



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

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

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

- **Publisher**  
Randy Miniard  
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com  
517-202-1808
- **Editor**  
Scott Keyes  
midmichigansportsscene@yahoo.com  
989-890-4036
- **High School Liaison**  
Paul Hornak  
paul@highschoolsportsscene.com  
989-331-1168
- **Mid-Michigan Sales**  
Jennifer Blythe  
jenlymnerandall@gmail.com  
989-544-1345
- **Northern Michigan Sales**  
Scott Salowich  
ssalowich@yahoo.com  
313-408-4410
- **Livingston/Oakland County Sales**  
Mike Valvona  
mikev@highschoolsportsscene.com  
248-937-0122
- Connor Matlock  
connmat11@gmail.com  
517-294-0310
- **Editorial**  
Scott Keyes, John Raffel, David Cook,  
Butch Harmon, Jeff Chaney,  
Scott Salowich
- Dan Strickrandt  
dan.stickrandt@northoaklandsports.com  
Twitter: @LocalSportsFans
- **Photographers**  
Chuck Prikasky, Alan Holben,  
Zip Widman, Mike Schutt,  
Russ Pierce, Skip Traynor,  
Bob Campbell, Gary Williams,  
Phil Niekerk

Vol. 7, Issue 72 South • November/December 2015

# CONTENTS

- 3 | Mr. Tennis Announced
- 4 | Waterford Our Lady Heading To Ford Field
- 5 | Novi Wins Class A Volleyball Title
- 6 | Fornari Runs Down Her Dreams
- 7 | Cross Country Dream Teams Announced
- 8 | Lansing Catholic Boys Win D3 CC Title
- 9 | LCC, Grand Ledge Seasons End In Semis
- 10 | Mason Soccer Wins D2 Title
- 11 | Lakewood Volleyball
- 12 | Dream Team Soccer
- 13 | Dream Team Volleyball
- 14 | DeWitt Volleyball
- 15 | Clinton County Cross Country
- 16 | Pewamo's Jared Smith
- 18 | Dream Team Girls Golf
- 19 | Dream Team Boys Tennis
- 20 | Corunna's Jacobs Second In D2
- 21 | Laingsburg Falls In Quarters
- 22 | New Lothrop Bows Out In Semis
- 23 | Eye On Swimming
- 24 | Ithaca Community Building Dreams

Find Us On

facebook



## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Holy smokes, it's a great day at Sports Scene!

The talent in the High School Sports Scene coverage area is tremendous. As we finish another fall sports year, I can't help but to be extremely proud of our student-athletes and of my team here at High School Sports Scene. Who is going to be the next Gabe Dean, Denzel Valentine, Matt Costello, or Cooper Rush in our coverage area? All of these college standouts were featured athletes in High School Sports Scene. Wow, it is a pleasure watching them excel at the next level today!

### Girls Rule!

Title IX created a lot of responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities for college and high school athletic departments and athletes. It also led to media outlets having to make coverage decisions that they hadn't had to make before.

Since the print media is supposed to react to reader interest, there was some understandable caution about turning over a large portion of the sports pages to girls' athletics.

In spite of the reluctance to receive equal coverage, female high school athletes have created their own equality on the playing fields and courts over the past 30 years. They have proven that their sports are played at a high level and with equal competitiveness as the boys'.

Fans have realized, too, that female athletes put on events that are just as exciting and compelling as their male counterparts and have gravitated toward watching more girls' activities. This should equate to more equal media coverage.

High School Sports Scene has always been proud of the attention it gives to girls' high school sports. We have heard from the coaches of girls' sports that we do a better job than most of giving girls their due. Sometimes, those comments have come from coaches outside our coverage area.

So, although we are not perfect, we feel that we are doing a tremendous job covering female athletics, and we are proud that High School Sports Scene has kept stride with the growth of girls' sports.



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

# West Highland Pulls Away From Waterford Oakdale For First MACS State Title

## Dan Stickrad Sports Scene

CLARKSTON — Two years ago, West Highland Christian Academy got a whiff of what it's like to be near the top of the pitch.

On Nov. 7, the Mustangs finally reached that summit.

A pair of early goals gave West Highland plenty of momentum and helped push the Mustangs to a 4-1 triumph over Oakdale Academy in the Michigan Association of Christian Schools Division II state final at Springfield Christian Academy in Clarkston.

The Mustangs lost in the 2013 state final to Grace Baptist Christian in their first-ever appearance in the MACS-II finals.

"That's the way we've played all season. We score goals early on a lot of our opponents," said West Highland coach Gabe Sturley. "It gives you confidence when you're playing with a lead."

West Highland (13-2-1) joined the MACS less than a decade ago after competing in the now-defunct Association of Christian Schools (ASC) state

tournament. This was the school's first MACS state title in any sport.

The Mustangs played the entire tournament without their leading scorer, David Retzlaff, who scored 20 goals on the season, but who sat out with an injury.

In the finals, senior John Retzlaff scored a hat trick, including the first two goals, to put the Mustangs up for good.

Senior Zach Whitted set up Retzlaff in the fifth minute for a 1-0 lead, then Retzlaff scored an unassisted goal 10 minutes later for the 2-0 cushion. Sophomore Max Cappozzo made it 3-0 later in the half to put the Mustangs into the comfort zone.

Oakdale, just a second-year program making its first appearance in an MACS-II state final, stayed within striking distance with multiple chances but could never catch up. It did cut the margin to 3-1 midway in the 45th minute of the second half on a goal by sophomore forward Tim Benninger.

"Our boys stepped up — all season long," said Sturley, who counted three seniors on a roster of 14 players. "I think it means a lot to finally win it. We

have never won in soccer before. We've come close. We had a great group of kids this season, kids that worked hard. We had a core of 7-8 kids that had a lot of experience and everything just came together for us this season."

West Highland outscored its opposition 70-16 over 16 games, with four shutouts. The Mustangs' only losses came against Lansing Home School Dragons (2-1) and Howell Home School (2-1).

The Mustangs defeated Lakecrest Baptist, 6-0, in the quarterfinal round and Juniata Christian, 8-0, in the semifinal. They outscored their final three postseason opponents, 18-1.

"We have some very talented, offensive-minded players, guys that can finish," said Sturley. "We scored 70 goals this season."

With numbers pushed up to try to net two more goals, the Patriots' defense was left exposed. West Highland added a fourth goal in the 70th minute off the foot of Retzlaff.

Retzlaff's three-goal explosion gave him 16 tallies on the season.

Oakdale Christian had ample



opportunities in the contest but could only push one shot past West Highland senior keeper Andrew Whitted. "We had our chances, plenty of them," said Oakdale Christian's Ben Maier. "We just struggled to put a few in the goal. We fell behind early, and it's not easy coming back. We did have shots and free kicks but could only score one goal. West Highland's defense was strong, but if we could have scored in the first half, I think it might have

changed the game. "I'm still proud of our boys. We just started our soccer program last year," continued Maier. "That's not bad getting here. But we could have won this game if we finish [opportunities]. It goes down to finishing, and we struggled with that today."

# Northville's Connor Johnston Finishes Perfect Season With Mr. Tennis Award

## Dan Stickrad Sports Scene

NORTHVILLE — Something perfect.

Connor Johnston reached a milestone this season that few on the tennis courts ever dream of - a perfect season.

Johnston, who finished 27-0 this season at No. 1 singles for Northville, was recently named Mr. Tennis by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association, an award given annually to the state's top senior for his stellar accomplishments.

"It's quite an honor," offered Johnston. "Last year, I lost a few matches but wanted to go out there this year and beat everyone. If I did that, then I figured I'd be up for Mr. Tennis. Last year I finished second in the state. I lost to Tim Wang of Novi. I did not want to walk off the court this

season with a loss."

Johnston captured several quads and tournaments this season, including the KLAA Central Division, KLAA Kensington Conference, Novi regional, and Division I state title. He helped Northville finish sixth in the Division I team standings with 18 points.

Former Northville standout Todd Gardiner finished 31-1 in 2012 but didn't win Mr. Tennis. Johnston is the first player in school history to earn the prestigious award.

"He just wears people down," said interim Northville coach Andy Koipillai. "Unlike Todd Gardiner, who just overpowered people, Connor just wore opponents down. Connor is just really consistent, and he will simply outwork players. He'll go after everything. You'll have to hit a winner, or Connor will go and return it. Nobody was able to do that this season. He lost only one set all year."

The dropped set was to Novi's Koushik Kondapi at the KLAA Kensington Conference championship, but Johnston quickly recovered to win the match. He capped the season with a 6-1, 6-1 sweep of second-seeded Josh Mukherjee of Bloomfield Hills in the state title match at No. 1 singles.

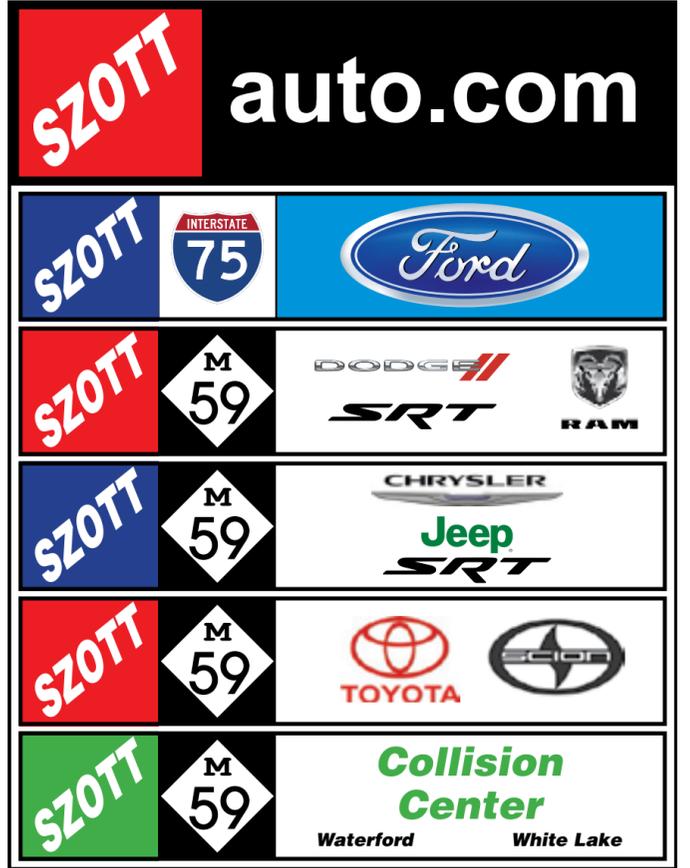
Northville's Connor Johnston won the 2015 Mr. Tennis Award. (Photos by Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)




**Thrive SALON Q**

Nailed It!

2232 S. Milford Rd  
Highland, MI 48157  
(248) 887-1181  
thrivespasalon.com



**SZOTT auto.com**

INTERSTATE 75

Ford

SZOTT M 59

DODGE SRT RAM

SZOTT M 59

CHRYSLER Jeep SRT

SZOTT M 59

TOYOTA SCION

SZOTT M 59

Collision Center  
Waterford White Lake



BUICK GMC SUNDANCE



**SAVE \$25.00**  
Off Any Service  
Purchase Over \$100.00  
With This Ad  
Expires 12-31-2015  
[1800sundance.com](http://1800sundance.com)

**Sundance**  
GMC BUICK WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRACER

1205 N. US-27, St. Johns, MI 48879  
(989) 224-3900

Sale Hours  
Mon-Thurs: 8am-9pm; Fri: 8am-6pm  
Sat: 8:30am - 5pm, Sun: 12pm-5pm

Service Hours  
Mon: 7am-7pm; Tues-Fri: 7am-6pm  
Sat: 8:30am - 2pm



# Walled Lake Western Presence Felt as State Power

Dan Stickrad  
Sports Scene

WALLED LAKE — When discussions take place about state powerhouse programs within talent-laden Oakland County, the usual suspects come up.

St. Mary's Preparatory, Detroit Catholic Central, Brother Rice, Detroit Country Day, and Our Lady of the Lakes are always mentioned as powerful private schools. Clarkston and Lake Orion usually enter the discussion as top public schools in the region.

After all, these seven programs have all put together impressive resumes in the past quarter century.

Another school that belongs in that group, but that often does not reach the discussion, is Walled Lake Western. Western has compiled quite the impressive resume in its own right, despite little county- and state-wide respect as a top-25 program.

"You would think we would be," noted

veteran Western coach Mike Zdebski. "I'd like to think we've been very successful over the years."

And then some. In 18 of 24 seasons, Walled Lake Western has made the postseason cut in Division 1 or Division 2, with several long tournament runs.

The Warriors, who entered the 2015 postseason ranked No. 1 in Division 2 in the Associated Press polls, with a 12-0 record, have won two state championships (1999 and 1996) and also finished as the state runner-up in 1992, the first year it qualified for the postseason.

"I don't mind being the underdog sometimes," said Zdebski. "But I think the guys have earned [the high ranking] this year. It's not like we play a weak schedule."

Walled Lake Western also has captured five regional titles and made five trips to the Final Four. The Warriors are 6-2 in regional final games, and since

the district round was added in 1999, the program has posted a 5-3 record in district finals.

Overall, Western is 26-15 in the playoffs at the large-school level in a pocket of high-level programs in the western suburbs of Detroit.

The KLAA North Division and KLAA Kensington Conference champions have a roster that boasts several juniors and seniors who are on the radars of Division I and Division II college scouts.

"We've had some very good teams over the years. But we have two juniors that are definitely D-I recruits. We haven't had that in the past," said Zdebski, who also has multi-sport athletes on his roster, including several track and field standouts. "The one thing that I like about this team — and it was similar with some of our other very good teams — is the commitment. We have kids that work hard all year round and kids that play multiple sports. There is a commitment."

Walled Lake Western's quarterback Kyle Thomas soars through the air during a 35-14 Division 2 regional finals victory over Midland Dow. Walled Lake Western played Lowell in the D2 semis Nov. 21. (Photos by Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)

# Our Lady Of The Lakes Inching Back To Glory Days

Dan Stickrad  
Sports Scene

WATERFORD — Clay Senerius has heard all of the stories about Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes' glory years.

"Our coach (Josh Sawicki) played on our state championship team, I believe," noted Senerius, a third-year starter at quarterback for the Lakers. "We've heard some of the stories. He wants us to get back to that level really bad. I know

we have a lot of history."

Senerius and a talented senior class of 15 football players have helped with the comeback as part of one of Oakland County's most successful programs. WOLL entered the Final Four this season as the top-ranked team in Division 8 and with an unblemished record of 12-0.

This marked the school's first trip to the semifinals since 2006. That was under the direction of legendary coach Mike Boyd, who retired after the 2012 season after serving 46 dedicated campaigns.

"My goal when I took over was to help us get back to the level Coach (Boyd) had us at and for these kids to experience what we experienced here," offered Sawicki, who graduated from Lakes in 2003.

Our Lady of the Lakes' senior receiver Ryan Kostich (No. 81) has helped the Lakers reach the Division 8 Final Four for the first time since 2006.

Boyd's teams were known as blue-collar-type squads, outworking opponents. The school has reached the postseason in 24 of the last 26 seasons, missing in only 2011 and 1996 in that span.

In 2002, WOLL captured the D-8 state crown with a 13-10 victory over Gaylord St. Mary's. Overall, the Lakers have reached the postseason 26 times since 1983 — or 26 times in 34 years.

Lakes has reached the Final Four 14 times overall, finished as the state runner-up twice (1990 and 1994) and captured the one state title (2002). WOLL is 14-7 in regional finals games, including the recent 32-6 win over Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

All-time, the program has posted a 52-24 record in the postseason. Talent-wise, this year's version is one of the best, outscoring the opposition 506-98. Only the 2004 squad scored more points (540) and that team also reached the state semifinals.

Averaging 42.2 points a game this season, the Lakers are allowing

a paltry 7.5 points against with five shutouts. Seven of the 12 schools WOLL has faced scored eight or fewer points and only two have scored more than 20.

Twice Lakes has scored more than 50 points and four other times the Lakers have eclipsed the 40-point barrier this season. The average margin of victory is 34 points.

But for a program that has enjoyed so much success not only this season, but for more than three decades, only one time since the playoffs started in 1975 have the Lakers ended the season with a win — and it's been 13 years since those glory days.

"I knew my first season that this group of seniors, who were sophomore back then, had the chance to be special," said Sawicki. "They keep getting better and better. I would love for them to get to Ford Field and play for a state championship. We could not get over the (district) hump the past couple of years. As a program we have been here before, but not in a long time."



**COMPUTER CABLE CONCEPTS, INC.**  
VOICE & DATA CABLING • NETWORK CABLING • FIBER OPTICS

6904 STERLING DRIVE  
HOWELL, MI 48843  
PH: 517.548.9800  
FAX: 517.580.0504  
CELL: 910.599.5916  
MIKE@COMPUTERCABLECONCEPTS.COM

**MIKE MATLOCK**  
OWNER

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

ZoomPubs  
1-866-252-4449

211 N. Grand Ave.  
Suite 200  
Fowlerville, MI 48836

6 Days A Week  
Closed Tuesdays  
Call For Hours

Find Us

**www.sudzpetsgrooming.com**  
Visit pocketpleasers.com/192 For Coupons!

# Top-Ranked Novi Gains Sweet Revenge on Romeo for First State Title

Dan Stickrad  
Sports Scene

BATTLE CREEK — Novi waited all year for this moment.

The top-ranked Wildcats, who lost in the Class A final last year, made a return trip to the championship match and not only captured a state crown, but they also defeated the same opponent that defeated them last year — Romeo.

The Wildcats outlasted sixth-ranked Romeo, 3-1, to claim the school's first-ever Class A state championship in volleyball at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena. Novi posted

a 25-16, 20-25, 25-21, 25-17 victory to run the tables as the No. 1 team in Class A for the entire season.

"We talked about this ever since last season, and we've dreamed about this all along," said Pauline Iacobelli. "This is what we worked so hard for. When we lost to Romeo last year, we came so close. That gave us all the motivation in the world for this year."

Iacobelli saved her best match for last, collecting a team-high 20 kills and a .435 attacking percentage to go along with 12 digs to pace Novi (55-2-0), which won 110 games over two seasons. Ally Cummings supplied 17 kills. Victoria Iacobelli, who was

runner-up in the Miss Volleyball voting, added 13 kills, six aces, and 14 digs, and Erin O'Leary dished out 47 assists for a balanced attack for the Wildcats, who appeared in their third Final Four in the past decade.

"We knew this could be possible," said Novi coach Jen Cottrill. "We had a ton of girls back, and we were very focused all season. The girls wanted this more than anything, and they played like it."

"I thought we did a fairly good job of containing [Romeo's Gia Malina]. We blocked her a few times, and not too many teams the past couple of years have been able to slow her down," continued Cottrill. "I think that was a huge difference this season compared to last year. She's an amazing player."



Novi celebrates its first-ever state title after its Class A victory over Romeo Nov. 21. (Submitted Photos)



# Goodrich's Miracle Run Ends in Class B Final Four

Dan Stickrad  
Sports Scene

BATTLE CREEK — Goodrich's deep run in the Class B volleyball tournament did not end in vain.

The Martians ran into a buzz saw in the form of top-ranked Father Gabriel Richard,

an unbeaten team that posted a swift 25-17, 25-9, 25-14 victory in the state semifinal round at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

This season put Goodrich on the map as a team on the rise. The Martians won their first-ever regional title this year and reached the Final Four for the first time in school history.

"I told the girls before the season that we had [the makings] to go all the way," said Goodrich coach Robyn Batterbee. "We came so close. We lost to a very good team. We set the bar for this

program."

The Martians entered the postseason ranked seventh, which is another of the firsts for the program.

Goodrich, which finished a fine 39-10-1, was led by Abby Francis' eight kills. Kamryn Wallace chipped in with 11 assists and 11 digs, and Kristi Doherty added 10 assists and 13 digs.

"We have all girls that are homegrown in Goodrich, girls that grew up here," added Batterbee. "It's not like we pulled them from everywhere. We have a very good senior class. It will be hard to replace them."

# GET RESULTS!

- Improve reading comprehension
- Develop better math skills
- Get higher scores on standardized tests - ACT / SAT
- Increase learning abilities
- Gain confidence

*One-On-One Tutoring In Your Home!*

- All subjects
- PreK-Adult
- Reading
- Writing
- Math
- Study skills
- ACT/SAT
- Pre-Kindergarten Program
- Affordable rates
- Qualified teachers

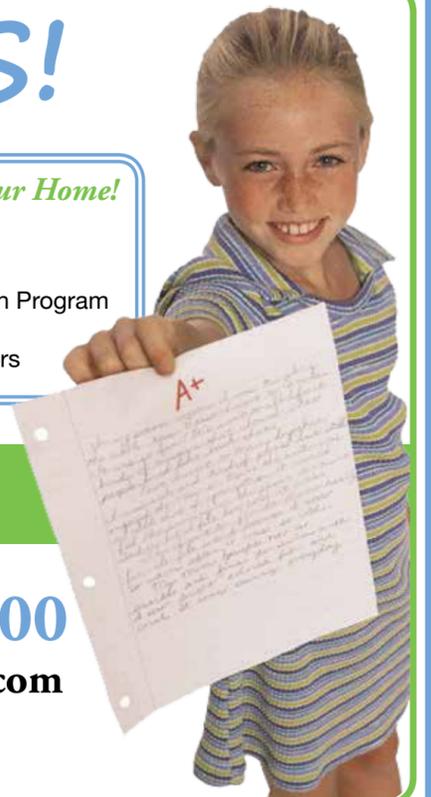
**First Session FREE!**

Serving the Metro Detroit Area  
Since 1998

**Club Z!**  
In-Home Tutoring Services

**(248) 344-2200**

**www.clubztutoring.com**





# Brighton Steps Up Game To Earn D-1 Runner-Up Finish

Dan Stickrad  
Sports Scene

BROOKLYN — Ranked in the top 10 all season long, Brighton made sure it saved its best race for last.

The Bulldogs landed three runners inside the top 30 for All-State honors, and their top five runners all crossed the finish line in the top 55 to collect 136 points and aid a fine state runner-up showing at the Lower Peninsula Division 1 State Finals at Michigan Speedway.

The finish was the school's best since running second at both the 1992 and 1993 Class A state finals.

"We knew that this could be possible," said Kristi Matiszewski, Brighton's head coach and a 1990 graduate of the school. "We were hoping for a top five finish. But we knew how many good teams there

were. We had to run our best and on a day where every place really counts, the girls stepped up."

Kirsten McGahan (28th, 18:32.1), Miranda Reynolds (29th, 18:32.3), Jenna Sica (30th, 18:34.3), Lauren Parrell (43rd, 18:49.5) and Lexi Reynolds (51st, 18:54.1) were the Bulldogs' point scorers, while Sam Fusik (19:33.4) and Bella VanBuren (19:44.7) also competed for Brighton.

Only McGahan and Sica are seniors.

Brighton's girls captured a regional crown the week before but did not win the league meet this season. Rivals Milford (KLA-Lakes) and Northville (KLA-Kensington) captured the two conference meets.

Ironically, Brighton defeated both Milford and Northville at the state

finals. "There was so much competition in our league. I think running against teams like that all season really made us better," offered Matiszewski. "To be one of the best teams in the state, you have to race against top competition to prepare. I thought we did that this season."

"To finish second in the state and to have three girls earn All-State is quite an accomplishment," added Matiszewski. "This shows just how hard they worked and they accomplished their goal of being one of the best in the state. Our goal was to help bring Brighton back to where we are top 10 every year. This was our fourth straight year that we finished in the top 10 and the highest state-meet finish that we've had in over 20 years."

Brighton's Miranda Reynolds finished in 29th position in the individual race, helping her team finish as the Division 1 state runner-up. (Photos by High School Sports Scene)

More State Finals Photos Of This Event At [highschoolsportsscene.com](http://highschoolsportsscene.com)



# Constant Reminder Helps Fornari Run Down Her Dream

Dan Stickrad  
Sports Scene

WATERFORD — Taped up on her bedroom wall was a simple reminder that Tessa Fornari could see every single day.

It was her eighth-place finish and 19:34.9 time at the 2014 Lower Peninsula Division 4 cross-country state finals at Michigan Speedway.

"Whenever I was in my room doing core workouts I could see that reminder," offered Fornari, now a senior at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes. "I would see it every day when I woke up. It was quite a reminder."

It was also perfect motivation. Fornari, who holds school records in cross country, along with school marks in the 800, 1,600 and 3,200 runs, 1,600 relay and 3,200 relay, stepped up to the plate at this year's state finals.

The four-time all-stater, who

Tessa Fornari of Our Lady of the Lakes finished in the top 10 at the Division 4 state finals all four years of her career and capped her senior season with a state championship. (Photos by High School Sports Scene)

finished in the top 10 all four years, capped her senior season of cross country by posting a blistering 18:14.9 clocking, good enough to not only break her own school record but to win the D-4 state title.

Fornari finished nine seconds ahead of runner-up Ava Strenge of Battle Creek St. Phillip. Strenge was the state champ last season and finished some 40 seconds ahead of Fornari.

"I mean last season placing eighth is still very good. The weather was bad, but I didn't have a very good race. I had finished (in the top five) my first two years," said Fornari. "I knew I could do a lot better than that. I had to stay focused. This was my last chance to win it."

Fornari, who has battled an iron deficiency the past couple of years, has put together quite a resume. Between cross country and track and field, only once has she not finished

in the top 20 in a race and that was this year when she was ill. She placed 37th in a field of over 200 runners.

This season she won seven races with two other top-10 finishes. Last season during track, Fornari won legions of races, including league, regional and D-4 state towns in both the 1,600 and 3,200 meters.

Now the Clarkston resident, who has attended Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes since she was in the fourth grade, is garnering plenty of collegiate attention from Division I universities. Nebraska, Michigan and Michigan State are three Big Ten schools that are actively recruiting the small-school talent.

"I would love to run in college," she said a matter-of-factly. "I'm sad that high school is almost over and that high school country is done. But I can't wait for the next chapter of my life."



Joost Plaetinck  
Novi, sr.  
RUNNER OF THE YEAR

## Presenting The South Edition 2015 Cross Country Dream Team



**BOYS DREAM TEAM**  
Joost Plaetinck, Novi sr. (Runner of the Year)  
Noah Jacobs, Corunna jr.  
Jacob Stanton, East Lansing sr.  
Jackson Grzymkowski, Lakeland sr.  
Drew Wegner, Lakeland soph.  
Ben Cracraft, Northville jr.  
Conor Naughton, Northville sr.  
John Petruno, Walled Lake Western sr.

