

**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  
conmat11@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 74 South • Jan./Feb. 2016

**CONTENTS**

- 3 | Waterford Kettering Bowling
- 4 | Clarkston's Dynamic Duo
- 5 | Kaitlyn Smith Sets Holly's Scoring Record
- 6 | Hartland Wrestling
- 7 | DCC Wrestling
- 8 | DCC Swimming Back In Familiar Territory
- 9 | Hartland Hockey Keeps Rolling Along
- 10 | Lansing Area Hoops Setting Bar High
- 11 | DeWitt Girls Basketball Continues To Impress
- 12 | Leslie Kanen Storr Eyes Third State Title
- 12 | Ian Parker Among St. Johns' Elite
- 14 | St. Johns Becoming Pipeline To U of M Wrestling
- 15 | Chesaning Wrestling Wins First Saginaw County Title In 10 Years
- 16 | Youngs' Peak Performers

Find Us On

**facebook**

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

Hey Sports Fans, it's another great day at Sports Scene!

"What do you want?"

I've thought about this question a lot since High School Sports Scene decided to branch into two separate editions (North and a South) four months ago. So if you are one who wondered why Sports Scene was getting smaller, don't worry. It's not getting smaller, but getting bigger, with two separate editions providing the best high school sports coverage we can.

The reason is that we want to become more regionalized in each area, but we have found that this move also has its pitfalls, because there are some folks who like to read about the other areas that we cover.

So we ask you, our readers, what do you want?

As our children begin their athletic pursuits, whether it's Pop Warner or Little League, club basketball or club volleyball, I wonder if we're asking that question enough - or at all.

It's easy to make our dream their dream. Our goal their goal. Be the best player on the team. Win a state championship. Get a college scholarship.

That's fine, as long as we're asking our kids that simple question and truly respect their answers.

The real answer is that we are letting down our kids. Journalistic integrity is taking a backseat to blogs and social media and, in essence, it's changing how we read the written word. The newspaper is being replaced by the cell phone, which is causing newspapers and magazines to phase out.

However, we are old school here at Sports Scene. We realize that people still love to read, and we are providing a valuable service to our student-athletes.

Sometimes, as parents, we know what's best for our kids. It's why we don't let them give up on themselves. It's why we tell them what they don't want to hear. It's why, when they become teenagers, their desire for independence doesn't mesh well with our authority. But, when they're old enough to make responsible, mature decisions for themselves, we need to listen. We need to recognize that our dream might not be their dream.

We need to ask them, "What do you want?"

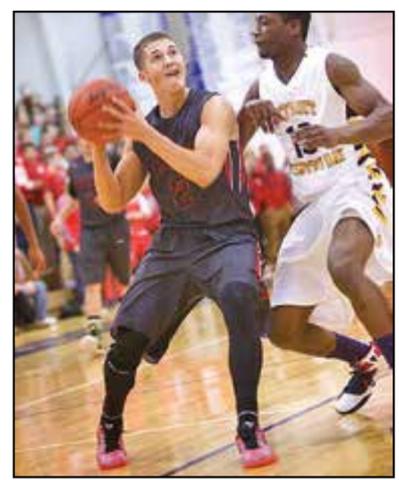
Randy Miniard  
Publisher/Owner  
517-202-1808  
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com

**BOYS BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK: Holly Building Reputation as Quality Opponent**

**Dan Stickrad**  
**Sports Scene**

HOLLY — Once upon a time, Holly was considered a state powerhouse in boys' basketball.

That, of course, came in the 1920s and 1930s, the infant days of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and even before the state's governing body took over the reigns of prep sports in the state.



Today, Holly is not considered a state powerhouse, although its reputation as a quality opponent is growing. That wasn't the case a decade ago, when Lance Baylis took over the struggling Bronchos program.

Holly won just one game in 2005-06, going a dismal 1-20, while finishing dead last in the Flint Metro League.

"It was rough that first year. I knew if I would just be patient and start to do things the right way, it would eventually turn around," recalled Baylis.

The second season, Holly finished 10-11, the largest single-season turnaround in nearly 50 years of Holly basketball.

Now Baylis, in his 11th season the helm, is the second-winningest boys' basketball coach in school history, with 147 victories, and he should pass Joe Blakely for the top spot later this season, if the Bronchos continue to excel.

Holly senior guard Kyle Woodruff and the Bronchos finished 22-3 last season and are going after their ninth straight season of finishing above the five-hundred mark. (Courtesy Photo, Deb VanKuiken, Holly Athletics)

Holly is currently 7-2 overall and in second place in the FML, engaging in a tight race with Fenton, Linden, and Brandon for the league title.

The Bronchos are the two-time defending league champions and have won three titles under Baylis. Holly has also recorded eight straight seasons of finishing in the top three in the conference standings.

"We have been consistent," said Baylis. "Nobody wins it every year. But we pride ourselves that we put ourselves into contention every year."

Last season, Holly captured its first district championship as a Class A school and first district overall since 1981, when it was still in Class B. The Bronchos advanced all the way to the regional final before falling to Walled Lake Central, 76-73.

That tournament run was without its No. 2 and No. 3 scorers, Kyle Woodruff and Josh Simms, who both sat out with season-ending injuries.

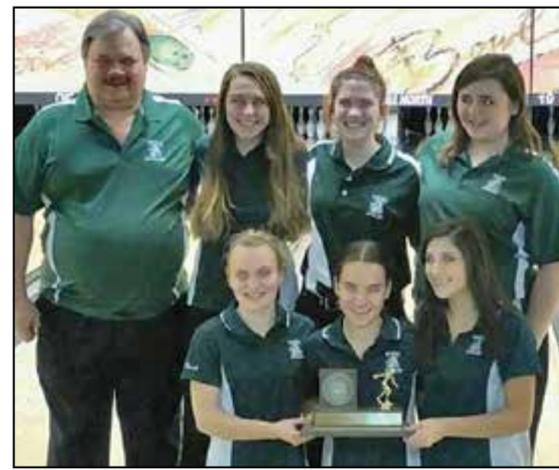
Woodruff, a 6-foot-3-inch sharpshooter and college prospect, is averaging over 20 points an outing this year. He's teamed up with 6'1" senior lefty Ian Hodges, who is in his second season as a starter after moving from Carman-Ainsworth, to form a dynamite scoring duo. Hodges is averaging around 22 points a game.

Adam Tooley, a gritty 5'10" senior, is a three-sport athlete and a quality defender and three-point shooter. Paris Partee, a wide-bodied, 6'3" junior center, senior point guard Steve Redmond (6'0"), senior guard Blake Staffne (5'10"), junior forward Trevor Bland (6'2"), and junior forward Connor Spencer (6'3") are also contributors.

"I think our starting lineup is as good as it has been since I have been coaching Holly," smiled Baylis. "We don't have the depth we've had the past few years, but we're getting better. We're trying to develop some other players."

Staying the course after some early struggles has truly turned the tables for Holly. More like a continental shift. Holly recently had a 22-game league win streak snapped. But that accomplishment, considering the team's standing a decade ago, is impressive.

"Our goal is to be as competitive as we can be each year," said Baylis. "I believe we've been able to accomplish that. Last year we were 22-3 and made a nice run. We've finished above .500 eight straight seasons, and we should be there again this season. We were 19-3 in 2008-09 and finished 18-5 the year after that. We've been able to maintain a level of competitiveness that this program hasn't seen in decades. We've been averaging 17 wins a season over the past seven seasons."



The Waterford Kettering girls bowling team rose to the runner-up finish at the Oakland County Championships Jan. 16-17 in Madison Heights. State-ranked Lake Orion sunk the Captains, 352-309, in the finale. (Courtesy Photo)

**GIRLS BOWLING: Kettering Climbing the Ranks with Experienced Squad**

**Dan Stickrad**  
**Sports Scene**

WATERFORD — If finishing high at the Oakland County Championships is a good omen, big things could be in store for Waterford Kettering.

The Captains' girls' bowling team rose to the runner-up finish at the Oakland County Championships Jan. 16-17 in Madison Heights. State-ranked Lake Orion sunk the Captains, 352-309, in the finale.

"I certainly hope this is a good thing," said Kettering coach Mike Busch, whose team is 5-1 in dual matches this season and has several top-five finishes at tournaments this season. "We have three

experienced seniors that have led the way. In a tournament such as Oakland County, we had all six of our girls contributing. You have to, in order to get all the way to the finals. Lake Orion is a very good team. They won it last year, too. There's no shame in finishing second in the county."

Waterford Kettering finished third out of the qualifying block (3,284), where the top 16 squads advanced to a one-match elimination tournament. The Captains narrowly escaped Notre Dame Preparatory in the Round of 16 (317-311), rolled by North Farmington in the quarterfinals (339-303) and knocked out Oxford in the semifinals (346-327).

Royal Oak's Kayla Clark won the individual high series (609), although Kettering's Sammie Dudula was ninth (560) and both Sarah Antonelli (533) and Shaya Master (531) reached the top 20 by finishing 18th and 19th, respectively. All three are seniors and returning bowlers who helped Kettering qualify for the state finals last season.

In the high game category, Gedula finished with the sixth-highest tally (215), and Antonelli landed eighth (214), out of a field of more than 100 bowlers from 30-plus schools.

Junior Sinclair Sihad, junior Katie Hollis, and sophomore Sierra Sihad are also key contributors for the Captains, who won the KLA North Division title last season and are in the mix, along with Lakeland, this season.

**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

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

CAN-AM POLARIS HONDA YAMAHA SKI-DOO SUZUKI SEKOOZ ARCTIC CAT SURE-TRAC Haulmark AMERICAN MADE HALL-IT

Dan Stickrad insures your

**Auto** and more.

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

248-759-4564



# Clarkston Duo a Match In Wolves' Clothing

Dan Stickradt  
Sports Scene

CLARKSTON — Behind every good point guard there is at least one quality running mate.

That is most certainly the case for Clarkston sophomore Foster Loyer. The heady point guard has certainly blended well with junior transfer Dylan Alderson to form quite a tandem for the Wolves.

Loyer, a 6-foot-1-inch stalwart and perhaps the top sophomore in Michigan, has teamed up with Alderson this season to form a potent threat on both ends of the hardwood.

"I knew [Foster] through AAU ball. I was excited when I learned we were moving to Clarkston," said Alderson, a long-armed, wiry player who can play inside or out, and who is not bashful on the boards, either. "I think we have some good chemistry out there."

Alderson is a 6-foot-4-inch wing who came from Davison after earning all-state honorable mention last year, when he averaged 17.4 points an outing.

Loyer became the first freshman in more than three decades to be named a unanimous selection to the Associated Press Class A All-State First Team. He averaged a stellar 17.3 points, 5.3 rebounds, 4.5 assists, 2.9 steals, and 2.6 turnovers a game, while leading Clarkston to a 25-1 record.

Loyer is already on the radar of major Division I college programs, and he plays beyond his years. Alderson is starting to gain the interest of college scouts.

"He has stepped in and became an important [piece] to our team," noted Loyer of Alderson. "I love playing with him — he fits in well. He gives us another [weapon.]"

Playing at Clarkston, one of the state's top Class A programs year-in and year-out, will bolster Alderson's ever-improving resume. And playing along with Loyer in veteran Clarkston coach Dan Fife's proven flex system will not only help Alderson blossom, but also help Clarkston achieve major success.

"That's not easy to do, move and switch schools and to have everybody welcome him," said Fife. "We've had transfers before, and I know it's never easy on them. But Dylan has done a great job learning our system and fitting in to what we are trying to do. He's done a nice job so far."

"As for Foster... what can you say about him?," smiled Fife, who has already coached one Mr. Basketball and one runner-up to Mr. Basketball — his sons Dane (1998) and Dugan (1992). "The kid is very smart. His [basketball IQ] is high, and his ability to run the offense has never been an issue. He is the quarterback on the court."

Already this season, Loyer scorched Romulus for 44 points at a holidays showcase and has, on several occasions in his short career, recorded double-digits in assists. Alderson's breakout game in a Clarkston uniform was 27 points and 11 rebounds in a 60-47 victory Jan. 14 over North Farmington, a game that featured two top-10 state-ranked teams.

What has made the duo's performances even more noteworthy is not only the fact that Clarkston — a state quarterfinalist last season — only returned four players from last winter, but also that 6'4" senior sharpshooter Talib Throgmorton has been out with an ankle

injury, and a rash of minor injuries to bench players has hampered the Wolves' depth chart.

"We've had some injuries, and I thought we were a little overrated at the beginning of the season. That must have been based on what we did last season, because we only brought back four guys this year," said Fife. "But we've responded well. It's a long season, and we're not there yet."

Looking at the big picture, Loyer said that he hopes to lead his team to the Breslin Center, site of the Final four, this season and help Clarkston eventually win its first state title. The Wolves reached the state semifinal round in both 1980 and in 2009 but have never finished the season as the last team standing.

