a two-time state champion, who went 134-1 his junior and senior seasons. He finished his career with a 232-31 record and went on to play football at Michigan State University.

**82. James Sinadinis, Lansing Eastern (1950-1952):** Sinadinis was an undefeated state champion as a senior in high school. He went on to wrestle at Michigan State University, where he won a National Championship in 1956. Sinadinis also was a two-time AAU National champion.

**83. Casey Steffen, Flat Rock (1999-2003):** Steffen was one of the best ever out of Monroe County, as he was a three-time state champion who went 172-1 his final three years of high school. He totaled over 700 career takedowns and 181 career falls and finished his career with a 230-3 record.

**84. Joe Zolnai, Holt (1999-2002):** Zolnai was a three-time state champion who finished his career with a record of 143-13.

**85. Feliz Perez, Lakeview (1972-1975):** Perez was a three-time state champion who earned all-American honors as a senior.

**86. B.J. Suito, Swan Valley (2006-2009):** Suito was a three-time state champion who also earned all-American honors. He finished his high school career with a 224-5 career record and went on to wrestle in college at Boston University.

**87. Taylor Simaz, Allegan (2009-2012):** Simaz was a two-time state champion in high school and finished his career with a 241-17 record. Simaz is currently wrestling at Cornell University, where he won 15 matches as a freshman.

**88. Gary Silva, Montrose (1978-1981):** Silva was a three-time state champion who went 49-0 his senior year, when he earned all-American honors. He won 187 matches during his career, including 104 consecutive wins in which he was not taken down a single time.

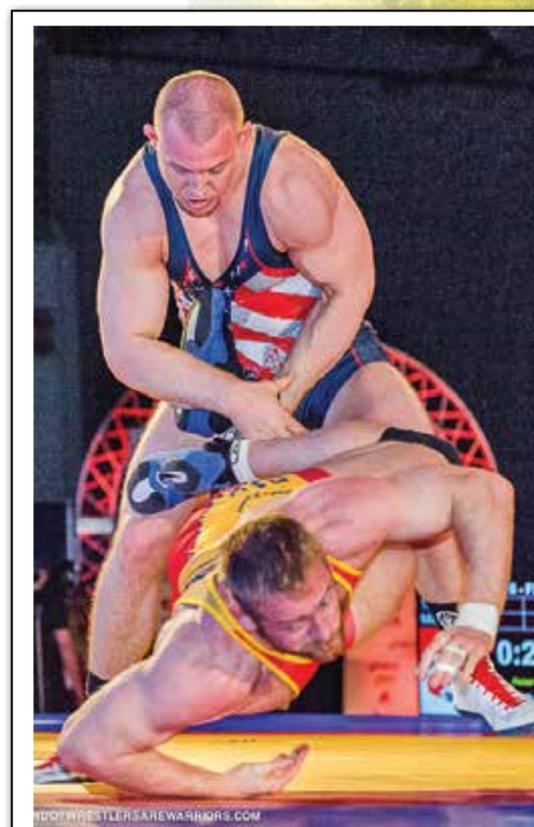
**89. Dan Osterman, Carson City-Crystal/St. Johns (2010-2014):** Osterman was a three-time state champion who won two titles at Carson City and one at St. Johns and who placed second at state as a sophomore. For his high school career, he went 197-8, with only one loss his junior and senior seasons. At Michigan State University, he won over 20 matches all four seasons and was a three-time NCAA qualifier, finishing his career with 92 wins.

**90. Ken Bade, Detroit Catholic Central (2010-2013):** Bade was a six-time state champion for the Shamrocks. After placing third at state as a freshman, he won state titles his next three seasons and also helped Catholic Central win three team state titles. Bade went on to wrestle at the University of Pennsylvania. He went on to wrestle at the University of Pennsylvania.

**91. Jacob Burge, Mason (2005-2008):** Burge was a two-time state champion who placed third at state his other two years of high school. He finished his high school career with a 211-10 overall record and wrestled in college at North Carolina State University.

**92. Alec Mooradian, Detroit Catholic Central (2008-2011):** Mooradian was a three-time state champion who finished his career with a 212-4 record. He was also a Cadet and Junior All-American in freestyle and went on to wrestle in college at Columbia University.

**93. Conor Youtsey, Mason (2008-2011):** A three-time state champion, Youtsey went 45-0 as both a freshman and as a junior. He was third at state as a freshman and finished with a career record of 203-2. He currently wrestles for the University of Michigan and has over 40 collegiate wins.



Wynn Michalak, Caro



Kyler Ellsworth, Goodrich

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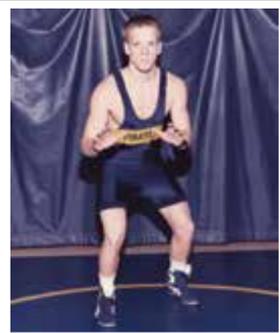
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**BEST OF MICHIGAN - SPORTS SCENE'S TOP 100 WRESTLERS OF ALL-TIME CONTINUED...**



**A four-time individual state champion, Zac Hall just missed being a four-time team state champion as well as his Redwings missed a state championship his senior season on criteria. Hall went 100-0 his last two years and had a career record of 198-2.**



**Ryan Cunningham, Fulton**

**94. Jackson Morse, Lowell (2007-2010):** Morse won three state championships after finishing second in the state as a freshman. Morse is currently a senior at the University of Illinois, where he has over 70 career wins and is a three-time Big 10 placer and two-time NCAA qualifier.

**95. Sam Amine, Detroit Catholic Central (1983-1986):** Amine was a two-time state champion and a three-time state finalist. In college at the University of Michigan he was two-time All-Big 10 and a two-time NCAA qualifier. He was also an alternate on the 1992 U.S. Olympic team in Greco-Roman wrestling.

**96. Jacob Schmitt, St. Johns (2009-2013):** Schmitt won individual state titles as a freshman, junior, and senior and was a state runner-up as a sophomore. He was a five-time Fargo All-American and is currently wrestling at Northwestern University.

**97. Tim Balzeski, Comstock Park (1980-1983):** After winning a state title as a freshman, Balzeski just missed a state title as a sophomore when he dropped a 2-1 decision to then senior Gary Silva of Montrose. Balzeski then went on to win state titles as a junior and senior.

**98. Allen Krupp, New Lothrop (2006-2009):** After placing third as a freshman, Krupp went on to win state titles his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. Krupp finished his career with 208 wins.

**99. Devan Marry, Hudson (2009-2012):** Marry was a three-time individual state champion who placed third at the state meet as a junior. He also helped lead Hudson to four team state titles, and he finished his career with a 229-19 overall record. He is currently wrestling at Eastern Michigan University.

**100. Lanny Green, Napoleon (1985-1988):** Green won a state title in 1988. After high school, he went to the University of Michigan, where he was a two-time all-American who finished his career with a 120-47 record.