**SECOND TEAM**  
Jacob Lee, Fenton sr.  
Jacob Bleibtrey, Walled Lake Western sr.  
Tim Osborne, Brighton sr.  
Jenna Sica, Brighton sr.  
Madeline Rehm, Lakeland fr.  
Jared Hill, Walled Lake Central jr.  
Christian Hubaker, Grand Ledge jr.  
Andrew Bond, Fenton jr.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Bath: Cole Trevino, jr.; Clarkston: Mika Juuhl, jr.; Grant Henley, sr.; Willim Eisert, jr.; Eric Smith, sr.; Shawn Slater, fr.; Nickolas Favazza, jr.; Clio: Ethan Taljonick, sr.; Kody Yorton, jr.; Garrett Nelson, sr.; Chase Smith, sr.; Corunna: Blake Watson, sr.; Jacob Trowbridge, sr.; Miles Peterson, soph.; Dakota Hundley, soph.; East Lansing: Evan Myer, soph.; Detroit Catholic Central: Ty Buckley, jr.; Scott Smith, sr.; Avery Felty, sr.; Ben Racine, jr.; Mark Borek, jr.; Alex McLaren, sr.; Matthew Fosdick, sr.; Eaton Rapids: Taylor Rouse, jr.; Brody Benward, sr.; Fenton: Luke Chabot, sr.; Goodrich: Kyle Gavulic, sr.; Grand Blanc: Jonathan Voth, sr.; Nicholas Davitt, jr.; Hartland: Josh Nickerson, sr.; Holly: Dilon Lemond, sr.; Lake Fenton: Thomas Mueller, jr.; Lakeland: Joel Woody, jr.; George Drallos, soph.; Kyle Garbovits, sr.; Harrison Grzymkowski, fr.; Jacob Broman, sr.; Lansing Catholic: Ethan Markey, jr.; Will Peters, fr.; Ryan Schroeder, soph.; Eric Warriner, fr.; Lansing Christian: Andrew Carlock, sr.; Linden: Jack Eck, sr.; Nick McDonald, soph.; Mason: Ben Geer, sr.; Milford: Dakota Giles, jr.; Jack Aman, jr.; Nolan Bailey, soph.; Nick Martin, soph.; Jared Shupe, jr.; Kurt Black, soph.; Luke Caddell, soph.; Northville: Christian Freiburger, sr.; Thomas Smith, sr.; Kenny Goolsby, sr.; Sean Coleman, sr.; Nicholas Couyoumjian, fr.; Novi: Gabriel Mudel, soph.; Scott MacPherson, jr.; John Landy, jr.; Adam Ditri, sr.; Chris Silva, jr.; Aric Landy, jr.; Okemos: Paul McKinley, soph.; Elliot Kadrofske, sr.; Pinckney: Austin Wicker, sr.; Ryan Talbott, jr.; Aaron Jarema, jr.; Emmett Smrcka, sr.; South Lyon East: Xander Cronin, soph.; St. Johns: Dillan Haviland, soph.; Josiah Quinn, sr.; Mason Berridge, jr.; Stockbridge: Jake Chapman, jr.; Alan Baird, jr.; Walled Lake Central: Sam Barrett, jr.; Williamston: Aaron Davis, soph.; Nathan Maurer, sr.; Garrett Smith, sr.

**GIRLS DREAM TEAM**  
Sarah Kettel, Lansing Capital Home School sr. (Runner of the Year)  
Mallory Barnett, Milford jr.  
Tessa Fornari, Our Lady of the Lakes sr.  
Lexa Barrott, Northville sr.  
Victoria Heiligenthal, Milford fr.  
Rylee Robinson, Waterford Mott fr.  
Olivia Clymer, Lakeland soph.  
Alia Frederick, Linden jr.

**SECOND TEAM**  
Kirsten McGahan, Brighton sr.  
Miranda Reynolds, Brighton jr.  
Jenna Sica, Brighton sr.  
Madeline Rehm, Lakeland fr.  
Nicole Hanson, Clarkston sr.  
Katie Osika, Waterford Mott fr.  
Brianna Mulrooney, Walled Lake Northern jr.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Brighton: Lauren Parrell, soph.; Lexi Reynolds, soph.; Sam Fusik, jr.; Bella VanBuren, soph.; Charlotte: Lindsey Carlson, sr.; Clarkston: Elizabeth Dalrymple, fr.; Malory Ferguson, fr.; Hailey Catania, soph.; Emily Gustafson, soph.; Kailan Mehta, sr.; Emily Ferguson, fr.; DeWitt: Ashley Shipp, fr.; Hannah Adler, soph.; Katie Vitou, soph.; Natalie Yabs, fr.; East Lansing: Stephanie Vanis, sr.; Powers Catholic: Julia Vanitvelt, jr.; Lyndsey Braman, jr.; Maria Purcell, jr.; Libbie Gleason, fr.; Flushing: Jessi Lindstrom, jr.; Paige Deitering, soph.; Fowlerville: Ollie Updike, soph.; Goodrich: Jillian Lange, fr.; Mariah Hart, sr.; Hannah Durant, fr.; Grand Blanc: Caitlin Rose, fr.; Grand Ledge: Jenna Magness, jr.; Haslett: Amanda Young, jr.; Holly: Lauren Hackett, soph.; Lansing Capital Home School: Annika Shoemaker, soph.; Lansing Catholic: Olivia Theis, soph.; Abigail Gilmore, jr.; Lauren Cleary, fr.; Grace Frost, soph.; Leslie Rachel Wiltse, soph.; Linden: Taylor Ganger, sr.; Audrey Steiert, fr.; Jordan Holscher, sr.; Mason: Cecilia Stalzer, fr.; Milford: Gabrielle Byndas, sr.; Paige Sain, fr.; Nicole Grindling, soph.; Emilie Kennedy, soph.; Regan Lobodzinski, soph.; Montrose: Remington Hobson, soph.; New Lothrop: Courtney Krupp, soph.; Northville: Emma Herrmann, sr.; Olivia Harp, fr.; Hailey Harris, sr.; Emma Smith, jr.; Rachel Zimmer, soph.; Cayla Eckenroth, jr.; Olivet: Morgan Greenman, jr.; Our Lady of the Lakes: Olivia Hankey, soph.; Owosso: Miranda Libbey, fr.; Perry: Katie Figueras, sr.; Pinckney: Erika Rapp, fr.; Noelle Adriaens, fr.; Isabella Garcia, jr.; Catherine Stone, jr.; Waterford Mott: Alexis Munley, jr.; Kate Petsch, soph.; Morgan Fuerst, sr.; Williamston: Alyssa Baumgarten, sr.; Hannah Jones, soph.



Sarah Kettel  
Lansing Capital  
Home School, sr.  
RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**Make sure your Spring sports team is powering up with the**  
**Chocolate Milk:**  
**Nature's Sports Drink Grant**

East Lansing Cross Country Team  
2015 Fall Grant Winners

Don't miss the opportunity for your high school athletes to be featured as the next Chocolate Milk Mustache celebrities!

The 2015-2016 Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink Grant application for Michigan high school sports teams is now available at [www.MilkMeansMore.org](http://www.MilkMeansMore.org).

Applications for Spring sports MUST be postmarked by January 29, 2016.

For more information, please check the website or call 1-800-241-MILK (6455) to learn how your school can get involved.

50950 Century Court  
Wixom, MI 48393

**Train With The Best**  
**OR Call Now For Your Free Evaluation**  
**248-926-5656**  
[www.puckmasters.com/detroit](http://www.puckmasters.com/detroit)

# Lansing Catholic Wins D3 Cross Country Championship

David Cook  
Sports Scene

Depth and balance were the keys for the Lansing Catholic boys cross country team this season. Those keys paid off in the biggest meet of the year, as the Cougars won the Division 3 boys' cross country title at Michigan International Speedway.

While the Cougars did not have any runners in the top 10 individually, they had five runners place in the top 50, which enabled them to edge two-time defending champion Benzie Central, 124-127, in the battle for first place.

"They went out and ran like they've been running all year," said Lansing Catholic coach Tim Simpson. "They ran tough all year."

Junior Ethan Markey led the way for the Cougars, as he placed 13th in a time of 16:25. Freshman Will Peters was 17th in 16:32. Sophomore Ryan Schroeder (18th, 16:33), freshman Eric Warriner (29th, 16:59) and sophomore Sammy Migaldi (47th, 17:10) rounded out Catholic's top five.

The Lansing Catholic girls also turned in a big effort at the Division 3 state finals. The Cougars placed 4th in Division 3. Sophomore Olivia Theis led the way, as she

placed eighth in a time of 18:58. Junior Abigail Gilmore placed 12th in a time of 19:13, followed by freshman Lauren Cleary (16th, 19:22) and sophomore Grace Frost (32nd, 19:57).

The Leslie girls placed 14th in Division 3. Sophomore Rachel Wiltse led the way, as she placed 39th in a time of 20:12.

Bath junior Cole Trevino placed 36th in the Division 3 boys race with a time of 16:49.

In Division 1, a trio of CAAC Blue runners placed in the top 30 as individuals. East Lansing senior Jacob Stanton took 10th place with a time of 15:33. Grand Ledge junior Christian Hubaker placed 25th in 15:49, while East Lansing sophomore Evan Meyer placed 30th in 15:56.

The Williamston boys placed 14th overall in Division 2. Sophomore Aaron Davis led the way, as he placed 46th in a time of 16:44.

Mason senior Ben Geer placed 21st with a time of 16:13 in the Division 2 finals.

The Lansing Christian boys placed fifth at the Division 4 finals. Senior Andrew Carlock led the way, as he placed 22nd overall with a time of 16:58, while sophomore Davis Tebben placed 27th with a time of 17:16.



The Bath boys cross country team finished fourth in the D3 cross country final. (Photo by Gary Williams, High School Sports Scene)



Lansing Catholic girls cross country finished fourth in the recent D3 cross country finals held Nov. 7 at Michigan International Speedway. (Photo by Gary Williams, High School Sports Scene)



More State Finals Photos Of This Event At [highschoolsportsscene.com](http://highschoolsportsscene.com)

Lansing Catholic edged Benzie Central 124-127 to win the Division 3 cross country championship Nov. 7 at Michigan International Speedway. (Photo by Gary Williams, High School Sports Scene)

# Grand Ledge, Lansing Catholic Finish Football Seasons in State Semifinals

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

Memorable seasons came to an end a week sooner than hoped for, as both the Grand Ledge and Lansing Catholic football teams dropped state semifinal games.

For Grand Ledge, the 48-21 loss to Romeo was the first and only loss of the season. Grand Ledge surprised the experts by turning in a perfect 9-0 regular season and by winning the CAAC Blue with a perfect record.

"These kids taught me things you can't learn in the classroom," said Grand Ledge coach Matt Bird. "You can't teach what we had together this season. It's been special."

An explosive offense was the key this season for Grand Ledge, as the Comets scored over 30 points in every game this season except for the semifinal loss. Senior running back Ba Blamo, sophomore quarterback Nolan Bird, and senior wide receiver Malek Adams spearheaded the potent Grand Ledge offense.

A special season also came to an end for the Cougars of Lansing Catholic, who dropped a 42-13 decision to long-time nemesis West

Catholic of Grand Rapids in the Division 5 state semifinal at Greenville.

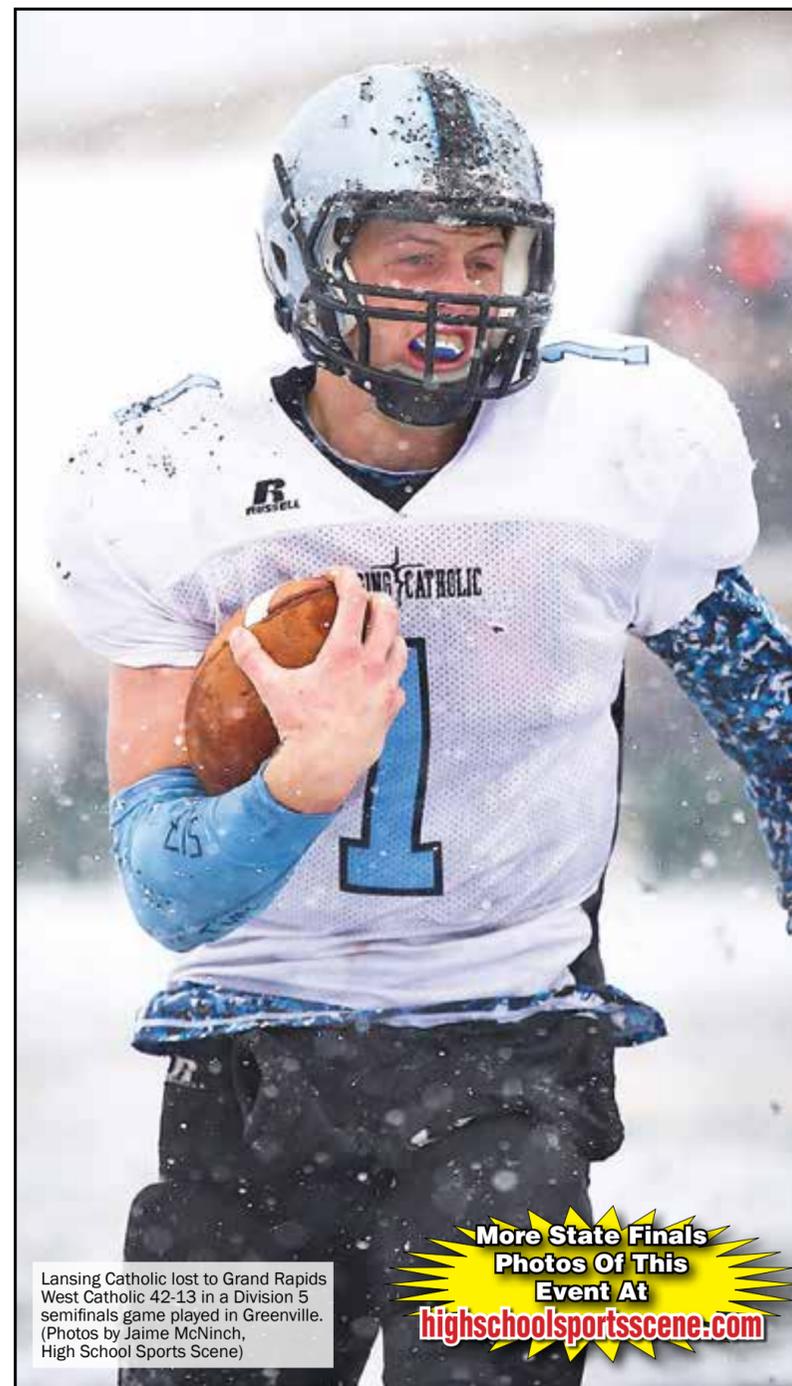
Lansing Catholic ended the season with an 11-2 overall record.

Senior quarterback Tony Poljan led the Cougars to eight straight wins after an early-season loss to Portland before falling to West Catholic in the playoffs for the third consecutive season.

"The Haslett Vikings also had a special season on the gridiron. Haslett closed out the regular season with three consecutive wins to earn a trip to the playoffs for the second time in the last three years.

"The Mason football team also finished the regular season on a high note, as it won five games in a row to qualify for the playoffs for a third straight season. Mason finished the season with a 7-3 overall record.

"It was a record-breaking season for the Dansville football team. The Aggies won 10 games for the first time in school history and also reached the Division 7 regional final round for the first time in school history. The Dansville offense provided plenty of thrills this season, as it produced a school-record 391 points.



Lansing Catholic lost to Grand Rapids West Catholic 42-13 in a Division 5 semifinals game played in Greenville. (Photos by Jaime McNinch, High School Sports Scene)

More State Finals Photos Of This Event At [highschoolsportsscene.com](http://highschoolsportsscene.com)



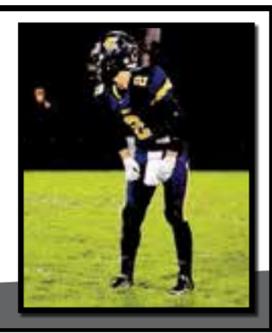
**THE Camera SHOP**  
 M-F 9am-6pm, Sat: 10am-4pm  
 We Can Transfer To DVD Home Movies Including:  
 • VHS  
 • 8mm, Super 8mm & 16mm  
 • 8mm & High 8mm video  
 • Digital 8mm video tape  
 • Mini DV Type  
**FREE** Second Copy With This Ad!  
 6006 S. Pennsylvania at Miller, Lansing  
 517-272-0027  
 www.LansingCamera.com

**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE**  
 KEEPING KIDS IN THE NEWS  
 Like Us On **facebook**

**Kingsley Insurance Group**  
 Rich and Louanne Kingsley  
 800-783-0817  
 Alma: 116 W. Superior Street Suite 1, 989-463-5347  
 St. Johns: 1000 E. Stugis St Suite 12, 989-224-3505  
 Lansing: 526 S. Creyts Rd. Suite C., 517-489-2257  
 Auto / Home — Boat / Umbrella —  
 www.KingsleyInsuranceGroup.com



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





# Mason Soccer Wins It All In D2; Williamston Falls In D3 Finals

**Butch Harmon Sports Scene**

Like the great New York Yankee Yogi Berra once said, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

With time running out on its dreams of a state title, the Mason boys soccer team staved off defeat by scoring a goal with 38 seconds remaining in the Division 2 state championship match against Forest Hills Northern. That goal sent the match into overtime, and then into an overtime shootout, where Mason captured its fourth state title in program history by winning, 4-3, on penalty kicks.

"Our guys just kept battling," said coach Nick Binder. "Even when we were down at halftime, they believed. They believed at the end of regulation, and they believed in the shootout. Their confidence never wavered."

The match was tied, 1-1, late in regulation when Northern scored a goal to take a 2-1 lead with 2:32 remaining. With time running out, Mason turned up the pressure, and with 38 seconds left in the game, Christian Jordan knocked in a shot in from a scramble in front of the Northern net, tying the game at 2-2 and sending it into overtime.

"We just went full out," Jordan said. "After they scored to take the lead, I thought we were about to lose. We just attacked the net. We made a play called number six, and Caleb Graham took a shot on goal. It bounced right to me, and I just poked it in. When I scored that goal, I just ran to our student section and was pointing at them. It was incredible."

The Mason boys soccer team won a thrilling 3-2 shootout victory over Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern to win the D2 title Nov. 7 in a game played at Comstock Park High School. (Photos by Alan Holben, High School Sports Scene)

in our first game of the season against Williamston. We fell behind by a goal and came back. We started the season this way, and we ended it with a comeback."

Mason finished the season with a 24-3 record and brought home its first title since 1997.

Five Bulldogs earned all-state honors. Senior defender John Kingman and senior midfielder Leutrim Shefkiu both made first team. Dippel made second team as a defender, while Jordan, a senior forward, and Lirim Shefkiu, a junior defender, earned honorable-mention honors.

### WILLIAMSTON TAKES SECOND IN THE STATE

Williamston soccer reached the Division 3 state title match for the third time in four years. In the final, against Grand Rapids South Christian, Williamston dropped a 1-0 decision in a penalty-kick shootout.

"We had an incredible year," said coach Brent Sorg. "I can't tell you how proud I am of this team. We had 13 seniors lead us this year, and they just did a fantastic job. We had some good chances, but we just didn't put it away."

Williamston finished the season with a 19-6 record.

Seven Williamston players earned all-state honors, including senior forward Brian Ganton and senior midfielder Josh Ward, who made first team. Senior defender Eric Oesterle and senior goalkeeper Ian Petri made second team, while senior midfielder Jacob Chisholm made third team. Senior midfielder Connor Porrell and senior defender Caleb Schuiteman earned honorable-mention honors.



Williamston's quest for a state championship came up short losing to Grand Rapids South Christian 1-0 in the Division 3 finals. (Photos by Alan Holben, High School Sports Scene)

After two 10-minute overtime periods, the match went to a penalty-kick shootout that Mason won. "I knew we could come back," Mason captain Holden Dippel said. "We've been down and have come back before this year. It happened to us



**Check Out More Photos At**  
**highschoolsportsscene.com**

No Limit to the Fun You'll Have

**City Limits**  
 Bowling Center Sports Grill

Pizzas Burgers Steaks Ribs

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

# Lakewood Volleyball Team Falls To One Of The Best

**Butch Harmon Sports Scene**

It literally took one of the best volleyball teams in the nation to put an end to Lakewood's volleyball season.

After reaching the state title match last year and winning the state title in 2012, Lakewood fell to Father Gabriel Richard in three sets in the Class B state quarterfinal round at Leslie High School.

Not only is Gabriel Richard the number-one ranked team in Michigan with a perfect record this season, but it is also ranked No. 4 in the United States according to MaxPreps.

Lakewood's season ended with a 53-7 record. It reached the quarterfinal by defeating Grand Rapids South Christian in three sets to win the Class B regional title at Charlotte.

The Vikings are primed to make another deep title run next year, as 11 of the 13 players on this year's team are not seniors. Lakewood has a number of talented sophomores returning and will also return junior setter Gabie Shellenbarger, who is one of the top players in the state.

The Lansing Catholic volleyball team enjoyed the finest season in school history this year. It won the CAAC White title for its first conference championship in school history. The Cougars then went on to win the Class B district title for the first-ever district championship in school history. Lansing Catholic's season came to an end with a loss to 9th-ranked Grand Rapids South Christian in the Class B regional at Charlotte.

Lansing Christian enjoyed a strong season on the volleyball court. The Pilgrims defeated Southfield Christian in the Class D regional semifinal round before falling to Plymouth Christian in the regional championship match at Plymouth Christian.

Mason turned in another solid volleyball season. The Bulldogs won their fifth straight conference championship and also won a district volleyball title before falling to Mattawan in the Class A regional semifinal at Portage Central.



The Lakewood volleyball team lost in the Class B regional finals to eventual state champion Father Gabriel Richard. (Submitted Photo)



The Lansing Catholic volleyball team had one of its best seasons in school history in 2015. (Photos by Alan Holben, High School Sports Scene)



Mason turned in another solid season winning its fifth straight conference championship this season. (Photos by Alan Holben, High School Sports Scene)

**More State Finals Photos Of This Event At**  
**highschoolsportsscene.com**

**biish FALL FUN for ALL**

Starting at **\$109** Starting at **\$134**

**Waterpark Passes Included!**

- Overnight Stay in Standard Room\*
- \$10 in Premium Play for Each Adult
- \$10 Breakfast Voucher per Person (adults & children)

**Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel**

**877.2EAGLE2**

www.soaringeaglewaterpark.com

Offer is valid until December 18, 2015, Monday through Friday only. Must ask for the "Biish Fall Fun for All" offer. Cannot be combined with any other offers. This rate is for standard rooms only - other rates available on additional room types. All rates are subject to availability and may be changed or discontinued without notice.

**OBGYN4U**  
 The Center For Women's Healthcare

**Your Health. Our Passion!**

**The Center For Women's HealthCare**  
 http://cfwhc.com  
 989.584.3107

Presenting The South Edition



# 2015 Soccer Dream Team



**Brian Ganton**  
Williamston, sr.  
Forward



**Riley Buchalski**  
Genesee Christian, jr.  
Forward



**Leutrim Shefkiu**  
Mason, sr.  
Midfield



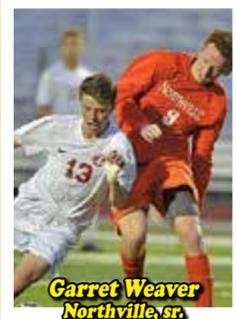
**Justin Murray**  
Detroit Catholic Central,  
sr., Midfield



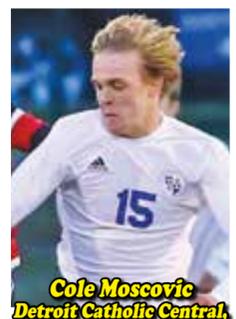
**Zach Lane**  
East Lansing, sr.  
Midfield



**Jacob Lyon**  
Lansing Christian, sr.  
Midfield



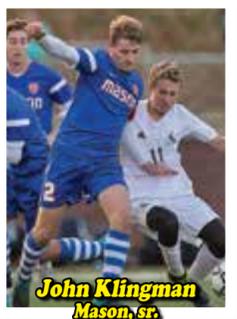
**Garret Weaver**  
Northville, sr.  
Defenseemen



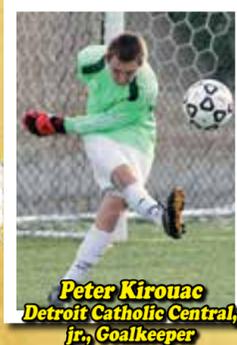
**Cole Moscovic**  
Detroit Catholic Central,  
sr., Defenseemen



**Nick Toupin**  
Northville, sr.  
Defenseemen



**John Klingman**  
Mason, sr.  
Defenseemen



**Peter Kirouac**  
Detroit Catholic Central,  
jr., Goalkeeper

## SECOND TEAM

**Forwards** — Brian Ganton, Williamston sr.; Riley Buchalski, Genesee Christian jr.  
**Midfielders** — Leutrim Shefkiu, Mason sr.; Justin Murray, Detroit Catholic Central sr.; Zach Lane, East Lansing sr.; Jacob Lyon, Lansing Christian sr.  
**Defenseemen** — Garret Weaver, Northville sr.; Cole Moscovic, Detroit Catholic Central sr.; Nick Toupin, Northville sr.; John Klingman, Mason sr.  
**Goalkeepers** — Peter Kirouac, Detroit Catholic Central sr.;

## HONORABLE MENTION

Clio — Jacob Cariveau, sr. F; Bradley Bronson, sr. D; Dansville — Daniel Hartman, jr. F; DeWitt — Eric Des Chenes, sr. M; East Lansing — Sam Lebbie, sr. F; Ian Carroll, sr. F; Fenton — Liam Adams, jr. M; Genesee Christian — Caleb Dupree, jr. M/F; Ben Matney, sr. M; Clarkston — Connor Sajan, sr. G; Grand Blanc — Drew Kubani, jr. D; Mitchel Metzger, sr. M; Haslett — Torsten Holland, sr. M; Laingsburg — Jordan Dittrich, sr. M; Lakeland — Eric Reiter, sr. F; Lansing Catholic — Jacob Phillips, sr. D; Remy Collard, jr. M; Lansing Christian — Chase Hansen, sr. G; Noah Usiak, jr. M; Preston Granger, jr. D; Linden — Tyler Ziccardi, sr. M; Mason — Lirim Shefkiu, jr. D; Christian Jordan, sr.; Milford — Brendan Zondlak, sr. G; Northville — Jake Reitzloff, sr. F; Novi — Matt Netter, sr. D; Okemos — Andre Garcia, sr. D; Cole Goatley, sr. F; Powers Catholic — Wolfgang Ruth, sr. M; Chase Knoblock, jr. F; Erich Ruth, sr. D; Andrew Simon, soph. M; Walled Lake Central — Elton Gjura, sr. F; West Highland Christian — John Retzlaff, sr. M; Williamston — Ian Petri, sr. G; Jacob Chisholm, sr. M; Connor Porrell, sr. M; Caleb Schuiteman, sr. D