"[Dylan and I] have talked about it — we all have. We want to win the state championship one day," said Loyer. "Clarkston has had so many great teams over the years. It would be a dream for us to finally get to the state finals and win a state title."

If that happens this season or next, rest assured that it will be the duo of Loyer and Alderson leading the charge.



Clarkston's Foster Loyer scored a career-high 44 points during a recent game this season against Romulus. Loyer along with Davison transfer Dylan Alderson make up a very potent 1-2 punch for the Clarkston team (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photos)

# Smith Climbs to Top of Holly's Pyramid as School's All-Time Leading Scorer

Dan Stickradt  
Sports Scene

HOLLY — Kristyn Smith recently received a piece of mail from Holly alumna Molly Hogan, whom she has never met.

There was a specific reason. Smith, a sharpshooting, 5-foot-9-inch senior combo guard for Holly High School, re-

cently became the Bronchos' all-time leading scorer in a win over Clio. Smith passed both Allyssa Copley (1,005) and Hugan (1,018) in that game to reach the summit of the school's career scoring list.

"They told me before the season that I might get the record. I wasn't really shooting for it," said Smith. "I just want to help my team get better and win games. We have a shot at the league title this year and maybe a district."

"It's cool to get the record," said Smith, who carries a 3.7 GPA. "I never expected the attention and having [former players reach out.]"

"Molly Hugan was going to come up from Columbus, Ohio, to see the game, but a snow



storm halted that," said Holly coach David Hall. "She did the next best thing and sent her a letter congratulating Kristyn."

This season, Smith has averaged around 21 points, 4.5 assists, 2.5 steals, and 2 rebounds an outing for Holly, which is in a three-team race with Fenton and Flushing for top honors in the Flint Metro League. She also is an 83-percent free throw shooter this winter.

One of the top players in the FML, the fourth-year starter never set out for the record as a personal goal. It's just an achieve-

ment the first-team all-conference pick reached by being a steady player.

"That's the one thing I like about her. It's not about records, but it's about helping her team win," said Hall. "That's what she cares about. She's also the hardest worker and a good leader."

Smith recently committed to Lawrence Technological University, which has a program ranked 17th nationally in the NAIA circles. She chose LTU over Alma College and several other small colleges in the Midwest.

Holly senior guard Kaitlyn Smith, who became the school's all-time leading scorer in January, has committed to Lawrence Technological University. (Courtesy Photo, Smith Family)

**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: 810.599.5916  
MIKE@COMPUTERCABLECONCEPTS.COM  
**MIKE MATLOCK**  
OWNER

ISN'T IT TIME  
**YOUR CUSTOMERS CAN READ YOUR PUBLICATION ON THE INTERNET?**  
Zoom  
ZoomPubs  
1-866-262-4449

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](http://pocketpleasers.com/192) For Coupons!

**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](mailto:Groupshows@NCGmovies.com)



**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](http://www.clubztutoring.com)

# Wrestling: Hartland A Model Of Consistency Under Cheney, Even Without Elusive Title

Dan Stickrad Sports Scene

HARTLAND — There is the old phrase that “every dog will eventually have its day.”

For Hartland’s long-successful wrestling program, perhaps that will come sooner rather than later. This one has quite an appetite.

The Eagles, under the direction of veteran coach Todd Cheney, have consistently been in the mix of state-title contending programs for over two decades. Just about the only thing that has eluded Hartland over the years is a state title in any of the divisions - Class B, Class A, Division 2, or Division 1 - in which Hartland had competed in team state tournaments over the past quarter century.

The glory of capturing the state championship trophy has not found its way to the interchange of M-59 and M-23.

“That’s always one of our goals,” admitted Cheney of winning the elusive state title. “Everything has to go just right. Boy, have we learned that.”

Four times Hartland has finished as the Division 1 state runner-up. That’s just the half of it.

Hartland has won 16 regional titles, including 14 straight and has made at least a trip to the Elite Eight for 14 straight seasons. It has reached the Final Four 10 times overall, including the last six straight seasons. Just last year, Hartland lost to Kensington Lakes Athletic Association rival Brighton, 31-25, in the Division 1 state championship match, a match that went down to the final two weight classes.

“We have come close a few times,” reminded Cheney.

When Cheney took over the program in 1992-93, he quickly helped build it into a contender that has claimed 19 district and 16 league titles over 23 seasons.

This year, Hartland joined Brighton and Walled Lake Central as the top teams in the 24-school KLAA. The Eagles have been ranked in the top five this season along with Davison, Brighton, Detroit Catholic Central,

and Oxford, which are the other squads with realistic chances of winning the title in 2016.

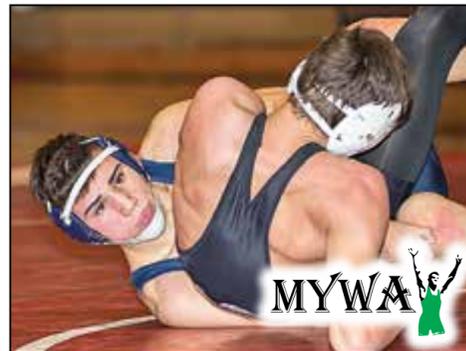
Few programs in the state can match Hartland’s consistency, although most of the powerhouse programs in each of the state’s four divisions have claimed at least one state title over the years.

Combining classes and divisions in the Lower Peninsula and combing the state tournaments in the Individual Format (pre-1988) and Team Format (1988-present), a 77 schools have won at least one state title.

A total of 14 schools have won five or more total team state championships — led by New Lothrop (14), Detroit Catholic Central (11), Bedford (11), Montrose (9), Dundee (8), Eaton Rapids (8), Lansing Eastern (8), Davison (8), and Richmond (7).

Hartland is not listed on that title group, even though its resume is more impressive than many schools that have won titles over the years.

Its current talented contingent, which features both experience and a talented freshman, should keep Hartland in the mix for years to come. It climbed to No. 1 in the polls in December. The Eagles’ sole loss came in January to Detroit Catholic Central, which moved into the top spot in the Division 1 rankings, while Hartland slipped to the No. 2 slot.



The Hartland wrestling team is hoping to make a return trip to the Class A Team Wrestling Finals in Late February. Hartland lost to Brighton in the finals a year ago. (Douglas Bargerstock, High School Sports Scene Photo)

# Wrestling: Catholic Central Growing Up Fast

Dan Stickrad Sports Scene

NOVI — It’s hard to place Novi Detroit Catholic Central, wrestling and rebuilding in one sentence. That’s because it seldom happens.

The Shamrocks, one of Michigan’s premier wrestling programs dating back to the 1970s, apparently do not rebuild... they reload.

Such as the case in 2015-16.

Catholic Central, which is tied for second all-time with Temperance Bedford with 11 total team state championships - Division 4 New Lothrop leads Michigan with 14 titles - reached the state quarterfinals with a large senior class last season.

The Shamrocks are likely even better this season.

Catholic Central just took over the top spot in the Division 1 state rankings with a victory over previously No. 1-ranked Hartland, another one of the state’s most consistent programs.

“We always have high expectations at Catholic Central, as Christians, students and as athletes,” reminded head coach Mitch Hancock. “All of our kids understand the tradition of our wrestling program and the commitment it takes to be successful. Every year we graduate kids and that gives younger guys who have worked hard a chance to move up (into the starting lineup).”

CC finished 22-4 following last year’s defeat to Davison (35-28) in the quarterfinals. With a 10-1 record this year,



Detroit Catholic Central took part in the recent Central Michigan University super duals held on the campus of CMU. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photo)

Catholic Central helped validate its cause by winning its record seventh-straight prestigious Oakland County Championships title Dec. 18-19.

The Shamrocks racked up 330 points to easily outdistance runner-up Clarkston (274) and a field of over 40 schools at the two-day event.

“I think what’s impressive is not just our score, but the fact that we had (top-eight) placers in 12 of the 14 weight classes,” noted Hancock, who entered the season with a 171-36 career record over eight seasons. “In the previous years, I don’t think we’ve ever had that many placers. That’s quite an accomplishment considering how many wrestling teams there are in Oakland County and all of the great competition. It’s very gratifying knowing all of the history of wrestling in Oakland County.”

Rhett Newton (103), Kevon Davenport (125), Cameron Amine (130) and Tyler Morland (189) all won titles for Catholic Central. Nick Jenkins (285), Aaron Rehfeldt (135) and Tyler Johnson (145) also finished third to back up CC’s top-flight effort.

Amine is one of three nationally-ranked freshmen in the Shamrocks’ lineup and one of four ninth-grade prospects in the team’s starting lineup. Stone Moskovic (119) finished as a runner-up at the county and is another highly-touted freshman along with Newton and Davenport.

Rehfeldt is a senior, while Morland and Jenkins are both juniors. The trio all qualified for the individual state finals last year.

The aforementioned Johnson (152), Joe McGrath (140) and Conor Cox (171) are also quality seniors who could shine this winter.

“We have a great group of hard-working kids,” reminded Hitchcock of his team’s blue-collar mentality. “We come to work hard at every practice and we go to each competition with expectations of getting better each time out on the mat. By the end of the season, we always have to have the mindset that we can compete for a spot in the state tournament and compete for a title. We have such a great tradition at CC and we always expect to live up to that.”

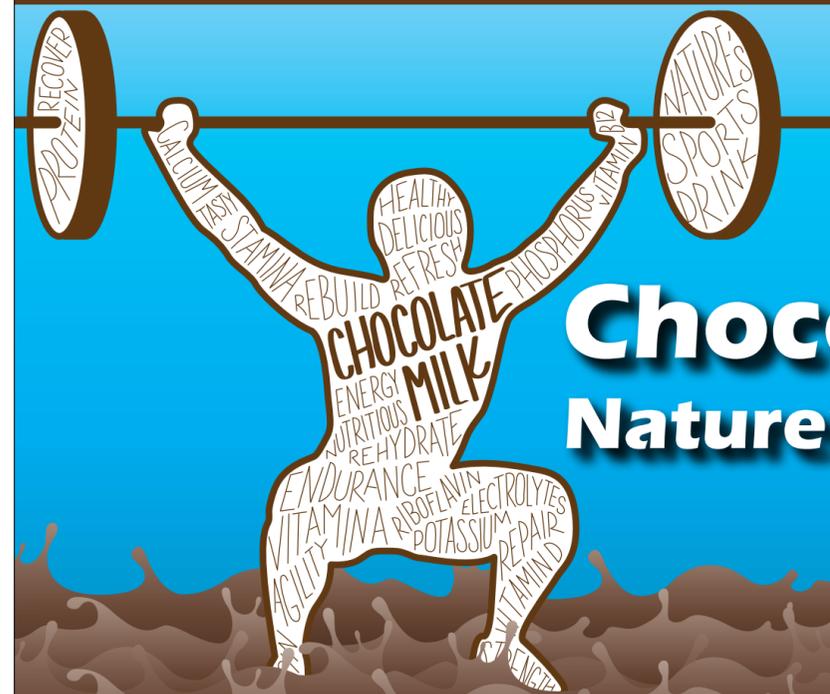
# Become a School Coach or Game Official

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

Nutrients to Refuel • Protein to Rebuild • Backed by Science • Produced by Local Farm Families



# Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink

For more information, please visit [www.MilkMeansMore.org](http://www.MilkMeansMore.org) or call 1-800-241-MILK (6455) to learn how your school can get involved.



# BOYS SWIMMING: Catholic Central Building Program One Lap at a Time

Dan Stickradt Sports Scene

NOVI — When Shannon Dunworth took over the boys' swimming and diving program at Detroit Catholic Central, it wasn't a thing a beauty.

Far from it. Unlike most of the Shamrocks' programs, the swim team was small and somewhat uncompetitive.

"I didn't go there because there was a plethora of talent," recalled Dunworth, a veteran high school and club coach in the Detroit area who had been successful at Mercy High School, among other places. "I think we had something like nine swimmers the first year I was there. You're not going to win too many meets with those types of numbers in Oakland County. We didn't win a [dual] meet during the first three years."

The first campaign was 2005-06. Fast forward to 2015-16, and it's a completely different picture for the Shamrocks, who are currently ranked ninth in the state.

The progression is evident. Slowly, the Shamrocks climbed the ladder in talent-laden Oakland County in the past decade and have been nestled in the top 10 there for the past several years. At the Division 1 state finals, the progression has been even more impressive.

After failing to score a single point in 2006 and 2007, and after registering only one point in 2008 (35th overall), the Shamrocks quickly ascended into the top 10, where they have finished each of the past four seasons.

Catholic Central was 34th in 2010 (3.5 points), 17th in 2011 (38 points), sixth in 2012 (111 points), an all-time best fifth in 2013 (156 points), sixth in 2014 (126

points), and eighth in 2015 (134.5 points).

"It took a few years to kind of get going, but we laid the ground work, and we've been blessed with some quality kids that decided to come to Catholic Central to swim," noted Dunworth. "We've had a few good ones, too; swimmers who are now competing in college."