**Honorable Mention**

Jeff Amhut, Father Gabriel Richard (1979-81); Malik Amine, Detroit Catholic Central (2011-2014); Kirk Arndt, Shepherd (1974-1977); Tim Balzeski, Comstock Park (1980-83); Lawrence Bates, Lansing Eastern (1953-55); Cosell Beavers, Dundee (2001-2004); Luke Bell, Decatur (2009-2012); Jason Bingham, Mendon (1987-1990); Scott Bitely, Sparta (1988-1991); Jason Borelli, Mt. Pleasant (1997-2000); Conrad Bovee, Ithaca (2005-2008); Travis Brenner, Martin (1998-2001); Denny Brighton, Bedford (1971-1974); Lance Byers, Montrose (1999-2003); Ray Champion, Negaunee (1985-87); Matt Clark, Grass Lake (1985-1989); Paul Coats, Eaton Rapids (1982-1985); Cliff Confer, New Lothrop (1984-1986); Zach Cooper, Whitehall/Chippewa Hills (2010-2013); Todd Curry, Martin (1987-1989); Matt Cluff, Lakeshore (1984-1987); Jason Cluff, Lakeshore (1985-88); Kevin Darling, Negaunee (1986-1989); Marcel DuBose, Highland Park/Oak Park (2005-2008); Craig Eifert, Mason (2006-2009); Gregory Elie, Escanaba (1980-1983); Dave Felger, West Iron County (1996-2000); Jesse Formolo, Iron Mountain (1983-1985); Lee Formolo, Iron Mountain (1987-1990); Lester France, Flat Rock (2004-2007); Ryan Froese, Tri-County (2000-2003); John Fulger, Montrose (2006-2006); Tony Great-house, Mason (1999-2002); Fred Gutierrez, Madison (1967-1970); Mitch Hancock, Detroit Catholic Central (1997-2000); Mark Harris, Lakeview (2003-2006); Toby Heaton, Detroit Catholic Central (1985-1988); L.J. Helbig, Mason (2005-2008); Chris Henderson, Lansing Sexton (1986-1989); Gyhandi Hill, Flint Northern (1991-1995); Brian Hittle, Durand (2004-2008); Jason Holmes, Millington (1993-1996); John Homa, Menominee (1991-1994); Gabe Hutchison, Buchanan (2009-2013); Kamron Jackson, South Haven (2004-2008); Justin Jacobs, Pine River (2001-2004); Phil Judge, Eaton Rapids (1988-1991); James Kish, Lapeer West (1998-2001); Duane Knieper, New Lothrop (1986-1988); Jamie Kovick, New Lothrop (1985-1988); Tony Kovick, New Lothrop (1992-1995); Allen Krupp, New Lothrop (2006-2009); Dave Lambert, Grass Lake (1984-86); Andy Latora, Portage Northern (1979-1982); Tony Latora, Portage Northern (1982-1985); Larry Luft, Gladstone (1984-1987); Logan Marcicki, Detroit Catholic Central (2008-2011); Mike Martin, Detroit Catholic Central (2006-2008); Rick Mena, Martin (1997-2000); Joseph McGuigan, Escanaba (1991-1994); Dave Mills, Mount Pleasant (1976-1980); Nemir Nadhir, Detroit Catholic Central (1975-1978); Kyle O'Neill, Gaylord (2002-2005); Phil Niklowicz, Caro (1987-2000); Joe Ostman, St. Ignace (2010-2013); Greg Paiz, Grandville (1986-1989); Zach Perrin, Corunna (2003-2006); Trevor Perry, Davison (2002-2005); Chris Pierce, Martin (1985-1988); Zemaier Pittman, Carman-Ainsworth (1998-2001); Scott Pushman, Fenton (1997-2000); Zac Pyles, Lakeville (1995-1999); Larry Raether, Iron Mountain (1984-1987); James Richardson, Eaton Rapids (1984-1987); Dave Rodriguez, Detroit Catholic Central (1972-1975); Mitch Rogaliner, Bedford (2008-2012); Casey Rogowski, Detroit Catholic Central (1996-1999); Mark Rusz, St. Charles (1995-1998); Charlie Sageman, Bridgeport (1995-1998); Tom Schneider, Addison (2004-2007); Brent Serbus, New Lothrop (1885-1987); Austin Severn, New Lothrop (2009-2012); Eric Simaz, Allegan (2002-2005); Kyle Simaz, Allegan (2010-2014); Nick Smith, Ida (2007-2010); Jeffrey Steele, Plainwell (2003-2007); Scott Stevens, Davison (1978-1981); Matt Strickler, Pontiac Catholic (1981-83); Erich Smith, Westwood (2004-2007); Joel Smith, Bethesda Christian (1982-84); Lawrence Sykora, Michigan School for the Blind (1961-63); Louis Tibai, Bedford (1989-1992); Dan Thompson, Tri-County (1999-2002); Ryan Tripp, Goodrich (1998-2001); Jerry Umin, St. Mary Catholic Central (1980-1983); Joe Urso, Detroit Catholic Central (1981-1984); Cole Weaver, Hudson (2011-2014); Josh Wendling, New Lothrop (2011-2014); Pat Whitcomb, Grandville (1981-1984); Stanley Wray, Michigan School for the Blind (1968-71); Brandon Zeerip, Hesperia (2006-2009)

New Lothrop (1992-1995); Allen Krupp, New Lothrop (2006-2009); Dave Lambert, Grass Lake (1984-86); Andy Latora, Portage Northern (1979-1982); Tony Latora, Portage Northern (1982-1985); Larry Luft, Gladstone (1984-1987); Logan Marcicki, Detroit Catholic Central (2008-2011); Mike Martin, Detroit Catholic Central (2006-2008); Rick Mena, Martin (1997-2000); Joseph McGuigan, Escanaba (1991-1994); Dave Mills, Mount Pleasant (1976-1980); Nemir Nadhir, Detroit Catholic Central (1975-1978); Kyle O'Neill, Gaylord (2002-2005); Phil Niklowicz, Caro (1987-2000); Joe Ostman, St. Ignace (2010-2013); Greg Paiz, Grandville (1986-1989); Zach Perrin, Corunna (2003-2006); Trevor Perry, Davison (2002-2005); Chris Pierce, Martin (1985-1988); Zemaier Pittman, Carman-Ainsworth (1998-2001); Scott Pushman, Fenton (1997-2000); Zac Pyles, Lakeville (1995-1999); Larry Raether, Iron Mountain (1984-1987); James Richardson, Eaton Rapids (1984-1987); Dave Rodriguez, Detroit Catholic Central (1972-1975); Mitch Rogaliner, Bedford (2008-2012); Casey Rogowski, Detroit Catholic Central (1996-1999); Mark Rusz, St. Charles (1995-1998); Charlie Sageman, Bridgeport (1995-1998); Tom Schneider, Addison (2004-2007); Brent Serbus, New Lothrop (1885-1987); Austin Severn, New Lothrop (2009-2012); Eric Simaz, Allegan (2002-2005); Kyle Simaz, Allegan (2010-2014); Nick Smith, Ida (2007-2010); Jeffrey Steele, Plainwell (2003-2007); Scott Stevens, Davison (1978-1981); Matt Strickler, Pontiac Catholic (1981-83); Erich Smith, Westwood (2004-2007); Joel Smith, Bethesda Christian (1982-84); Lawrence Sykora, Michigan School for the Blind (1961-63); Louis Tibai, Bedford (1989-1992); Dan Thompson, Tri-County (1999-2002); Ryan Tripp, Goodrich (1998-2001); Jerry Umin, St. Mary Catholic Central (1980-1983); Joe Urso, Detroit Catholic Central (1981-1984); Cole Weaver, Hudson (2011-2014); Josh Wendling, New Lothrop (2011-2014); Pat Whitcomb, Grandville (1981-1984); Stanley Wray, Michigan School for the Blind (1968-71); Brandon Zeerip, Hesperia (2006-2009)

# Michigan's All-Time Wrestling Coaches

## These Men Mold Young Minds Into Championship Contenders

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Behind every successful wrestler and wrestling team is a successful coach. The state of Michigan has been blessed through the years to have had hundreds of outstanding wrestling coaches who have produced countless championship teams and wrestlers. High School Sports Scene takes a look at some of the greatest Michigan wrestling coaches of all time.