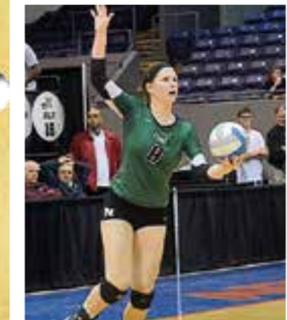
**CHEVROLET Shaheen**  
Next To Celebration Cinema  
Lansing

**Mid-Michigan's Largest Chevy Dealer!**  
New • Used • Finance • Service • Parts • Body Shop  
SELL US YOUR CAR MID MICHIGAN'S ONLY AUTOTRADER BUYING CENTER AutoTrader.com  
517-803-2568  
632 American Rd. • Lansing, MI  
www.shaheenchvrolet.com  
FIND NEW ROADS  
CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

Presenting The South Edition



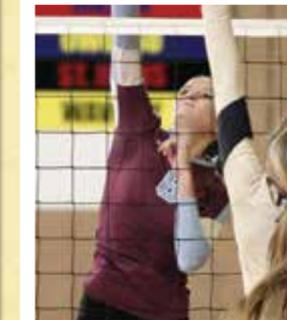
# 2015 Volleyball Dream Team



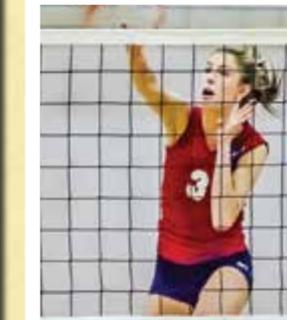
**Victoria Iacobelli**  
Novi, 5-9, sr.  
Outside Hitter



**Paulina Iacobelli**  
Novi, 5-9, sr.  
Outside Hitter



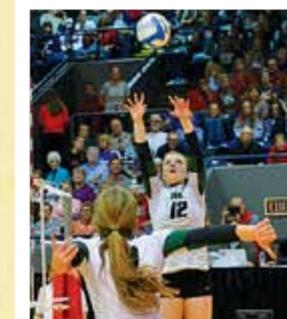
**Daria Richards**  
Okemos, 6-2, sr.  
Middle Hitter



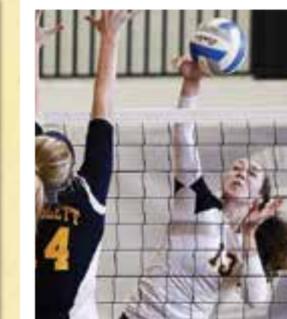
**Willow Martin**  
Mason, 5-11, sr.  
Outside Hitter



**Meredith Norris**  
Corunna, 6-2, jr.  
Outside Hitter



**Erin O'Leary**  
Novi 5-10 soph.  
Setter



**Lexi Nordmann**  
DeWitt, 6-0, jr.  
Middle Hitter



**Sarah Tabit**  
Mt. Morris, 5-9, sr.  
Outside Hitter

## HONORABLE MENTION

Bath: Tessa Hosford, jr. OH; Jessica Stoskopf, jr. OH; Emily Angell, jr. S; Clarkston: Ashley Schwartz, sr. L; Corunna: Skylar Napier, sr. S; DeWitt: Gabi Mundt, sr. DS; Brooke Binkley, soph. S; Lily George, sr. OH; East Lansing: Alena Hartsuff, jr. OH/S; Claire Hunter, jr. OH; Fenton: Taylor Mowery, jr.; Jessica Warford, jr.; Flint Kearsley: Kayla Meyer, jr. OH; Flushing: Samantha Yancho, jr.; Alexis Mantei, jr.; Fowlerville: Megan Kiefer, sr. OH; Goodrich: Kamryn Wallace, jr. S; Grand Ledge: Madison Lotycz, soph. OH; Haslett: Megan Mowid, sr. OH; Kenzie Winkler, sr. DS/S; Mia Salvador, sr. DS/L; Holly: Shannon Torpey, jr.; Holt: Lauren Seagren, sr. MH; Alana Sundermann, jr. S; Laingsburg: Lindsey Smith, sr. OH/S; Lansing Catholic Central: Chloe Miller, sr. OH; Lansing Christian: Adair Cutler, jr. S; Lansing Eastern: Jillian Johnson, sr. S/OH; Lansing Sexton: Erin Howard, sr.; Lansing Waverly: Alisia Smith, jr. OH; Leslie: Leigha Kobus, sr. OH; Linden: Megan Klavitter, sr. L; Breyanna Turnipseed, jr. OH; Emma O'Keefe, jr. S; Mason: Dani Jones, jr. L; Milford: Mackenzie Watson, jr. L; Mt. Morris: Lauren Gibbs, soph. L; Northville: Emily Martin, jr. OH; Kiera Borthwick, jr. L/S; Novi: Ally Cummings, jr. OH; Claire Pinkerton, soph. L; Novi Franklin Road Christian: Reagan Mumford, jr. MH; Okemos: Rachel Thomas, sr. MH; Ryan Castle, jr. OH; Olivet: Taylor Holmes, sr. DS; Owosso: Erin Vonopacke, sr.; South Lyon: Jessie Ignace, sr. OH/MH; Mikayla Monk, sr. MH/OH; Stockbridge: Jessica Taylor, jr. OH; Swartz Creek: Sandra Krolewski, soph. MH; Vermontville Maple Valley: Taylor Medina, sr. OH; Walled Lake Central: Jayla Wesley, sr. MH; Walled Lake Northern: Anna Bauer, jr. L; White Lake Lakeland: Paige Thompson, sr. MH; Williamston: Renee Sturm, sr. OH; Wixom St. Catherine of Sienna: Mary Kate Bodien, jr. OH.

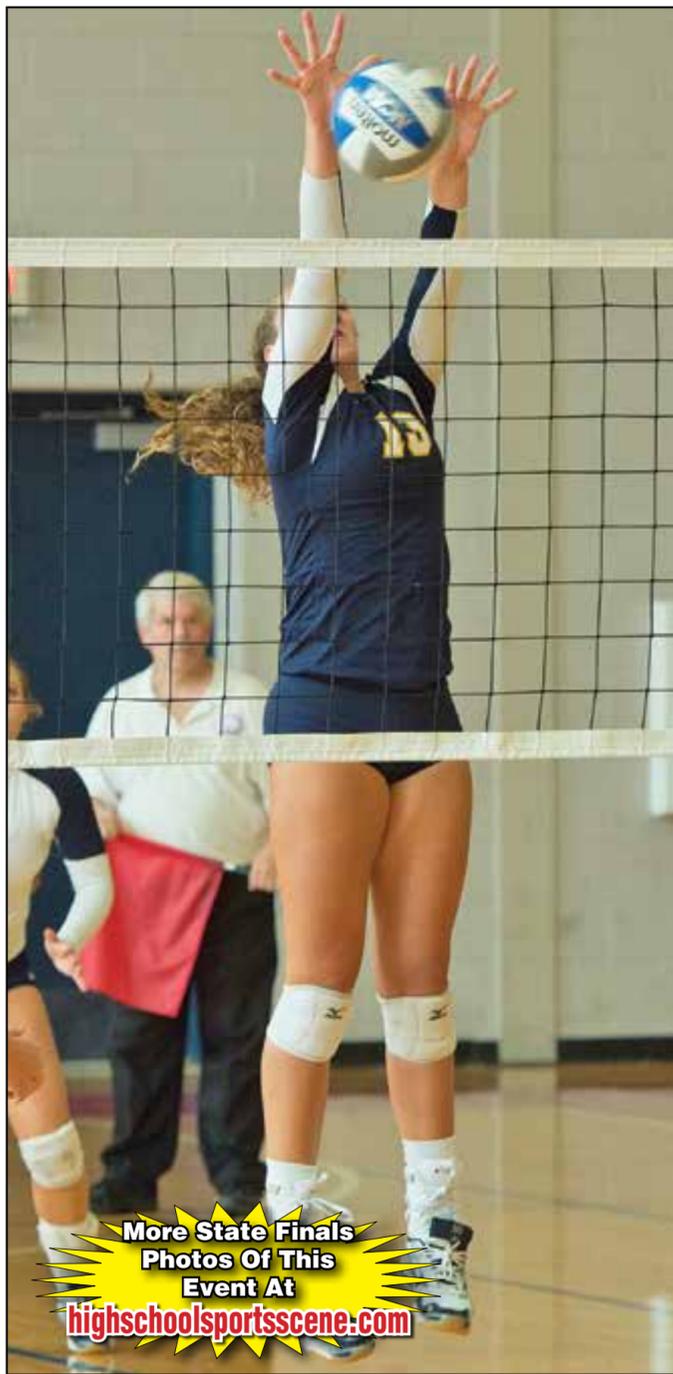
## SECOND TEAM

Abbey Malinowski, Clarkston 6-0 soph. MB/S; Hannah Tabit, Mt. Morris 5-9 sr. OH/S; Kristi Doherty, Goodrich 5-8 sr. S; Abby Francis, Goodrich 5-10 jr. OH; Brooke Peiffer, Holt 5-9 sr. OH; Paige Porter, Lansing Christian 5-8 jr. OH; Riley Kipp, Walled Lake Central 5-9 sr. S; Erin McDermott, Mason sr. S.

**WATERSHED**  
TAVERN AND GRILL

Family Owned And Operated  
5965 Marsh Rd • Haslett, MI 48840  
517-999-SHED  
Call Us For Take-Out!





# Dewitt Volleyball Team Caps Season In Regional Title Match

David Cook  
Sports Scene

Entering the season without the seven seniors who helped the team win a district title last season, the DeWitt volleyball team had reason to believe that this season would have some growing pains.

The pains, however, were few and far between, as the Panthers hit the court full speed and never stopped until they added another district title and reached the Class A regional title game at Portage Central, where they fell in five sets to Mattawan, the No.-2 ranked team in the state.

DeWitt turned in a 44-4-1 record this season and was again one of the premier teams in mid Michigan. Led by junior standout Lexi Nordmann, the Panthers won a district title and then defeated Gull Lake in the regional semifinal round before falling to Mattawan.

"We're an extremely young team," DeWitt coach Christine Drayton said. "My young girls have really stepped up. I couldn't be prouder. I couldn't be prouder of the way they represented DeWitt and the way they represented me."

Nordmann, who has already committed to Southern Methodist University to continue her volleyball career, came up big in the postseason with 29 kills and seven blocks in the match with Gull Lake and 39 kills in the Mattawan match.

This year's DeWitt team has just two seniors on the roster. Gabi Mundt and Lilly George not only provided the team with strong senior leadership but were also solid players on the court, with Mundt being one of the team's top defensive players.

With the rest of the team, including Nordmann and standout setter Brooke Binkley, due to return next year, the future looks bright for the DeWitt volleyball team.



DeWitt finished the season 44-4-1 after losing to Mattawan in the regionals (Photos by Alan Holben, High School Sports Scene)

More State Finals  
Photos Of This  
Event At  
[highschoolsportsscene.com](http://highschoolsportsscene.com)

# DeWitt Runners Place Fifth In D2; Panthers Return Top 5 Runners Next Season

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

For the DeWitt girls cross country team the 2015 season was one of first the good news and then the better news.

The good news for the DeWitt girls was that they placed fifth in the state as a team at the Division 2 state finals. The even better news is that all five of DeWitt's top five runners will be back next season.

Freshman Ashley Shippes led the way for DeWitt at the state finals as she finished in ninth place as an individual with a time of 18:53. Sophomore Hannah Adler was close behind in

11th place with a time of 18:54. Sophomore Katie Vitou placed 28th in a time of 19:18 followed by freshman Natale Yabs (71st, 20:00) and sophomore Stephanie Robinson (105th, 20:36).

The St. Johns boys also turned in a big season. The Redwings wrapped up the year by taking 12th place as a team at the Division 2 state finals. Sophomore Dillan Haviland led the way for St. Johns as he placed eighth as an individual with a time of 16:01. Senior Josiah Quinn placed 22nd in 16:18 followed by junior Mason Berridge who placed 70th with a time of 16:57.

The Pewamo-Westphalia girls cross country team

posted a top-ten finish in Division 3 as they placed ninth overall. Senior Audrey Pohl led the way for the Pirates as she placed 35th in a time of 20:01. Junior Brenna Wirth followed close behind as she placed 36th in a time of 20:07 followed by sophomore Brooklyn Nurenberg (69th, 20:49), junior Olivia Nurenberg (73rd, 20:35) and senior Emma Arens (85th, 21:04).

The Pewamo-Westphalia boys cross country team placed 18th overall as a team at the Division 3 meet. Junior Bryce Thelen led the way for the Pirates as he placed 75th overall in a time of 17:39 followed by senior Grant Hengesbach (86th, 17:46), sophomore Trent Barker (87th, 17:47), freshman Mitch Nurenberg (89th, 17:47) and junior Zach Schmitz (95th, 17:53).

The Fowler girls cross country team placed eighth overall at the Division 4 state finals. The Eagles, who feature plenty of talented young runners, were led by junior Ashley VanElls who placed 35th in a time of 20:45 and freshman Alyssa Vandegriff who finished 38th in a time of 20:51. Sophomore Kiah Becker was 54th in 21:20 while sophomore Michaela Ward was 63rd in 21:36.



St. Johns finished 12th in the boys race during the Nov. 7 Division 2 state finals held at Michigan International Speedway. (Photos by Gary Williams, High School Sports Scene)



More State Finals  
Photos Of This  
Event At  
[highschoolsportsscene.com](http://highschoolsportsscene.com)

The DeWitt girls cross country team returns all five of its top runners next season. DeWitt finished fifth in the Division 2 state meet held Nov. 7 at Michigan International Speedway. (Photos by Gary Williams, High School Sports Scene)

**U.S. 27 YOUR GATEWAY TO THE NORTH SUPERSTORE!**  
**MOTORSPORTS & TRAILERS**  
 866-554-4217  
[www.us27motorsports.com](http://www.us27motorsports.com)  
 LINK TO US-27 HERE!  
 SERVICE PROFESSIONAL AND PARTS EXPERTS.....SERVICING ALL MODELS OF ATVs, MOTORCYCLES, SNOWMOBILES, PWC AND TRAILERS

can-am POLARIS HONDA YAMAHA ski-doo SUZUKI seadoo ARCTIC CAT SURE-TRAC Haulmark AMERICAN MADE HALL-IT

EXCELLENT QUALITY! WINTER FUN! HUNTERS WELCOME! RIDERS WANTED! FALL COLOR TOURS! BEST DEALS!

**Right Here Right Now**  
 in St. Johns  
 PHYSICAL THERAPY close to home

**At Sparrow Clinton Hospital**  
 Leading-edge Techniques +  
 Compassionate Caregivers =  
 Exceptional Recovery Support

- Physical Therapy
- Sports Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Adult, adolescent & pediatric patient support

We support outstanding athletes by providing Sports Medicine services on the field, court and track for the Redwings of St. Johns High School

Sparrow Clinton Hospital • St. Johns • 989.224.1575 • [www.sparrowclinton.org](http://www.sparrowclinton.org)

# Pewamo-Westphalia's Jared Smith Delivers Record-Breaking Season

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

When it comes to running the football, few high school running backs have done it better than Pewamo-Westphalia junior Jared Smith.

Smith compiled a record-breaking season running the football. He set an MHSAA state record for rushing touchdowns in a season when he scored his 50th touchdown after reaching the endzone four times in Pewamo-Westphalia's regional championship win against Cassopolis. The win was the 12th of the season for the Pirates. Along with scoring 50 touchdowns this season, Smith has rushed for 2,901 yards (11.3 avg.) through the regional championship game.

"He's put in the work, and I'm just really happy and proud for him," said Pewamo-Westphalia coach Jeremy Miller. "It's a special thing, and I think when the season's over, we'll take a step back and realize what a special season he had."

### ST. JOHNS FOOTBALL TURNS IN BIG YEAR

Thanks to a strong running game, the St. Johns football team turned in a season to remember.

St. Johns finished the season with an 8-4 overall record. It was the second straight season that the Redwings notched eight wins, and the team qualified for the playoffs for the seventh time in the past eight years.

Pacing the St. Johns offense was the one-two

punch of senior running backs Steven Linton and Blake Stewart. Both Linton and Stewart rushed for over 1,000 yards during the regular season, as Linton totaled 1,103 yards and Stewart added 1,002 yards. The duo combined for 24 regular-season touchdowns.

St. Johns also attacked opposing defenses with a dangerous passing game. Redwing quarterback Blake Thelen completed 63 of 20 passes for 849 yards and nine touchdowns during the regular season.

St. Johns capped the season in a big way as it defeated Mason (20-7) and DeWitt (42-28) in the playoffs to claim the district championship.

### OVID-ELSIE FOOTBALL TEAM TAKES ON THE BEST

The Ovid-Elsie football team finished the season with a strong 7-3 record, a record that is even more impressive when you take a look inside the numbers.

Ovid-Elsie's three losses this season came to three teams that had a combined record of 32-3 through the regional round. The Marauders opened the season falling to Portland (10-1 record), dropped a two-point decision to Free-land (11-1), and fell to Lansing Catholic (11-1) in the opening round of the state playoffs.

Senior running back Devon Kelley turned in a big year for the Marauders, as he rushed for 1,097 yards (8.9 avg.) and 16 touchdowns. Kelley also totaled 79 tackles and four interceptions on defense. Ovid-Elsie quarterback Keaghan Sutliff also had a big year, as he passed for 1,227 yards and eight touchdowns.



Pewamo Westphalia's Jared Smith has rushed for nearly 3,100 yards this season to break the Michigan High School Athletic Association's single-season rushing mark that was set two year's ago by former Saginaw Swan Valley standout Alex Grace. Smith helped lead the Pirates to the Division 7 finals with a perfect 13-0 record. (Submitted Photo)



Ovid-Elsie lost in the first-round of districts 42-13 to Lansing Catholic. The Marauders finished the season 7-3. (Photo Chuck Prikasky, High School Sports Scene)



St. Johns finished a solid season losing in the regionals in 2015. (Photo by Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene)

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

WWW.NCGMOVIES.COM

Private showings and group rates are available by contacting your local NCG Cinema location or by e-mailing [Groupshows@NCGmovies.com](mailto:Groupshows@NCGmovies.com)

**ENERGY FIRST**

**All Your Home Improvement Needs**  
**NEW LOCATION! 612 East Superior, Alma**

- Automatic Standby Generators (Sales/Installation)
- Roofing (Metal)(Asphalt)
- Flooring
- Portable Generators
- Windows
- Insulation
- Siding
- Doors

**1-877-367-4911**

[EnergyFirstHomeImprovements.com](http://EnergyFirstHomeImprovements.com)

**Financing Available!**

Certified Michigan Saves Contractor...A+ Rating With The Better Business Bureau

# 989-224-3900

**TAX & PLATES INCLUDED IN ALL PAYMENTS!**

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

<b>2012 CHEVY CRUZE</b>  LEATHER <b>SALE PRICE \$12,900</b> \$255/DOWN \$255/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 CHEVY EQUINOX LT</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$17,300</b> \$289/DOWN \$289/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2005 GMC SIERRA SLT</b>  LEATHER <b>SALE PRICE \$10,900</b> \$209/DOWN \$209/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 CHRYSLER 200</b>  LEATHER <b>SALE PRICE \$11,900</b> \$236/DOWN \$236/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 DODGE DAKOTA SLT</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$6,500</b> \$126/DOWN \$126/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2011 CADILLAC CTS</b>  LEATHER <b>SALE PRICE \$17,900</b> \$299/DOWN \$299/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2014 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$18,900</b> \$317/DOWN \$317/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT</b>  LEATHER <b>SALE PRICE \$4,900</b> \$119/DOWN \$119/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 GMC TERRAIN SLE-2</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$10,900</b> \$217/DOWN \$217/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 FORD F-150 LARIAT</b>  LEATHER <b>SALE PRICE \$25,900</b> \$374/DOWN \$374/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2005 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER</b>  CONVERTIBLE <b>SALE PRICE \$5,900</b> \$146/DOWN \$146/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>1999 CHEVY TAHOE</b>  LEATHER <b>SALE PRICE \$2,500</b> \$99/DOWN \$99/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 CHEVY SILVERADO LT</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$16,900</b> \$279/DOWN \$279/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2013 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$12,800</b> \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2011 JEEP WRANGLER</b>  HARD TOP <b>SALE PRICE \$26,900</b> \$389/DOWN \$389/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2009 BUICK LUCERNE CX</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$9,900</b> \$197/DOWN \$197/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 DODGE STRATUS</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$1,900</b> \$89/DOWN \$89/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2005 SATURN ION</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$4,900</b> \$119/DOWN \$119/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2003 CHEVY ASTRO</b>  CONVERSION <b>SALE PRICE \$4,900</b> \$119/DOWN \$119/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>1999 CADILLAC DEVILLE</b>  LEATHER <b>SALE PRICE \$3,900</b> \$99/DOWN \$99/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2006 BUICK ALLURE CXL</b>  SUNROOF <b>SALE PRICE \$9,900</b> \$197/DOWN \$197/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 CHRYSLER SEBRING</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$4,900</b> \$119/DOWN \$119/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2000 DODGE RAM SLT</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$3,900</b> \$109/DOWN \$109/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 PONTIAC G6</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$6,900</b> \$139/DOWN \$139/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 DODGE MAGNUM SXT</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$11,500</b> \$229/DOWN \$229/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2009 DODGE CALIBER</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$8,900</b> \$178/DOWN \$178/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 HUMMER H2</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$14,900</b> \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2006 BUICK RENDEZVOUS CXL</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$5,900</b> \$146/DOWN \$146/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 GMC SIERRA SLT</b>  <b>SALE PRICE \$25,900</b> \$378/DOWN \$378/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2015 CHEVY IMPALA LT</b>  SUNROOF <b>SALE PRICE \$15,900</b> \$267/DOWN \$267/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT

**OPEN SUNDAYS NOON - 5PM!**

## 877SUNDANCE.COM

**2016 GMC TERRAIN FWD**  
 \$229/DN. \$229/MO. \$3,000/DN. \$149/MO. **SAVE \$3,643**

**2016 GMC ACADIA FWD**  
 \$289/DN. \$289/MO. \$3,000/DN. \$289/MO. **SAVE \$5,095**

**2016 GMC SIERRA 2ND DOUBLE CAB**  
 \$215/DN. \$215/MO. \$3,000/DN. \$159/MO. **SAVE \$4,000**

**2016 BUICK VERANO**  
 \$229/DN. \$229/MO. \$3,000/DN. \$159/MO. **SAVE \$3,255**

**2016 BUICK LACROSSE**  
 \$369/DN. \$369/MO. \$3,000/DN. \$299/MO. **SAVE \$3,930**

**2015 BUICK ENCLAVE**  
 \$189/DN. \$189/MO. \$3,000/DN. \$119/MO. **SAVE \$3,100**

\*New & Used Vehicles: All Payments are with approved credit, see dealer for details. **WE TAKE ANYTHING IN ON TRADE**

Presenting The South Edition



# 2015 Girls Golf Dream Team



**Julia Dean**  
Brighton jr.



**Alexa Hatz**  
Novi jr.



**Kamryn Johnston**  
Davison jr.



**Kerrigan Parks**  
Flushing jr.



**Priscilla Harding**  
South Lyon sr.

**Elizabeth Harding**  
South Lyon soph.

### SECOND TEAM

Karsen Johnston, Davison sr.;  
Cammi Lucia, Grand Blanc jr.;  
Sydni Harding, Goodrich jr.;  
Taylor Harding, Goodrich sr.;  
Jessica Kim, Okemos sr.

### HONORABLE MENTION

Brighton — Annie Pietila, fr.; Heather Fortushniak, soph.; Clarkston — Meghan Deardorff, jr.; DeWitt — Erin Chapko, soph.; Fenton — Keegan Miller, soph.; Molly Gundry, soph.; Powers Catholic — Madison Zloto, jr.; Flushing — Brooke Thomas, sr.; Grand Blanc — Allison Bruett, sr.; Hartland — Haley Larsen, sr.; Holly — Chelsea Bowles, jr.; Holt — Ashley Folleth, sr.; Howell — Madi Guilmette, sr.; Lansing Catholic — Abigail Meder, jr.; Mason — Audrey Wassner, jr.; Milford — Julia Stevenson, sr.; Northville — Gabby Jaszczur, jr.; Macy Dahnke, sr.; Alyse Clevenger, sr.; Allison Zwarka, sr.; Jen Kowalczyk, sr.; Novi — Abby Livingston, soph.; Maya Grandstaff, sr.; Lauren Henry, jr.; Okemos — Kaylie Anderson, sr.; Christine Maisner, sr.; Perry — Kelsi Allen, sr.; St. Johns — Abby Murray, soph.; South Lyon — Lucy Dinsmore, sr.; South Lyon East — Kiersten Van Norden, soph.; Walled Lake Northern — Danielle Frank, sr.; Amelia Eriksen, sr.

**wmlm** 1520am  
Real Country Music  
News • Sports • Weather

Your Voice For Local High School Football & Basketball Games!

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

Presenting The South Edition



# 2015 Tennis Dream Team



**Connor Johnston**  
Northville, sr.  
**PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

### DREAM TEAM SINGLES

Connor Johnston, Northville sr.  
Alex Matisse, Clarkston jr.  
Hunter Li, Grand Blanc jr.  
Alex Wen, Novi soph.  
Koushik Kondapi, Novi sr.  
Evan Vergith, Holly sr.  
Alex Reinbold, Charlotte sr.  
Johnny Choi, Haslett sr.

### DREAM TEAM DOUBLES

Ryan Gallagher, Northville fr.  
Giuliano Daniel Northville soph.  
Max Anderson, Novi sr.  
Daniel Yu, Novi jr.  
Parth Redey, Okemos sr.  
Kartikeya Kandala, Okemos sr.  
Jake Michaud, Haslett sr.  
Alex Stanulis, Haslett sr.

### HONORABLE MENTION SINGLES

Clarkston — Alexis Haselwanter, sr.; Ian Stuart, sr.; East Lansing — Grant Williams, sr.; William Lau, sr.; Haslett — Matt Stewart, sr.; Holt — Joe Gillman, sr.; Tyler Brown, sr.; Lansing Catholic Central — Vince Orlando, fr.; Northville — Janak Mukherji, soph.; Oliver Daniel, sr.; Stephen Frye, sr.; Novi — Sid Amarnath, fr.; Tim Tanaka, jr.; Okemos — Dinakar Talluri, soph.; Jordan Jacobsen, sr.; Walled Lake Western — Konstantin Stubben, sr.; Josh Messing, sr.

### HONORABLE MENTION DOUBLES

Charlotte — Kyle Pederson, sr.; Mickey Williamson, sr.; Clarkston — David Carpenter, sr.; Tristan Greenlee, sr.; East Lansing — Jesse Wade, sr.; Forrest Gillespie, sr.; Haslett — Toby Bepler, sr.; Nick Baugh, sr.; Holt — Thomas Corner, sr.; Derik Harmer, sr.; Northville — Samir Ravani, sr.; Arvind Kalvana, sr.; Novi — Aditya Chitta, sr.; Robert Chen, sr.