Although 1-3 in duals this season against tough competition, Catholic Central recently won the East Grand Rapids Invitational, an event that boasted a few state-ranked teams. The Shamrocks also claimed runner-up finishes at events at Cranbrook-Kingswood and Birmingham Groves.

Catholic Central is aiming for a top-10 finish at the Oakland County meet Feb. 6 at Lake Orion, where more than 35 schools and double digits of ranked teams will gather for one of the state's biggest showcases of talent this side of the state meets.

Senior Matt Loniewski and freshmen Jonathan Lee and Kyle TeShannon have already qualified for the state finals. Senior Ethan Bezzina and sophomore Charlie Walsh made the state finals last season and are key contributors as well.

Senior Robert Vance is a returning state qualifier in diving, and junior Brendan Connelly has improved drastically. Freshman diver David DeBaker might be the most talented of the bunch.

While it does not have the deep talent pool to contend for a state championship, a fifth straight top-10 state meet finish is a possibility.

"That's one of the things that we are proud of. We can have the realistic goal of finishing in the top 10 in the state at the end of the season," said Dunworth. "Remember, a [decade] ago, we didn't even have 10 swimmers on our team."



Detroit Catholic Central senior Matt Loniewski and the Shamrocks are going after their fifth straight top-10 finish at the Division 1 state meet this year. (Larry Mulka, Catholic Central Athletics Photos)



Spend Your Spring Break

## UNDER the SEA

Rooms Starting at

**\$159** WEEKDAY SUN - THURS Double Occupancy  
+taxes & resort fees

**\$209** WEEKEND FRI - SAT Double Occupancy  
+taxes & resort fees

**Family Stretches by Sreesh from Sreeshtoonz!**

3/25 MEET NEMO & DORY!  
4/1 MEET ARIEL & ERIC!

4/8  
4/2

DJ ON 3/25, 3/30, 4/1 & 4/8!

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Overnight Stay in Standard Room (Double Occupancy)
- Waterpark Passes\*
- \$20 Dining Credit per Room

\*Number of waterpark passes issued will be based on number of registered guests. Under the Sea Package is available 3/25/16 - 4/1/16. Taxes and resort fees are not included. Price increases for 3 & 4 person packages. Room upgrades are not included. All rooms subject to availability at the time of booking. Management reserves the right to change or discontinue this offer without notice.

877.2EAGLE2 | www.soaringeaglewaterpark.com

# BOYS HOCKEY: Hartland, Catholic Central, Walled Lake Central Off to Fast Starts

Dan Stickradt Sports Scene

HARTLAND — It wasn't that long ago when Hartland began to make a name for itself in Michigan's prep hockey circles.

Now the Eagles are considered a state powerhouse and are knocking on the door of their first state title. Hartland is ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 2 this season, after deep postseason runs in five of the past six seasons.

The Eagles are an impressive 15-1 on the campaign, outscoring the opposition 102-26, with three shutouts through Jan. 23. A 5-2 victory over Walled Lake Central is the latest impressive victory for Hartland.

After losing its only contest of the season to Howell, 2-1, back on Dec. 1, the Eagles gained their measure of revenge on the Highlanders Jan. 6, by torching them, 10-4.

To validate its start, Hartland also has wins over powerhouses Brighton (4-3), Cranbrook Kingswood (5-3), and Brother Rice (3-1), outscoring those three stalwart opponents 12-7 in the process.

Hartland reached the regional final round in 2010 but failed to get back to that point in 2011. In 2012, the Eagles reached the state quarterfinal round before bowing out to Grosse Pointe South (11-6).

The following year, Hartland advanced to the Division 2 final before stalling out against Livonia Stevenson, 4-3. It again finished as the state runner-up in 2014 after an 8-3 loss to powerful Trenton in the title match.

Last season, the Eagles won a fourth

straight regional championship, only to be ousted in the state quarterfinal round by Brother Rice, 4-3, in a four-overtime thriller.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL STILL ON TOP

There's no question that Detroit Catholic Central is one of Michigan's all-time dominant programs. The Shamrocks have won 10 MHSAA state championships in Class A or Division 1 and an additional four state titles in coaches association state tournaments prior to that.

Dating back to 1979, Catholic Central has also captured 19 MHSAA regional championships and finished as the state runner-up four times.

This season, under the direction of new head coach Brandon Kaleniecki, not much has changed for the Shamrocks.

Catholic Central has played a brutally-tough schedule and escaped with a 9-4 record and a No. 1 ranking in Division 1, where the school is the two-time defending state champion and winner of four crowns in seven years.

This season, the Shamrocks have outscored their foes, 52-25, with four shutouts through Jan. 23.

"Overall I have been pleased," admitted Kaleniecki. "We have a really nice core of seniors that have led the way, and we have played well in most games. We do have some areas where I'd like to see us improve. We've had a couple of bad periods in a couple of games. But we'll learn from it. We are building towards the [state tournament.]"

The Shamrocks have already defeated St. Mary's Preparatory twice this winter.

They also had quality wins over Trenton, Brother Rice, Port Huron Northern (twice), Brighton, Rochester United, and Cranbrook Kingswood.

Catholic Central had two losses at the hands of St. Andrews College from Toronto, along with two in-state losses to Brother Rice and University of Detroit Jesuit, a pair of state-ranked teams.

Senior forwards Nick Macari, Joe Mancinelli, and Brian Kerns have led the attack. Senior goaltender Alec Calvaruso and senior defenseman Luc Krasicky and Brendan Cleary have been solid on the defensive side.

A trio of sophomores, Brendan West, Jared Lee, and Kam Ottenbreit, are fast-rising prospects and the future of the program.

"This program has a lot of success over the years and always has high expectations," said Kaleniecki, who carries 16 seniors on a roster of 22. "I played at CC and graduated from there [2000.] I understand the expectations. I'm sure we would love to make another run this season, but we have a ways to go. We must continue to work hard and continue to improve. It's a long season."

WALLED LAKE CENTRAL RISING

When Gary Quitquit gained the reigns of Walled Lake Central's hockey program some two and a half years ago, the Vikings were a mess.

"They were 5-21 the year before I got here," noted Quitquit. "I saw some good things my first year, and we were 12-12-2, a major step up. The one thing we didn't have before was commitment. Not only from the players, but from parents and the boosters. It takes a lot from a lot of people to build a successful program. I think with the help of our parents now, and the backing and assistance from the boosters, we are headed in the right direction."

Walled Lake Central is a respectable 11-3-0 through Jan. 21. A 6-0 record in the KLA North Division puts



After winning a regional championship a year ago, the Hartland hockey team has started this season on a torrid pace picking up where it left off a year ago. In this game, Hartland maced Grand Blanc 10-1. (Doug Hargerstock, High School Sports Scene Photo)

the Vikings in the title race with Lakeland (7-2) and gives high hopes of a rare division championship for a program that hasn't enjoyed much success in recent years.

"That would be a nice [benchmark, ] winning the division," said Quitquit, who previously coached the club team at the University of Michigan. "That is something to shoot for. Overall, we are getting better. We are [light years] ahead of where we were a couple of years ago."

Senior newcomer Ian Smith has made an impact after not playing as a junior. Senior defenseman Nick Wood, senior forward Cam Stevenson, and senior forward Ryan Kalis, a fourth-year varsity veteran, have also been steady for the Vikings.

Back on defense, seniors Brandon Joyner, Jackson Esterline, and Nick Pfauteif have become rock solid, while senior Jake Butler has showed flashes between the pipes as the team's top goaltender.

On a team of 12 seniors, juniors Dylan Richards and Ryan Sutcliffe and sophomore Noah Luff, all

forwards, have stepped into the rotation and provide plenty of depth and hope for the future.

"We have a nice group of seniors, guys that have stepped up and become leaders. You need that from your seniors in order to be successful," said Quitquit. "We have some good underclassmen that have helped us out."

So far, the Vikings have more than doubled up the opposition, with a 70-30 scoring edge that includes four shutouts.

Two of their three losses came against top-five teams — Hartland, No. 1 in Division 2 and Chelsea, No. 5 in Division 3 — while Walled Lake Central had a quality non-league victory over Farmington.

"We haven't beaten any big-time programs yet, but that will come in time, as we continue to build up our program," added Quitquit. "I can't say enough about everybody involved so far. The players are committed, the parents are supportive, and so are the boosters. We are all working together to make this a respected hockey program."

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)

**ENERGY FIRST**

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

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

**Financing Available!**

1-877-367-4911

EnergyFirstHomeImprovements.com

**New Location! New Showroom!**  
**At The Corner Of Court And Superior In Alma.**  
**Stop In Today!**  
**Serving Mid-Michigan Homeowners Since 1991**

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

**CHEVROLET Shaheen**

**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](http://AutoTrader.com)

**517-803-2568**  
632 American Rd. • Lansing, MI  
[www.shaheenchevrolet.com](http://www.shaheenchevrolet.com)

**FIND NEW ROADS**

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

**Next To Celebration Cinema Lansing**



The Lansing Area isn't as strong as it has been in the past, but teams like Mason could possibly make some noise come tournament time. (Alan Holben, High School Sports Scene Photos)



# Playoff Push

## Local Teams Jockeying For Position As Tournament Time Just A Month Away; East Lansing Boys Making It Look Easy Behind Super Sophomore Brandon Johns

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

High school basketball in the Lansing area is as good as ever, with a number of local boys' and girls' teams among the tops in the state.

- At East Lansing, hoops hysteria is taking place both on the boys' and girls' courts. The East Lansing boys opened the season with nine straight wins and have climbed to seventh in the state in Class A. Sophomore standout Brandon Johns has been leading the way, averaging over 20 points and 11 rebounds per game. He has caught the attention of high-profile college coaches like Michigan State University's Tom Izzo and the University of Michigan's John Beilein. The Trojans are far from a one-man show, though, as sharp-shooting junior guard Caleb Hoekstra is averaging over 13 points per game, and Westin Myles has also been a steady source of offense.

- The East Lansing girls have also been making waves and may be the team to watch the second half of the year, thanks to the addition of transfer Taryn McCutcheon. McCutcheon, a Michigan State University commit is playing her senior season for the Trojans. McCutcheon, who was West Virginia's Player of the Year as a junior playing for Parkersburg South High School.

The East Lansing girls basketball got a huge lift as transfer Taryn McCutcheon, a Michigan State University commit is playing her senior season for the Trojans. McCutcheon, who was West Virginia's Player of the Year as a junior playing for Parkersburg South High School.

a Michigan State University recruit for next season, enrolled at East Lansing in early January. She is rated as a top-100 recruit in the nation and was the West Virginia Player of the Year last year as a junior at Parkersburg South High School. McCutcheon is a three-time all-state player in West Virginia. She joins an already-powerful East Lansing lineup that includes seniors Danni Hanson and Emily Pendred and talented sophomores Jaida Hampton and Carolyn Heck.

- The Haslett girls basketball team is ranked third in the state in Class A and handed DeWitt its first loss of the season. Seniors Megan Mowid and Karson Tripp have been leading the way for Haslett. Tripp is a two-time all-conference player, while Mowid is averaging over 15 points per game. Junior Annisa Whims has also come up big in a number of games this season, including a 24-point effort in Haslett's 59-51 win against DeWitt. Senior Shannon Twichell and junior Sydney Dennis have also been key contributors for Haslett.



The East Lansing boys basketball team is among the best teams in the state in 2016. The Trojans are led by sophomore Brandon Johns.

- The Haslett boys basketball team has one of the highest-scoring players in the area in sharp-shooting senior Brandon Allen. Allen, who is looking to become Haslett's career scoring leader, is averaging over 25 points per game and has helped the Vikings average over 72 points per game this season. Allen has plenty of help on the offensive end, as fellow seniors Luke Sleeper (6'6") and Darak Wroblak (6'3") also average double digits and give the Vikings a strong frontcourt presence.

- Williamston has the area's most prolific scorer in senior Riley Lewis. Lewis has been on a tear this season, averaging over 30 points per game. He also contributes over six assists a game. Lewis scored a career-high 42 points in Williamston's win over Troy Athens in the Hoops Holiday Invitational.



# DeWitt Girls Basketball Reloading in Big Way this Season

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

After reaching the Class A state championship game last year, the question surrounding the DeWitt girls basketball team this year was what they could do for an encore, especially with many of last year's top players having graduated. As the basketball season heads into the home stretch, the answer is, "plenty."

DeWitt began the season by winning 10 of its first 11 games. The Panthers are once again in the running for the CAAC Red Division title and have the potential to make another deep postseason run. What makes the success even more impressive is that DeWitt graduated five of its top six

players from last year's squad.

"At the midpoint of the regular season, we are very pleased with our girls' performance," said coach Bill McCullen. "Considering the loss of five of our top six players to graduation, we had a lot of important roles to fill. Following the loss in the state championship game last year, our returners were very motivated and focused on trying to show people that they could play, too."

A big plus for the Panthers was the return of one starter from last year. Senior Lilly George, a 5'10" senior who has signed with Ferris State University, has provided DeWitt with plenty of strong play and leadership. She is averaging 15 points and 6.5 rebounds per game this season.