1. Bill Regnier - Bedford (1966-95): Regnier built the Kicking Mules into a wrestling power that ruled Michigan wrestling for 30 years. He finished his career with a 500-57-3 record and an unbelievable .893 winning percentage. He guided Bedford to nine Class A state championships and four runner-up finishes. He led Bedford to 26 Great Lakes League championships, 20 district championships, and 19 regional titles. He also coached over 25 individual state champions and is a member of the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

2. Mike Rodriguez - Kimball, River Rouge, Detroit Catholic Central (1958-2007): Rodriguez wrapped up his career with 734 wins and a .726 winning percentage. He guided Detroit Catholic Central to seven state championships and also won a state championship with River Rouge. Rodriguez coached 18 all-Americans, 29 state champions with a total of 38 individual state championships, and over 125 state placers. He was elected to the Michigan Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame and was also named National Coach of the Year.

3. Roy Hall - Davison (1998-present): Hall rebuilt the Davison wrestling program into a power after taking over in 1998. Heading into this season, he had fashioned a record of 428-73-1 for an amazing .853 winning percentage. A two-time Michigan Coach of the Year, he has led Davison to six state titles, and his wrestlers have won 25 individual state championships. A National Coach of the Year, he has also produced a number of wrestlers who have gone on to wrestle in college.

4. Bruce Bittenbender - Lakeshore (1970-present): One of only two wrestling coaches in the entire United States with over 800 wins, Bittenbender ended this season at 840 career wins. His teams made it to the team state tournament several times and twice reached the finals. He coached wrestlers who have combined for 20 individual state championships. Bittenbender has twice won National Coach of the Year honors and is a member of the Michigan Wrestling Association Hall of Fame.

5. Don Rinehart - Rockford (1981-2009): Rinehart built Rockford into a West Michigan wrestling powerhouse in his nearly 30 years as head coach. He finished his career with a 557-152-2 overall record, for a .785 winning percentage. He coached Rockford to two state championships, 12 conference titles, 15 district titles, and 11 regional titles. He coached 78 all-state wrestlers during his career, is a two-time Michigan Coach of the Year, and is a member of the Michigan Coaches

Hall of Fame.  
6. Scott Marry - Hudson (1988-present): Marry guided the Hudson program to five consecutive state titles before placing second at the state meet last season. He is closing in on 700 career wins and annually has the Tigers ranked among the top teams in Division 4.

7. Rocky Shaft, Holt (1980-present): Shaft has coached the Rams since 1980 and earlier this year surpassed 500 career dual wins. He has guided the Rams to three Division 1 state titles during his tenure.  
8. Rod Rapp - Mt. Pleasant (1965-1989): Rapp built Mt. Pleasant into a wrestling powerhouse during his 24 years at the helm. He compiled a 293-83-3 record during his career and led the Oilers to 19 conference championships. Rapp also coached wrestlers to 18 individual state championships and produced five high school all-Americans.

9. George Hamblin - Richmond (1991-2002, 2003-12): Hamblin was behind a memorable run of success for the Blue Devils. He compiled a 151-162-1 record at Richmond and guided the team to six state titles. Hamblin is also a member of the Michigan Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame.  
10. Jack Provençal - New Lothrop, Eaton Rapids, Grand Haven (1973-1999): Provençal is best known for coaching Eaton Rapids to four state championships and two state runner-up finishes. A member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Provençal compiled a career mark of 311-72-3 (.806 winning percentage) and coached 56 state medalists and 15 state champions.

11. Tim Roberts - Dundee (2000-present): The Dundee wrestling program has been a power for years, and Roberts has been one of the most successful coaches during that celebrated history. Entering this season, he had compiled a record of 413-55-1 (.881 winning percentage). He has guided the Vikings to four state championships during his career.

12. Don Johnson - Lansing Eastern: Johnson established Lansing Eastern as a state wrestling power in the 1950s and 60s, leading the team to five open class state championships. Catholic Central has won four times, including a string of three in a row. Hancock has been named Michigan Wrestling Coach of the Year once and is a three-time regional Coach of the Year.

13. Tom Krepps - Marlette, Grandville (1975-98): Krepps annually had Grandville among the top Class A teams in the state during his time there. He finished his career with a 426-58-5 record (.871 winning percentage). He led Grandville to two state titles, 19 conference championships, 21 district titles, and nine regional titles. He also coached 47 all-state wrestlers.  
14. Murray Rose - Allegan (1986-96, 1999-present): Rose and his teams have dominated wrestling in southwestern Michigan. Rose entered the season with a 689-145-2 record at Allegan and an .824 winning percentage. He has also guided Allegan to a state team championship.

15. Gary Rivers - Lowell (1960-98): The godfather of wrestling coaches in West Michigan, Rivers not only established the Lowell wrestling program but also mentored many other coaches on the west side of the state. The man with

the red socks, Rivers went 499-133-6 in his career at Lowell. He guided Lowell to 20 conference, 14 district, and six regional titles.

16. Tom Lehman - Thornapple Kellogg (1973-09): Lehman built the Thornapple Kellogg wrestling program into a powerhouse. Lehman won a state title and fashioned a 710-234-7 overall record and a .747 winning percentage.

17. Jim Mooney - Williamston: Mooney began his career at Williamston and coached at the school for 32 years. He compiled a 305-125-3 overall record and led Williamston to a state championship. A member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, he coached 19 state champions and 46 state qualifiers.

18. Dave Robertson - Corunna (1978-2011): Robertson built the Corunna wrestling team into a mid-Michigan power for 34 years. He led Corunna to a 636-134-5 record with an .821 winning percentage. Robertson coached the Cavaliers to a pair of state semifinal appearances, four quarter-final appearances, 16 team district championships, and 24 league titles.

19. Paul Johnson - Greenville (1990-present): Greenville became a perennial wrestling powerhouse in mid Michigan after Johnson took over the program. He has guided Greenville to a 536-116-13 record and an .806 winning percentage. Johnson has also guided Greenville to one state championship.