**I Have The Trailer U Need!**  
**BECK'S!**  
Trailer SUPERstore & Service Center  
800 Trailers, Low Prices & E-Z Financing  
Ask For Fred - Get A MMSS Discount  
**1-888-336-0271** 7607 N US-27 St. Johns MI. 48879  
www.BecksTrailerStore.com

Bring this ad into any JFCU location to receive a **FREE GIFT** when you open a new account!  
**JOURNEY** FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
Discover the possibilities.  
ST. JOHNS - FOWLER - OVID  
989.224.9511  
www.JourneyFCU.org  
Serving Clinton, Gratiot & Shiawassee Counties

**COMMERCIAL BANK**  
COMMUNITY..it's what we are.  
Alma • Ithaca • St. Louis  
Mt. Pleasant • Middleton  
Greenville • Hastings • Lake Odessa  
www.commercial-bank.com  
800•547•8531

# Meet Shiawassee County's **YOUNG** Performers To Watch **OWOSSO**

Sponsored by:

## Future Bright For Cavaliers CC Jacobs Finishes Second, Team 5th In Division 2

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Corunna boys cross country team turned in a season to remember this fall, and the best news for the Cavaliers is that the future looks bright, as well.

Corunna finished the season at the Division 2 state cross country finals, where it placed fifth as a team.

Junior Noah Jacobs led the way, taking second place individually with a time of 15:30.5. "Noah ran a tremendous race but also had higher goals, as he wanted to be the state champ," said coach Bryan Heid. "He had that as his goal from the second last year's state meet ended and worked hard all year to be in a position to accomplish that goal, so for him it stings a little bit."

Senior Blake Watson also turned in a big effort at state, as he placed 12th individually with a time of 16:02.9. "Blake finishing 12th at the state meet was a tremendous testament to his resolve," Heid said. "He has been through a litany of injuries and was not sure if he was going to compete at all this year. When he did start running, he re-injured his leg within a week and was limited to running only two days a week. The other days he was in the

pool or biking."

Senior Jacob Trowbridge placed 31st with a time of 16:22, sophomore Miles Petersen turned in a time of 16:54.3, and sophomore Dakota Hundley turned in a time of 16:59.4.

Corunna's fifth-place finish was the highest at the state meet since it took second in 1998. It won a state title in 1997 and has had three top-ten finishes since 1998, including last year's eighth-place finish.

"We were a little disappointed with our team finish," Heid said. "We were aiming for a higher place, especially after having won our regional with 18 points. We had a great season overall. We won Greater Flint and Greater Lansing for

the first times. We won our conference again, placing our top seven runners in the top eleven overall. We won our region, with five of the top six finishers for a total of 18 points."

With Jacobs back, along with a number of other strong runners, the future looks bright for Corunna. "We should be very good next year, as well," Heid said. "We have some first-year runners that got a lot of experience and are looking to improve on their success. We expect to win our region again next year and be competitive at the state finals. Noah Jacobs fully expects to be the individual state champ."

Corunna's Noah Jacobs finished second in the recent Division 2 cross country finals held at Michigan International Speedway. Jacobs, only a junior will return next season for the Cavaliers. (Photos by Gary Williams, High School Sports Scene)



# YOUNG

## OWOSSO

989-725-2184 • 800-725-2188

www.YoungAutoSales.com

1500 East Main Street  
Owosso, MI 48867

### Your Best Deals are at Young in Owosso!!

## Laingsburg Falls In Quarters

### David Cook Sports Scene

While the Laingsburg girls volleyball team turned in a memorable season on the court this fall, what they did away from competition was just as impressive.

Ranked among the top Class C teams in the state this year, Laingsburg capped off the season with district and regional titles before falling in the Class C state quarter-final round.

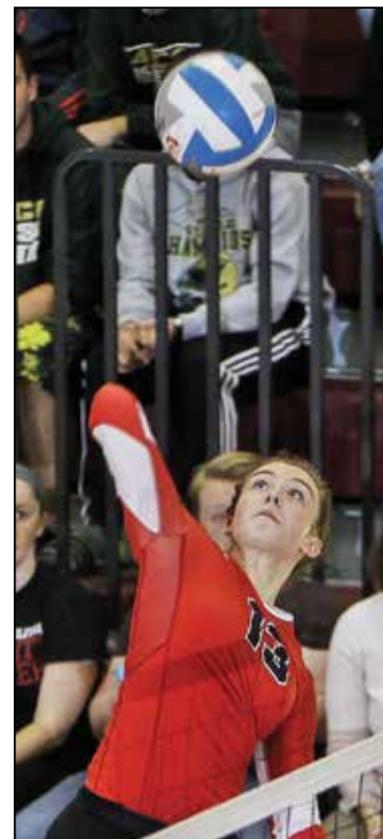
Off the court, the Laingsburg volleyball also took care of business. "Not only is this group committed to making an impact on the court, they are working to have a big one off the court, as well," said Laingsburg coach Tennille Whitmore. "They hosted our third annual BLOCK OUT cancer event in October in memory of Lisa Snider [mother of current freshman Cam Snider and of former setter Alexis Snider, who died of breast cancer three years ago] and all those who have lost the fight, are still fighting, or are celebrating a victory against cancer. 'Do Small Things With Great Love' was a theme of Lisa's life and funeral. In that spirit, the girls decided to expand the reach of their BLOCK OUT cancer event this year and support a fellow classmate that has been battling cancer for four years. Donations from this year's event went to both the SIDEOUT Foundation in support of cancer research and to the Patrick family to help with treatment expenses for

Cayden." The volleyball players also recognized teachers who have supported them. "The seniors all honor a teacher from their k-12 educational experience that has had a positive impact on their life," Whitmore said. "Each home game, one senior honors a teacher by sharing what that educator has meant to them and the specific ways that person has helped them grow academically and as a person. It is awesome to hear the seniors reflect and express their heartfelt thanks to those that have supported them in their journeys as student athletes. It is equally touching to see the educators tear up hearing the words of their students."

The volleyball players also paid it forward this year by running a youth volleyball after-school program on home games days to share their love of the game with future Wolfpack players.

**NEW LOTHROP VOLLEYBALL REACHES QUARTERFINAL ROUND**

The New Lothrop volleyball team also reached the quarterfinal round of the Class C state tournament. The Hornets turned in a memorable tournament run, as they won a district title and then stunned three-time defending regional champion Unionville-Sebewaing in the regional final. New Lothrop reached the regional final after defeating Hemlock in a five-set thriller in the regional semifinal.



Laingsburg made it all the way to the Class C quarterfinals before losing to Monore St. Mary Catholic Central. (Submitted Photo)



New Lothrop celebrates after knocking off Unionville-Sebewaing in a Class C quarterfinals game Nov. 17. (Submitted Photo)

Jason Saunders  
Sales Professional

(989) 288-2657  
Flint (810) 232-9157  
Fax (989) 288-2347  
jsaunders@hankgraff.com

9009 Lansing Road  
Durand, Michigan 48429  
www.graffchevydurand.com

Proud to support our local athletes!

Mercantile  
Bank of Michigan

Alma | Ithaca | Mt. Pleasant  
St. Louis | St. Johns | DeWitt

www.mercbank.com

# ALDERMANS

Lennon, Michigan INCORPORATED  
810-621-4201  
www.aldermans.com

Kubota RTVX900  
4 wheel drive  
Diesel  
Sale \$13,600

# 0% for 48 months

\*0% financing for 48 months on purchases of new Kubota equipment (excluding T, GH, G, F & VS Series) is available to qualified purchasers from participating dealers' in-stock inventory through 9/30/2015. Example: A 48-month monthly installment payment term at 0% A.P.R. requires 48 payments of \$2000 per \$10,000 financed. 0% A.P.R. interest is available to customers if no dealer documentation preparation fee is charged. Dealer charge for document preparation fee shall be in accordance with state laws. Inclusion of titleable equipment may result in a higher blended A.P.R. 0% A.P.R. and low-rate financing may not be available with customer finance return offers. Financing is available through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., 3300 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503, subject to credit approval. Some restrictions apply. Offer expires 9/30/2015. See Alderman's in Lennon for details. ©2015 Kubota may be shown.



The Laingsburg football team made it all the way to the Division 6 regionals before losing to Ithaca Nov 13 on the Yellowjacket's home field. Laingsburg finished the season 8-3. (Photo by Russ Pierce Photo, high School Sports Scene)

# Defense Key To New Lothrop Football Success

David Cook  
Sports Scene

Led by one of the stingiest defenses in school history, the New Lothrop Hornet football team is turning in another big season.

In New Lothrop's regional championship victory against Sandusky, the Hornet defense allowed just 16 points. In its 12 prior games, it recorded six shutouts and allowed just three teams to reach double digits in points scored.

"Our defense has been phenomenal," coach Clint Galvas said. "We knew our front seven would be great. It's probably the best I've had in seven years that I've been here. And that allows the secondary to make plays."

While the defense has been phenomenal, the New Lothrop offense has also been very impressive. New Lothrop is averaging 44.4 points per game and has scored 34 points or more in every game this season. Quarterback Eric Birchmeier and senior running back Quentin Taylor have led the Hornet offense.

### LAINGSBURG FOOTBALL REACHES REGIONAL FINAL

The Laingsburg football team enjoyed one of its most successful seasons in school history this fall. The Wolfpack turned in an 8-4 final record to record the most wins since 2009.

Laingsburg also put together the most

successful playoff run in school history. Laingsburg defeated Bendle, 23-15, in the opening round of the playoffs and then defeated Montrose, 23-13, to win the first district championship in school history.

Laingsburg's season came to an end with a 34-10 loss to Ithaca in the regional title game.

Laingsburg averaged 26.3 points per game this season. Quarterback Kevin Koenig paced the offense, as he rushed for 828 yards and 12 touchdowns and passed for 531 yards and seven touchdowns. Running back Dan Harkness rushed for 973 yards and nine touchdowns. At receiver, Nate Mentus caught 17 passes for 246 yards and a pair of touchdowns, while Cole Blankenship was a big-play threat at receiver, as he caught 10 passes for 255 yards and three touchdowns. Mentus also intercepted six passes on defense.

### CORUNNA ENJOYS BEST SEASON IN OVER A DECADE

The Corunna football team turned in its best season since 2002, when it finished 10-1.

Corunna turned in an 8-2 record this season and earned a share of the Genesee Athletic Conference Red Division title. The Cavaliers opened the year with a 40-3 win over crosstown rival Owosso and scored over 50 points twice this season, including 58 points in the regular-season finale against Chesaning.

Look For More Photos At [highschoolsportsscene.com](http://highschoolsportsscene.com)

New Lothrop lost another Division 7 heartbreaker in the semifinals. This year the Hornets traveled all the way to Marquette and lost to Ishpeming 22-14 to end their season. (Photo by Mike Schutt, High School Sports Scene)



**Capitol Bowl** **Val's PIZZA** **HOT SPOT**

**Your Family Fun & Entertainment Center**

Open/League/Cosmic Bowling, Parties, Arcade, Proshop  
Val's - Dine In, Carryout Delivery  
CB's Hot Spot - Sports Viewing, Pool, Weekend Bands/DJs

219 S. Washington St., Owosso, MI 48867 [capitolbowl@yahoo.com](mailto:capitolbowl@yahoo.com)

989-725-7717 989-725-VALS (8257)

[www.capitolbowl.net](http://www.capitolbowl.net) Become a Facebook Fan Today!

**MIDSTATE SALES AND SERVICE**  
Outdoor Power Equipment

**Ingersoll** **YAMAHA** **STIHL**

3251 W. M-21  
St. Johns, MI 48879  
(989) 224-2711  
(800) 582-8152  
(989) 224-1781 Fax  
[midstatesales.net](http://midstatesales.net)

**SCAG** **SNAPPER**

Clearance sale on all Lawn Mowers

Rebates up to \$300

Your local agent insures your **Auto**

**Tony Cook**  
[tcook@fbinsmi.com](mailto:tcook@fbinsmi.com)  
FarmBureauInsurance.com

(989) 720-5700  
401 S. Shiawassee St., Owosso

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**  
Michigan's Insurance Company

## SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON SWIMMING

# Area Swimmers Find Success In Pool During 2015 MHSAA Swim Finals

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene  
DIVISION 1

Rockford finished fourth in the Division 1 meet that was won by Ann Arbor Skyline. Junior Sydney McDowell led the way for Rockford as she won the 100 breaststroke. Megan Snyman placed fourth in the 50 free and Peyton Rayburn took fifth in the 200 free.

Brighton placed fifth as a team in Division 1. Taylor Seaman paced Brighton as she finished second in the 100 free and fourth in the 200 free. Lilia Staszek took fourth in the 50 free while McKenna Resconich was fifth in the 100 breaststroke.

Northville recorded a top-ten finish as it took eighth place. Junior Laura Westphal turned in a strong effort as she placed second in both the 200 and 500 free. Kelsey Macaddino

placed sixth in the 100 butterfly.

South Lyon finished in 11th as a team. Carolyn Bischoff of South Lyon took third in the 50 freestyle.

Grand Blanc junior Emma Curtis enjoyed a big meet. Curtis defended her title in the 50 freestyle and also placed fifth in the 100 freestyle.

Amanda Ling of Walled Lake Central placed third in the diving while Alex Nelson of Hartland took fourth in the 100 backstroke.

### DIVISION 2

Okemos placed 14th as a team at the Division 2 state finals that was won by Dexter. Freyja Garbaccio led the way for Okemos as she placed fourth in the 100 butterfly.

Walled Lake Northern's Gabby Rosely placed fourth in both the 100 backstroke and the 200 IM.

Taylor Shegos of Fenton placed fifth in the diving competition.

### DIVISION 3

Alma junior Evelyn Vandemark had a day to remember during the Division 3 finals. Vandemark won the state title in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:11.43. Vandemark also placed seventh in the 100 butterfly as she helped Alma to an 18th-place finish as a team as the finals that were won by Grand Rapids Catholic Central.

The combined team from Williamston-Lansing Catholic Central placed 20th as a team. Senior Allie Heine-man paced the Williamston-LCC squad as she placed fifth in both the 50 and 100 freestyle.

DeWitt sophomore Sydney Shipp placed 11th in the 200 freestyle and 13th in the 500 freestyle.

Swimmers from around the area hit the pool during the MHSAA finals held in Holland, and on the campuses of Eastern Michigan and Oakland Universities. (Photos by Bob Campbell and Mike Schutt, High School Sports Scene)



# Become a School Coach or Game Official

Contact your local high school athletic administrator or the Michigan High School Athletic Association

**MHSAA**  
michigan high school athletic association

1661 Ramblewood Dr.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
**517-332-5046**  
[www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com)



## Ithaca Stadium Renovations Reflect a Community's Journey to State Football Power

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

When your school has won seven regional titles, has made five trips to the Division 6 state finals, and is on the verge of making another trip to Ford Field, it's easy to feel spoiled by the football team.

Over the past five seasons, the football stadium has gone through a drastic facelift that has made it into one of the premier sports facilities in Michigan.

The Ithaca football team has made winning commonplace in recent years. But the football team's success has also trickled down to other sports like basketball, cross country, track, and even bowling.

Over \$1.2 million dollars of private money has been raised in the name of benefiting the whole community, not just the elite.

The idea for the renovations came from Ithaca native Steve Smith, and he's been the main contributor to the project since its

inception.

Some of the initial visions of Smith included the following innovations:

A concourse that's over 100 yards long and overlooks the field itself

New concession stands, two new sets of men's and women's bathrooms, and a new ticket booth and maintenance area

Two arches that span the stands, one on the home side and one on the visiting side

New team rooms, new lights, additional seating, and a viewing patio

Perhaps the most state-of-the-art addition is the new high-definition Jumbotron, which measures 13-feet tall by 24-feet wide.

This season, a mural commemorating Ithaca's 69-game

winning streak and its five trips to Ford Field has been added in the north end zone.

Everyone who has been to an Ithaca game the last three seasons has seen the changes firsthand

Some may argue that sports do not make



The Ithaca community has rallied behind its football team that just earned its sixth straight visit to Ford Field. A huge mural commemorating the team's 69-game winning streak was unveiled this season at Ithaca Community Football Stadium. It's things like this that continue the pride of not only the fans, but the team itself. (Photos by Russ Pierce and Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)



a community. While that may hold some merit, you cannot separate Ithaca's history from its ties to sports.

The venues that attract the most people to visit the community are sports-related, so why not invest in the local cathedrals that host most of the visitors to this city?

Sports is a common language that we all speak. Even if you don't like sports, I'm willing to wager that you have conversations about sports -- even if they are about defending why you don't like them.

I, for one, am glad that these people have stepped up and invested in the town's athletic future. You can already see their generosity making a difference. Ithaca football is more than just a team, it's family.

Ithaca coach Terry Hessbrook was asked recently what he thought about the last seven years, and his reply was the following:

I never imagined ever being a part of something like this. It's a very humbling experience. Credit my coaching staff each year for putting kids in the right positions to suc-

ceed. Credit our players for working so hard in the off-season to prepare for a playoff push. Credit our parents for allowing us to COACH their kids. The parents are instrumental, because at an early age they commit to getting their sons to our workouts.

I'm guessing that not many people knew about Ithaca until its football team started winning state championships. I have to admit that I knew about the Yellowjackets while working in Saginaw, as longtime Ithaca coach Jim Ahern was notorious for sucking on at least five suckers on the sideline during a game.

Ahern had success and helped mold the Ithaca program, while Hessbrook and his staff have taken it to the next level.

So if you are driving on US-127 in the future, just remember Ithaca and its residents' investments in these facilities go beyond just spending money on sports. It represents a measurement of how willing they are to invest in providing opportunities for their youth.



FIND NEW ROADS

1031 E. Center Street  
Ithaca, Michigan  
Phone 989 875-4181  
Fax 989 875-4841

www.ithacachevy.com

**Ithaca's Home Of The**  
**\$9.95 Oil Change!**

When Vehicle Purchased From Ithaca Chevy



# SPORTS SCENE

KEEPING K... N THE NEWS

FREE

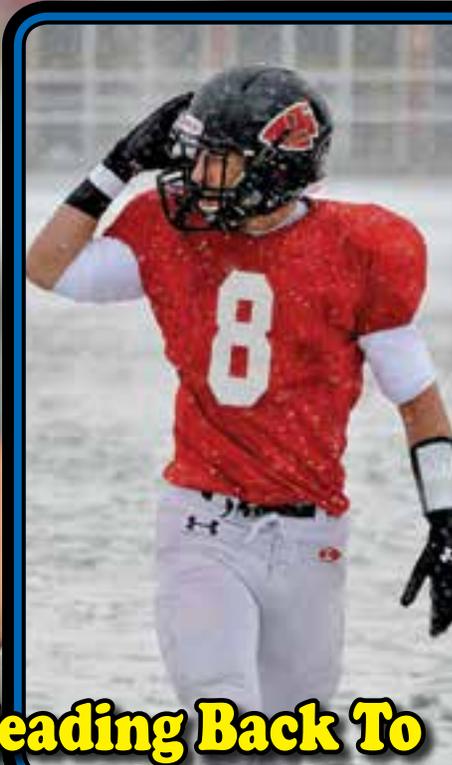
**Also Inside...  
Sports Scene's  
Annual Dream  
Teams Announced**



**Strong Finish**  
Shepherd Girls  
Cross Country  
Finish Third In D3



**Last Man  
Standing**  
Ithaca  
Yellowjackets  
Continue To Buzz  
Competition



**Heading Back To  
Ford Field**  
Lowell Wins D2  
Shootout Over Walled  
Lake Western In Semis



**Making  
History**  
Gladwin Soccer  
Wins First-Ever  
Regional  
Championship

## A TEAM FOR THE AGES

**Mt. Pleasant Sacred  
Heart Sets Numerous  
Records Enroute To  
D4 Cross Country  
Championship**

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

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

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

- Publisher**  
Randy Miniard  
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com  
517-202-1808
- Editor**  
Scott Keyes  
midmichigansportsscene@yahoo.com  
989-890-4036
- High School Liaison**  
Paul Hornak  
paul@highschoolsportsscene.com  
989-331-1168
- Mid-Michigan Sales**  
Jennifer Blythe  
jenlynmeradall@gmail.com  
989-544-1345
- Northern Michigan Sales**  
Scott Salowich  
ssalowich@yahoo.com  
313-408-4410
- Livingston/Oakland County Sales**  
Mike Valvona  
mikev@highschoolsportsscene.com  
248-937-0122
- Connor Matlock  
connmat11@gmail.com  
517-294-0310
- Editorial**  
Scott Keyes, John Raffel, David Cook,  
Butch Harmon, Jeff Chaney,  
Scott Salowich
- Dan Strickrandt  
dan.stickradt@northoaklandsports.com  
Twitter: @LocalSportsFans
- Photographers**  
Chuck Prikasky, Alan Holben,  
Zip Widman, Mike Schutt,  
Russ Pierce, Skip Traynor,  
Bob Campbell, Gary Williams,  
Phil Niekerk

Vol. 7, Issue 72 North • November/December 2015

# CONTENTS

- 4 | Mt. Pleasant Football
- 5 | Mt. Pleasant Soccer
- 6 | Volleyball Finals Wrap
- 7 | Girls Swimming Wrap
- 8 | Ithaca Rallies Around Football Team
- 9 | Defensive Line Key To Yellowjackets Success
- 10 | Alma's Vandermark Wins D3 Title In 500 Free
- 11 | Dream Team Golf
- 12 | Dream Team Soccer
- 13 | Dream Team Volleyball
- 14 | Rockford, MP Scared Heart Win Cross Country Titles
- 15 | State Cross Country Finals
- 17 | Cross Country Teams
- 18 | North Branch Volleyball
- 19 | Swan Valley Volleyball
- 20 | Lowell Returns To Ford Field
- 21 | Mr. Soccer Announced
- 22 | Gladwin Soccer Makes History
- 23 | Harrison Football Solid
- 24 | Dream Team Boys Tennis

Find Us On **facebook**



## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Holy smokes, it's a great day at Sports Scene! The talent in the High School Sports Scene coverage area is tremendous. As we finish another fall sports year, I can't help but to be extremely proud of our student-athletes and of my team here at High School Sports Scene. Who is going to be the next Gabe Dean, Denzel Valentine, Matt Costello, or Cooper Rush in our coverage area? All of these college standouts were featured athletes in High School Sports Scene. Wow, it is a pleasure watching them excel at the next level today!

### Girls Rule!

Title IX created a lot of responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities for college and high school athletic departments and athletes. It also led to media outlets having to make coverage decisions that they hadn't had to make before.

Since the print media is supposed to react to reader interest, there was some understandable caution about turning over a large portion of the sports pages to girls' athletics.

In spite of the reluctance to receive equal coverage, female high school athletes have created their own equality on the playing fields and courts over the past 30 years. They have proven that their sports are played at a high level and with equal competitiveness as the boys'.

Fans have realized, too, that female athletes put on events that are just as exciting and compelling as their male counterparts and have gravitated toward watching more girls' activities. This should equate to more equal media coverage.

High School Sports Scene has always been proud of the attention it gives to girls' high school sports. We have heard from the coaches of girls' sports that we do a better job than most of giving girls their due. Sometimes, those comments have come from coaches outside our coverage area.

So, although we are not perfect, we feel that we are doing a tremendous job covering female athletics, and we are proud that High School Sports Scene has kept stride with the growth of girls' sports.



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

**BUICK GMC SUNDANCE**

**SAVE \$25.00**  
Off Any Service  
Purchase Over \$100.00  
With This Ad  
Expires 12-31-2015  
[1800sundance.com](http://1800sundance.com)

**Sundance GMC**  
1205 N. US-27, St. Johns, MI 48879  
(989) 224-3900

**Sale Hours**  
Mon-Thurs: 8am-9pm; Fri: 8am-6pm  
Sat: 8:30am - 5pm, Sun: 12pm-5pm

**Service Hours**  
Mon: 7am-7pm; Tues-Fri: 7am-6pm  
Sat: 8:30am - 2pm

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

**989-224-3900**  
TAX & PLATES INCLUDED IN ALL PAYMENTS!

<b>2012 CHEVY CRUZE</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$12,900 \$255/DOWN \$255/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 CHEVY EQUINOX LT</b> SALE PRICE \$17,300 \$289/DOWN \$289/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2005 GMC SIERRA SLT</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$10,900 \$209/DOWN \$209/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 CHRYSLER 200</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$11,900 \$236/DOWN \$236/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 DODGE DAKOTA SLT</b> SALE PRICE \$6,500 \$126/DOWN \$126/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2011 CADILLAC CTS</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$17,900 \$299/DOWN \$299/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2014 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</b> SALE PRICE \$18,900 \$317/DOWN \$317/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$4,900 \$119/DOWN \$119/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 GMC TERRAIN SLE-2</b> SALE PRICE \$10,900 \$217/DOWN \$217/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 FORD F-150 LARIAT</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$25,900 \$374/DOWN \$374/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2005 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER</b> CONVERTIBLE SALE PRICE \$5,900 \$146/DOWN \$146/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>1999 CHEVY TAHOE</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$2,500 \$99/DOWN \$99/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 CHEVY SILVERADO LT</b> SALE PRICE \$16,900 \$279/DOWN \$279/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2013 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</b> SALE PRICE \$12,800 \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2011 JEEP WRANGLER</b> HARD TOP SALE PRICE \$26,900 \$389/DOWN \$389/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2009 BUICK LUCERNE CX</b> SALE PRICE \$9,900 \$197/DOWN \$197/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 DODGE STRATUS</b> SALE PRICE \$1,900 \$89/DOWN \$89/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2005 SATURN ION</b> SALE PRICE \$4,900 \$119/DOWN \$119/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2003 CHEVY ASTRO</b> CONVERSION SALE PRICE \$4,900 \$119/DOWN \$119/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>1999 CADILLAC DEVILLE</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$3,900 \$99/DOWN \$99/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2006 BUICK ALLURE CXL</b> SUNROOF SALE PRICE \$9,900 \$197/DOWN \$197/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 CHRYSLER SEBRING</b> SALE PRICE \$4,900 \$119/DOWN \$119/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2000 DODGE RAM SLT</b> SALE PRICE \$3,900 \$109/DOWN \$109/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 PONTIAC G6</b> SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$139/DOWN \$139/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 DODGE MAGNUM SXT</b> SALE PRICE \$11,500 \$229/DOWN \$229/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2009 DODGE CALIBER</b> SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$178/DOWN \$178/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 HUMMER H2</b> SALE PRICE \$14,900 \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2006 BUICK RENDEZVOUS CXL</b> SALE PRICE \$5,900 \$146/DOWN \$146/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 GMC SIERRA SLT</b> SALE PRICE \$25,900 \$378/DOWN \$378/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2015 CHEVY IMPALA LT</b> SUNROOF SALE PRICE \$15,900 \$267/DOWN \$267/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT

**OPEN SUNDAYS NOON - 5PM!**  
**877SUNDANCE.COM**

**SUNDANCE**  
BUICK • GMC In St. Johns

<b>2016 GMC TERRAIN FWD</b> MSRP \$27,200 SALE PRICE \$24,082 SAVE \$3,118	<b>2016 GMC ACADIA FWD</b> MSRP \$32,000 SALE PRICE \$30,400 SAVE \$1,600	<b>2016 GMC SIERRA 2WD DOUBLE CAB</b> MSRP \$32,300 SALE PRICE \$28,385 SAVE \$3,915	<b>2016 BUICK VERANO</b> MSRP \$22,900 SALE PRICE \$25,845 SAVE \$2,945	<b>2016 BUICK LACROSSE</b> MSRP \$33,000 SALE PRICE \$31,200 SAVE \$1,800	<b>2016 BUICK ENCORE</b> MSRP \$23,000 SALE PRICE \$21,800 SAVE \$1,200
---	--	---	--	--	--

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

# Mount Pleasant Falls In Regional Final

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Mount Pleasant's football team lost, 35-0, in the Division 3 regional final to East Grand Rapids. The Oilers were pestered by four interceptions, and several penalties took their toll.