The Dewitt girls basketball team has picked right up where it left off last season winning 10 of its first 11 games to start the season. Dewitt made it all the way to the Class A final game a season ago. (Submitted Photos)



**WATERSHED**  
TAVERN AND GRILL

*Family Owned And Operated*

5965 Marsh Rd • Haslett, MI 48840

Call Us For  
**517-999-SHED** Take-Out!

# FIRST CONTRACTING INCORPORATED

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

**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

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

\*See Store For Requirements

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

FDIC

OBGYN4U

The Center For Women's Healthcare

Your Health. Our Passion!

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

989.584.3107

# Kanen Storr of Leslie Aiming to become Three-Time State Champion

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

One of the premier high school wrestlers in both the state and the nation, Leslie High School senior Kanen Storr is putting the finishing touches on a remarkable high school career.

A two-time state champion and three-time state finalist, Storr has been enjoying a memorable senior season. Through

mid-January he has a perfect 30-0 record and has moved past the 200-win plateau for his career. Adding a third state title this March will put the crowning touch on his career with the Blackhawks.

"Kanen will be our first three-time state champion," said coach Todd Stern. "That is one of his goals. He just continues to work hard at it."

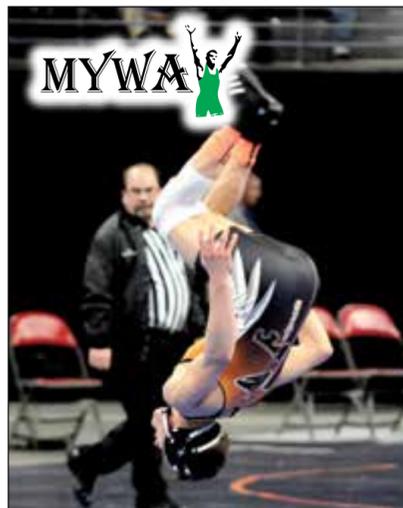
Working hard is one of the keys to

Storr's success as a wrestler. "Kanen's work ethic is one of his big strengths," Stern said. "He wrestles all year. Before school is out for the summer, he already has his schedule planned out for the summer. He wrestles in national tournaments all year. Kanen just constantly works and constantly practices. He's always looking to pick up a thing or two to make himself better."

On the mat, Storr is a fluid technician who is always looking to score points.

"Kanen is really good on his feet," Stern said. "He is always in good position."

After finishing the high school season, Storr will turn his attention to preparing for collegiate wrestling. He will be continuing his wrestling career at Iowa State University.



Leslie's Kanen Storr is gunning for his third straight individual wrestling championship. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photos)

# St. Johns Wrestling Back Among Elite In State

## David Cook Sports Scene

Over the past several seasons, the St. Johns wrestling team has been one of the premier teams in the state. After graduating several standouts from last year's team, some people may have wondered if it could continue its standard of excellence. With the team state tournament just around the corner, the answer is a resounding yes.

Several newcomers have stepped into the St. Johns lineup and have the Redwings again among the top teams in the state. St. Johns is ranked second in the state in Division 2 as of mid January, and

the Redwings have a team very capable of reaching the Division 2 state title match in late February.

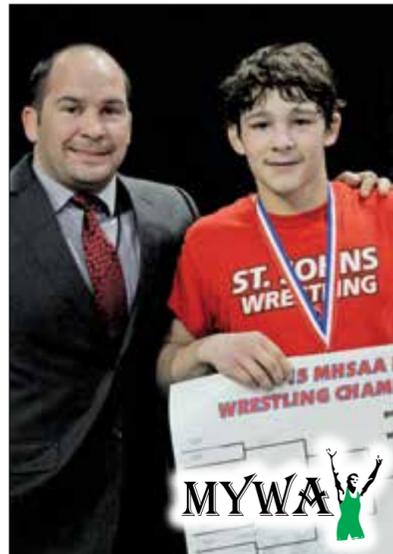
"This season has been great so far," said coach Derek Phillips. "We have a lot of new starters in the lineup, which has made it fun watching them progress."

While newcomers have stepped up for the Redwings, a solid core of veterans anchors the team. Senior Ian Parker, a returning state champion, is ranked first in the state at 135 pounds. Senior Jake Gnegy is ranked second at 285 pounds, senior Derek Droste is ranked fourth at 152 pounds, and junior Bret Fedewa is ranked sixth at 152.

"Ian, Jake, Derek, and Bret have done a great job leading this team," said Phillips. "In addition, Trent Lashuay has been wrestling very good." Lashuay, a junior, is a two-time all-stater who is ranked fourth at 135 pounds.

Sophomore Brendan Zelenka (103 pounds), freshman Kaleob Whitford (112), sophomore Emilio Sanchez (119), junior Derek Selden (125), sophomore Cross Gonzalez (130), freshman Braxton Parks (145), junior Lucas McFarland (160), senior Blake Thelen (189), and senior Matt Nunn (215) have also "done a fantastic job this season," said Phillips.

A big key for the Redwings has also been the chemistry of the team. "This team has great chemistry," Phillips said. "They have really come together and wrestled hard for each other. This year, we are focused on constantly improving and having fun, not just winning matches. If we do those things, we will be successful."



St. Johns' Ian Parker is another high-profile wrestler to make his way through the Redwings program. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photos)

Proud to support our local athletes!

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

www.mercbank.com

MIDSTATE SALES AND SERVICE  
Outdoor Power Equipment

Ingersoll | YAMAHA | STIHL | HONDA | SCAG | SNAPPER

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

Rebates up to \$300

Kingsley Insurance Group  
Rich and Louanne Kingsley  
800-783-0817

Alma | Meemic | St. Johns | Lansing | Circle of Honor

116 W. Superior Street Suite 1  
989-463-5347

1000 E. Stugis St Suite 12  
989-224-3505

526 S. Creyts Rd. Suite C.  
517-489-2257

www.KingsleyInsuranceGroup.com

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

Sparrow Clinton Hospital  
Sparrow Clinton Hospital • St. Johns • 989.224.1575 • www.sparrowclinton.org

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

EXIT 99 OFF US-127 ST. JOHNS FOR SAVINGS

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

<b>2010 KIA SOUL</b> CLOTH SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$139/DOWN \$139/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 JEEP LIBERTY</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$11,900 \$236/DOWN \$236/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2014 DODGE AVENGER</b> SALE PRICE \$14,900 \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 GMC SIERRA SLE</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$22,900 \$383/DOWN \$383/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 JEEP LIBERTY</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$178/DOWN \$178/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2007 CHEVY COLORADO Z-71</b> SALE PRICE \$10,900 \$217/DOWN \$217/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 PONTIAC G6 SPORT</b> MOON SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$139/DOWN \$139/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 PONTIAC TORRENT</b> SALE PRICE \$7,900 \$158/DOWN \$158/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 SATURN VUE XE</b> SALE PRICE \$8,500 \$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 FORD TAURUS</b> SALE PRICE \$12,900 \$256/DOWN \$256/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2005 CHEVY MALIBU LT MAXX</b> MOON SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 DODGE CHARGER SXT</b> SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2003 CHEVY TAHOE LT</b> SALE PRICE \$5,900 \$146/DOWN \$146/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 CHEVY SILVERADO LT</b> SALE PRICE \$24,900 \$369/DOWN \$369/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2013 CHRYSLER 200</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$12,900 \$217/DOWN \$217/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2014 CHEVY CRUZE LT</b> SALE PRICE \$13,900 \$234/DOWN \$234/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 CHEVY SILVERADO LS</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$15,900 \$267/DOWN \$267/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$12,900 \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 CHEVY MALIBU LS</b> SALE PRICE \$10,900 \$217/DOWN \$217/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 CHEVY SILVERADO Z-71</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$178/DOWN \$178/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2011 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$19,900 \$329/DOWN \$329/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2013 CHEVY MALIBU LT</b> ECO SALE PRICE \$14,900 \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$5,500 \$137/DOWN \$137/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2014 FORD FOCUS SES</b> SALE PRICE \$11,900 \$236/DOWN \$236/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 CHEVY IMPALA LT</b> SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$109/DOWN \$109/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2012 BUICK VERANO</b> SALE PRICE \$13,900 \$234/DOWN \$234/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2009 CHEVY IMPALA SS</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$178/DOWN \$178/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2009 PONTIAC G6 GT</b> MOON, LEATHER SALE PRICE \$8,700 \$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2009 FORD F-350 XLT</b> DIESEL SALE PRICE \$27,900 \$419/DOWN \$419/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 FORD F-150 XLT</b> SALE PRICE \$26,900 \$399/DOWN \$399/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT

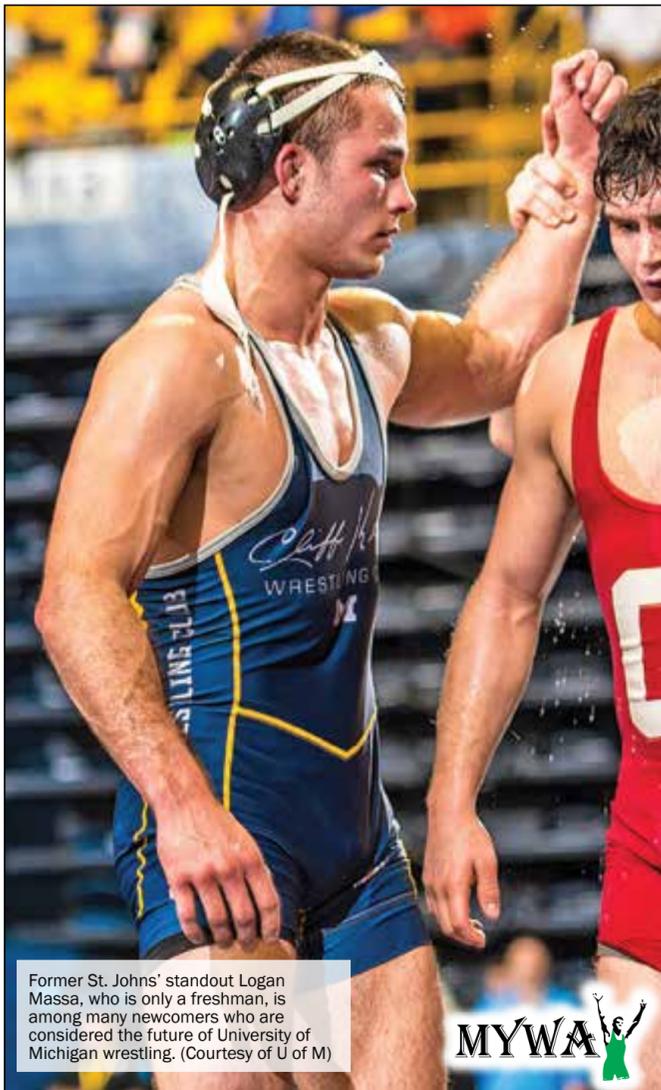
OPEN SUNDAYS NOON - 5PM! **877SUNDANCE.COM**

**SUNDANCE** BUICK • GMC In St. Johns

We Take Anything In On Trade

2016 GMC TERRAIN FWD \$20,900 (Save \$7,110) | 2016 GMC ACADIA FWD \$27,900 (Save \$7,420) | 2016 GMC SIERRA 2WD DOUBLE CAB \$26,900 (Save \$5,585) | 2016 BUICK LACROSSE \$24,900 (Save \$9,835) | 2016 BUICK REGAL \$22,800 (Save \$7,110) | 2016 BUICK ENCLAVE FWD \$33,100 (Save \$5,510)

\*27-39 MO., 99% - 4.9% APR. FLEX PURCHASE, 10K PER YEAR. TAX & PLATES INCLUDED IN PAYMENTS. OEM ELIGIBILITY, LEASE LIABILITY & LEASE CONQUEST MAY APPLY. PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. NOT ALL MAY QUALIFY FOR SHOWN PAYMENT EXAMPLES. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.



Former St. Johns' standout Logan Massa, who is only a freshman, is among many newcomers who are considered the future of University of Michigan wrestling. (Courtesy of U of M)

# St. Johns U of M Wrestling Pipeline

David Cook Sports Scene

While the University of Michigan is known as the maize and blue, its wrestling team has a definite red and black tint to it this year, as in St. Johns Redwings red and black.

The Wolverines, who are turning in a big season this winter and are ranked eighth in the country in Division I, have more than a little bit of red and black in them this year, as five former St. Johns wrestlers are on the team. Redshirt junior Taylor Massa, redshirt sophomore Payne Hayden, redshirt freshman Zac Hall, and freshmen Logan Massa and Ty Wildmo are all part of the Michigan wrestling team and have helped establish a wrestling pipeline between St. Johns and Ann Arbor.