20. Mitch Hancock - Detroit Catholic Central (2006-present): In his years coaching the Shamrocks, Hancock has led the team to five state finals. Hancock has been named Michigan Wrestling Coach of the Year once and is a three-time regional Coach of the Year.

21. Todd Cheney - Hartland (1992-present): The Eagles have been a perennial power in Division 1 under Cheney's guidance. Cheney entered the season with a 602-92-2 record for a .865 winning percentage. He has led the Eagles to district titles in 19 of the past 20 years and has guided the team to 14 consecutive regional titles.

22. Duane Wohlfort - Fenton (1965-2000): Wohlfort built the Fenton wrestling program into a state power during his 35 years as coach. He capped his career with a 542-176-4 overall record and three state titles.

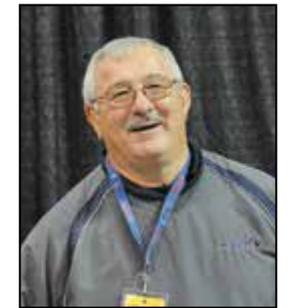
23. Dave Dean - Lowell (2005-2014): During Dean's nine years coaching at Lowell, he led the Red Arrows to two



Holt's Rocky Shaft pictured with his 2013-14 team. (Submitted Photo)



Greenville's Paul Johnson has amassed over 500 victories for the 'Jackets during his coaching career.



Tom Lehman - Thornapple Kellogg

state championships and three state runner-up finishes. He also won nine district, seven regional, and seven league titles. Dean coached 75 state placers and 12 state champions during his tenure.

24. Sam Amine - Lincoln, Troy, Detroit Catholic Central, Brighton: Amine was the youngest coach to win a state title when he led Lincoln to the 1994 title at the age of 24. He was also the youngest coach to lead a team to three state finals. Amine had a 90% winning percentage over his 23 years coaching and was twice named Michigan Coach of the Year.

25. Scott Warriner - Eaton Rapids: Warriner was part of the impressive run of state titles at Eaton Rapids, coaching the Grayhounds to four state titles and three state runner-up finishes.

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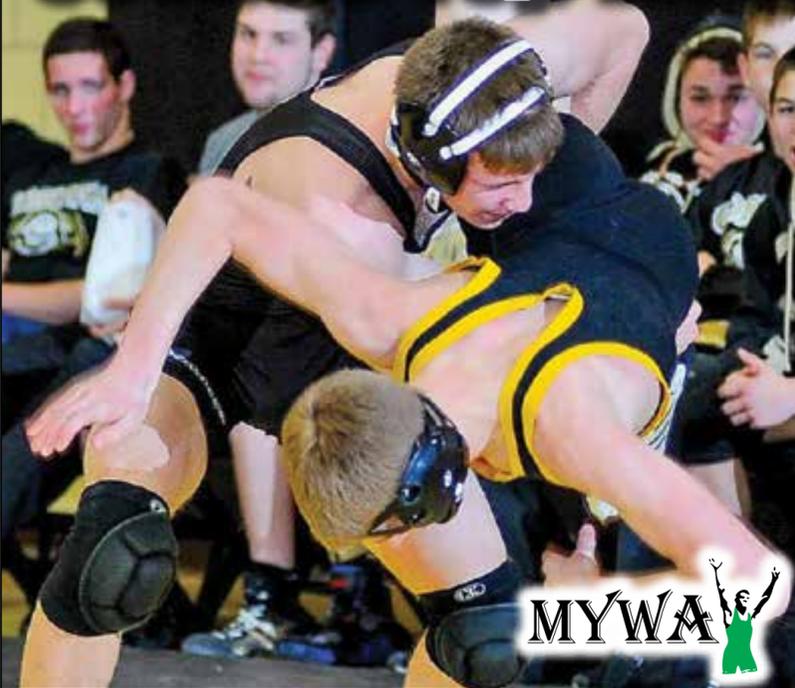
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# New Lothrop Named Sports Scene's Top Wrestling Program



## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

In 1948, Lansing Sexton won the first Michigan high school state wrestling title. Since then, hundreds of schools from across the state have won state titles, and pride in wrestling teams has grown in many large and small towns across the state. Programs have ebbed and flowed throughout the years, and High School Sports Scene decided to take a look at the premier wrestling programs since 1948.

1. New Lothrop: From the early days of high school wrestling until now, few programs have been as consistently strong as New Lothrop. The little farming hamlet located in extreme northeastern Shiawassee County has won 13 state team titles. The Hornets have recently won three Division 4 titles, two Class C titles, one Class C-D title, and seven Class C titles in the individual format. The list of multiple individual champions is long and impressive, with three-time champions like Brent Serbus, Dwayne Knieper, Randy Kovick, Tony Kovick, Tim Ebenhoeh, and Allen Krupp. Nine other wrestlers were crowned two-time champions.

2. Detroit Catholic Central: The gold standard for success among large schools in the state, the Shamrocks have won 11 Division 1 or Class A state titles. Catholic Central has been on a roll in recent years, having won four of five titles since 2010. It also enjoyed another strong run over 40 years ago, when it won three titles in a row from 1969-71. The Shamrocks have won 34 Detroit Catholic League titles since 1975. Individually, Catholic Central has produced four three-time state champions and 10 two-time state champions. It has an unmatched group of two-time heavyweight champions that includes Toby Heaton, Lee Krueger, Casey Rogowski, and Mike Martin.

3. Bedford: The Kicking Mules of Temperance have captured 10 Division

1 or Class A state titles. Their glory days came under the individual format for determining state champions, when they won seven state championships from 1976 through 1986. The team, which was coached by Bill Regnier, also finished state runner-up three times during that span. The Kicking Mules have produced six two-time state champions, including Denny Brighton, Doug Harpner, Kevin Vogel, Ryan McBroom, Alex Ortman, and Mitch Rogaliner.

4. Davison: With a combination of team and individual talent, Davison High School went on a run from 2000-2006 that may never be repeated. The Cardinals won six titles during those years and missed a seventh title by 12 points. Their roster was a virtual who's who of outstanding wrestlers during that run, and it included four-time individual state champion Brent Metcalf, three-time champion Jon Reader, and two-time champions Paul Donahoe and Chase Metcalf. Joe Phillips, Adam Wilmoth, Kyle Chittick, Trevor Perry, and Zak Burns also won state titles during that run.

5. Eaton Rapids: Eaton Rapids wrestling has enjoyed steady success throughout the years, first in Class B and now in Division 2. Under the old individual state format, the Greyhounds captured four Class B state titles and finished runners-up twice. Eaton Rapids also won two Class B titles and two Division 2 titles. It was state runner-up three times in Class B and once in Division 2, giving the school eight state champion titles and six runner-up titles. Paul Coats, James Richardson, and Phil Judge were two-time state champions for the Greyhounds.

6. Montrose: Located just a few miles from New Lothrop in southern Saginaw County, Montrose has long rivaled its neighbor as a wrestling powerhouse. Under the old format, Montrose won five Class C state titles and was run-

The tradition of the New Lothrop wrestling team is endless. With 13 team titles and numerous individual state champions, the Hornets are the top overall program voted on by the Sports Scene staff. (File Photo)



ner-up three times. It was also a runner-up in Class B. More recently, Montrose has captured four Division 3 state titles. The Rams also finished runners-up once.