Hunter Buczowski had 18 tackles to lead the Mount Pleasant defense. But the Oilers couldn't keep their defense off the field enough. It was 28-0 at halftime.

"We were disappointed; we certainly didn't play our best," said assistant coach Josh Wheaton. "Defensively, we played well. You would not think so looking at the score. They could not run the ball on us. We did a good job defensively.

"We couldn't get any rhythm on offense. It was a long day offensively."

The loss couldn't totally erase memories of a solid season for the Oilers, who scored a dramatic 16-13 win over Petoskey for the Division 3 district title. Connor Fiolek booted a 42-yard field goal with 24 seconds remaining for the win.

Perry was 5 of 14 passing for 81 yards. He had one touchdown pass to Obie Ricumstrick, who caught two aeriels for 20 yards. Perry caught a pass for 20 yards, and Jake Mogg had two catches for 13 yards. Hunter Buckowski had 24 rushes for 111 yards. Perry also had a touchdown run.

Petoskey ended Mount Pleasant's season in 2014, but the Oilers got revenge this time.

The Oilers ended their season at 9-3.

## Beal City Football

The season ended too quickly for Beal City this year. The Aggies, who were in the state final in 2012 and 2013 and in the semifinal round in 2014, lost in the district final of Division 8 to

Muskegon Catholic Central. The Aggies trailed 28-7 after the third quarter and lost 48-13.

Tucker Gross threw a 35-yard touchdown pass and also had a 9-yard scoring run.

Gross had seven completions for 112 yards. Kendall Flaughner caught three passes for 61 yards, and Thomas McCann had two snags for 39 yards. Chris Rollin gained 100 yards on 12 carries. Gross had 72 yards on 19 attempts.

Beal City rolled past Vestaburg, 37-0, in its playoff opener. Rollin had an interception early in the game and then a 21-yard run for a 7-0 lead. Beal City later scored on a 10-yard quarterback sneak. Rollin had a 30-yard scoring run and an interception to set up another score.

The Aggies were 9-2 this season. The only regular-season loss was 17-7 to Evert.

## Chippewa Hills Football

The Warriors had their deepest playoff run this season, losing in the regional final, 34-7, to Forest Hills. John Wixson had a 52-yard punt return for the Warriors, who ended the season at 9-3. The team had 161 yards rushing, led by senior Brendan Barry with 76.

The program's first district title came on Nov. 6 in a 35-12 victory over Big Rapids. Quarterback DJ Lowery was 6 of 18 passing, for 143 yards, and also ran for 106 yards. Barry had 153 yards rushing and a touchdown. Luke Henderson also had a touchdown return.

Big Rapids ended its season at 7-4. The Cardinals, who won at Escanaba in the first round, were coming off a 1-8 season in 2014.



More State Finals  
Photos Of This  
Event At  
highschoolsportsscene.com

The Mt. Pleasant football team finished the year 9-3 after losing to East Grand Rapids 35-0 during the Nov. 14 Division 3 regional game played on the Oilers' home field. (Photo by Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene)

starting at **\$109** starting at **\$134**

- Overnight Stay in Standard Room\*
- \$10 in Premium Play for Each Adult
- \$10 Breakfast Voucher per Person (adults & children)

**Waterpark Passes Included!**

- Overnight Stay in Standard Room\*
- Waterpark Passes (up to maximum occupancy for room type)
- \$10 in Premium Play for Each Adult
- \$10 Breakfast Voucher per Person (adults & children)

*\*Monday - Friday Only*

Offer is valid until December 18, 2015. Monday through Friday only. Must ask for the "Biish Fall Fun for All" offer. Cannot be combined with any other offers. This rate is for standard rooms only - other rates available on additional room types. All rates are subject to availability and may be changed or discontinued without notice.

**Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel** **877.2EAGLE2**

www.soaringeaglewaterpark.com

**Check Out More Photos At**  
**highschoolsportsscene.com**

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

ZoomPubz  
1-866-252-4449

Proud to support our local athletes!

**Mercantile**  
Bank of Michigan

Alma | Ithaca | Mt. Pleasant  
St. Louis | St. Johns | DeWitt

www.mercbank.com



**Good Luck to All Area Teams !!**

<p><b>SEALS • TACIA • BARTZ • WHITMORE •</b> Comprehensive Optometry</p> <p><b>Alma</b> 1321 Pine Avenue Alma, MI 48801 989-463-1139</p>	<p><b>Wolverine Optical</b> 7314 North Alger Rd. Alma, MI 48801 989-463-1838</p>	<p><b>Carson City</b> Suite 400 102 South Third Carson City, MI 48811 989-584-6868</p>	<p><b>Mt. Pleasant</b> Pleasant Optics 500 South Union St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 989-773-7747</p>
--	--	--	--

# Mount Pleasant Boys Soccer

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

The Mount Pleasant boys soccer team clearly seems to be on its way back, building something very promising for the future.

That's the word from first-year Oilers coach Jon Crain, who likes what he saw on the field.

The Oilers' hopes for a lengthy and prosperous postseason took a hit with a 1-0 district title game loss to Petoskey.

The team's final record was 8-8-4.

"It was a transition role for me," Crain said. "We graduated 10 or 11 seniors last year. It was a bit of a transition season overall. We played some tough teams this season and had some success. Injuries and lack of depth on the team cost us some of those closer ones at the end of the season and kind of hurt us a little bit."

The Oilers had several outstanding players, including captain Kyle Montgomery, who was first-team all-conference, all-academic, and all-district. He's a senior who played cen-

ter-mid, had seven goals, and was injured for a few weeks of the season.

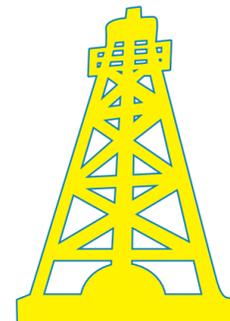
Connor Fiolek, a senior, was first-team all-conference, all-academic, and all-district. He played center back (defense), had four goals this year, and also was placekicker for the football team that lost in the regional final.

Johnny McCarthy, a senior, was a second-team all-conference, all-academic, and all-district defensive player who had two goals.

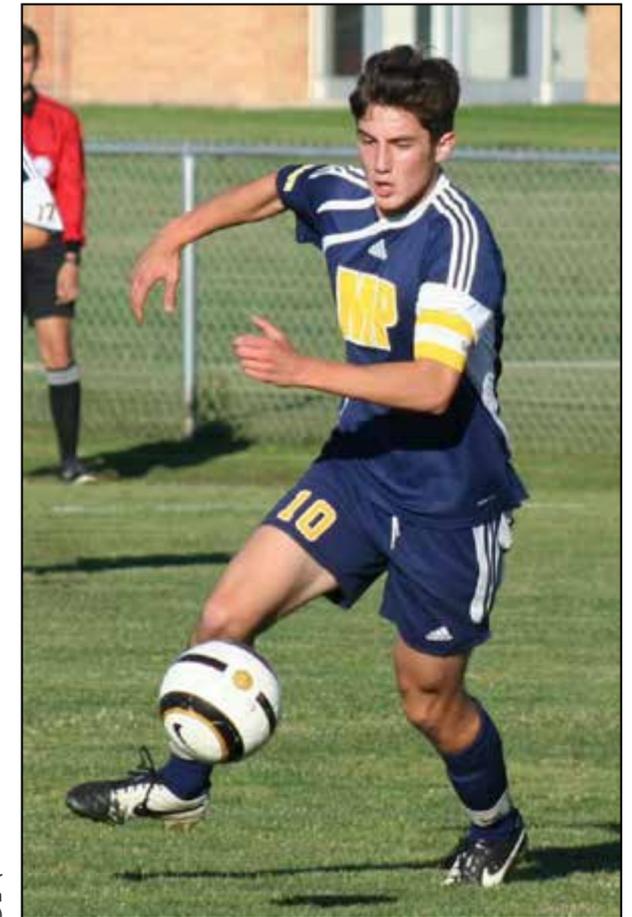
Brendan Cashen, a junior, was second-team all-conference, all-academic, and all-district. He led the team in points with seven goals and nine assists, tied for most goals on the team, and was first in assists. He mostly played outside attacking mid.

Frederik Roth was second-team all-conference and all-district. "He's a German exchange student who played goalie for us, and he split time with another goalie, as well," Crain said.

Sammy Shamin was a junior defensive player, who was honorable mention all-conference and all-district. "He came out for corners and ended with five goals," Crain said. "He was also injured for a couple weeks of the season."



Kyle Montgomery led the attack for Mount Pleasant's boys soccer team this season. (Courtesy photo)



lean  
lifestyle, exercise and nutrition

116 N. Mill St., St. Louis, Michigan  
989-620-0365  
info@leangroupfitness.com

**Evans Eye Centers**  
Dr. Lawrence M. Evans  
OPHTHALMOLOGIST

120 E. Warwick, Alma, MI. 48801 (989) 463-EYES (3937)  
1203 S. Mission, Mt Pleasant, MI. (989) 775-EYES (3937)  
102 S. Third St, Carson City, MI. (989) 584-3111

**Blake Hollenbeck Auto Sales Inc.**  
W. M57 Greenville, MI

www.Blakehollenbeckinc.com  
CHECK OUT OUR INVENTORY

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

Ph. (616) 754-5566  
Toll Free (866) 358-7473

Committed to our Future ...

**Village of Breckenridge**

Inspired by our Past.

Tomorrow's **Community** Adventure

Member **FDIC**  
800.651.9111  
isabellabank.com

**ISABELLA BANK**

# Kellogg's Arena Not Too Kind To Area Teams During State Finals

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

## CLASS A

**State final:** Novi defeated Romeo, 3-0  
**Regional finals:** DeWitt fell, 3-2, to Mattawan; Midland lost, 3-1, to Traverse City West; Rockford bowed to Hudsonville, 3-2  
**Regional semifinal:** Mason lost, 3-1, to Mattawan

**District winners:** Midland over Midland Dow, 3-0; DeWitt over Grand Ledge, 3-0; Mason over Okemos, 3-0; Rockford over Forest Hills Central, 3-0

"We had a great game plan for Forest Hills Central, and the girls did an awesome job of executing," Rockford coach Kelly Delacher said. "We did a great job of controlling the pace of the game with our middles, Olivia Rademacher and Cass Smigiel. Lilly Stellan and Hailey Delacher had great defensive performances."



Hailey did a great job of distributing the ball to all of our hitters, which kept Forest Hills Central off balance."

Mount Pleasant lost in the district semifinal to Heritage in five games. "We had played Heritage two other times during the season," Mount Pleasant coach Alison Smith said. "The series was 1-1, however, the games were close. I would have liked to see us come out with a little more urgency and a little more defensive intensity. We served well and took advantage of many opportunities to score but couldn't slow down Heritage's dominant outside hitter."

Mount Pleasant had a standout season from senior outside hitter Lauren MacGregor. Cam Odysirk, a sophomore middle blocker, led the team in blocks and had approximately half of the team's solo blocks.

## CLASS B

**State final:** Reigning champion North Branch took on Father Gabriel Richard. Gabriel Richard (42-0) became the first undefeated MHSAA volleyball champion since Marysville in Class B in 1999, sweeping North Branch 25-21, 25-14, 25-19.

Olivia Fike led North Branch with 13 kills, while Medea Miner had 26 assists and Allyson Severance had 14 digs.

North Branch topped Harper Creek, 3-1, in the semifinal.

Lakewood lost, 3-0, to Father Gabriel Richard in the quarterfinal.

Goodrich lost, 3-0, to Father Gabriel Richard in the semifinal. Abby Francis had eight kills, Bethany Schulz added five, and Madison Becker had four.

**Regional finals:** Goodrich over Marysville, 3-0; Lakewood over Grand Rapids South Christian, 3-0; North Branch over Swan Valley, 3-1

**District finals:** Goodrich over Corunna,

The North Branch volleyball team lost in straight sets to Ann Arbor Gabriel 25-21, 25-14 and 25-19 in the Class B finals played Nov. 21 at Kellogg's Arena in Battle Creek. (Photos by Kevin Gregory, High School Sports Scene)

3-2; Lansing Catholic over Brownsville, 3-1; Lakewood over Hastings, 3-0; North Branch over Mount Morris, 3-0; Essexville Garber over John Glenn, 3-0; Swan Valley over Freeland, 3-0; Belding over Alma, 3-0; Big Rapids over Chippewa Hills, 3-0

Lakewood coach Kellie Rowland said that Father Gabriel Richard was clearly on a mission to win the title. "Last year, they were good and got upset in the semifinals," she said.

Lakewood ended the season with a record of 53-7. In its regional title win over South Christian, Charlie Smith had 17 kills.

## CLASS C

**State tournament:** Bronson won the state title with a 3-0 sweep over St. Mary Catholic Central.

New Lothrop lost to Brown City, 3-1, in the quarterfinal. Laingsburg lost, 3-1, to St. Mary Catholic Central, also in the quarterfinal.

Morley Stanwood was a district champion but lost, 3-0, in the regional final to NorthPointe Christian.

New Lothrop won its regional with a 3-2 edging of Hemlock and a 3-1 win over Unionville-Sebewaing. USA had eliminated Valley Lutheran, 3-0, in the semifinal. Laingsburg won its regional, 3-2, over Delton Kellogg.

**District finals:** Morley Stanwood over White Cloud, 3-1; New Lothrop over Millington, 3-0; Hemlock over St. Louis, 3-2; Valley Lutheran over St. Charles, 3-0; Laingsburg over Pewamo-Westphalia, 3-2

New Lothrop coach Sheri Warner said that her team did not have its best match against Brown City. "We struggled for consistency on serve receive and did not run an efficient offense. We missed some key serves at critical points during the match."

"Although we bowed out in the quarterfinals, we had a very successful season. We finished as one of the top teams in the state for Class C and had an overall win-loss record of 42-15-7. We won the GAC Blue Conference title with a record of 8-0."

Key players all season for New Lothrop were Autumnn Severn at setter, Blake Schnell

at outside hitter, Lauryn Bishop and Claudia Freed at middle hitter, and Alayna Mantei at libero.

## CLASS D

**State tournament:** Leland ended St. Philip Catholic Central's streak of nine straight state titles, with a 3-0 sweep. Leland last won the title in 2006, the season before St. Phillip's' streak started.

Sacred Heart Academy lost in the quarterfinal round, 3-0, to eventual state champion Leland. Sacred Heart won over Crossroads Academy, 3-0, in the district final and defeated Pentwater, 3-0, in the regional final. Pentwater edged Fulton, 3-2, in the regional semifinal. Fulton edged Fowler 3-2 in the district final.

Lansing Christian won a district title by beating Livingston Christian, 3-0, in the final and advanced to the regional final, where it lost, 3-0, to Plymouth Christian Academy.

Sacred Heart's season ended at 37-15-3. "We led a fairly balanced offense throughout the season, with two tall and dominant middle hitters," Sacred Heart coach Krista Davis said. "We gave Leland a tough first set, leading 15-10 at one point, and tied 20-20. If we had taken the first set, it would have been a different match all together. Their serving proved too much for us and didn't allow us to run our offense as we would have liked. However, our defense was strong throughout the match."

Sophomore middle hitter Sophie Ruggles had 391 kills, a .341 attack percentage, 121 blocks, and 45 service aces; senior middle hitter Averil Gamble had 226 kills, a .319 attack percentage, and 77 blocks; senior outside hitter Megan MacDonald had 167 kills, 252 digs, and 29 aces; senior outside hitter Kelly Hovey had 163 kills, 327 digs, and 54 service aces; senior setter Rachel Hauck contributed 152 kills, 588 set assists, and 208 digs; junior setter Jordan Fox had 384 set assists, 60 service aces, and 150 digs; and senior libero Kimi Boulter had 399 digs and 31 service aces.

"We had goals of going deep into postseason, and we accomplished that," Davis said. "The team played well together throughout the season and each player on the team contributed a great deal to the outcomes of the season."

# SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON SWIMMING

## Area Swimmers Find Success In Pool During 2015 MHSAA Swim Finals

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

### DIVISION 1

Rockford finished fourth in the Division 1 meet that was won by Ann Arbor Skyline. Junior Sydney McDowell led the way for Rockford as she won the 100 breaststroke. Meegan Snyman placed fourth in the 50 free and Peyton Rayburn took fifth in the 200 free.

Brighton placed fifth as a team in Division 1. Taylor Seaman paced Brighton as she finished second in the 100 free and fourth in the 200 free. Lilia Staszal took fourth in the 50 free while McKenna Resconich was fifth in the 100 breaststroke.

Northville recorded a top-ten finish as it took eighth place. Junior Laura Westphal turned in a strong effort as she placed second in both the 200 and 500 free. Kelsey Macaddino

placed sixth in the 100 butterfly.

South Lyon finished in 11th as a team. Carolyn Bischoff of South Lyon took third in the 50 freestyle.

Grand Blanc junior Emma Curtis enjoyed a big meet. Curtis defended her title in the 50 freestyle and also placed fifth in the 100 freestyle.

Amanda Ling of Walled Lake Central placed third in the diving while Alex Nelson of Hartland took fourth in the 100 backstroke.

### DIVISION 2

Okemos placed 14th as a team at the Division 2 state finals that was won by Dexter. Freyja Garbaccio led the way for Okemos as she placed fourth in the 100 butterfly.

Walled Lake Northern's Gabby Rosely placed fourth in both the 100 backstroke and the 200 IM.

Swimmers from around the area hit the pool during the MHSAA finals held in Holland, and on the campuses of Eastern Michigan and Oakland Universities. (Photos by Bob Campbell and Mike Schutt, High School Sports Scene)



# Become a School Coach or Game Official

Contact your local high school athletic administrator or the Michigan High School Athletic Association



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

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

989-463-AUTO (2886) seeleycars.com

\$6,995	\$4,995	\$3,595	\$6,995

Ask About Our BUY HERE, PAY HERE PROGRAM SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOMERS WITH SSI, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME

The name you've grown to trust just got better

Broadway Realty 989-775-3800 WeichertBroadway.com

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

(989) 463-8321

A great place to join see how we can help you

VALET AUTO CARE, INC.

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

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

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

989-773-3477

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

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

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

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



# Ithaca Stadium Renovations Reflect a Community's Journey to State Football Power

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

When your school has won seven regional titles, has made five trips to the Division 6 state finals, and is on the verge of making another trip to Ford Field, it's easy to feel spoiled by the football team.

Over the past five seasons, the football stadium has gone through a drastic facelift that has made it into one of the premier sports facilities in Michigan.

The Ithaca football team has made winning commonplace in recent years. But the football team's success has also trickled down to other sports like basketball, cross country, track, and even bowling.

Over \$1.2 million dollars of private money has been raised in the name of benefiting the whole community, not just the elite.

The idea for the renovations came from Ithaca native Steve Smith, and he's been the main contributor to the project since its

inception.

Some of the initial visions of Smith included the following innovations:

A concourse that's over 100 yards long and overlooks the field itself

New concession stands, two new sets of men's and women's bathrooms, and a new ticket booth and maintenance area

Two arches that span the stands, one on the home side and one on the visiting side

New team rooms, new lights, additional seating, and a viewing patio

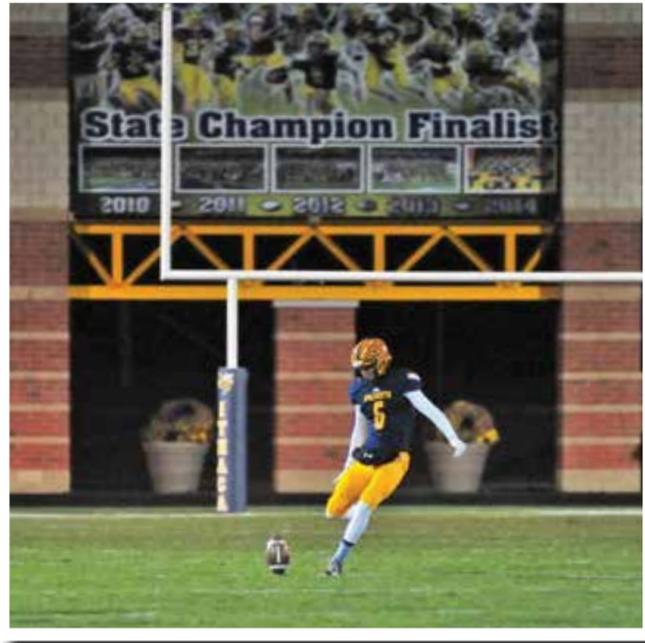
Perhaps the most state-of-the-art addition is the new high-definition Jumbotron, which measures 13-feet tall by 24-feet wide.

This season, a mural commemorating Ithaca's 69-game

winning streak and its five trips to Ford Field has been added in the north end zone.

Everyone who has been to an Ithaca game the last three seasons has seen the changes firsthand

Some may argue that sports do not



The Ithaca community has rallied behind its football team that just earned its sixth straight visit to Ford Field. A huge mural commemorating the team's 69-game winning streak was unveiled this season at Ithaca Community Football Stadium. It's things like this that continue the pride of not only the fans, but the team itself. (Photos by Russ Pierce and Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)

make a community. While that may hold some merit, you cannot separate Ithaca's history from its ties to sports.

The venues that attract the most people to visit the community are sports-related, so why not invest in the local cathedrals that host most of the visitors to this city?

Sports is a common language that we all speak. Even if you don't like sports, I'm willing to wager that you have conversations about sports -- even if they are about defending why you don't like them.

I, for one, am glad that these people have stepped up and invested in the town's athletic future. You can already see their generosity making a difference. Ithaca football is more than just a team, it's family.

Ithaca coach Terry Hessbrook was asked recently what he thought about the last seven years, and his reply was the following:

I never imagined ever being a part of something like this. It's a very humbling experience. Credit my coaching staff each year for putting kids in the right positions to suc-

ceed. Credit our players for working so hard in the off-season to prepare for a playoff push. Credit our parents for allowing us to COACH their kids. The parents are instrumental, because at an early age they commit to getting their sons to our workouts.

I'm guessing that not many people knew about Ithaca until its football team started winning state championships. I have to admit that I knew about the Yellowjackets while working in Saginaw, as longtime Ithaca coach Jim Ahern was notorious for sucking on at least five suckers on the sideline during a game.

Ahern had success and helped mold the Ithaca program, while Hessbrook and his staff have taken it to the next level.

So if you are driving on US-127 in the future, just remember Ithaca and its residents' investments in these facilities go beyond just spending money on sports. It represents a measurement of how willing they are to invest in providing opportunities for their youth.



# Meet Gratiot County's Peak Performers

Sponsored by: Scott Allen Agency



Ithaca's Jonah Loomis (No. 22) and Kurtis Ackels (No. 78) have been forces on both sides on the football this season for the Yellowjackets (Photos by Russ Pierce, High School Sports Scene)

## Defensive Line Key To Yellowjackets Success

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

Whether it is at the Pop Warner, high school, college, or professional level, each season coaches emphasize the importance of developing chemistry among their players.

Ithaca linemen Kurtis Ackels, Jonah Loomis, and Derek Teed are putting together a season to remember for the Yellowjackets on the defensive side of the football. Heading into the Nov. 21 Division 6 semifinal game against Traverse City St. Francis, Ithaca had given up just 68 points, while scoring 570.

There is no question that Ackels, Loomis, and Teed have all played huge roles in that success this season.

"Kurtis Ackels has played very well for us on both sides of the ball this year," Ithaca coach Terry Hessbrook said. "He has been a real force on our defensive line. He is a big, strong, and very athletic player."

Hessbrook was been equally impressed with Loomis. "Jonah Loomis worked so hard in the offseason to add some muscle," he said. "He is very compact at 180 pounds. He is very difficult to tackle. He is an excellent blocker in our scheme, as well."

Meanwhile, Teed is another senior defensive standout on the line for the Yellowjackets. He sits low to the ground as a prototypical Ithaca lineman. Teed's senior season has been a special one for Ithaca. "Teed is so good at hitting people on the move in our offense," Hessbrook said.

"Derek is our pulling guard. He worked very hard, as well, to add some weight to his frame. He and Jonah give up a lot of size on that defensive line, but they are so quick that they give everyone fits. On our defensive line, the three of these guys have wreaked havoc on many offenses."

St. Louis falls in districts

The Sharks lost a five-set thriller to Hemlock in the district final.

After losing to St. Louis twice in the regular season, the Huskies overcame the Sharks -- and a 2-1 deficit -- to win the match

The first three sets were even, with the total margin of victory nine points. At that point, the Huskies' determination took over, winning the next two sets 25-12 and 15-6.



## For the Love of the Game Appreciate Coaches for What They Do

Dear Coach,

I just wanted to say thank you. I know I don't say it often enough, and I apologize for that. I guess I'm so caught up in watching my kid play, that I sometimes forget what an important role you play. You're a coach, a mom, a dad, a guidance counselor, and a disciplinarian all rolled into one.

Frankly, I don't know how you do it. I think I read somewhere that the average stipend for a high school coach in Michigan is about \$3,500. Given all the time you put in for meetings, practices, film study, games, scheduling, etc., etc., I figure you're lucky if you're making a dollar an hour.

Maybe it's the community pride that keeps you doing it.

Maybe it's watching today's youth grow up and carry on the tradition of excellence that was instilled into them at a young age.

Think of all the kids who've walked onto the field or court through the years, carrying

on the tradition of their families, parents, and friends before them.

Thank you for working your full day as a teacher, administrator, or whatever the job and then going to work again to coach my kid. Thanks for going in early in the morning so you can leave work early for practice or games. I don't know if you're an angel or just plain crazy. Sometimes, I think you're a little bit of both.