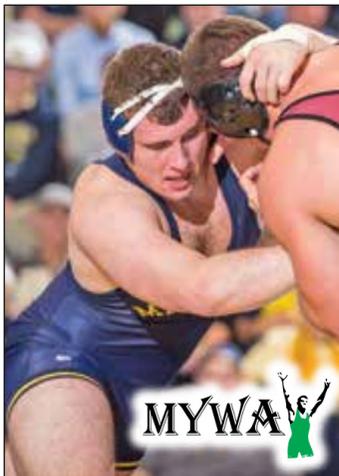
"Anytime you have a pipeline going, it typically starts with one recruit, and in our case it was Taylor Massa," said Michigan head coach Joe

McFarland. "St. Johns is obviously a successful program, and once Taylor came here, the other guys followed."

One of the premier high school recruits in his class,

great balance of academics and athletics that helped us get Taylor," McFarland said.

Getting Taylor to Ann Arbor then opened the pipeline to St. Johns. "The one thing about all the St. Johns kids is that they compete hard," McFarland said. "They compete in national tournaments across the country, and that was attractive to us, because we can see how hard they compete."



Fowlerville's Adam Coon has been as good as advertised during his three year's in Ann Arbor. (Courtesy of U of M)

St. Johns is not the only mid-Michigan high school represented on the Wolverine roster, as standout heavyweight Adam Coon is a Fowlerville graduate and Conor Youtsey is a Mason graduate. Coon is ranked fourth in the nation as a heavyweight, while Youtsey is ranked 20th at 125 pounds.

"It says a lot about wrestling in Michigan," McFarland said. "No question, Michigan continues to be one of the stronger wrestling states over the years. It is a real strong state in our sport."

Taylor Massa was recruited by a number of high-profile wrestling programs and was a huge recruiting win for Michigan. "I think it was our

# Chesaning Wrestling Makes Headlines after Winning Saginaw Tournament

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Chesaning wrestling team may not be ranked in the state yet, but the way the Indians have been wrestling this season, pollsters should take a look at them.

Chesaning improved its dual-meet record to 10-1 for the season and 4-0 in the Tri-Valley Conference as of mid January. Even more impressive was Chesaning winning the Saginaw County Championship. It totaled 297 points to win the title, 53 points ahead of second-place Birch Run, which is ranked eighth in the state in Division 3.

Chesaning turned in a solid team performance at the Saginaw County Championship, with six wrestlers winning championships. Senior Kegan McAlpine, ranked 10th in the state in Division 3, won the title at 140 pounds.

Earlier this month, McAlpine notched his 100th career win.

Junior Hunter Gasper, ranked third in the state at 160 pounds, won the title at 160. Gasper also won his 100th career match earlier this season at the North Branch Invitational.

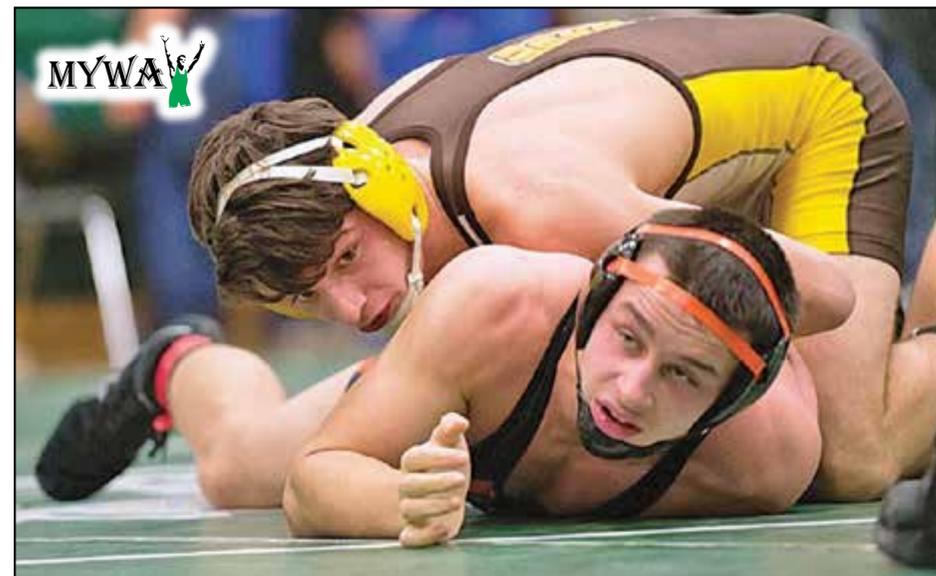
Junior Trevor Patterson, ranked fifth at 152 pounds, captured the title at 152. Dawson Giesken added a title at 103 pounds, Wyatt Lanczynski won at 215 pounds, and Morgan Miller won at 285 pounds.

A trio of Chesaning wrestlers took second place - Kolin McAlpine at 145, Skyler Nathan at 171, and Jacob Wright at 189. Collin Rolfe took third at 125 pounds, and Nate Martin took third at 135. Hayden Giesken took fifth at 130, Zach Matsumiya placed sixth at 112, Collin Rodriguez took sixth at 119, Jake Stevenson took sixth at 152, and Casey

Yon took seventh at 215.

"I was so impressed by our performance," said coach Jeremy Reiber. "We have been talking about how we had a chance to be one of the top teams in the county this year after finishing third last year. The guys definitely accepted the challenge, stayed focused, worked hard all week in practice, and gave it everything they had. I'm super proud of everyone on the team."

The Chesaning wrestlers have been making their coach proud all season. Along with winning the Saginaw County title, Chesaning also took first place at the North Branch team invitational, where it went 5-0. Collin Rolfe, Kegan McAlpine, and Jacob Wright led the way at North Branch, as they all went 5-0. Dawson Giesken, Collin Rodriguez, Kolin McAlpine, Hunter Gasper, Skyler Nathan, and Morgan Miller all went 4-1.



Chesaning won its first Saginaw County Invitational meet since 2005 Jan. 16 at Freeland High School. (Submitted Photos)

Bring this ad into any JFCU location to receive a **FREE GIFT** when you open a new account!

ST. JOHNS - FOWLER - OVID  
989.224.9511  
www.JourneyFCU.org

Serving Clinton, Gratiot & Shiawassee Counties

**GRAFF**  
CHEVROLET DURAND

Jason Saunders  
Sales Professional

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

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

No Limit to the Fun You'll Have

Pizzas Burgers Steaks Ribs

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

**BUICK GMC SUNDANCE**

**SAVE \$25.00**  
Off Any Service Purchase Over \$100.00 With This Ad  
1800sundance.com

**Sundance**  
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

Capitol Bowl

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  
989-725-7717 989-725-VALS (8257)  
www.capitolbowl.net Become a Facebook Fan Today!

Your local agent insures your **Auto**

Tony Cook  
tcook@binsmi.com  
FarmBureauInsurance.com

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

**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.

**Kubota**

**ALDERMANS**  
Lennon, Michigan INCORPORATED  
810-821-4201  
www.aldermans.com

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

0% for 48 months

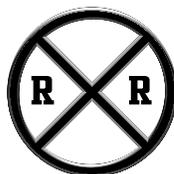
\*MAXIMUM A.P.R. financing for up to 48 months on purchases of new Kubota equipment including T, GA, G, F & VS Series is available to qualified purchasers from participating dealers. In-stock inventory through 5/31/2015. Example: A \$10,000 monthly installment payment term at 0% A.P.R. requires 48 payments of \$208.33 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. Reduction of in-stock equipment may result in higher financed A.P.R. 0% A.P.R. and low-rate financing may not be available with customer credit other offers. Financing is available through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., A.R.E. Del. Acct. 5601, Owosso, MI 48867, subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Offer expires 5/31/2015. See Alderman's for details. Optional equipment may be shown.

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



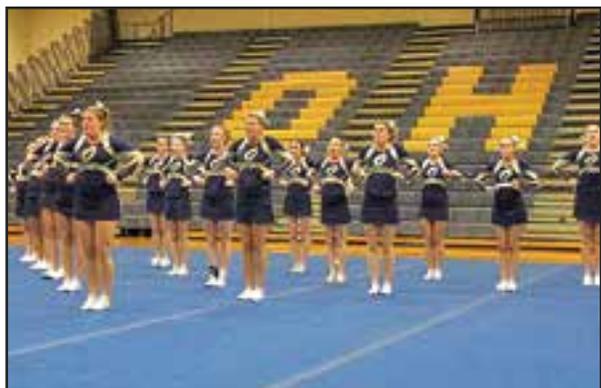
### The Durand Girls Basketball File

The Durand girls basketball team is ranked honorable mention in Class B in the mid-January state poll. The Railroaders picked up a signature win when they defeated Goodrich, 35-24. The win was Goodrich's first conference loss in seven years. Meaghan Manasy led the way with 11 points and 11 rebounds, while Cierra Cole added 11 points. Cassie Podulka held University of Iowa signee Alexis Sevilian to nine points.



### The Jordan Klapko File

Owosso sophomore basketball player Jordan Klapko picked the right night to have a breakout game. Klapko recorded a double-double, as he totaled 21 points and 10 rebounds in Owosso's 62-48 win against rival Corunna. For the season, he is averaging six points and five rebounds per game.



### The Owosso Competitive Cheer File

The Owosso competitive cheer team is off to a strong start this season. It won a title at the Portland Invitational and then won the Northwest Invitational in Jackson. Owosso totaled 709 points to win at Northwest by 46 points over Northwest. Owosso has also posted the fourth-best round-one score of the year in Division 2, a score of 229.8 points.



### The Tristan Serbus File

Corunna senior wrestler Tristan Serbus is ranked second in the state in Division 2 at 119 pounds. A state-runner-up last season, he recorded his 150th career win earlier this season. Serbus also won individual titles at both the Williamston Mooney Classic and the New Lothrop Hall of Fame Invitational.



### The Perry Girls Basketball File

The Perry girls basketball team turned in a big season last year, as it went 15-6 and won its first-ever league title. This season, the Ramblers have picked up where they left off. They are ranked eighth in the state in Class B. Senior guard Kelsey Finch is averaging over 16 points per game and is closing in on the school's all-time point record. Senior guard Lindsay Crim is averaging over five assists per game.



### The Owosso Wrestling File

The Owosso wrestling team is enjoying a strong start to the season. The Trojans have compiled a 15-5 record in dual meets as of mid January. Owosso also turned in a 4-1 record at the Swartz Creek team invitational. Seniors Emilio Campos (112 pounds), Josh Smelser (145), Nic Bignell (160), and Loudon Newbury (189) have been leading the way, along with juniors Joe Vondrasek (152) and Jacob Fisher (130) and freshman Nathan Mariutza (103).



**YOUNG OWOSSO**  
 989-725-2184 • 800-725-2188  
 www.YoungAutoSales.com

   
**GMC**  
 1500 East Main Street  
 Owosso, MI 48867

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





Celebrating Our 7th Year!

# SPORTS SCENE

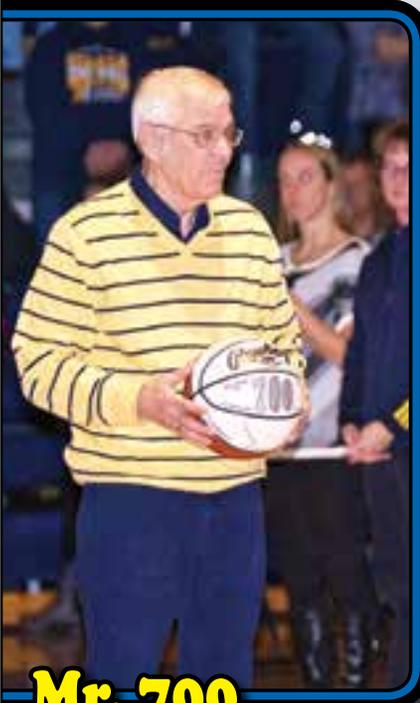
KEEPING KIDN THE NEWS

FREE



## FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

### Nouvel's Laurel Jacqumain Continues To Wow On Court



#### Mr. 700

Ithaca's Anderson Records Win No. 700; Steps Down As Coach After Milestone

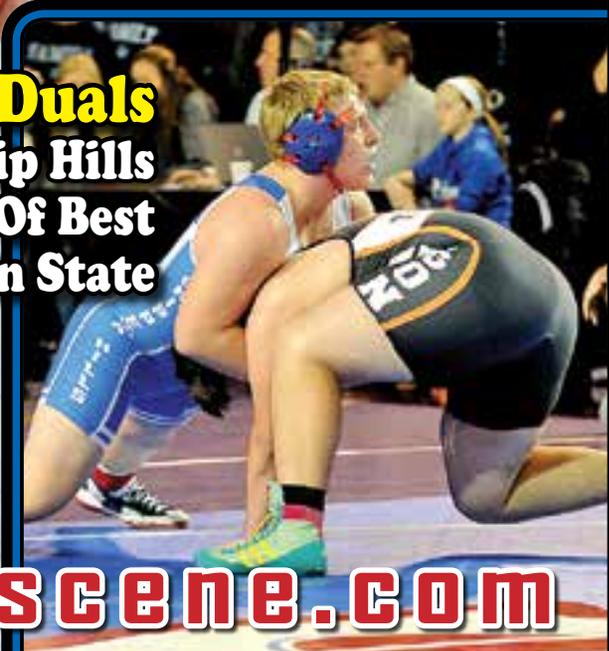


#### Clutch Carl

Panthers, Carl Playing At High Level



Getting Defensive Heritage Using Strong "D" To Move Among State's Elite



Super Duals CMU, Chip Hills Host Some Of Best Teams In State

# MYWA



**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.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 74 North • Jan./Feb. 2016

# CONTENTS

- 4 | St. Louis Wrestling Continues To Make Strides
- 5 | Ithaca Girls Bowling Enjoying Another Solid Season
- 6 | Yellowjackets Getting Defensive
- 7 | Anderson Steps Down; Rayburn Steps In
- 8 | Clutch Carl
- 9 | Kea Siblings Hit Ice For Mt. Pleasant
- 10 | Noah, Logan Ingram Making Noise For Oilers
- 11 | Chippewa Hills Wrestling
- 12 | Avari Gamble Leading Way For Sacred Heart
- 13 | Carson City Hospital
- 14 | CMU Super Duals
- 16 | Tuttle Eyes Third State Title For Bulldogs
- 17 | Heritage Using Strong Defense To Remain Undefeated
- 18 | Saginaw High About To Make Some Noise
- 19 | Santos, Suitor Lead Way For Swan Valley
- 20 | Heritage, Midland Dow Battle For Saginaw Valley League Supremacy
- 22 | Breckenridge Continuing To Make Strides On Hardwood
- 23 | Chesaning Wins Saginaw Valley Invitational; First Time In 10 Years
- 24 | Lowell Wrestling Takes On No. 1 St. Edwards
- 25 | College Spotlight
- 26 | North Notebook
- 28 | Meet Nouvel's Laurel Jacqmain

Find Us On **facebook**



## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hey Sports Fans, it's another great day at Sports Scene!