7. Lansing Eastern: The king of wrestling in the early days of Michigan high school wrestling, Eastern won six state titles in the open class individual format from 1948 through 1960 and placed second four times. It was coached by legendary coach Don Johnson in those years. Eastern continued its success in the 1960s and 70s, as it won a pair of Class A titles and was Class A runner-up three times. The school also produced numerous state champions, including Olympic champion Kevin Jackson, who was a two-time state champion. Other two-time state champions were George Sinadinos, Gary Crump, and Wayne Jackson. The Quakers also produced 15 more state champions from 1961 through 1991.

8. Lowell: The Lowell wrestling tradition started with legendary coach Gary Rivers. The man in the red socks won 499 dual matches from 1960 through 1998 and made the Red Arrows a power in West Michigan. Recently, the team has built on that foundation and has won four Division 2 state titles and recorded six Division 2 runner-up finishes.

9. Holt: The Rams have long been one of the top programs in the Lansing area. Under Rocky Shaft, who is in his 35th year as head coach, the Rams have won over 500 dual matches. Shaft has guided Holt to three Division 1 titles and one runner-up finish. The Rams also captured a Class B state title under the individual format in 1971 and were Class B runners-up in 1979.

10. Dundee: Dundee has been a wrestling stronghold since long before Cabella's turned the town into a tourist destination. Dundee has won three Division 3 state titles, four Division 4

state titles, and one Class C-D state title. The Vikings have also been four-time runners-up in Division 4.

11. Mt. Pleasant: From 1974 through 1984, Mt. Pleasant wrestling was as good as it gets. Mt. Pleasant captured six Class B state titles under legendary coach Rod Rapp. Mike Mills was a big part of that success, as he won four individual state titles and was part of two state title teams, while Dave Mills and Joe Mills also added titles. John Hartuppee was a big part of the beginning of that run, with three individual state titles. Mt. Pleasant also had seven other wrestlers earn state titles during that span.

12. St. Johns: St. Johns has been making up for lost time as a wrestling hotbed. Since 2010, the Redwings have reached the Division 2 state finals every year, winning the title four straight seasons from 2010-2013 and finishing second in the state in 2014. The school has also been churning out state champions and college recruits at a high rate.

13. Lansing Sexton: The city of Lansing was once the capital of high school wrestling in the state of Michigan. While Eastern won six open class titles from 1948 through 1960, Sexton was close behind with four championship titles and four runner-up titles. Sexton also added a Class A title and was Class A runner-up five times. David Porter and Chris Henderson were three-time state champions for the Big Reds, while Robert Flander was a two-time state champion. Sexton also had seven other state champions from 1961 through 1989.

14. Richmond: The Blue Devils have proven dominant in Division 3 in recent years. Since 2000, they have won six Division 3 state titles and placed second four other times. Richmond's rise to the top began in 1994, when it captured the first of three straight regional

titles. In 2015, Devin Skatzka is bidding to become a four-time state champion. Stephen Ireland was a two-time state champion for the Blue Devils.

15. Rockford: The Rams have won a pair of Division 1 state titles and were Division 1 runners-up twice. Since the team format began in 1988, they have won 12 regional titles in the rugged West Michigan regional.

16. Grandville: The Bulldogs have battled Rockford many times for the regional title in West Michigan. Grandville has won one Class A state title and was a runner-up in Division 1 and in Class A. Under the old individual format, Grandville had six top-ten finishes. Since the team tournament began, the Bulldogs have 11 regional titles.

17. Addison: Addison has a long history of strong wrestling, with a total of five state titles. The Panthers have three Division 4 state titles to their credit and two Class C state titles. They were runners-up three times in Class C under the individual format and have also been runners-up in Division 4, Class C, and Class C-D.

18. Hudson: Just down the road from Addison, Hudson is a relative newcomer to wrestling dominance in the state, having won five straight Division 4 titles from 2009-2013. It placed second in 2014.

19. Lawton: Lawton won three Class D state titles under the individual format and also claimed a Class D title under the team format. It was also a two-time Class D state runner-up in the team format.

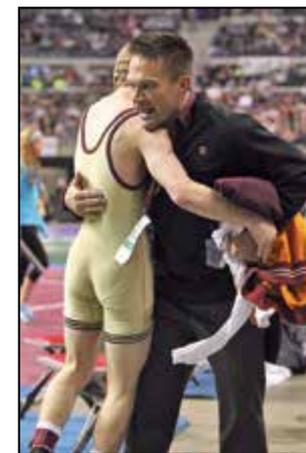
20. Mason: The Bulldogs have captured three Division 2 state titles.



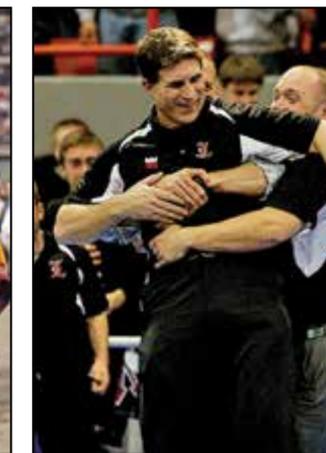
The Detroit Catholic Central wrestling team is ranked second among the Sports Scene's Top 20 programs in Michigan. (File Photo)



Lowell, which won the Division 2 state championship a year ago, made the Sports Scene's Top 20 programs list. (File Photo)



Davison coach Roy Hall put the Cardinals on the map in the late '90s and nearly 15 years later they are still one of the premier programs in the state. (File Photo)



Former Lowell coach Dave Dean built a juggernaut before leaving the Red Arrow program. Lowell won a state title a year ago.

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# Oxford Built Program One Brick At A Time

Dan Stickradt  
Sports Scene  
Twitter: @LocalSportsFans

OXFORD — When a program is at an all-time low, it's hard to imagine being on top.

That's the way Paul McDevitt viewed it in the mid 1990s when he took over Oxford's wrestling program, a program couldn't even field a full lineup.

"They didn't win a match the year before I took over," recalled McDevitt, who became head coach at Oxford in the fall of 1994.

That's a testament to the patience of taking over a struggling program and seeing it through the tough times. McDevitt has been there ever since 1994, either as a head coach or as an assistant, and has been there for the many peaks and valleys.

Oxford was anything but a state power in wrestling some 20 years ago. But with McDevitt, longtime youth coach Doug Myer, and the help of many other faithful head coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteers over the years, the Wildcats slowly rose from the ashes.

This past week, Oxford captured its ninth regional title in a 17-season span, including the seventh in eight years, and the program will again compete in the Division 1 Elite Eight Feb. 27-28 at Battle Creek's Kellogg

Arena.

Oxford captured a state title in 2011; finished as the state runner-up in 2009 and 2012; reached the Final Four in 1999, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014; and captured 11 league titles and 14 districts over the past two decades.

Is this something that McDevitt and others envisioned some 20 years ago? "No," smiled McDevitt. "We dreamed. But actually being [in the Elite Eight nine] times?"