Then there's the aggravation you deal with on a daily basis. Kids who don't show up for practice or who don't pay attention when they are in uniform. Fans who get on your case if you don't beat your archrival. Administrators who will fire you if you're not winning. I'd like to think being a good mentor would be enough, but I guess that's not the case. It really is nuts.

So why do you do it? Sure, there's great satisfaction in winning a big game or in capturing a state championship, but that can't be all of it. Those moments don't come around very often. Most of

the time, you're just trying to get by each week.

The only thing I can think of is that you truly want to make a difference in children's lives. I know that's a cliché, but I can't think of any other reason you'd put up with all the crap you have to take. I don't mean to embarrass you by saying this, but I'm going to anyway: It's a noble gesture, and I'm grateful.

So here's my promise to you as my kid gets ready to play next season: I'm going to support you in every way I possibly can.

I'm not going to scream at you during games if I don't like the way you're coaching. It's really stupid, come to think of it. You know the sport. I don't. Yet I act like the expert.

I'm not going to barge into your office and angrily ask why my kid isn't playing more. If I do have a question, I'll ask it respectfully, taking into account that it's about the team and not one individual.

I'm not going to join other parents in criticizing you behind your back. I'm such a hypocrite when I do that, thanking you for the job you do and then ripping you for not doing it well. Shame on me.

And I won't blame you if my child doesn't receive a college scholarship.

As long as you're doing your job honestly and doing what's best for my child's development, I'll support you. Notice I said my child's development, by the way. If you help my kid become a responsible adult, whatever he accomplishes as an athlete is icing on the cake.

I know what you're thinking. That it's easy for me to make these promises now, that when the games begin and my emotions get the best of me, I'll revert back to my old ways.

I wish I could tell you without question that these aren't empty words, but you're right. I really don't know whether I'll live up to this letter if the team is 2-6 and my kid isn't playing.

All I can tell you is that I'll try. You deserve my applause and appreciation, not my scorn and disrespect.

So again, thanks for everything you do. Oh, and considering how little money you make, how about if I stop by the coach's office every so often and buy you lunch?

Sincerely,  
Parent of a High School Athlete

**1031 E. Center Street**  
Ithaca, Michigan  
Phone 989 875-4181  
Fax 989 875-4841  
www.ithacachevy.com

**Ithaca's Home Of The**  
**\$9.95 Oil Change!**  
When Vehicle Purchased From Ithaca Chevy

Your Farm Bureau Insurance agent protects your Auto, Home, Business, Farm, Retirement, Lake Estate®,

**Scott Allen**  
225 E. Center St., Ithaca

989-875-2200  
sallen@finsmi.com  
FarmBureauInsurance.com



**Panther Pride...**  
Hard Work... Dedication.. Commitment...  
**Meet Alma's Peak Performers**



sears  
of Alma

# History-Making Swim Alma's Vandermark Wins Division 3 500 Freestyle Title

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

Alma High School's Evelyn Vandermark was all smiles after she put together one of the best swims in school history during the Division 3 swimming finals Nov. 21 on the campus of Eastern Michigan University.

Vandermark, who was considered the favorite going into the 500 freestyle race, didn't disappoint, winning with a time of 5:11.43. She also placed seventh in the 100 butterfly and helped Alma to an 18th-place finish as a team. Grand Rapids Catholic Central won Division 3.

"My state finals experience was amazing," Vandermark said.

"I was nervous going into it, because in swimming, all the training you do in season is in preparation for the championship meet. So you really have one shot at getting the results you have worked so hard for. Once you get over the nerves, though, it's a really exhilarating atmosphere to be in. Everyone is there because they want to swim fast."

In an endurance race, especially at state, Vandermark said that the final 50 meters can sometimes be extremely trying, but that she has learned to fight through the madness, which is something a state champion must do.

"In the last 50 of my 500, I remember thinking 'You can't let up now!' and 'Last one! Come on, move!'," she said.

"At that point, I wasn't really thinking about winning," Vandermark continued. "I just wanted to swim fast. When I touched

the wall and looked up at the clock, it took me a second to process what had just happened. I thought 'Oh my god. I just won the 500!' I was so overwhelmed; I was crying before I got out of the pool."

Former Alma swimming standout Jennifer Wheeler, who currently swims at Hillsdale College, was extremely proud of what Vandermark was able to accomplish at state.

"The 500 freestyle not only tests the

physical aspect of swimming but also the brains behind the swimmer," Wheeler said. "Swimming it smart, like Evelyn, can bring you a long way. It takes thousands and thousands of yards to prepare for her moment at state. I'm super-proud of her and her accomplishments."

Vandermark's teammate, Alissa Adams, said the one thing that really stood out about Vandermark's state championship swim was how much she deserved to win the championship.

Adams said that they spend countless hours in the pool training for what occurred at state.

"When Evelyn was swimming, I was thinking to myself how much she deserved to win the race because of how hard she works at practice everyday," Adams said. "It was a no-brainer to me, that when she was seeded first place, that is exactly what she was going to get. She is an outstanding racer, especially in the 500. Early in the race, Evelyn was at the same pace as a few other girls, but of course, they took it out too fast and she can keep the fast pace the whole time."

Vandermark admitted that she had a hard time putting into words the influence



Alma junior Evelyn Vandermark came up big at the MHSAA Division 3 girls swimming and diving finals winning the state title in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:11.43. (Photos by Gary Williams, High School Sports Scene)

long-time Alma swim coach Jeff Huxley has had on her. "I think that the hundreds of swimmers that have swam for him would agree that he has had a tremendous impact on their lives," Vandermark said.

"He never stops pushing me to be mentally and physically stronger. I don't know

what I would have done without him this weekend. He helps me feel prepared and gives me great advice, in and out of the pool. Jeff Huxley is an amazing coach, because you can trust that he will put in just as much effort as you do. His coaching has been a huge contributor to my love of swimming."



**YOUR #1  
SOURCE FOR  
MILL ACCESSORIES**

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

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

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

www.premier-com.com



sears of Alma  
HOMETOWN STORE

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED  
1650 Wright Ave. • Alma, MI • 989-466-6688

RE-GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!

Lawn & Garden: CRAFTSMAN Husqvarna  
Appliances: Kenmore Whirlpool MAYTAG SAMSUNG LG  
Tools: CRAFTSMAN DEWALT BLACK & DECKER  
Bedding: Serta STEARNS & FOSTER Sealy  
Fitness Equipment • Gas & Charcoal Grills

5% Instant  
Savings or  
12 Months  
Special  
Financing!

See Sears Associate Today!

Presenting The North Edition



# 2015 Girls Golf Dream Team



**Alexis Carras**  
Midland Dow



**Stephanie Carras**  
Midland Dow



**Karsen Johnston**  
Davison



**Kamryn Johnston**  
Davison



**Meg Watkins**  
Frankenmuth

SECOND TEAM

Alexie Flaminio, Midland Dow  
Sydni Harding, Goodrich  
Taylor Harding, Goodrich  
Keegan Miller, Fenton  
Kerrigan Parks, Flushing

HONORABLE MENTION

Alexis Dawkins, Big Rapids  
Molly Gundry, Fenton  
Sarah Meath, Midland  
Ava Miller, Central Montcalm  
Megan Radaz, Alma  
Shayna Schneider, Frankenmuth  
Brooke Thomas, Flushing  
Cammi Lucia, Grand Blanc

Sunnet Insurance Agency

"Hooking Up For You & Yours"

Auto • Home • Farm  
Business • Life

Agents:  
Bradley M. Simmet  
Candice E. Watson  
Autumn Robbe  
Brandon M. Simmet

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

EXPERIENCE  
CAMPUS LIFE

real fun. real friends. real life.

@cmfyc High School Mondays, 7pm  
@cmfyc 7th & 8th Grade Thursdays, 7pm  
/cmfyc 6th Grade Tuesdays, 3pm

989.463.4274 | 2550 W Cheesman Rd, Alma | www.cmfyc.net

GA General Agency Company

Insurance since 1915

Knowledgeable. Committed. Trusted.

(989) 773-6981 (800) 589-6982

www.ga-ins.com

NCG offers 10 regional  
locations including:

Alma, Auburn, Courtland,  
Coldwater, Grand Blanc,  
Greenville, Owosso  
Lansing, Lapeer & Midland

NCG  
CINEMAS

WWW.NCGMOVIES.COM

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



Presenting The North Edition



Sponsored By



# 2015 Soccer Dream Team



**Brevan Bender**  
Alma, sr.  
Forward



**Zach Conrad**  
Valley Lutheran, sr.  
Midfield



**Ty Fulco**  
Bay City Western, sr.  
Forward



**Keegan Hover**  
Gladwin sr.,  
Forward



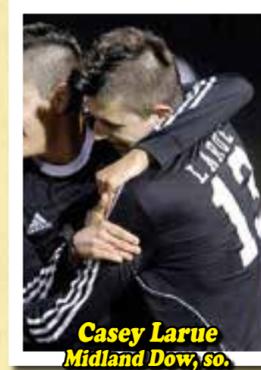
**Dylan Matulis**  
Tri-County, sr.  
Forward



**Alec Pilon**  
Freeland, jr.  
Goalie



**Brandon Svorinic**  
Freeland, jr.,  
Midfield



**Casey Larue**  
Midland Dow, so.  
Forward



**Tyler Terhorst**  
Rockford, jr.  
Forward



**Justin Tobin**  
Midland Dow, jr.  
Defensemen

### SECOND TEAM

Colin Bowers, Lowell  
Jacob Garafalo, Gladwin  
Jacob Hilbrandt, Valley Lutheran  
Adam Moeggenborg, Alma  
Mason Nash, Gladwin

Jacob Rummel, Frankenmuth  
Richard Schroeder, Swan Valley  
Riley Vasold, Freeland  
Ryan Wisniewski, Gladwin  
Jonathan Worden, Frankenmuth

### HONORABLE MENTION

Connor Blue, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy; Brenden Cashen, Mt. Pleasant; Justin Dankert, Heritage; Michael Dean, Midland Dow; Camden Dice, Clare; Max Dykhuizen, Midland; Gabe Eckerle, Midland; Alex Fetner, Midland Dow; Connor Fiolek, Mt. Pleasant; Ethan Fornwall, Heritage; Trevonte Gibson, Heritage; Scott Lehmann, Bay City Central; Baile y Maturen, Heritage; John McCarthy, Mt. Pleasant; Kyle Montgomery, Mt. Pleasant; Jarod Morse, Bay City Western; Justin Neilson, Swan Valley; Jacob Polson, Heritage; Frederik Roth, Mt. Pleasant; Thomas Schwartz, Midland; Josh Stauffer, Midland Dow; Josh Storer, Midland Dow; Ryan Swierzbins, Midland; Stone Tanner, Bay City Western; Alex Topping, Bay City Western; David Vigulla, Roscommon; Alex Wallace, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy; Max Wiersema, Heritage; Brendan Witt, Midland; Hayden Yant, Bay City Central.



Choose Wisely. Choose Sparrow.

Making the right decision is important. Especially when it comes to your health. Sparrow is a leader in every major area of care. Choosing Sparrow means getting clinical expertise, exceptional nurses and breakthrough treatments, unavailable anywhere else in the region. Call 1.800.Sparrow to find your Sparrow Physician today.

Sparrow.org/SparrowCarson • 989.584.3131

Presenting The North Edition



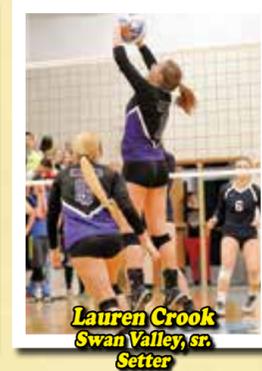
# 2015 Volleyball Dream Team



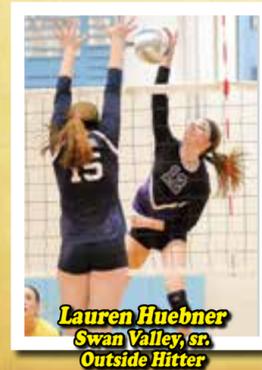
**Olivia Fike**  
North Branch, jr.  
Middle Hitter



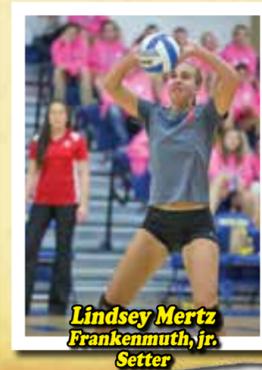
**Hannah Conley**  
Hemlock, sr.  
Outside Hitter



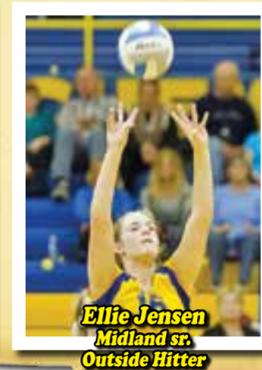
**Lauren Crook**  
Swan Valley, sr.  
Setter



**Lauren Huebner**  
Swan Valley, sr.  
Outside Hitter



**Lindsey Mertz**  
Frankenmuth, jr.  
Setter



**Ellie Jensen**  
Midland sr.  
Outside Hitter

### SECOND TEAM

Jaelynn Block, St. Louis  
Nikki Bauer, Unionville-Sebewaing  
Holly Delacher, Rockford  
Kristen Huebner, Swan Valley  
Madison Miner, North Branch  
Emily Stemple, Hemlock

### HONORABLE MENTION

Nadia Atton, Midland Dow; Anna Buko, Nouvel Catholic Central; Aubree Catlin, Alma; Betsy Cook, Freeland; Abby Dominowski, Freeland; Keri Frahm, Frankenmuth; Averi Gamble, Sacred Heart Academy; Megan Greenup, St. Louis; Kelly Hovey, Sacred Heart Academy; Bregan Klein, Nouvel Catholic Central; Destiny Kuzee, Morley Stanwood; Brooke Linebaugh, Belding; Eduarda Loh, Heritage; Lauren MacGregor, Mt. Pleasant; Bailey McCarthy, Alma; Rachel McNeil, Morley Stanwood; Samantha Nichols, Central Montcalm; Olivia Rademacher, Rockford; Sophie Ruggles, Sacred Heart Academy; Madison Seegraves, Essexville-Garber; Carley Starnes, Coleman; Jenna Switzer, Central Montcalm; Carli Taylor, Mt. Pleasant; Lena Thompson, Tri County; Cassidy Tucker, Coleman; Kaylee Wilcox, Greenville; Greta Wilker, Belding; Emma Wolf, Midland; Reyna Widman, Alma; Kylee Chaffin, Ithaca; Madison Kench, Ithaca

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

**Lux and Whiting Funeral Chapel**  
204 Second St.  
Breckenridge, MI 48615  
Phone: 989-842-3547

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

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

www.luxfuneralhomes.com

IN YOUR HOUR OF DARKNESS LET US BE YOUR LIGHT



Funeral Directors

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

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

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

**Assistant Directors**  
Carl Cecil  
Chris Krebs  
Mike Krebs

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

**THE STORE**  
BEER GAS LOTTERY  
Elm Hall • 989-833-7311  
Open Sun - Thurs 7am - 10pm  
Fri & Sat 7am - 11pm  
\*Deli closes one hour before store closing  
NEW OWNERSHIP!  
Stop In And See BIG MIKE!

**ANDERSON CUSTOM CARPETING**  
Mary Anderson  
Store Manager  
989-681-3536  
603 E. Washington  
St. Louis, MI 48880  
Hours: M-F 8-5:30; Sat. 9-2

Your local agent insures your  
**Life**  
Monte Reichard  
mreicha@fbinsmi.com  
FarmBureauInsurance.com  
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE  
Michigan's Insurance Company  
989-681-6000  
308 W. Washington, St. Louis

# Cross Country State Finals Rockford, Sacred Heart Win Championships

John Raffel  
Sports Scene  
DIVISION 1

The final cross country race this season at Michigan International Speedway was incredibly close.

Rockford had 99 points, edged Northville's 101, and barely won its second straight Division 1 state cross country title on Nov. 7. In the team race, Isaac Harding (15:10.14) was first, Cole Johnson second (15:15.0), Grant Gabriel 19th (16:04.4), Grayson Harding 23rd (16:04.4), and Matthew MacGregor 54th (16:24.9).



Isaac Harding (123) of Rockford won the Division I boys race. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr., High School Sports Scene)

For the overall race, Harding was first and Johnson third for all-state honors.

Being an individual champion and a member of the first-place team in Division 1, "both collectively are the biggest goals I've had for this year," Harding said. "I went for both equally. The best I can do for my team is to go for first individually. They're both equally as good."

Harding nearly broke 15 minutes at Portage this season. "Today wasn't as fast for the times, it seems," he said. "It was windy. But I'm happy. I was racing more for place than I was for time."

It was Harding's first individual state title. "Individual champ was a goal I've had since the start of my freshman year," he said. "I was looking at how I could set myself up for that."

Harding, a senior, had to hold back Mitchell Day of Alpena, who was not running with a team. Day was second overall (15:13.4), three seconds behind Harding. "I had to kick it in the last 400 to 500 meters," Harding said. "I gave it every thing I can to go for the finish."

Sophomore Johnson wasn't that far behind the top two runners. "I thought, individually, I did pretty well," he said. "The end of the race worked out pretty good for me. It strung out, and I was able to kick down some people at the end. From a team standpoint, it really worked out perfect because we won by two points. Every single move that was made in that race mattered."

Johnson and his teammates couldn't celebrate until after the close results were finally announced. "At first, when I crossed the line, I was a little disoriented and couldn't really make sense of what was going on," he said. "A little later, I got a little nervous, because I did well but wasn't sure how the rest of squad did."

It was a personal record for Johnson, who enjoyed having a teammate like Harding. "I'm blessed to have him as a teammate," Johnson

said. "I owe a lot of my success to him. It's awesome to have competition every day at practices and not just at races."

Other area runners earning all-state honors for finishing in the top 30 were East Lansing's Jacob Stanton, who was 10th (15:33.1) and Evan Myer, who was 30th (15:56.9).

"It was pretty good," Stanton said. "I put myself in the top five up until the two mile. After that, the front guys took off and I had to hold on. I started cramping up." His 15:33 was his fourth best time, "which was pretty good, considering the conditions," Stanton said.

He was 31st in the state last season. "It was the mileage I put in during the off-season," Stanton said.

Myer got the last all-state spot. "I'm pretty happy," he said. "I wish our team would have been here. I'd rather win as a team. It was a great honor to be all state. I think my race was okay. It wasn't my best. I think I went out a little too fast, and I've been sick the first part of the race and I wish it would have been higher."

Grand Ledge's Christian Hubaker was 25th (15:49.6). "It was a tough race," Hubaker said. "The wind was really tough when you're out there. I thought it was okay. I pushed myself and gave as much effort as I could."

Hubaker was at the state finals last year but didn't earn all-state honors.

Fenton had three all-staters. Jacob Lee was 19th (15:46.6), Dominic Dimabro was 23rd (15:48.5), and Andrew Bond was 26th (15:51.5).

Rockford was seventh in the girls' Division 1 race, led by Camryn Gabriel, who was 24th in 18:24.5. "I thought it went well," she said. "I thought the conditions were pretty decent. It wasn't cold, rainy, or windy. I did way better than I thought I was going to," she

said. "I PRed and did much better than I did last year."

Wall was at the race last season and said that the experience helped. "It showed me what I was capable of and showed me what the course was like," she said. "I understood what was happening more."

## DIVISION 2 BOYS

Corunna harbored state title hopes in Division 2 boys' cross country but fell a few places short.

Fremont won with 69 points, while Clio finished third (172) and Corunna fifth (174) on Nov. 7 at Michigan International Speedway.

Noah Jacobs, a junior, led Corunna in first (15:30.5) for the team race. He was second overall, behind senior Morgan Beadlescomb of Algonac (15:26.5).

"I ran about what I wanted to," Jacobs said. "I got beat by this kid in the last 300 meters. There was a really big group, and with 600 to go, I took the lead. Around 300 to go, Morgan passed me. I tried to stick but couldn't hang around."

"I'm happy with the season, and I'm happy with how I executed the race," Jacobs said. "I raced the plan but didn't end up with what I wanted to have as the final outcome."

Jacobs and his teammates had hopes of taking first place. "We wanted to win," he said. "We thought if we were on as a team, we could win. It's a pretty big disappointment to me we didn't at least get second and come out with some hardware. We were in a good position to do something like that."

Corunna's Ben Watson was also an all-stater by finishing 12th (16:02.9). "I thought it went pretty well for me individually," he said. "Some of our guys had a rough time during the race, and we weren't able to do what we wanted to as a team. It was good for me overall. One of our guys had problems getting out. Another one of our guys had trouble along the way."

It was still a memorable season for Corunna. "We had a very good season with lots of trophies," Watson said. "It's a very good season, good team. I'd do it again."

Other local all-staters were Dillon Haviland of St. Johns, who was 10th in 16:01;

Ethan Talkjonick of Clio, who was 17th in 16:09; Ben Geer of Mason, who was 21st in 16:13; and Josiah Quinn of St. Johns, who was 27th in 16:18.

Geer earned all-state honors for the first time. "That was a big goal for me," he said. "I felt really good up until the last mile or so, then I started to die a little bit. That's a PR for me, so I'm glad I got a PR. I'm not a very even runner. So my strategy is going out fast, and I had a good start, so that definitely helped me."

## DIVISION 2 GIRLS

The DeWitt girls cross country squad finished fifth out of 27 teams with 224 points in the Division 2 state cross country finals Nov. 7 at Michigan International Speedway.

In the team race, Ashley Shipp was ninth (18:53.6), Hannah Adler 11th (18:54.1), Katie Vitou 28th (19:18.9), Natalie Yabs 71st (20:00.4) and Stephanie Robinson 105th (20:36.6).

With all runners included, DeWitt had two runners in the top 30 for all-state status. Shipp was 10th and Adler 13th.

Shipp is only a freshman and Adler is a sophomore. "It was really good," Shipp said. "Our team stuck together, and we've all been pushing. We've been pushing each other throughout the season."

Shipp had a personal record. "We all had a good race today," she said.

Adler was also at the state finals last season. "It helped me a lot," she said of her past experience. "I knew the course, and I knew which parts I could excel at and which parts I need to work harder at and stick together with my teammates."

Her time was also a personal record. "We all had a good race today," she said. "Adler was also at the state finals last season. "It helped me a lot," she said of her past experience. "I knew the course, and I knew which parts I could excel at and which parts I need to work harder at and stick together with my teammates."

The same day that Hammer became an all-stater, her older brother, Logan, a former runner at Ewart and now a junior at Ferris State University, placed 25th in the NCAA Division II regionals at Evansville, Ind., for all-region honors

"I was proud of my sister," Logan said.

"Going from a Division 4 [Ewart] to a Division 2 school was a big jump for her. Sometimes you jump into that higher competition bracket and you're not sure what's going to happen. She handled it very well."



Hannah Adler (1291) of Dewitt was an all-stater in the Division 2 race. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr., High School Sports Scene)

"Every time I would do a 5K road race, Madison usually ran it, as well. She's been going at it ever since she was little. So seeing her grow and following in her brother's footsteps is very touching."

It didn't surprise Hammer's coach, Chase Gibson, that his runner did this well despite only being a freshman. "Back in August, I could see she was a very confident girl and had the drive to succeed in cross country," he said. "At the beginning of the season, she was in the 22s or 21s. Her heart and love for running will help her to develop."

"To run low 19s at the state was special to see. We'll try to get her to get it down to the 18:40s next year."

Hammer enjoyed the competition. "You just have to keep your head up," she added. "I think I pushed myself the whole season, no matter what race it was."

Alma finished 23rd as a team, led by Morgan Johns in 38th (19:28.8) and Sydney Hanson in 40th (19:30.5).

Powers Catholic had an all-stater with Julia Vanitvelt, who was eighth (18:50.6).

## DIVISION 3 BOYS

Lansing Catholic was getting tired of runner-up finishes in the Division 3 state cross country meet. So this year, it decided to do something about it.

Lansing Catholic was runner-up in 2010, 2011, and 2014. This season, the Cougars won it all. They scored 124 points to edge Benzie Central, which had 127.

Shepherd was fourth at 171.

"We knew it was going to be a close one," Lansing Catholic coach Tim Simpson said. "Any time you run against Benzie, you know they're going to come ready. Our guys were ready. We raced good all year. They all came through today. Our six and seven ran well. We did what we've been doing all year."

In the team scoring for the Cougars, Ethan Markey was 13th (16:25.1), Will Peters 17th (16:32.10), Ryan Schroeder 18th (16:33.5), Eric Warriner 29th (16:59.1), and Sammy Migaldi 47th (17:10.0).

"It's much better getting first," the coach said. "We've had some good teams get seconds and some individual champs."

"I got out fast, which is what I wanted to do," Markey said. "I stuck with the pack like I was supposed to. [Winning the state title] means everything."

"He's put in a lot of miles, probably even before he got into high school," Simpson said. "He started off with guys when he was a freshman who were pretty good. He went from them and has worked really hard. He went to a camp over the summer. He raced consistently all season."

"I don't think I ran terribly, but I guess I

was expecting something a little better," Schroeder said. "You can't be mad about the win."

"He was our second best guy basically during the season," Simpson said. "He trained hard during the summer. He went to a camp and ran consistently all season. He improved a lot over his freshman year and had a strong season."

Area all-staters included Evan Goodell, a junior, of St. Louis who was sixth (15:59.9); Ryan Hildebrandt of Hemlock, who was seventh (16:02.8); Walker Priest of Shepherd, who was 14th (16:16.2); D'Anthony Goodwin of Carrollton, who was 19th (16:23.1); Lansing Catholic's Markey, who was 20th (16:25.1); Peters, who was 26th (16:32.1); Schroeder, who was 28th (16:33.5); and Ben Haupt, who was 29th (16:35.2).

"I could have run harder, but everybody did their part," Peters said. "All the work paid off."

"It's our depth," Schroeder said. "We have a really young team, and we'll have the same starting five coming back next year."

Peters is a freshman. "For a freshman, to make all-state is remarkable," Simpson said. "Not many freshmen do that. He was the second to finish among freshmen. He's real competitive and really good."

Shepherd coach Rick Cahoon said that Priest, a senior, "has done an awesome job all four years. I didn't think the course was extremely fast. I thought his time was pretty good. Overall, I thought it was a great race. He's been our leader all year and was on Saturday, as well."

Goodell's coach is Jay Puffpaff, who noted that his runner was 15th last season at the state finals and was sixth this time. "Evan has put in a lot of miles and has worked extremely hard," Puffpaff said. "He continues to focus in on his weaknesses to try to get to the next level. He put together a great season and went after it at the state."