"What do you want?"

I've thought about this question a lot since High School Sports Scene decided to branch into two separate editions (North and a South) four months ago. So if you are one who wondered why Sports Scene was getting smaller, don't worry. It's not getting smaller, but getting bigger, with two separate editions providing the best high school sports coverage we can.

The reason is that we want to become more regionalized in each area, but we have found that this move also has its pitfalls, because there are some folks who like to read about the other areas that we cover.

So we ask you, our readers, what do you want?

As our children begin their athletic pursuits, whether it's Pop Warner or Little League, club basketball or club volleyball, I wonder if we're asking that question enough - or at all.

It's easy to make our dream their dream. Our goal their goal. Be the best player on the team. Win a state championship. Get a college scholarship.

That's fine, as long as we're asking our kids that simple question and truly respect their answers.

The real answer is that we are letting down our kids. Journalistic integrity is taking a backseat to blogs and social media and, in essence, it's changing how we read the written word. The newspaper is being replaced by the cell phone, which is causing newspapers and magazines to phase out.

However, we are old school here at Sports Scene. We realize that people still love to read, and we are providing a valuable service to our student-athletes.

Sometimes, as parents, we know what's best for our kids. It's why we don't let them give up on themselves. It's why we tell them what they don't want to hear. It's why, when they become teenagers, their desire for independence doesn't mesh well with our authority. But, when they're old enough to make responsible, mature decisions for themselves, we need to listen. We need to recognize that our dream might not be their dream.

We need to ask them, "What do you want?"



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



**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](http://www.pineriverdentalcare.com)

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

EXIT 99 OFF US-127 ST. JOHNS FOR SAVINGS

<b>2010 KIA SOUL</b> CLOTH SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$139/DOWN \$139/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 JEEP LIBERTY</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$11,900 \$236/DOWN \$236/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2014 DODGE AVENGER</b> SALE PRICE \$14,900 \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 GMC SIERRA SLE</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$22,900 \$383/DOWN \$383/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 JEEP LIBERTY</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$178/DOWN \$178/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2007 CHEVY COLORADO Z-71</b> SALE PRICE \$10,900 \$217/DOWN \$217/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 PONTIAC G6 SPORT</b> MOON SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$139/DOWN \$139/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 PONTIAC TORRENT</b> SALE PRICE \$7,900 \$158/DOWN \$158/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 SATURN VUE XE</b> SALE PRICE \$8,500 \$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 FORD TAURUS</b> SALE PRICE \$12,900 \$256/DOWN \$256/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2005 CHEVY MALIBU LT MAXX</b> MOON SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 DODGE CHARGER SXT</b> SALE PRICE \$6,900 \$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2003 CHEVY TAHOE LT</b> SALE PRICE \$5,900 \$146/DOWN \$146/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 CHEVY SILVERADO LT</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$24,900 \$369/DOWN \$369/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2013 CHRYSLER 200</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$12,900 \$217/DOWN \$217/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2014 CHEVY CRUZE LT</b> SALE PRICE \$13,900 \$234/DOWN \$234/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 CHEVY SILVERADO LS</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$15,900 \$267/DOWN \$267/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$12,900 \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 CHEVY MALIBU LS</b> SALE PRICE \$10,900 \$217/DOWN \$217/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 CHEVY SILVERADO Z-71</b> LEATHER SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$178/DOWN \$178/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2011 DODGE RAM 1500 SLT</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$19,900 \$329/DOWN \$329/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2013 CHEVY MALIBU LT</b> ECO SALE PRICE \$14,900 \$249/DOWN \$249/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2004 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$5,500 \$137/DOWN \$137/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2014 FORD FOCUS SES</b> SALE PRICE \$11,900 \$236/DOWN \$236/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 CHEVY IMPALA LT</b> SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$109/DOWN \$109/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2012 BUICK VERANO</b> SALE PRICE \$13,900 \$234/DOWN \$234/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2009 CHEVY IMPALA SS</b> LEATHER, MOON SALE PRICE \$8,900 \$178/DOWN \$178/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2009 PONTIAC G6 GT</b> MOON, LEATHER SALE PRICE \$8,700 \$169/DOWN \$169/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2009 FORD F-350 XLT</b> DIESEL SALE PRICE \$27,900 \$419/DOWN \$419/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 FORD F-150 XLT</b> 4x4 SALE PRICE \$26,900 \$399/DOWN \$399/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT

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

**SUNDANCE** In St. Johns

<b>2016 GMC TERRAIN FWD</b> MSRP \$32,000 SALE PRICE \$20,900 SAVE \$11,100	<b>2016 GMC ACADIA FWD</b> MSRP \$32,000 SALE PRICE \$27,900 SAVE \$4,100	<b>2016 GMC SIERRA 2WD DOUBLE CAB</b> MSRP \$32,000 SALE PRICE \$26,900 SAVE \$5,100	<b>2016 BUICK LACROSSE</b> MSRP \$32,000 SALE PRICE \$24,900 SAVE \$7,100	<b>2016 BUICK REGAL</b> MSRP \$32,000 SALE PRICE \$22,800 SAVE \$9,200	<b>2016 BUICK ENCLAVE FWD</b> MSRP \$32,000 SALE PRICE \$33,100 SAVE \$1,100
--	--	---	--	---	---

\*New & Used Vehicles: All Payments are with approved credit, see dealer for details. \*\*27.99 MO., 99% - 4.9% APR. FLEX PURCHASE, 10K PER YEAR. TAX & PLATES INCLUDED IN PAYMENTS. MSRP ELIGIBILITY, LEASE LOYALTY & LEASE CONQUEST MAY APPLY. PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. NOT ALL MAY QUALIFY FOR SHOWN PAYMENT EXAMPLES. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.

# St. Louis Wrestling Off to Solid Start

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Kevin Kuhn is coaching a St. Louis wrestling team that is enjoying a banner season and wants to accomplish much more before it ends.

As of mid January, the hungry Sharks were 14-1 and on the verge of wrapping up their fourth consecutive TVC West Conference title.

"The reason our team is successful is because I have a group of kids who came up through our youth program under the guidance of my assistant coach, Greg Beeson," Kuhn said. "They put their time in and stuck together and are now reaping the benefits of this. They have also bought into the technique that my other

assistant, Jon Reeves, teaches on a daily basis, and it has created a smooth operating system for our day-to-day grind."

The Sharks' top wrestlers have been Austin Rios (15-8), Jayce Kuehnlein (23-2), Konnor Holton (22-2), Jake Davis (26-3), Clayton Howd (21-3), and Ernie Diaz (25-2).

"Kuehnlein, Holton, Howd, and Diaz all took first at both the Hart invite, as well as the St. Louis Invite," Kuhn said. "Howd and Holton have both medaled at the state tournament in the past [2014], and all of the previously-mentioned kids except for Rios have qualified for state."

Any successful wrestling team needs strong numbers, and the Sharks seem to have that. "We do have two freshmen, in Isaac

Howd and Ryan Downs, who are starting to contribute nicely and pulled off a few upsets at the Ithaca Invite," Kuhn said.

The Sharks are looking forward to the rest of the season. "Our team goals are always the same, win the conference first, then the district title, then the regional," Kuhn said. "If we accomplish these, we put ourselves in position to make a run at a state title. To do this, we need to stay healthy, eligible, and make weight. We can put together a very competitive lineup if our kids are willing to make personal sacrifices for the team. That's what it is all about, and that's what the good teams do, year in, year out."



The St. Louis wrestling team continues to make strides under coach Kevin Kuhn. (Photos Courtesy of Ed Courter)

# Ithaca Bowlers Among Best In D4

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Ithaca varsity girls' coach Dan Macha has an experienced lineup, with five returning on a team that went 21-1 overall and 9-1 in the TVC West last season.

Ithaca also won the 2015 TVC Conference Tournament by topping 21 teams in the three TVC divisions. They finished second by just a few pins at the 2015 regional and went on to make the final four at the state finals, losing in the semifinal round to eventual state champion St. Louis by 21 pins.

"If one other team had not jumped the Sharks, we would have been in opposite brackets and could have easily not met them until the finals," said Macha. "In my opinion, we were the best two teams in the Division 4 field."

Returning are seniors Channing Gulick and Arianna Woodrow.

"Channing is my primary substitute; she can come in and turn a game around," said Macha. "Arianna has great lane presence and does not lack effort. She does over-think at times but is solid in the middle of our lineup."

Returning juniors Haylee Sigafoose and Heidi Seeley are the 4-to-5 punch for the team.

"I could bowl these two at either spot and have no worries" said Macha. "They are

competitors for sure. Haylee sets up Heidi when we need a big spark, and the two work together well, no matter what spot they bowl."

Also on the roster of seven is first-year senior Maddie Pung.

"Maddie is a lefty and, although still learning the sport, will be a big weapon later in the year," Macha said. "She has great form and just needs to learn lane talk, and she is going to give us some support on the left side of the game."

Junior Shannon Whitaker has already made her mark on the Yellowjackets roster, tossing 200 games in both matches this season.

"She is the quiet one, just does her best and listens very well," Macha said. "She is a great leadoff bowler, as she throws her share of strikes."

The newcomer on the team is freshman Bethany Slater.

"Bethany shot her best series at the match last week, tossing a 219, 191, and 167, raising her average from a 128 to the 170s in just a week. In tryouts, she just stuck out and was so attentive to do better every time she bowls," Macha said.

"Right now, I have six of the seven girls averaging from 170 to 187 and their Baker Game Average is near 170," Macha said. "That is very impressive just halfway through our season."



The Ithaca boys and girls bowling teams are picking right up where they left off last season and are considered among the top teams in Division 4. (Courtesy Photo)

## Ithaca High School seniors Alyssa Mankey and Blaire Showers both signed their national letters of intent to run cross country at Lansing Community College next fall.

The two helped the Yellowjackets win a Division 3 state title in 2014 and played a key role in Ithaca's fifth-place finish in the finals in 2015.

Lansing Community College won the NJCAA

Division I Women's Cross Country National Championship last fall and became the first program in the college's history to win a national title. Shepherd's Taylor Thrush and Carson City's Kaitlin Beyer run for the Harriers.

Ithaca's Blaire Showers (Left) and Alyssa Mankey (Right) recently announced they will continue their running career at National Junior College powerhouse Lansing Community College. LCC won the JUCO National Title a year ago.

**lean**  
lifestyle, exercise and nutrition  
116 N. Mill St., St. Louis, Michigan  
989-620-0365  
info@leangroupfitness.com

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.