Coaches come and go in high school athletics. Many begin with the same sentiments ... that they want to build a winner, build something special. But when the labor doesn't produce much or any fruit in the early stages, there's usually an exit and a new coach takes over a few years later.

McDevitt stuck with it and, as he put it, "thanks to the help of many people," the Wildcats have been crowned state champion once and have earned the tab as a state powerhouse program. And it was done the right way.

There wasn't a huge load of talented stu-



The Oxford wrestling team shocked state power Detroit Catholic Central during the 2011 state finals by winning the Class A championship. Oxford is back this year, hoping to make a run toward another title. (File Photo)

dent-athletes migrating to Oxford when McDevitt took over. Back then, Oxford's football and track teams were both recent winners of state titles, but wrestling was an afterthought in the school, and the program was in bad shape. It was given some slow-growing new life, though, and not some Acme instant grow potion that turned the Wildcats into an instant success story.

There was no undue influence, even though in the past 10-15 years, public schools in Michigan are finding ways to hit the recruiting trail to bring in high-level athletes, and there were no shady characters looming in the hallways. There was no one encouraging kids to move to Oxford, or someone guaranteeing Division I college scholarships or many of the other enticing snack foods that people in the prep sports world use to try to build a winner.

It all "begins with the youth programs. Any school that has a lot of success in wrestling will tell you that having a strong youth program will make the difference in the long run," offered McDevitt. "We have had a lot of quality coaches, volunteers, parents down in the youth programs that have made a difference. We get the same support at the high school level."

It also blends in some good old-fashioned hard work — and a lot of patience and endurance over many years.

Oxford saw some fruit during the 1997-98 season, when it captured its first Flint Metro League title, three years after climbing out of the league basement.

In December, 2000, Oxford captured its first Oakland County championship and has remained in the top 10 at that prestigious, 45-plus-school tournament ever since that day.

In league competition, Oxford has finished first or second 15 straight times and has finished in the top three in conference competitions 17 years running. Since joining the Oakland Activities Association Red Division in 2010-11, Oxford has won or shared

the league title five straight times.

Although steady through 17 years, Oxford has really made a push in recent campaigns. Advancing to the Final Four in six of the past seven seasons is a testament to the accomplishments and dedication put in by all of those involved.

In the 2009-10 season, Oxford bumped up to Division 1 yet still advanced to the Final Four before it fell to Detroit Catholic Central. Over the past 11 seasons, only in 2013 did Oxford fail to win a district crown.

The Wildcats did it all with Oxford kids over the years. Even this year's run was accomplished despite losing several athletes to graduation or transfer, and the fact that the team is loaded with sophomores.

Oxford, which has over 60 athletes on its wrestling team, is boosted by home-grown talent. They mix that talent with a brutally-tough schedule year-in and year-out to try to brew up a winning formula. Those are some of the ingredients that worked for Oxford, which became the first public school from Oakland County to win a state title in wrestling in 2011 since Lake Orion, Clarkston, and Rochester Adams all won titles in the 1990s.

Myer, the youth coach, started a youth/club team in Oxford in the mid 1990s, which has helped the program flourish and grow. And the coaching staff is on the same page, with no egos between the head coach and assistant coach. The Wildcats will often rotate mat-side coaches during big meets.

Brad Keeney, Alan Wilfong, Brandon Rank, Joe Wood, Jim Gourlay, Jake Shagina, Scott Couch, and Eric Kerr have all played a part in this winning orchestra over the years. Myer is still behind the scenes today, teaching kids and working meets. Several former athletes also helped lay the groundwork for the school's impressive run on the mats.

It is not over yet.

dan.stickradt@northoaklandsports.com

# Hartland Maintains Elite Status, Seeks Elusive First Title

Dan Stickradt  
Sports Scene  
Twitter: @LocalSportsFans

HARTLAND — Success can sometimes be tabulated in the numbers.

Hartland's wrestling program has the numbers to back the claim that it is truly an elite program. But there is one thing that has been elusive to the Eagles: a state title.

"We've come close a few times but haven't won one yet," noted coach Todd Cheney, who hopes that his Eagles will one day be the last team standing.

When Cheney took over the program in 1992-93, he quickly helped build it into a contender at all levels. The Eagles have claimed 19 districts and 16 league titles over 23 seasons. Deeper in the post-season, Hartland has won 16 regional titles, including 14 in a row. It has reached the Final Four six straight times, and 10 times

overall, since 2004.

"We have been blessed with a lot of great kids. The work ethic, the [drive] to get better is there," said Cheney. "I think we have built a tradition. Each group doesn't want to be the team to break the tradition, because we have been to Battle Creek 14 straight times."

Hartland, with its 29-3 record, will again be in the Elite Eight Feb. 27-28 at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena. The Eagles have advanced to the final weekend of the season in 10 of the last 11 campaigns, missing in 2008.

Only a couple of times in Cheney's tenure have the Eagles failed to win 20 dual meets. They have finished in the top half to their league for more than 20 years running.

The program has developed dozens of league champions, regional qualifiers, state qualifiers, state-meet placers, and even a



The Hartland wrestling team celebrates after winning its 15th straight district title. Hartland is a contender for the Class A title this season. (Submitted Photo)

handful of state champions over the past 23 years and will have a handful contending for titles at the individual state finals March 5-7 at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"We always have high expectations," said Cheney. "We're hoping that one of these years, we'll be able to win the state champi-

onship. That is the goal."

With so much success already under its belt, the odds of Hartland reaching the promised land look pretty good.

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# Logan Massa Chasing Third State Title

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

If senior Logan Massa of St. Johns comes up short in his quest for a third straight individual state title, it won't be because of a lack of preparation.

Massa, who won state titles as a sophomore and as a junior, dominated the competition at the individual district, as he ran his record to 33-0 for the season.

Even though he is ranked as the No. 1 wrestler in Division 2 at 171 pounds, Massa is leaving nothing to chance in his training for this year's state tournament. "I train every day, Monday through Friday," Massa said. "Normally I have two practices a day."

After practicing with his team after

school, Massa heads for more wrestling. "On Monday I head over to Michigan State to work out and then, on Tuesday I train at my dad's," Massa said. "On Wednesday we have our duals, and then on Thursday I go and practice with Andy Simmons."

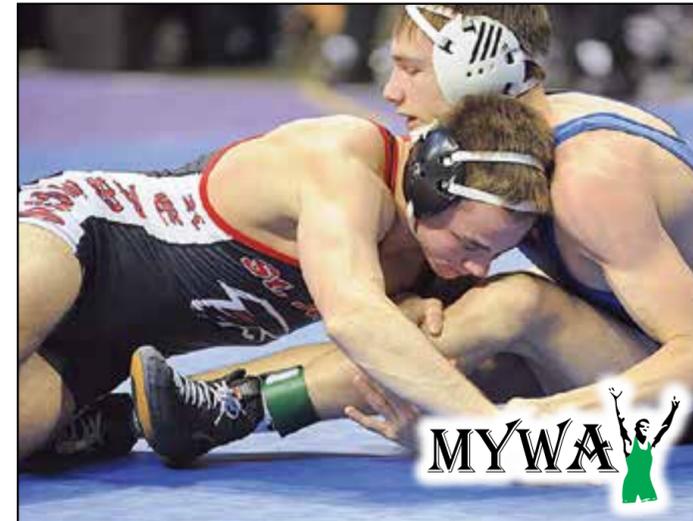
What drives Massa is the bitter taste in his mouth of falling short in overtime of the state championship match as a freshman, which ended his dream of becoming a four-time state champion. "Obviously I wanted to win four," Massa said. "I fell short in overtime as a freshman and, in a way, it was a good thing because it served to motivate me. What happened there motivated me to get better."