Hildebrandt capped off a strong season. He is a two-time all-stater in cross country now. He finished 12th last year in 16:15. "Ryan

and his teammate Landon Honsinger really formed a bond that started in June of this past summer," Hemlock coach George Drown said. "Every day, these two trained together and pushed each other. Landon just happened to have a bad day on the wrong day, or otherwise I'd be talking about him as an all-state runner, as well. Landon's average time on the season was 16:38 to 16:40. I think this is important to point out, because I'm not sure either of them would have had as successful of a season without the other."



Amber Gall of Shepherd (1635) finished third in the Division 3 race. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr., High School Sports Scene)

"The pair finished 1-2 overall on five different occasions this year. The ability to push each other elevated their level of fitness. Ryan is a driven individual, and after he started off the season winning his first four races, he had a mindset to try and win every race he entered. Of course, some of the races we went to had elite fields [MSU, Portage, regional], but

nonetheless, he would go with the leaders. It was a strategy that I didn't really like, because I felt if we paced ourselves a little better that first mile, he might be able to run better in the middle. After awhile, I gave up the fight and decided to embrace his racing style."

"As of right now, he is still one of the best runners in Hemlock history. He has been a lot of fun to coach. I'm already looking forward to seeing what he does this spring."

## DIVISION 3 GIRLS

Traverse City St. Francis proved too much for area schools to catch in the Division 3 state cross country girls race at Michigan International Speedway on Nov. 7.

St. Francis had four runners in the top 11 for a score of 64. Benzie Central was second at 141, while Shepherd was third at 181, Lansing Christian fourth at 202, and Ithaca fifth at 209.

Amber Gall of Shepherd was third overall (18:24.6), and her teammate Haley Hegenauer was 17th (19:17.0).

Clare was 13th as a team but had two of the area's top runners, with Jasmine Harper in seventh (18:24.6) and Lainey Veenkant in eighth (18:54.9).

Olivia Theis of Lansing Catholic was ninth (18:58.3), while teammate Abigail Gilmore was 13th (19:13.8), and Lauren Cleary was 19th (19:22.4). "[Theis] is very competitive but does everything we ask," coach Tim Simpson said. "She doesn't want to take a day off. She's a really good racer."

"I was pretty happy with the three of us," Gilmore said. "We started out pretty much together. That's what our coach told us to do, and we followed with his plan. Olivia left us at the two-mile mark. Lauren and I stayed together and pushed each other for the rest of the race."

The top four Lansing Catholic runners return next season. "We have a few fast freshmen coming in next year, so we are excited," Gilmore, who has been all-state three seasons, said.

"I was expecting a little faster today," Cleary said. "Conditions obviously weren't that good."

Continued On Page 16

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

PLUMBING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING • ELECTRICAL  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**Powell's Service, Inc.**  
760 East Monroe Road (M-46)  
St. Louis, Michigan 48880  
Phone: (989) 681-5751  
Fax: (989) 681-3583  
1-800-576-3555  
**DAN SHERWOOD**  
Owner/Manager **YORK**  
It's time to get comfortable.

**ST. LOUIS MARATHON**  
NEW DIESEL FUEL  
**Cool Drinks & Sweet Treats!**  
"One Stop Shop" **989-681-2926**

**AMANDO'S SERVICE**  
"Your Hispanic Mechanic"  
Complete Auto Repair  
Talk To Amando or Dave  
330 Pine Avenue  
Alma, MI 48801  
989.463.4715  
agarcia3874@gmail.com

**Ric's FOOD CENTER**  
7 am - 10 pm Everyday!  
1006 E. Center Street • Ithaca, MI 48847  
Phone: (989) 875-4907 • Fax: (989) 875-8702  
Proud of our Yellowjackets!

**MAYAN INSURANCE AGENCY**  
THE MAYAN AGENCY  
Merrill, MI 48637  
(989) 643-7207  
(800) 646-2926  
www.mayanagency.com

**Northwestern Mutual**  
114 E. Broadway Street • Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Ryan D. Hohlbein**  
Financial Representative  
989 773 6433 office • 989 621 4990 cell  
989 773 6477 fax  
ryan.hohlbein@nm.com  
www.nm.com/ryanhohlbein

**Kingsley Insurance Group**  
Rich and Louanne Kingsley  
800-783-0817  
Alma 116 W. Superior Street Suite 1 989-463-5347  
St. Johns 1000 E. Stugis St Suite 12 989-224-3505  
Lansing 526 S. Creyts Rd. Suite C. 517-489-2257  
Auto / Home Boat / Umbrella  
www.KingsleyInsuranceGroup.com

**Sweet Rickedy Redos & Antiques**  
989-463-2020  
118 Superior Street  
Alma, MI 48801  
Rickedyredos@icloud.com  
facebook.com/sweetrickedyredos

**Mark Powell**  
Owner  
**Powell**  
Frame & Collision  
State Certified • Free Estimates  
Monday-Friday • 8 to 5  
330 West Wright  
Shepherd, MI 48883  
Phone: (989) 828-6553



**Pine River DENTAL CARE**  
Where excellent care, the latest technology, and friendliness live  
Jenna Putman, D.D.S. • Brian Putman, D.D.S.  
610 N. Pine River Street • Ithaca, Michigan 48847  
**(989) 875-2888** www.pineriverdentalcare.com

**Mid-Michigan Dental Excellence**  
306 North State Street  
Alma, MI 48801  
**(989) 463 - 4036**  
www.midmichigandental excellence.com • Find us on Facebook!

**Continued From Page 15**  
I never ran this course before, so I was a little unfamiliar. I didn't know what to expect.  
"It's really great, it's good to have teammates there with you for a lot of the race," Cleary continued. "They're very supportive. It's fun to have a great team."

The Clare runners were excited with the results. "I was happy with it," Harper said. "It was the same spot where I was seeded. I ran hard throughout it all."

"Me and Jasmine have run close all year," Veenkant, a freshman, said. "I was pretty happy. I like the weather today [in the 50s and sunny]. I passed one runner at the end. It felt good the whole way."

Defending champion Ithaca had an all-stater with Courtney Allen, who was 18th (19:18.1). She was the only all-stater for the Yellowjackets. Also scoring for Ithaca in the team race were Amelia Freestone, who was 33rd (20:00.2), Alyssa Mankey, who was 38th (20:10.9), Kurstin Kalisek, who was 61st (20:39.3), and Blaire Showers, who was 62nd (20:39.7).

"It was hard because of where we were in the beginning and where our box was," Allen said. "We were closed in, so I had a lot of ground to make up for the first mile to get into position."

The Yellowjackets realized it wasn't going to be easy to repeat. "It's not what we were hoping for," Allen said. "But one of our girls has been sick, so that kind of hurt us. It was sad for the seniors. It's a letdown, but there were a lot of good teams this year."

Allen and Firestone will be returning.

Allen was not pleased with her time. "I was hoping to be faster," she said. "I got out too slow, and I couldn't make it up fast enough."

Brooklyn Filipiak of St. Louis, a freshman, was 11th (19:05.1). "She's a fierce competitor and worked extremely hard this season," Sharks coach Jay Puffpaff said. "We're excited about her future. She continues to focus in on improving in practice."

**DIVISION 4 BOYS**

Lansing Christian was fifth as a team in Division 4 boys cross country state finals on Nov. 7 at Michigan International Speedway with 203. Saugatuck was first (51).

Lansing Christian's lone all-stater was Andrew Carlock 27th (16:58.7).

Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart was ninth as a team and Beal City was 10th.

Sacred Heart's top runner was Sam

Neyer who was 35th (17:17). Beal City all-staters are Ethan Schafer, who was third (16:30.0) and Alex Taylor (17:08.3), who was 30th.



D4 Champ Evert's Santana Scott. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr., High School Sports Scene)

Schafer, a senior, "got better every year," Beal City coach Dave King said. "That race on Saturday was a lifetime best for him. He's an extremely hard worker and has gotten better through high school. We lost four seniors off a team that won a state championship last year. The fact we made it back this year and finished 10th with several new kids was partly attributed to Ethan's leadership to that group."

Taylor is a freshman.  
"He ran a lifetime best at the state finals," King said. "Alex has been an extremely hard worker. He's somebody you'll be watching over the next few years."

Matt Bartels of Saginaw Nouvel was 28th (17:03.3). He had to overcome physical and various struggles to get a chance to run.

"I didn't start training until September," he said. "I was glad to be running."

Evert's Santana Scott, who shaved the top part of his head as a sign of team bonding, won the race in 16:05.7.

"I was real excited to see Santana win it,"

Evert coach Kevin Mills said. "He always comes through in the big races. That's excitement there."

**DIVISION 4 GIRLS**

Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart got the job done in winning the Division 4 girls state title.

The Irish had a 52 to finish well ahead of Harbor Springs (119), Saugatuck (124) and Beal City (256).

In team standings, the Irish netted five individual spots in the top 20. Alexis McConnell was fourth (18:55.6), Bailey McConnell fifth (19:11.4), Scout Nelson ninth (19:19.4), Cammie McConnell 14th (19:31.2) and Lauren MacDonald 20th (19:59.2).

"I thought it went really well and our team did very well," Alexis said. "It was fun seeing how all my sisters came in. I'm excited for what will be in store next year."

For most of the season, the Irish had thoughts of state title contention, Alexis recalled.

"It was going through our heads most of the season when we saw how much work we had to put in and how it was paying off and that we were continually getting faster."

Alexis is the oldest of the three sisters. "It's fun," she smiled.

For individual standings, Alex was fourth, Bailey fifth, Nelson 10th, Cammie 17th and MacDonald 26th for all-state status.

"It was good to have each other pushing especially when we're so close," Bailey said. "It was nice and cool and there was a breeze."

"We were planning on trying to win. We had won most of our other races. We got in the miles we needed to and pushed through everything."

Sacred Heart coach Mark Zitzelsberger said his girls ran the way he had hoped.

"At our regional last week, we put seven girls under 20 minutes and that was our goal today," he said. "We were a little short on that. We had five girls under 20 minutes. We're very excited about that. We've been looking forward to today all season. I've been waiting two years for these girls to move up from junior high. They're tough as nails."

Alexis McConnell is a sophomore, while the other runners are freshmen and sophomores. But Zitzelsberger cautioned about suggesting a dynasty.



Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart accepts the Division 4 state trophy for girls cross country. (Photo by Gary Williams Jr., High School Sports Scene)

"But Harbor Springs (second place team) and Saugatuck (third) are young," he said. "Now we have a target on our backs."

For the Beal City girls, who won state titles in 2013 and 2014 and took fourth this year, Hannah Steffke was 10th in the team race (19:19.7) while Kayla Bierschbach was 17th (19:52.1), Madeline Steffke 10th (20:05.8), Brenda Faber 51st (21:14.2), and Ariel Salter 55th (21:14.2).

For individual all-state honors, Hannah Steffke was 11th, Kayla Bierschbach 23rd and Madeline Steffke 30th.

Hannah Steffke was all-state four years. "She's had a great career," Beal City coach Dave King said. "She's been a stalwart for us. It's been phenomenal. We've had two state championships and four top five finishes in her four years of high school. She's been extremely important to us. Her season this year was successful. Her race (at the state finals) was not her best race of the year. It was an excellent race and gave her that fourth all-state finish."

Bierschbach was a transfer from San Diego.

"Her father was our school record-holder in the mile for about 20 years," King said. "It was broken this past spring. She and her mother moved back to Beal City. She stepped in and was our No. 2 runner. She did a great job for us all year. Her best out in California had been as a freshman at 20:09. She ran as low as 19:21 for us this season."

Her race at the state meet was 19:52. In her first season in Michigan, she's an all-stater."

Madeline Steffke, Hannah's sister, was an all-stater. Hannah is a middle sister. Emily was a four-time all-stater who graduated last year. She's a red-shirt freshman at Michigan State.

"Madeline was close (to all-state) last year," King said. "She's probably headed for two more. She works extremely hard and keeps getting better. She's 40 seconds better as a sophomore than she was last year as a freshman."

"It was a tough day," Madeline said. "We came through, we did pretty good for what we could do this year. We're looking forward to what we can accomplish in the future."

"Our whole team tried hard," Hannah said. "We didn't have our best races today, but we gave it our all. It was still a good end to a good season. I'm proud of our team."

Other area all-staters in the top 30 included Kensington Garvey of Montabella 13th (19:23.4), and "she had a good race," Montabella coach Jeff Kauffman said. "She ran it a little conservative. She was way behind at the beginning and even at the mile, and she ended up running people down and finished 13th overall. She had a good middle part of the race. Her time was off her PR but overall she was happy with her race."

Chloe Brittain of Breckenridge was 14th (19:25.6).

Presenting The North Edition

# 2015 Cross Country Dream Team

**BOYS DREAM TEAM**  
Isaac Harding, Sr. Rockford (Runner of the Year)  
Evan Goodell, Jr. St. Louis  
Ryan Hilbrandt, Sr. Hemlock  
Cole Johnson, So. Rockford  
Mac LaBelle, Jr. Mt. Pleasant  
Walker Priest, Sr. Shepherd

**SECOND TEAM**  
Grant Gabriel, Rockford  
D'Anthony Goodwin, Carrollton  
Grayson Harding, Rockford  
Landon Honsinger, Hemlock  
Matthew MacGregor, Rockford  
Ethan Taljonick, Clio

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Loren Appold, Bay City Western  
Jordan Eisengruber, Heritage  
Ben Haupt, Clare  
Parker Hayes, Beaverton  
Mark Jacobs, Big Rapids  
Connor Legge, Midland  
Dallas Mora, Cedar Springs  
Ethan Schafer, Beal City  
Kyle Schwieman, Flushing  
Spencer Waldman, Bullock Creek  
Antonio Wenglikowski, Bay City Western  
Kody Yorton, Clio

**GIRLS DREAM TEAM**  
Jasmine Harper, Jr. Clare (Runner of the Year)  
Amber Gall, Fr. Shepherd  
Camryn Gabriel, So. Rockford  
Jessi Lindstrom, Jr. Flushing  
Alexis McConnell, Jr. Sacred Heart Academy  
Emily Wall, Jr. Midland Dow

**SECOND TEAM**  
Paige Deiterling, Flushing  
Brooklyn Filipiak, St. Louis  
Rachel Kempf, Heritage  
Larissa Medich, Rockford  
Anastasia Tucker, Midland Dow  
Lainey Veenkant, Clare

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Courtney Allen, Ithaca  
Chloe Brittain, Breckenridge  
Amelia Freestone, Ithaca  
Kensington Garvey, Montabella  
Madison Hammer, Big Rapids  
Sydney Hanson, Alma  
Haley Hegenauer, Shepherd  
Kylie Hutchinson, Shepherd  
Morgan Johnson, Alma  
Bailey McConnell, Sacred Heart Academy  
Cammie McConnell, Sacred Heart Academy; Scout Nelson, Sacred Heart Academy  
Hannah Steffke, Beal City  
Whitney Taylor, Mt. Pleasant  
Ericka Vander Lende, Rockford.

**Isaac Harding**  
Rockford, sr.  
RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**Jasmine Harper,**  
Clare, jr.  
RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**WIDEMAN APPRAISAL SERVICE**  
Full Line Of Appraisals

1002 E. Center St. Ithaca, MI 48847  
Office: (989) 875-4544  
James J. Wideman Owner  
Service (989) 875-4838  
www.widemanappraisal.com  
E-mail: jim@widemanappraisal.com

**CRIPPEN MANUFACTURING COMPANY**  
Providing Quality Grain Equipment Since 1924!

4000 WOODSIDE DRIVE ST LOUIS, MICHIGAN 48880  
PHONE 989.681.4323  
www.crippenmfg.com

**C & S Steel** PRECISION MACHINE & MFG., INC.

203 Industrial Pkwy. Ave B - Ithaca  
1102 Industrial Pkwy. Ave. A - Ithaca

Ph: 989-875-5145  
Ph: 989-875-2359  
Fx: 989-875-4754  
Fx: 989-875-4615

"We Care Enough To Make A Difference"  
Helping people stay home with dignity and independence.

**Daily Living HomeCare, Inc.**  
Non-Medical In-Home Services  
145 E. Center St. P.O. Box 133  
Ithaca, MI 48847

Kim Hodge, President  
Locally Owned & Operated  
www.dailylivinghomecare.com

Phone: (989) 875-7405  
Fax: (989) 875-8685  
Toll Free: (800) 834-1915

Good Luck Panther!

**DLP FINANCIAL GROUP**  
RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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

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

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

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

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

**OBGYN4U**  
The Center For Women's Healthcare

Your Health. Our Passion!

The Center For Women's HealthCare  
http://cfwhc.com  
989.584.3107

**AMERICA'S CHOICE REALTY L.L.C.**

108 E. Center St. Suite A, Ithaca  
989-875-5148 • www.homesandland.com

When Buying or Selling Your Choice... Your Home...

Marci Browne Broker - Owner 989-620-1027  
Michelyn Crowley Realtor 989-388-1750  
Sherri Hassbrook Realtor 989-875-4649  
Amber Weburg Realtor 989-620-7918

**EFAW BUILDERS**  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

FULL SERVICE BUILDING LICENSED & INSURED  
ANDREMODELING Charles Efaw  
Cell: (989) 763-0916 efawbuilders@msn.com

**ROTH ELECTRIC SOUND**

System Optimization  
Rentals & Installation  
Certified Design

Steve Roth  
1708 N. Fancher St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
Phone: (989) 779-8828  
Cell: (989) 621-0628  
steve@rothsound.com

BOSE Professional Systems  
www.rothsound.com

**ALLEY T**  
SCREEN PRINTING & EMBROIDERY

PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS  
SCREEN PRINTING  
EMBROIDERY

LOGO DIGITIZING  
ON SIGHT DESIGNER  
SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR

P: (989) 875-4793 F: (989) 875-7148 www.alleyt.com M-TH 8-5 F 8-5:30 SAT 9-1  
designs@alleyt.com 103 S Jeffrey Ave. Ithaca, MI 48847

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

DAVID RAYBURN

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

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

Serving Mid-Michigan • Fully Insured

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

**DAN SEELEY**  
Lawn Mowing and Trimming • Trees and Shrub Care  
Spring and Fall Clean-Ups • Fertilizing

**WEATHERBY'S PLUMBING & HEATING**  
Ryan Weatherby  
Master Plumber Boiler Installer  
Mechanical Contractor

1120 E. Superior  
Alma, MI 48801  
Phone 989-463-5746 Fax 989-466-5661

# Fike, North Branch Continue Winning Ways; Valley Lutheran, Hemlock Lose In Regionals

## Scott Keyes Sports Scene

North Branch's Oliva Fike, only a junior, is carrying the torch for the Broncos this season, under long-time coach Jim Fish.

North Branch has proven to be one of the premier programs in Michigan over the past 15 years, and this year Fike played a huge role in the Broncos making it back to Battle Creek and the Class B state final.

The Broncos defeated Cadillac 3-1 (25-19, 25-21, 20-25, 25-15) in a state quarterfinal Nov. 17 at Gladwin to advance to the semifinal round.

Allyson Severance led North Branch with 24 kills, 16 digs, and three blocks, and Fike added 20 kills and five blocks.

"Olivia has played really well the whole tournament," Fish said. "In her last two matches, she has 45 kills and two errors. That's unheard of. She's a phenomenal athlete and has learned how to move around."

"And she can just simply hit over people. She's our junior captain."

Against Swan Valley a week earlier in the regional final, Fike was equally impressive, with 25 kills. She rallied the Broncos after they fell behind, losing the first game to the Vikings.

"We were tested tonight," Fike said. "You have to give the girls all the credit in the world. We were down after the first game but we came back, fought hard, and got the win. That really tells you something about our team."

### Valley Lutheran Falls in Regional

Valley Lutheran lost to Unionville-Sebewaing 25-15, 25-16, 25-17 in a Class C semifinal regional played in Millington.

Despite the loss, Valley Lutheran volleyball had a solid season. For the first time in team history, it won both its conference title and its district title in back-to-back years.

The Chargers swept St. Charles 25-17, 25-20, and 25-18 to win the team's third district championship in four years.

The Chargers spread out the stat sheet, as they do most nights, but were led in by Olivia Washabaugh with nine kills and two blocks. Grace Heath was not far behind with eight,

while Amy Peck recorded 32 assists, six digs, and four kills.

Kendall Schauss added 16 digs and five kills, and Alisha Schuman had five aces and 15 digs.

### Hemlock Surprises

After jumping over a hurdle in districts by defeating St. Louis, Hemlock took another step forward by nearly defeating New Lothrop in a Class C regional semifinal game.

Hemlock lost to the Hornets 13-25, 25-19, 25-21, 20-25, 15-17.

Hemlock's Hannah Conley did all she could to help the Huskies get a win, finishing with 25 kills, eight service points, and five digs. Sam Krauss had 29 assists, four blocks, and eight digs, while Emily Stemple recorded 22 digs.

Hemlock (21-20-5) finished the season second in the Tri-Valley Conference and graduates five seniors.

Against St. Louis, the Huskies overcame the Sharks - and a 2-1 deficit - in a five-set thriller.

Conley led the Huskies with a career-high 28 kills, as well as 12 service points and three blocks. Her former kills record was 23.



North Branch defeated Swan Valley in four sets to win the Class B regional held at Essexville Garber High School. (Photo by Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)



Midland Dow lost to Walled Lake Western 35-14 in a Division 2 regional finals game played in Walled Lake. The Chargers finished the year 10-2. (Photo by Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)

# Title Hopes Dashed Midland Dow, Freeland Lose In Regional Finals; Nouvel Loses Heartbreaker To McBain

## Scott Keyes Sports Scene

Three teams. One dream. Unfortunately for two of those teams their dreams ended during the regional finals, while the other saw their season end on the goaline on their own field during a district finals game.

Regardless of what transpired, each team should be proud of their efforts and hold their heads high on another great season of high school football.

### Midland Dow Falls To Walled Lake

Dow ends the season at 10-2 after reeling off 10 straight wins

and capturing its first district title since 1997.

Dow quarterback Bruce Mann completed 13 of 32 passes for 255 yards and two long touchdowns - a 77-yarder to Mike Robb in the first quarter and a 59-yarder to Devontae Stine in the fourth.

The Chargers' Robb will leave Dow high as one of the school's most decorated athletes.

The 6-foot-6 Robb, Dow's leading receiver, had six catches for 125 yards, while Mann had 15 carries for a net 59 yards as Dow's leading rusher.

Four seniors led Dow in tackling - Josh Riepma with a team-high 13, Brad Drenckpohl

and Justin Cook with six each, and Spencer Hulbert with five. Dow graduates 19 seniors, but will return Mann, and several other key players next year.

### Freeland Nearly Knocks Of Lcc In Regionals

Freeland (11-1) had its season halted in a regional for the second straight season as a Lansing Catholic defense that struggled in the opening half made enough plays to pull out the win.

The Cougars were clinging to a 18-16 lead prior to that play and leaning on their defense to come up with a big stop as it did in the fourth quarter a week ago in a win over Portland. Freeland had the ball on the Lansing Catholic 46 after a short punt, LCC recovered the fumble on the first play of the possession and returned it for the score.

Nouvel lost the ball twice on fumbles and committed nine penalties for 75 yards.

Cam Fluder led Nouvel with 38 yards rushing, while Jason Russell caught five passes for 70 yards. Santino Rosales caught five for 63.

Freeland drove and scored on Max Kubiak's 16-yard TD with 40.2 seconds left. Tony but Poljan recovered the onside kick to seal the win.

### Nouvel So Close

Despite committing Nouvel nine penalties and two turnovers, the Panthers still held the lead in overtime. However Nouvel's season ended in overtime when McBain senior Seth Barnette was stopped but stretched far enough over the goaline to score a two-point conversion and give the Ramblers a 20-19 win in a Division 7 district final football game Friday at Nouvel.

The Cardinals have fallen victim to five-time state champion Ithaca for 10 straight seasons, including 38-0 in Week 6.

However, they ran into a different roadblock Nov. 14 in the Division 8 regional final, falling on the short end of a 32-6 stick to unbeaten and top-ranked Our Lady of the Lakes.

"I'm still very proud of this senior group. They had three great years where they only lost a combined four games the past two years," reminded coach Karl Schmutge, who has several third- and fourth-year varsity veterans on his roster. "We ran

# Swan Valley Falls In Regional Finals To North Branch

## Scott Keyes Sports Scene

When you have a passion for your sport, a natural inclination is to want to share it with others.

Swan Valley High School's Lauren Huebner has enjoyed a solid four years as a V-king athlete, winning a state championship in the 300-meter hurdles in track and field this past spring. And although she isn't your prototypical volleyball player because of her height, her vertical jump can't be matched by many in the area, and it helps her to excel on the volleyball court. While shining on the court, she's watched those around her get better.

It came to an end after four years, three district championships, and one regional title. On Nov. 12, Huebner and the

Vikings finished a record-breaking season, when they lost in the regional final to North Branch in a game played at Garber High School.

Huebner said that, despite the loss, her career at Swan Valley was one she will never forget. "We have done a lot of great things over the last four years," she said.

"Four great seasons, four great teams, four great groups of teammates. But I'm just so sad it's over; that I won't be getting ready to play again."

Huebner did her part with 14 kills, seven digs, and six service points in the 3-1 loss to North Branch.

Swan Valley coach Kristin Palmer was proud of her team's effort on the night. "We came out very confident and won that first game," she said. "We had North

Branch on the ropes there for a little while. I couldn't be prouder of how the girls battled. This group of seniors, they have three district championships, a regional championship, a conference championship. They set the school record for wins."

Long time North Branch coach James Fish was extremely impressed with the effort of the Vikings. "They made us work for every point tonight," he said. "They have 58 wins this season. They are that good of a team."

Olivia Fike, a 6-foot-1 junior, led North Branch with 25 kills, while 6-foot freshman Allyson Severance added 12 kills. Junior Madae Miner had 54 assists.

For Swan Valley, Lauren Huebner finished with 14 kills, while her sister, Kristen Huebner, added 11 kills. Larissa Crook led the team with 33 assists.

After the loss, Huebner took time to reflect. "It's bittersweet," she said. "We played a great game out there and left everything we had on the court. You can't ask for anything more than that."



The Swan Valley volleyball team's season ended after losing to North Branch 3-1 in the Class B regional finals played Nov. 12 at Essexville Garber High School. (Photo by Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)

# Michigan Lutheran Seminary's Road Ends In Regional Finals

## Dan Stickratt Sports Scene

WATERFORD —Michigan Lutheran Seminary's football program knows all about state powerhouses playing in the Tri-Valley Conference West Division.

The Cardinals have fallen victim to five-time state champion Ithaca for 10 straight seasons, including 38-0 in Week 6.

However, they ran into a different roadblock Nov. 14 in the Division 8 regional final, falling on the short end of a 32-6 stick to unbeaten and top-ranked Our Lady of the Lakes.

"I'm still very proud of this senior group. They had three great years where they only lost a combined four games the past two years," reminded coach Karl Schmutge, who has several third- and fourth-year varsity veterans on his roster. "We ran

into a very good team today. But that's the way it goes. I think this group of seniors put us back on the map and had us contending for titles again."