**CRIPPEN**  
MANUFACTURING  
COMPANY  
Providing Quality Grain Equipment Since 1924!  
4000 WOODSIDE DRIVE PHONE 989.681.4323  
ST LOUIS, MICHIGAN 48880  
www.crippenmfg.com

**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

**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

Where it's homemade... from scratch!  
**THE HEARTHSTONE OVEN**  
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 n bake.  
126 S. Pine River • Ithaca, MI 48847 • 989-875-OVEN (6836)



**MAYAN**  
INSURANCE SINCE 1915  
THE MAYAN AGENCY  
Merrill, MI 48637  
(989) 643-7207  
(800) 646-2926  
www.mayanagency.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

**EFAW BUILDERS**  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL  
FULL SERVICE BUILDING • LICENSED & INSURED  
AND REMODELING  
Charles Efav  
Cell: (989) 763-0916  
efawbuilders@msn.com

7625 N. Alger Rd. Alma - Between Walmart & K-Mart Center  
**Seeley AUTO**  
989-463-AUTO (2886)  
seeleycars.com

<b>04 Chevy TrailBlazer EXT LS</b> 4L NA 16, Automatic <b>\$5,495</b>	<b>07 Ford Focus ZX4 S</b> 2.0L Inline 4, Automatic <b>\$5,995</b>	<b>06 Dodge Grand Caravan SE</b> V6 3.3L OHV, Automatic <b>\$4,995</b>	<b>07 Mercury Mariner Luxury</b> 3.0L V6, Automatic <b>\$6,495</b>
---	--	--	--

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

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

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

SEALS • TACIA • BARTZ • WHITMORE • Comprehensive Optometry



## Life Without Hoag Ithaca Must Find Way To Replace Top Scorer After Leg Injury

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

Ithaca basketball coach Jim Thompson knew it wasn't pretty when it happened. The crowd at Alma High School knew it wasn't good, too.

The Yellowjackets' top scorer and second leading rebounder, Isaiah Hoag, will likely miss the rest of the season after suffering a leg injury during Ithaca's 56-53 loss to the Panthers Jan. 19.

Even seeing the devastating injury up close, Thomson still holds a little optimism for Hoag's return this season. "When he went to the emergency room after the injury, they set the dislocation and told him to come in a week to determine what the next steps to recovery will be," Thompson said. "Until we know what kind of injury we are dealing with, I'm going on to hold a little bit optimism for his return this season. I really feel for him. He is such a great kid, and he was having such a great season. Let's hope he makes a speedy recovery."

What Ithaca will be missing in Hoag's absence is someone who averaged 13.5 points and 6.5 rebounds a game, not to mention a very smart player on both ends of the court. Hoag had the knack of always getting himself in position to make a play, especially offensively.

"The thing about Isaiah that we will probably miss the most is his ability to just get the "garbage basket" under the net," Thompson said. "You can't teach that. He always seemed to be always in the right place at the right time. He's going to be missed."

Ithaca's first game without Hoag was a five-point victory over St. Charles. In the game, the new-look Yellowjackets hit eight three-pointers, including five by senior Spence DeMull. The eight threes is as many as Ithaca had in its four games prior to the St. Charles win.

Thompson elected to go to with a three guard offense, inserting Joey Bentley into the starting lineup and moving senior Nick Raddak to the four spot. He was encouraged by the results.

"Defensively, we are playing at such a high level, but offensively, we have really lacked shooting the ball," Thompson said. "If we can continue to shoot the ball well, I think we can play against anyone, but we have to shoot the ball and shoot it well."

With a rematch with Alma on the horizon, Thompson believes Ithaca's shooting woes will subside. Ithaca is shooting less than 50 percent from the free throw line, which he knows needs to improve if Ithaca wants to make any noise come tournament time.

"The only way you stop bad shooting is practice," Thompson said. "You just need to continue to shoot the ball. The guys know our free throw shooting needs to improve. I have all the faith in the world that things will continue to improve."

Thompson knows a streaking shooting team can make all of the difference between wins and losses. "You can play the best defense in the world, but if you aren't scoring the basketball, it really doesn't matter if you aren't getting the ball in the net. I was extremely encouraged with what I saw in the new lineup, and I am hoping the hot shooting can continue over the course of the rest of the season.

Big Test  
Frankenmuth's Mario Whitely was too much for Ithaca to overcome in its 64-42 TVC crossover loss to the Eagles. He scored 18 points and added seven rebounds, two blocks, and two steals for the unbeaten Eagles (10-0, 7-0 TVC East).

After starting its season with 10 wins in a row, Ithaca (10-2, 7-0 TVC West) has now lost two in a row to ranked Class B squads.



The Ithaca boys basketball team dropped its first game of the season with a 56-53 loss to Alma Jan. 19. (Russ Pierce, Skip Traynor and Randy Miniard Photos)

**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

**CHEVROLET**

## New-Look Yellowjackets Have Sights on Big Prize New Coach Rayburn Makes Smooth Transition; Thrilled About Opportunity

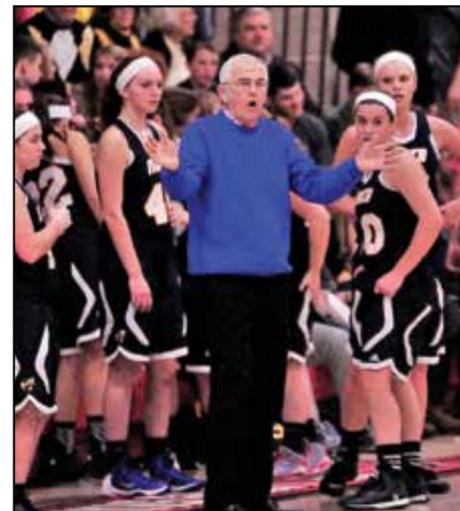
Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

When Ithaca girls' varsity basketball coach Bob Anderson won his 700th victory against Carrollton this season, he knew that he had accomplished something that only four other coaches in the history of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) had. "You know, when you have won that many games, you know you probably have lost just quite a few, too," he said jokingly before the game.

Anderson picked up two more victories

after No. 700, but after those games, he and the Ithaca Athletic department came to the mutual decision that he would step down from coaching to concentrate on his health.

"This was a very difficult situation for all of us involved," said Ithaca Athletic Director Terry Hessbrook. "We have been very concerned about Bob's overall health since last summer. We were all hopeful that Bob could finish the season. However, after discussing his health with him, it was decided that Bob should step down and continue to improve his health."



Hessbrook didn't have to look far for Anderson's replacement. Assistant Jessie Rayburn, who coached the Yellowjackets from 2008-2011, took over with the hopes of continuing the momentum that Anderson started in recent seasons. "So far, it has really been a smooth transition," Rayburn said. "The girls have adjusted very well to the change. Since I have been assisting Coach Anderson for awhile, my transition to coaching the girls has been relatively easy, considering the timing."

Rayburn inherited a

Former Ithaca coach Bob Anderson announced earlier this month that he was stepping down as head coach of the Yellowjackets. Anderson eclipsed the 700 win plateau earlier this season. (Russ Pierce, High School Sports Scene Photo)

team that was 10-0, and the momentum has carried over with her arrival on the bench.

"Just this week, the girls wrote down three team and three individuals goals for the season, and it is safe to say that their expectations are very high," Rayburn said. "With five seniors on the team, the girls are hungry for success. We just continue to improve our skills. Being undefeated is a great achievement. The girls come every day ready to learn."

Senior Kylee Chaffin has gratitude toward Anderson, but she looks forward to the rest of the season under Rayburn. "It has been a great three and half seasons of basketball with Coach Anderson," she said. "We knew he really cared about all of us and wanted nothing but the best for the team. It's really sad to see him step down, but we realize his health is the most important thing right now."

Needless to say, Rayburn has a tough act to follow. "So people have asked me what I have learned this time around versus last time I coached, and I can hon-



The Ithaca girls basketball team remains undefeated after a recent victory over Carrollton. The Yellowjackets enter the second half of the season with a tough TVC crossover game against Frankenmuth. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photos)

estly say...patience," Rayburn said. "Skills will develop, shots will fall, turnovers will happen, etc. As a coach, you have to be patient."

Alma  
116 W. Superior Street  
Suite 1  
989-463-5347

**Kingsley Insurance Group**  
Rich and Louanne Kingsley  
800-783-0817

St. Johns  
1000 E. Stugs St  
Suite 12  
989-224-3505

Lansing  
526 S. Creyrs Rd.  
Suite C.  
517-489-2257

— Auto / Home — — Boat / Umbrella —

www.KingsleyInsuranceGroup.com

**C & S Steel**

203 Industrial Pkwy.  
Ave B - Ithaca

Ph: 989-875-5145  
Fx: 989-875-4754

**PRECISION MACHINE & MFG., INC.**

1102 Industrial Pkwy.  
Ave. A - Ithaca

Ph: 989-875-2359  
Fx: 989-875-4615

**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

Your local agent insures your

**Life**

Scott Allen  
sallen@fbinsmi.com  
FarmBureauInsurance.com

989-875-2200  
225 East Center Street, Ithaca

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

**300 BOWL**  
All You Can Bowl!

Regular, **\$5.00**  
Or Laser

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 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!**



Since the break, Alma's Dylan Carl is playing like a man possessed. He tied the Alma assist record with 11 against Ithaca, he tied the block shot record with 11 as well. Against Swan Valley, he achieved his second triple double of his career (16 pts, 12 rebs, 11 assists).

# Alma, Carl Off to Staggering Start Panthers Gearing Up For Stretch Run

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

They don't call him clutch for nothing.

He scored only eight points against Gratiot County rival Ithaca on Jan. 19, but those points were probably some of his biggest in his career. Dylan Carl hit a huge three-pointer at the end of regulation to send the game into overtime. In overtime, tied 53-53, Carl launched another three-pointer to give the Panthers the 56-53 victory over the Yellowjackets.

It was all in a day's work for the Alma senior. "What was going through my mind hitting those threes was just everything I do to make the shot," Carl said. "Like my follow through, bending my knees, etc. Ithaca is a long defensive team and always talks to each other of where I am cutting, I can overcome that by cutting more and popping outside a little bit."

Alma coach JT Cleveland was impressed by the way Carl stepped up for his team. "Dylan is a great three-point shooter," he said "I was confident in both shots. I am extremely proud of his mental toughness all game. He only had three shot attempts before he made the 'three' to send it into overtime. The entire game he kept battling - 15 rebounds and 11 blocks - helping

wherever he could. Then, he was ready when the opportunity finally opened up.

"Ithaca was able to shut down Carl's inside game, like it has the past few seasons, and they were able to do it with a collapsing defensive effort in the paint."

Cleveland knew that coming into the contest but was impressed how Carl was able to do other things on both ends of the court. "It's no secret, they put three guys on him the whole night," Cleveland said. "Our balanced attack usually eliminates this option. We didn't have a good shooting night, or they would have had to change that strategy quickly. Whenever you beat a quality team, it gives the team confidence. Being able to step up in the fourth quarter and overtime shows we have players who are not afraid of the moment. When that is the case, great things happen."

Since its opening-night loss to Haslett, Alma has run off nine straight victories. The Panthers are rolling, and seniors like Carl and Justin Doyle are leading the way. Juniors Kyle Veldrode and Ryan Cornjeo are also putting in solid work for Alma. Veldrode led the Panthers, with 22 against Ithaca.

Cleveland said that Alma scheduled Haslett because he wanted to beef up the non-conference schedule, knowing how good

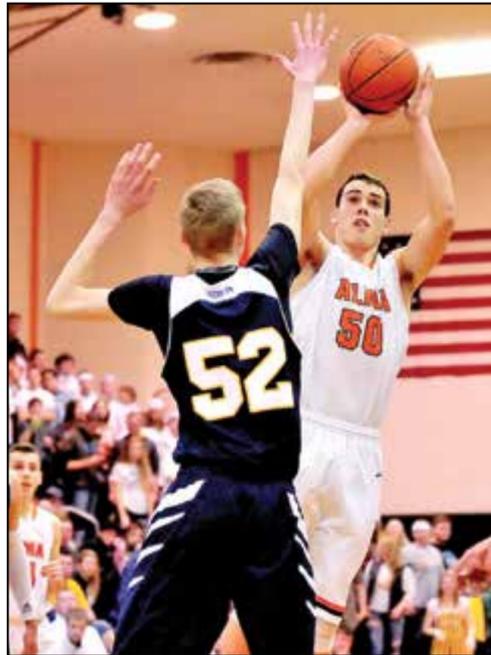
Haslett would be. Unfortunately for Alma, Haslett was better on the night the two teams met. But since the loss, Cleveland was watched his team improve nightly. "There is no doubt that loss helped us improve," he said.

"We played Ypsilanti Arbor Prep next, who was also a ranked team, and played much better, getting the win. It's not about overcoming a loss, it is about learning from each game and improving every day. Momentum may not truly be the answer; our desire is to continue to work very hard in every practice, very hard in every game, and reach for our peak at the end of the season. Momentum, wins, and losses will take care of themselves. What we hope to achieve is to become our very best."

Meanwhile, Carl has put up some staggering numbers to start the season.

In mid January, he tied two school records and expanded on another. He tied the assist record with 11, and against Ithaca he tied the block shot record with 11, as well. Against Swan Valley, he achieved the second triple double of his career (16 points, 12 rebounds, 11 assists).

"This team has to keep working hard and staying focused and take it one game at a time to take the next step," Carl said.



Alma's JT Cleveland states his point during the Panthers victory over Ithaca.