Massa carries that motivation into each practice, and he goes all out from start to finish. "I try every day to push myself to the

limit," he said. "I want to get that last take-down and shoot that last shot. I just keep pushing and thinking about getting that last state title."

He is closing in on that goal and has been

building momentum all season. "I feel real good right now," Massa said. "I've been improving every day. I feel like I'm getting better and peaking for state. I'm going in with the mindset that I am the No. 1 guy, and I am focused on that third state title."



St. Johns' Logan Massa will look to claim his third Division 2 state title during the finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills. (File Photo)

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# GRC's Irankunda Fitting Right In For Cougars

## Jeff Chaney Sports Scene

LAKEWOOD – Emable Irankunda wanted to be a high school basketball player when he got to Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School.

But standing just five feet, three inches tall, and weighing 125 pounds, those are not measurements made for a basketball player.

So when Irankunda was cut from the freshmen basketball team in the fall, Catholic Central wrestling coaches B.J. Schroder and Kyle Waldo stepped in, offering him a sport where he could stand tall, no matter what his measurements are.

Schroder and Waldo talked to Irankunda, who is a refugee from Tanzania in Africa and moved to the United States seven years ago because of the war in his native country, and convinced him to come out for wrestling.

"I never saw wrestling before," Irankunda said. "Coach Schroder and Kyle said I was not a basketball player, and to come out for wrestling. So since I didn't make basketball, I tried wrestling, and I liked it.

"I was regretting coming out, be-

cause I lost at first. But once I started winning, I felt this is where I should be. I knew if I get knocked down, to come back, and I started to get good at it."

Schroder and Waldo saw something in Irankunda that could translate to the wrestling mat.

"We had been telling him all along during football that he should wrestle," said Schroder, who is the head coach of the Cougars. "Every kid's dream is to play basketball, because that is what they have been doing since they were little. We don't have a youth program (in the Catholic schools) established right now, so I understand that. But when he got cut, I was so excited to get this athlete, and he had a winning record heading to (individual districts) at 18-17. Every day were worked a little more and more with him, working the basics. Coach Chris Smith and Kyle did a ton of work with him, and now you have an athlete who now knows how to wrestle, and that's dangerous."

That was evident when Catholic Central, the seventh ranked team in Division 3, took on Allendale, the 10th-ranked team, in the Team regional finals in Lakewood February 18.

In a back-and-forth battle, the match came down to Irankunda's 125-pound match against Angel Perez, a district runner-up. If Irankunda, who just missed qualifying for individual regionals, could upset Perez, that would give Catholic Central its second straight regional championship and send the Cougars to state once again.

Irankunda pulled off the upset, 5-4, and Catholic Central beat Allendale 38-33.

"It feels really good," Irankunda said. "I was really nervous going out, but my team helped me out. They had total confidence in me, and I did it. It feels good to go to state."

Confidence boils over in the Catholic Central wrestling room.

With a trio of state champions (Devin Schroder, Nate Limmex and Foster Karmon) looking to defend their titles, Irankunda has had plenty of practice partners and teammates to get better.

That is one of the reasons Karmon, who won his title last year at Allegan, decided to transfer to Catholic Central.

"It was not totally for wrestling, but

it turned out well," Karmon said. "I have great partners, and great coaches and it is a great school and everything. Everything is working out well."

Talent isn't limited to the little guys at Catholic Central. Senior Grant Tennihill is also a legitimate contender to win a state title at 215 pounds this year.

In all, Catholic Central has a shot to win five and medal in six weight classes at state.

"I have been in a Rockford wrestling room that has had multiple champs, and now watching my teammates win state titles, I know what it takes," said Tennihill, who took third at 189 last year at state. "I feel like I have put in the work. Being in our room, and knowing that your teammates



Grand Rapids Catholic Central's B.J. Schroder has his team on solid foundation in recent seasons. (File Photo)

# Catholic Central's Myles Amine Carries Torch Of Legacy

## Dan Stickrad Sports Scene

Twitter: @LocalSportsFans

NOVI — Being ultra-competitive and having a 'refuse to lose' attitude is definitely in Myles Amine's blood. He not only carries the genes, but he's also been practically forced into the mindset. It's his heritage.

"It's always competitive in my family," joked Amine, who comes from a long line of sports stars at the youth, high school, college, and even Olympic levels. "We're always talking about sports. I have had so many members of my family that were successful at sports."

And Myles Amine, instead of getting lost in the shuffle or being joked about during the family reunions, has carved his own path and created his own story in the highly-athletic Amine family.

The youngest of three siblings, the Brighton resident is now a senior at Detroit Catholic Central High School. His older brother Malik attended Catholic Central and is now at the University of Michigan. That alone is pressure enough to follow in the footsteps of an older sibling.

His sister Michelle played sports at Brighton, his father Mike was a standout athlete at Lincoln High School in Warren, his uncles were multi-sport athletes at Catholic Central, and even his grandparents "were Olympic athletes. Everyone is an athlete in my family, or so it seems," laughed Amine.

Amine grew up loving sports - playing soccer and football and even wrestling in youth programs in Hartland beginning in the third grade. Although he doesn't compete in organized sports today outside of wrestling, he still loves soccer and football and almost every sport under the sun — with some competitive flair.

"Even when I go golfing, I am super-competitive," he said. "I hate to lose. I always try to win."

Amine first walked the halls at Catholic Central when he was in middle school. He studied all of the trophies and the long legacy of success and wanted to be a part of it. "There's a lot of history here at Catholic Central. They have been so successful in wrestling and in a lot of other sports. They also have a very good academic program," said

Amine. "I remember being in the eighth grade, I think, at one of my brother's meets, when I realized how much I wanted to go to Catholic Central."

Humbled by his past defeats and life lessons, Amine in on a journey that has led him to become one of the better wrestlers at Catholic Central and in the state of Michigan. He carried a 145-25 career record into the individual regionals on Feb. 21, with his eyes on another individual state title and a fourth straight state-qualifying berth.

As a freshman, Amine wrestled at 112 pounds and qualified for state. His sophomore year, he finished third in the state at 130, losing by one point to eventual state champion Austin Ecker of Hartland in the semifinal round.

His junior year, Amine rose to the top and captured a state title at 140, while this season he is top-ranked at 160 and one of the leading favorites to contend for another state title.

He has won dozens of tournaments in his career, including Oakland County, district, and regional titles, and he is gearing up for another state title run.