Michigan Lutheran Seminary finished the season 10-2 after posting an 11-2 mark last season, when they reached the Division 7 state semifinal round. The Cardinals have reached the postseason in six of the past eight campaigns and 11 times in 20 seasons.

The Cardinals outscored the opposition, 457-178, this season, averaging 38.1 points an outing while allowing just 14.9 points. They posted two shutouts, held four opponents to under 10 points, and limited eight of 12 opponents to under 20 points.

The program has sported six straight winning seasons and back-to-back campaigns with double digit wins - the first time in school history that has occurred. The only other seasons

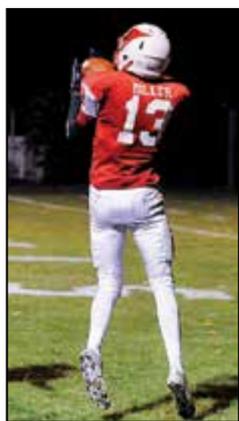
that Seminary won 10 or more games were 1986 (12-1, Class D state champion) and 1994 (10-1).

In its final game of 2015, Seminary could only muster a 30-yard touchdown run by junior Casey Williams with 7:01 left in the second quarter, but the two-point conversion pass failed. That cut the deficit to 22-6.

The Cardinals turned the ball over twice via interception and watched the Lakers recover an onside kick in the second half. Cade Kestner was 9 for 19 passing for 90 yards, while Williams rushed for 62 yards on eight carries.

Seminary moved the ball inside the Lakers' 25-yard line on three occasions in the fourth quarter, including down to the five-yard line as time expired.

"We have come a long ways the past couple of years. We've won [21 games] the past two seasons, and not a lot of programs in our area can say that. I hope the underclassmen can keep up the hard work and keep us at the level where we can make the playoffs every year and contend for [championships]."



Michigan Lutheran Seminary advanced to the Division 8 regional finals, but its quest of winning a state title came up short after losing to Waterford our Lady of Lakes 32-6 in a game played in Waterford. MLS finished the season 10-2. (Photo by Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)

## COVENANT CENTER FOR ADVANCED ORTHOPAEDICS

—specializing in—

**SPORTS INJURIES • SHOULDER REPLACEMENTS • ADVANCED SHOULDER SURGERY  
JOINT PAIN • HIP AND KNEE REVISIONS • TOTAL HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENTS  
FRACTURES • ACETABULUM AND PELVIC FRACTURES • NONUNION FRACTURES  
COMPLEX INTRA-ARTICULAR JOINT FRACTURES**

 <b>Anthony de Bari, MD</b> Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained	 <b>B.C. de Beaubien, MD</b> Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained in Adult Reconstruction	 <b>Colleen Linehan, MD</b> Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon	 <b>Michael Tucker, DO</b> Board Eligible Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained in Orthopaedic Trauma	 <b>Bryon Chamberlain, MD</b> Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon	 <b>Jason Maxa, PA-C</b>	 <b>Lindsey Pilling, PA-C</b>
<b>SAGINAW</b> 4701 TOWNE CENTRE, SUITE 301 <b>989.921.3500</b>	<b>SAGINAW</b> 3875 BAY RD., SUITE 2-5 <b>989.793.1372</b>	<b>SAGINAW</b> 800 COOPER, SUITE 5 <b>989.583.7450</b>	<b>FRANKENMUTH</b> 600 NORTH MAIN ST. <b>989.921.3500</b>	<b>SAGINAW</b> 1549 WASHINGTON <b>989.921.3500</b>		



Our underlying mission is to tip the scales of sport in your favor. If there is an advantage to be had, we're the ones to find it. Our proven methods safely push you past your limits - increasing the competitive skills required to be a champion.

2205 Jefferson Avenue, Midland, MI 989.923.1952  
athleticrepublicmidland@gmail.com  
[www.athleticrepublicmidland.com](http://www.athleticrepublicmidland.com)

**Student Athlete of the Month**  
is awarded 4 weeks of performance training at Athletic Republic.  
Your hard work won't go unnoticed.

Mention this add by saying #thirsty and receive a FREE Athletic Republic water bottle!



The Midland Community Center has been serving Midland and the surrounding area since 1919. We have become the premier wellness and recreation center in the Great Lakes Bay Region by continually adapting in order to meet the needs of a community that is always growing and changing. This is achieved through our diverse, high-quality programs, services, and community events.

[www.midlandcommunitycenter.org](http://www.midlandcommunitycenter.org)

## AARON WALDRON TRUCKING INC. LLC

7480 West Polk Road, Alma, MI 48801  
Local 989-466-2300  
Or Toll free 866-507-2300



- Haulers of Agricultural Commodities
- Van and Flatbed Hauling
- Temporary Dumpster Service
- 10, 15, 20 & 30 Yard Containers



PO Box 499  
485 S. Hemlock Rd.  
Hemlock, MI 48626

Plants: Hemlock Elevator • Frutchey Bean - Oakley • Frutchey Bean - Saginaw  
Auburn Grain • Auburn Fertilizer

### Hemlock Elevator Agronomy Sales

Hemlock Office 989-642-5291 - Fax: 989-642-2259

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

## FIRST CONTRACTING INCORPORATED

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

### Carman's Tree Service & Stump Removal

**Gary Carman**  
Owner/Operator

8426 N. Wheeler  
Wheeler, MI 48662  
**(989) 330-9782 cell**  
25yrs. Experienced

Free Estimates  
License/Insured  
Taking Pride in our Exceptional "Clean up!"



## ALDERMANS INCORPORATED

Lennon, Michigan 810-621-4201  
[www.aldermans.com](http://www.aldermans.com)

### Kubota RTVX900

4 wheel drive Diesel  
Sale \$13,600



\*Minimum 12% A.P.R. financing for up to 48 months on purchases of new Kubota equipment (excluding T, GH, G, F & VS Series) is available to qualified purchasers from participating dealers' in-stock inventory through 9/30/2015. Example: A 48 month monthly installment payment term at 0% A.P.R. requires 48 payments of \$2000 per \$10,000 financed. 0% A.P.R. interest is available to customers if no dealer documentation preparation fee is charged. Dealer charge for document preparation fee shall be in accordance with state laws. Inclusion of usable equipment may result in a higher blended A.P.R. 0% A.P.R. and low rate financing may not be available with customer finance return offers. Financing is available through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., 3100 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503, subject to credit approval. Some restrictions apply. Offer expires 9/30/2015. See Alderman's in Lennon for details. Original equipment may be shown.

# Lowell Returns To Ford Field; Dean Amasses 200-Win Mark For Career

**Butch Harmon Sports Scene**

Lowell football coach Noel Dean has had some pretty significant wins during his high school coaching career, and win number 200 will rank right up there.

Dean won his 200th as head coach of Lowell when the Red Arrows defeated powerhouse Muskegon, 36-7, in the Division 2 regional championship game.

Lowell put together one of its most complete efforts of the season, as the offense struck early and often and the defense stymied one of the most potent offenses in the state.

For Dean, the win was a special mile marker in what has been a historic run of football excellence in the Showboat City. Since taking over as Lowell head coach in 1996, Dean has led Lowell to a 200-36 record.

"There are just so many people who have helped our family and helped our

community and been a part of this," Dean said. "To focus on 200 relative to Noel Dean is kind of ridiculous."

Lowell football, which had a strong tradition before Dean took over, has seen the program soar to even greater heights during his tenure.

The Red Arrows have had a tradition of outstanding quarterbacks under Dean, including Keith Nichol, Mark Catlin, and Gabe Dean. This year's Lowell team is led by another dynamic quarterback, Ryan Stevens. Stevens passed for 139 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Red Arrow offense in the victory over Muskegon. Gabe Steed caught all three touchdown passes, while Derek Massey rushed for 158 yards and a touchdown.

**ROCKFORD FOOTBALL REACHES REGIONAL FINALS**

Another West Michigan football coaching legend, Ralph Munger, enjoyed a big year with the Rockford Rams.

Munger guided the Rams to a share of the OK Red Conference championship. Rockford also claimed a district title before falling to Grand Ledge in the Division 1 regional final round.

The Rams had to face plenty of adversity this season, with a number of key players going down with injury, including sophomore starting quarterback Jason Whittaker, who was injured and missed each of the playoff games. Starting running back Nick Isley also went down with an injury in the second half of the regional loss to Grand Ledge.

**CEDAR SPRINGS FOOTBALL REPEATS AS LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**

Cedar Spring was another area football team that had to battle injuries all season. The Red Hawks lost starting quarterback Collin Alvesteffer for much of the season but were still able to repeat as OK Bronze co-champions. They qualified for the playoffs for a second straight season.



Lowell will return to Ford Field in the Division 2 finals after defeating Walled Lake Western 49-34 Nov. 21 in a game played at Alma College. (Photo by Zip Widman, High School Sports Scene)

**More State Finals Photos Of This Event At**  
[highschoolsportsscene.com](http://highschoolsportsscene.com)

# Bowie Takes Different Pathway To Mr. Soccer Award

**Dan Stickratt Sports Scene**

GRAND RAPIDS — Anthony Bowie faced the challenges that most athletes absolutely hate to face: sitting on the sidelines with an injury and working their way back.

Bowie has had quite an injury-plagued prep career.

The senior from Forest Hills Central in Grand Rapids learned just before his junior campaign that he would have to sit out. That came after he missed all but eight games his sophomore season with another injury.

"I found out I had a bone chip in my ankle. I had to have surgery," said Bowie. "I had to sit out most of my junior season. And I missed a lot of my sophomore season. It was tough."

Bowie, who earned a varsity roster

spot all four years at Central, more than made up for his long absences. As a senior, the Western Michigan University commitment not only led his school to the Division 1 state championship, but he was also named Mr. Soccer by the Michigan High School Coaches Association.

Bowie finished the season with 42 goals and 26 assists for 110 points. The 42 goals tied a school record, while the total points set a record. He was named to the All-State Dream Team and the division 1 all-state first team, and to all-district, all-region, and all-OK Conference Red division teams.

"It's quite an honor. I wasn't really thinking about winning Mr. Soccer, to be honest," said Bowie. "I just

wanted to help my team win. I knew we'd have a good team with all the experience and 12 seniors. We got to [the regional final] last season. But I'm not surprised. To win the state title and to have all the goals and assists that I had, I thought after the state finals that I might have a chance to win it."

Bowie, who carries a 3.9 GPA, was recently invited to play in the National High School Coaches Association All-America game next month in North Carolina.



Forest Hill Central's Anthony Bowie (No. 11) was recently named Mr. Soccer for 2015. (Submitted Photo)



**ECOWATER** **Lindsay Soft Water Co.**  
1209 Michigan Ave. P.O. Box 401  
St. Louis, MI 48880 Gladwin, MI 48624  
SINCE 1925. (989) 681-5436 (989) 426-4220  
1-800-244-3464 Cell (989) 429-6576  
www.ecowater.com  
E-mail: waterboy@cmsinter.net  
**KEVIN EAREGOOD**  
Certified Water Specialist

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

**JOURNEY** FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
Discover the possibilities.  
ST. JOHNS - FOWLER - OVID  
989.224.9511  
www.JourneyFCU.org

**Tim McCormick** Sales  
749 W. Main  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Phone: (616) 421-7615  
Cell: (616) 717-3686  
Fax (616) 897-5007  
tmccormick@grandautofamily.com

**Wittenbach GMC**  
**GMC**  
CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

Supporting The Red Arrows Since 1988  
[www.wittenbachgmc.com](http://www.wittenbachgmc.com)

**1844 N. Saginaw Midland**  
**1114 S Saginaw Midland**

**Little Caesars**  
**HOT-N-READY PIZZA**  
[www.littlecaesars.com](http://www.littlecaesars.com)

**1612 W Washington Greenville**  
**324 S Mission Mt. Pleasant**

**COMMERCIAL BANK**  
COMMUNITY..it's what we are.  
Alma • Ithaca • St. Louis  
Mt. Pleasant • Middleton  
Greenville • Hastings • Lake Odessa  
[www.commercial-bank.com](http://www.commercial-bank.com)  
800-547-8531

**300 BOWL**  
All You Can Bowl!  
Regular, Or Laser, **\$5.00**  
Great Food, Great Fun!  
BOOK YOUR PARTY NOW  
LASER BOWL - CHRISTMAS - BIRTHDAY - ANY BIG EVENT  
**300 BOWL**  
3000 WEST MONROE (M-46)  
ALMA, MI 48801 • (989) 463-3000  
SAT. NOON-11PM • SUN.-FRI. 4PM-11PM

**THE HEARTHSTONE OVEN**  
Where it's homemade... from scratch!  
Specializing in homemade baked goods such as cinnamon rolls, breads, cookies, fruit pies, cream pies and more!  
**BAKERY & CAFE**  
We have a full breakfast menu that we serve from 6:30AM - 11:00AM. We offer soups, sandwiches, and salads for lunch which is served from 10:30AM - 3:00PM. We also sell homemade frozen meals to take home!  
126 S. Pine River • Ithaca, MI 48847 • 989-875-OVEN (6836)

Make sure your Spring sports team is powering up with the **Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink Grant**

Don't miss the opportunity for your high school athletes to be featured as the next **Chocolate Milk Mustache celebrities!** The 2015-2016 **Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink Grant** application for Michigan high school sports teams is now available at [www.MilkMeansMore.org](http://www.MilkMeansMore.org).

Applications for Spring sports **MUST** be postmarked by **January 29, 2016**.

For more information, please check the website or call 1-800-241-MILK (6455) to learn how your school can get involved.

East Lansing Cross Country Team 2015 Fall Grant Winners

# Gladwin Soccer Wins First-Ever Regional Title

Scott Salowich  
Sports Scene

Forget that "One Shining Moment" song that they play at the end of the NCAA basketball Final Four tournament every year.

The Gladwin soccer team reached the Final Four for the first time in school history this season, and there was more than one shining moment in the Flying G's memorable run to the state semifinal round.

Gladwin finished the regular season with a record of 18-4 and went 10-0 on the way to the Northern Michigan Soccer League championship, but that was just a prelude to the main event.

The first round of the district tournament provided quite a moment, as the Flying G's knocked off nemesis Tawas, 1-0. Keagan Hover fired in a nice feed from Ryan

Wisniewski for the game's lone goal, and keeper Mason Nash made it stick by adding another to his long list of shutouts.

"Tawas is a very good team, and they have been a thorn in our side for quite a while," said Gladwin coach Jerry Smiley. "It was a huge relief when we were finally able to get by them. It was quite a thrill for all of us."

Even though the luck of the draw put the two teams together in the first round, everyone knew that game was really the district final.

The Flying G's proved that by rolling to a 7-0 victory over Standish in the second round - thanks to five goals from Wisniewski - and then holding on for a 1-0 victory over Ogemaw Heights that wasn't as close as the final score would indicate. "It was a close game, but we controlled most of it," said Smalley. "I don't even know if they had

a shot on our net. It was a rainy, sloppy day and we didn't create as many opportunities as we normally do."

Hover scored the goal in the early going, and Gladwin soccer claimed a shiny district championship title for the first time ever.

The win sent the Flying G's to Clare's regional, where all four teams in the field were ranked in the latest coaches' poll.

"All four of the teams were fairly even," Smalley said. "When you get to that level, you're not going to run into too many bad teams."

What you might run into is a shootout or two, and that's exactly what Gladwin encountered.

Hover scored a goal in the first half of the semifinal with Whitehall, but the Vikings knotted it up in the second, and that's the way it stayed through the rest of regulation and overtime.

Gladwin's explosive forwards scored four straight times in the shootout, and Nash made enough stops to pave the way to victory.

Ludington beat Elk Rapids in the other semifinal and the final game followed a familiar script.

Hover scored with an assist from Tyler Boylen in the first half, the Orioles tied it in the second, and the whole thing came down to another shootout.

Gladwin won that one, 4-3, with Nash providing the shiniest moment.

Ludington was shooting, with one last chance to tie the score. Nash went one way and the shooter went the other, but Nash was still able to get a toe on the ball and send it harmlessly over the net.

"I told him he had a golden toe," Smalley said. "I have no idea how he made that save."

The sensational finish put Gladwin into the state semifinal round and sparked a rush of enthusiasm all over town.

"That was unbelievable," Smalley said. "It was a great win for our team, but it was also a great win for our school and our community. It was awesome."

The Flying G's got quite a send-off from their fans when they boarded a charter bus

for Cedar Springs to meet Grand Rapids South Christian in the state semifinal.

The game was even through the first 20 minutes, but the Sailors scored two quick goals in the 30th and 31st minutes to take charge.

"When you play a team of that caliber and make a mistake, they make you pay," Smalley said. "We made two, and they scored on both of them."

Wisniewski cut the deficit in half about 10 minutes into the second half, but that was as close as Gladwin got. South Christian put a stranglehold on the game by scoring with about 15 minutes left and then iced it with a goal against the Flying G's substitute players in the final 10 minutes.

"They had not been scored upon in the district or regional, so that was a big goal for us," Smalley said. "We were in the game, but we couldn't finish off any of our chances, and they finally got a corner kick and scored, and that was about it."

"I emptied the bench so everybody would get a chance to experience playing in the semifinals."

The Sailors went on to beat Williamston, 1-0, to win the state title.

Gladwin checked out with a final record of 23-5, the best in school history.

Speaking of history, here are some other numbers that won't soon be forgotten:

The Flying G's set team records for goals with 129, assists with 90, points with 219, shots on goal with 375, total shots with 601, and saves with 195. Wisniewski had 41 goals and 16 assists for 57 points. Hover scored 36 and passed out 11 helpers for 47 points. Jacob Garafalo had 20 goals and 11 assists for 31 points, and Boylen had eight goals with 16 assists for 24. Nash slammed the door on 15 shutouts.

Hover, Nash, and Garafalo are graduating, but the bar has been raised, and the future looks bright.

"We're losing five starters, and we're going to need some kids to step up, but we should be pretty good next year," Smalley said. "Our seniors have exposed our younger kids to the idea that, if you want to be good, you've got to put in the time. If they work hard in the spring and summer like this group, there is no reason we can't be back on top next year."

Continued On Page 23



The Gladwin boys soccer team won a regional championship after defeating Ludington 2-1. (Photo by Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene)

# Harrison Football Qualifies For Playoffs

Scott Salowich  
Sports Scene

Getting there was most of the fun for the Harrison football team.

The Hornets finished the regular season with an outstanding record of 7-2 to qualify for the Division 5 playoffs.

They drew Kingsford in the first round and made the trek to the Upper Peninsula in style, only to bow out with a 25-0 loss.

"The school was great about everything," said Harrison coach Mike Petrongelli. "They got us a

nice bus, they set up a pregame practice for us up at Gladstone, and we stayed at the Best Western in Escanaba.

"It was a nice trip, I just wish the outcome of the game could have been different."

The Flivvers would have none of it, shutting down the Hornets at every turn.

"We played pretty well defensively," said Petrongelli, "but we could not move the ball at all. They were very physical, like all of the Upper Peninsula teams, but they were quicker than we expect-

ed, and they stifled everything we tried.

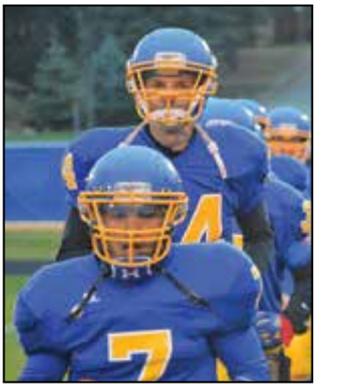
"They put nine in the box and did a good job defending the things we'd been able to do during the year. We couldn't get outside at all on them. They took that away from us."

The abrupt ending did not completely obscure an outstanding year for Harrison, and it didn't damper hopes for the future, either.

"It was a little disappointing, because there were a couple of games we wish we had a chance

to play over, but it was a good season," Petrongelli said. "A 7-3 record isn't bad at all, and I think we should be competitive again next season. Our JV was undefeated, and we should have a good mix of seniors coming back and juniors coming up," and he is determined to build a program that can compete with the top teams in the area, with a full slate of committed runners.

"They've never had a run club here," he said. "That's in the works. We're going to build a much stronger program down the road."



Harrison football finished the regular season 7-2. (Submitted Photo)

season running alone.

She trained with the boys. "She was very capable of running with our varsity male team," said Eagles coach Mike Jenkins. "She went out with us every day and practiced just like everybody else."

"She's a very good runner with a lot of heart, and she improved her times quite a bit by the end of the season."

"She's dedicated, and I know she has aspirations of going on to run at college."

Hammond was not alone at MIS, either, as junior Daylen Garner represented the boys' team for the second time and placed 82nd in a time of 17:16.8.

Garner made his season at the regional, where he finished fifth in a time

of 16:59.77, easily his best ever.

"That race was a breakout for him," said Jenkins. "His previous best was a 17:27, so he got under 17 and beat some of the guys who had finished ahead of him during the regular season. He wound up in the top third at the state meet and, if he works hard, there is no reason he can't be in the hunt for all state next year."

This season was Jenkins' first at Farwell, and he is determined to build a program that can compete with the top teams in the area, with a full slate of committed runners.

"They've never had a run club here," he said. "That's in the works. We're going to build a much stronger program down the road."



Gladwin Boys Soccer. (Photo by Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene)

**I Have The Trailer U Need!**  
**BECK'S!**  
 Trailer SUPERstore & Service Center  
 800 Trailers, Low Prices & E-Z Financing  
 Ask For Fred - Get A MMSS Discount  
**1-888-336-0271** 7607 N US-27 St. Johns MI. 48879  
 www.BecksTrailerStore.com

**Good Luck All Area Sports Teams**  
**PROpane GAS**  
 RESIDENTIAL • FARM • INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL  
**GAS PRODUCTION**  
 989-268-5079 8152 East M-46 Vestaburg 508-991-7477  
**Gas Production Co. Inc.**

**MEADOWLANES**  
**BOWLING & BANQUET**  
 Glow Ball - Fridays & Saturdays  
 Book Your Christmas Parties Today!  
 430 W. Fifth St. - Gladwin  
 989-426-7671  
 www.bowlmeadowlanes.com

**KRAPOHL**  
 Ford LINCOLN  
 Serving You Since 1950  
 MT. PLEASANT 772-2991 • 1-800-772-5974  
**Central Michigan's Service Leader!**  
 www.krapohlford.com  
 Cliff Anderson Jim Cole  
 Kim Laurenz Tony Marshall  
 Ray Garver Casey Gott Tom Shafer  
 Mike Croll John Lerg Greg Noyes

**wmlm** 1520am  
 Real Country Music  
 News • Sports • Weather  
**Your Voice For Local High School Football & Basketball Games!**  
 The NEW **Z 92.5** THE CASTLE  
**KROL COMMUNICATIONS INC.**

**JIM NAVARRE**  
 Central Michigan's Fastest Growing Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealership  
**Supporting Gratiot County's Youth for Over 25 Years!**  
 - Our Hard Working Sales Staff.  
 Bob Bechill Jim Britting Tom Wesolek TJ Hodges  
 M-46 • Alma • Between Alma & St. Louis • (989) 681-5776 • www.jimnavarreford.com  
 We Service What We Sell, Just Ask Our Many Satisfied Customers!!!

**U.S. 27 YOUR GATEWAY TO THE NORTH SUPERSTORE!**  
**MOTORSPORTS & TRAILERS**  
**866-554-4217**  
 www.us27motorsports.com  
 LINK TO US-27 HERE!  
 SERVICE PROFESSIONAL AND PARTS EXPERTS.....SERVICING ALL MODELS OF ATVs, MOTORCYCLES, SNOWMOBILES, PWC AND TRAILERS  
 EXCELLENT QUALITY! WINTER FUN! HUNTERS WELCOME! RIDERS WANTED! FALL COLOR TOURS! BEST DEALS!  
 CAN-AM POLARIS HONDA YAMAHA ski-doo SUZUKI seadoo ARCTIC CAT SURE-TRAC

**Presenting The  
North Edition**



# 2015 Tennis Dream Team



**Michael Szabo**  
**Midland Dow**  
**PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

## DREAM TEAM SINGLES

Michael Szabo, Midland Dow  
Tyler Conrad, Midland Dow  
Hunter Li, Grand Blanc  
Varun Shanker, Midland Dow

## DREAM TEAM DOUBLES

Josh Hentschel/Brendan Doyle,  
Midland

## SECOND TEAM SINGLES

Aaron Farber, Essexville-Garber  
Dylan Helming, Bay City Central  
Weondong Hwang, Midland  
Gabe Johnson, Rockford

## SECOND TEAM DOUBLES

Spencer Bouck/Sagar Kamaraju,  
Midland Dow

## HONORABLE MENTION SINGLES

Jared Brown, Chesaning; Daniel Charboneau, Powers Catholic;  
Nick Dewyse, Essexville-Garber; Aditya Middha, Midland Dow;  
Jack Stuart, Nouvel Catholic Central

## HONORABLE MENTION DOUBLES

Mitchell Dwan/Spencer McFarlane, Essexville-Garber;  
JJ Kirkman/Noah Nichols, Midland Dow;  
Bradley Sanders/Keegan McGee, Rockford

### Pat's Auto, Inc.

"Quality Of Our Work Guaranteed"

Complete Collision Repair • Serving Gratiot County Since 1982



Phone (989) 681-5334  
FAX # (989) 681-3855

1501 West Monroe Rd. (M-46)  
Saint Louis, MI 48880  
www.patsautoinc.com

### Downtown Auto Services Inc.

Scott Nevins  
President

110 W. Newark St.  
Ithaca, MI 48847

Shop Hours  
M-F 8-5:30

989-875-4261



**BOLAND'S**



*The Leader In  
The Field*

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

General • Cooper  
Firestone • Bridgestone  
Goodyear

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

### FEATURES AT MOREY COURTS

- **8 Basketball/Volleyball Courts**
- **3 Racquetball Courts**
- **2 Tennis Courts**
- **Complete Fitness Center**
- **Walking/Jogging Track**
- **Championship Sports Individual Training**
- **Basketball & Volleyball**



**5175 East Remus Road**  
**Mount Pleasant, MI 48858**

**989-953-7529**

**www.moreycourts.com**

### CHAMPIONSHIP SPORTS AT MOREY COURTS

#### - Fall Camps & Leagues -

#### Middle School Basketball Leagues

Boys & Girls Leagues. 7th & 8th Grade League.  
5 weeks - 10 games. Thursday nights.

\$340 - 1 official per game. 2nd Session begins 1/21/16.

#### Youth & High School Volleyball Skill Camps.

Please visit our website for more details.

#### Boys & Girls Future Stars Skills & Evaluation Camp

Camp includes 2 hours of skill work, 2 officiated games, 3 on 3 segments.  
Players will receive a jersey and sent a player evaluation.  
Girls 12/12/15, Boys 12/13/15. Cost \$70

Visit Our Club Page At

**www.championshipsports.net**

For More Details