Teamwise, Amine was a part of team state titles in 2012, 2013, and 2014, and this year he has aided the Shamrocks to their seventh straight berth in the Elite Eight in Battle Creek.

"It's always our goal to get here. Coach Hancock has done a great job since he took over with keeping the expectations high and helping us to prepare," said Amine. "We have a chance to do something special, win four straight state titles. There isn't a clear-cut favorite. There's a lot of very good teams; it's wide-open this year. We have a chance just like everyone else."

Amine carries the same competitive mantra into the classroom. The University of Michigan signee carries a stellar 4.2 GPA and scored 28 on the ACT.

"I am actually retaking it soon,"

he said of the ACT. "With Michigan's business school being so strict, I want to take it again and go for 30. I don't want to settle."

Myles Amine doesn't settle for mediocrity. He has school and family traditions to hold up — and has done a fine job living up to legacy.

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Myles Amine leads Detroit Catholic Central into the Class A finals. Amine looks to defend his state title this season. (File Photo)

# Kevin Briscoe Passes 150-Win Mark For Chip Hills

## John Raffel Sports Scene

REMUS - Nate Ethridge has coached many standout wrestlers during his career at Chippewa Hills High School.

That includes senior Kevin Briscoe, who recently hit the 150-win mark. He went 2-0 in the Division 3 districts at Big Rapids, and his second win against Reed City gave him the 150th victory in his high school varsity career. He's 36-5 this season after the individual districts.

"Kevin's a great kid," Ethridge said. "He came here with some skills. It's pretty crazy to me that he's actually a senior and graduating. He was a floppy-haired

130-pound freshman when he walked in. He's exciting. He's a great kid and has managed to stay healthy. To start as a freshman and be a 30-win kid in our program as a freshman is a huge accomplishment in its own."

Briscoe and the Warriors stretched their district title string to 11 on the same night that Briscoe reached 150 wins.

"I had no idea tonight was going to be the night," Briscoe smiled after the match. "It's completely outstanding. It's a huge milestone in my wrestling career. I'm so thankful for it."

"The fact he was able to start off four years, anytime you have 100 in your career, it's a huge deal," Ethridge said. "When you win



150, that's pretty dang special."

This, Briscoe's fourth varsity

season with the Warriors, "has been going great," according to Briscoe. "We're just getting into the final part of the season. As a team, and myself, we're ready to go."

"Every year he keeps getting better," Ethridge said. "He puts the time in and effort and trains hard. He's just a good kid."

"As a senior and with all the knowledge I've had from previous years, I'm ready to peak," Briscoe said.

Last season, Briscoe was fourth at the state finals at 145 pounds. He'll compete at 152 this year, and he would like to exceed what he was able to accom-

plish at the state finals last winter.

"That's the plan," he said. "I need to have a solid district and regional. It comes down to that practice room and having [quality] practices for the last three weeks of wrestling."

Briscoe has been wrestling since he was six years old and has especially enjoyed being in the Warriors program.

"It's outstanding; I have the best coaching staff and team that I've ever had in my whole career of wrestling," he said.

Ethridge returned the compliment. "He's a great representation of the type of people we want coming out of our program."



The Chippewa Hills wrestling team won its 11th straight district title and advanced to the state finals after defeating Whitehall at regionals. (Submitted Photo)

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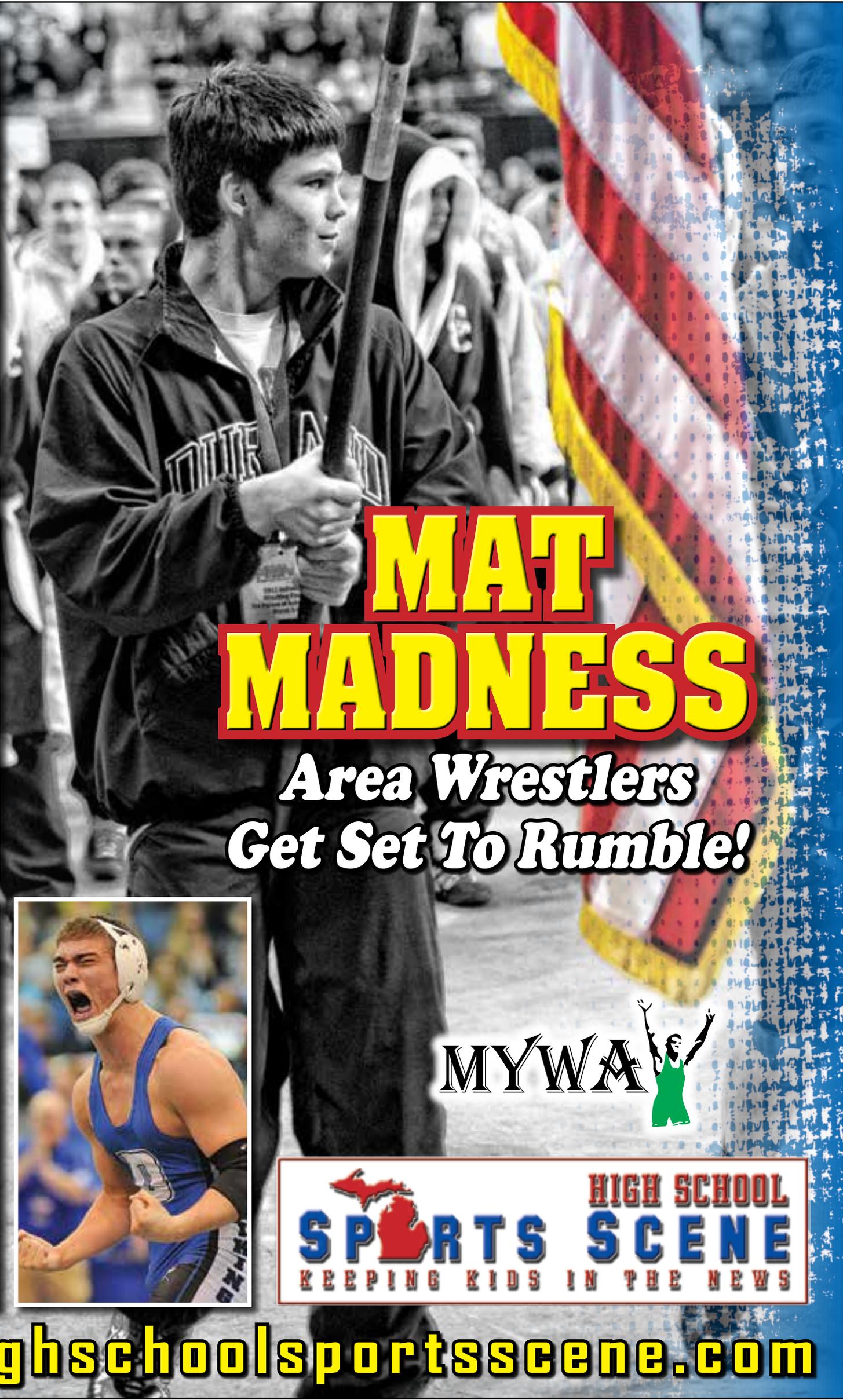
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