The Alma boys basketball earned a hard fought 56-53 victory over Ithaca Jan. 19. The two teams will play another game in two weeks. (Russ Pierce, Skip Traynor and Randy Miniard Photos)



**PREMIER COMPONENTS, INC.**

**YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR MILL ACCESSORIES**

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

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

- 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

[www.premier-com.com](http://www.premier-com.com)

**sears of Alma HOMETOWN STORE**

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

New Owner Jarred Cline

**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!

# Ingram Brother, Sister having Impressive Basketball Seasons for Mount Pleasant

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Noah and Logan Ingram are both contributing to Mount Pleasant basketball this season. Noah is a junior starter for the boys' team, and Logan, a freshman, is playing varsity for the girls. They both wear No 10.

It's the second full varsity season for Noah, who plays shooting guard. "Last

year, I pretty much came off the bench," he said, adding that his playing time has increased significantly.

A main role is scoring points. Midway through the season, he was averaging 18 points a game. "Most [points] are from the outside, but I do score quite a bit inside," he said. "I've been happy with what I've been able to contribute."

Ingram estimates he's shooting around 35 percent.



He had 25 points against Heritage. "I had the first half where I shot pretty good," he said.

Ingram has been working at attacking the basket and not relying on his outside shot.

Mount Pleasant's boys were 5-4 after their first nine games. "We were really underestimated that we weren't going to be very good with the [graduates] from last year," Ingram, an all-conference honorable mention player last season, said. "We're shocking people on how good we're doing this year."

Noah noted that there are similarities and differences between him and his sister. "She can shoot pretty much as good as me,"

Noah said. "We played quite a bit of basketball. We went to Morey Courts. She played a lot of AAU. We practice and shoot with each other a ton."

Logan is a 5'7" shooting guard who has played varsity all season as a ninth-grader. "During the summer, I played [with the varsity]," she said. "But during tryouts in November is when I got the final call. I was excited to find out I'd be on the varsity. But at the time, I was pretty nervous."

Logan comes off the bench but has played in every game. She's averaging around five points a contest with a high game of 12 points. Her role is usually to score. "Usually threes is what I'm confident with," Logan said, adding that she's been around 30 percent accuracy in shooting the triples. "You can't really think about it, you have to let it happen. When you overthink it, you hesitate when you take the shot. You have to have confidence in yourself."

Logan wants to improve on her defense. "I'm already known for being a shooter," she said. "I want to be known for being an all-around player."

Her brother has been a role model of sorts. "At first, I watched him all the time, and I still watch him a lot," she said. "He's a good role model to have."

Halfway through the season, the Oiler girls were 4-6. "At first, we went through



some rough games," Logan said. "But now, we're doing pretty well as a team."

According to Noah, it's a coincidence that they both wear No. 10. "We have to choose, and it just so happened we both chose No. 10," Logan said.

Noah is also a solid baseball player for the Oilers and plays second base. He indicated baseball is his best sport. He's a switch-hitter.

Logan mainly focuses on basketball. "But this year, I decided to try volleyball to give me another sport to work on," she said.

The Mt. Pleasant Ingram siblings, Noah and Logan, are both making huge contributions to the Oilers' basketball teams this season. Noah is a junior and scored a season-high 25 against Heritage and Logan starts as a freshman. (Scott Keyes Photos, High School Sports Scene)

**"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

**ROTH ELECTRIC SOUND**

System Optimization  
Rentals & Installation  
Certified Design

**BOSE**  
Professional Systems  
AUTHORIZED DEALER

**Steve Roth**  
1708 N. Fancher St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
Phone: (989) 779-8828  
Cell: (989) 621-0628  
steve@rothsound.com

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

Proud to support our local athletes!

**Mercantile**  
Bank of Michigan

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

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

**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

**6175 East Remus Road**  
**Mount Pleasant, MI 48858**  
989-953-7529  
[www.moreycourts.com](http://www.moreycourts.com)

**CHAMPIONSHIP SPORTS AT MOREY COURTS**  
**- Camps & Leagues -**

**Volleyball Skills Clinic - Hitting & Setting**  
February 6th & 7th.  
Grades 9th - 12th. \$55 per camp.

**Boys USSSA Super Regional Regional Basketball Tournament**  
Grades 5th - 8th. \$320 a game. 5 games guaranteed.  
Trophies and Medals for bracket winners.

Visit Our Club Page At  
[www.championshipsports.net](http://www.championshipsports.net)  
For More Details

# Siblings on the Ice: Two Brothers and a Sister on Mount Pleasant Roster

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

It's not extremely rare for three siblings to be playing on a boys' varsity hockey team at the same time.

But it is when one of them is a girl. Parents Jeff and Anne Kea have had to do a little less driving to different hockey events this season because their two boys, Jack, a senior, and Eli, a freshman, are on the Mount Pleasant boys' varsity team. Their driving lessened even more when their daughter, Natalie, a sophomore, decided to try out for the boys' team and made it. Because of that, all three are on the same team for the first time.

Natalie is the only girl on the boys' squad.

"Natalie wasn't on the high school team last year," Jack said. But now she is, and the family is focusing on one team.



the team and be accepted by the other players, both on her team and on the opposing side. Having siblings on the team has made it even more special.

Their parents, she said, have especially been excited over watching their sons and daughter play on the same team.

Eli is a defenseman, charged with keeping the puck away from his goal, and has played with his brother briefly in the past. "Maybe like eight years ago, I played with my brother," Jack said.

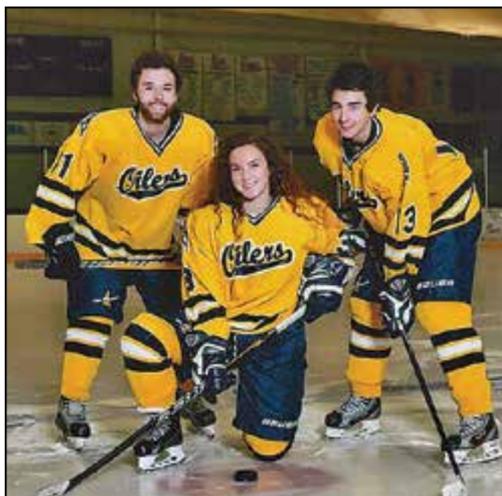
Both brothers say that it's neat to have their sister on the same team. But Eli notes that it is rather unique hearing the coach say, while giving his entire team instructions, "OK guys...and gal..."

But he concurs with his brother, that their sister is talented and capable enough to play on the same team with them.

Eli found his comfort zone being a defenseman, rather than adopting the position that his two older siblings play.

With a girl and her two brothers on the roster, the Oilers are more than holding their own on the ice. Mount Pleasant has started out 13-4, and Natalie and her brothers are hopeful of helping the Oilers have a productive off-season.

Jack is in his fourth season, but it's been cut short because of an injured shoulder. He only played one game and said he won't be returning this season. "Last year, I injured it initially," he said. "It was injured a couple of more times



The Kea siblings, Jack (left), Natalie and Eli are all playing on the Mount Pleasant varsity hockey team this season. (Photo courtesy of Guys and Dolls photography)

during the summer. The one game I played this season, it was injured again. I just can't play anymore."

He did have a chance to play with his siblings for one game. He centered a line with Natalie and Eli for a shift. But the shoulder injury was a disappointment.

Of his three previous varsity seasons, his junior campaign was Jack's best. "I got more playing time," he said. "Being an upperclassman on the team is always fun. You get more leadership role put on you."

He's had a chance to watch his siblings at all the games and remains a part of the team.

Natalie acknowledges that she and Eli were disappointed that their older brother had his season cut short but were still happy to have him as a part of the team.

"I'm proud of them," Jack said. "I don't know defense very well. But Eli's been holding his own."

# Chippewa Hills Wrestler Confident of High Placing in State Finals

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Chippewa Hills senior Slade Todd has had a taste of all-state success on the wrestling mat. But he would like an even sweeter taste this winter.

"He's doing great," Chippewa Hills coach Nate Ethridge said. "He lost to the No. 1-ranked kid in Division 1 [earlier in the season]. That's his only loss [in his first 13 matches]. For him to be a senior and finally get this is very special."

When he won two matches over Big Rapids and Reed City on Jan 20, Todd was at 24-3. He's been 12-2 since the holidays. "I've been wrestling as hard as I can, as I normally do," Todd said. "I get on the kids' legs and get after them. From [December], I've been meaning to work on my bottom, and I think I've improved a lot since then. In wrestling, you don't want to peak now in January. In February and March is when everything matters."

Todd is flexible in his weight class. He was at 135 pounds in Division 3 last season. "I can be from 135 to 145," he said, adding that his class in the postseason "depends on where everyone else goes. Hopefully, proba-

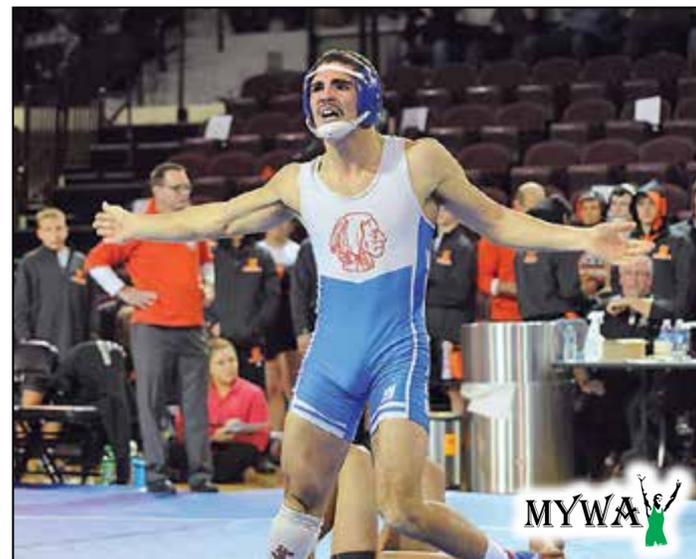
bly 140, I'm looking at."

The Warriors made it to the team state semifinal round last year, and Todd hopes to help the squad finish even higher this year. "I'm more of a team guy than I am an individual," he said. "Hopefully, we can make a run at a team state title. I know we're young, but I know we have kids no one knows about. That's what makes us deadly."

Todd hopes to place at the state meet again this season. He was sixth last year and is looking for a higher spot. "It will take more technique, more mat time, spending more time after practice with

coach and with my teammates," Todd said. As for his first three losses, "I think things happen for a reason," Todd said. "Now I need something to build on and be more motivated to win more matches. I've been staying after with our youth program and working out with them and going over moves with them to pick up the little things I need to improve on my game."

"So far, I've wrestled some tough kids," he said. "We went to Michigan Duals last week, and this past Sunday, we wrestled two of the top Division 4 teams in the state."



Chippewa Hills' Todd Slade comes up with a big victory during the recent CMU Super Duals held on the campus of Central Michigan University. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photo)

**Northwestern Mutual**

**Ryan D. Hohlbein**  
Financial Representative

114 E. Broadway Street  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
989 773 6433 office  
989 621 4990 cell  
989 773 6477 fax  
ryan.hohlbein@nm.com  
www.nm.com/ryanhohlbein

**UNITED COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION**

(989) 463-8321

A great place to join  
see how we can help you

**DLP FINANCIAL GROUP**  
RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.

**Daniel R. De Jong, AAMS**  
Vice President, Investments

**Randy Lewis**  
Associate Vice President, Investments

**John W. Pobanz**  
Financial Advisor

989-463-5052 Toll-Free: 888-846-7895 Fax: 989-463-1989  
dlpfinancialgroup.com

**KRAPOHL**

**Central Michigan's Service Leader!**

**www.krapohlford.com**

Cliff Anderson, Jim Cole, Ray Garver, Casey Gott, Tom Shafer, Mike Croll, John Lerg, Greg Moyes, Kim Laurenz, Tony Marshall

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

**MYWA**

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

**Check Out More Photos At**

**highschoolsportsscene.com**

**Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel**

Spend Your Spring Break

**UNDER the SEA**

Rooms Starting at **\$159** WEEKDAY SUN - THURS Double Occupancy  
**\$209** WEEKEND FRI - SAT Double Occupancy

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Overnight Stay in Standard Room (Double Occupancy)
- Waterpark Passes\*
- \$20 Dining Credit per Room

MEET NEMO & DORY! 3/25, 3/26, 4/1, 4/2  
MEET ARIEL & ERIC! 4/8, 4/1

777.2EAGLE2 www.soaringeaglewaterpark.com

**OBGYN4U**

The Center For Women's Healthcare

**Your Health. Our Passion!**

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



# Gamble Having Another Productive Season for Sacred Heart

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Averi Gamble is focusing on the final weeks of what's been a fabulous high school basketball career at Sacred Heart Academy.

The 6-foot-2-inch senior forward-center is in her fourth varsity season.

In the 2014 Class D title game, a 56-53 Sacred Heart victory, Gamble wowed the spectators at the Breslin Center at Michigan State University with 10-of-12 shooting from the floor and 5-of-6 from the free-throw line for 25 points, plus 11 rebounds.

This season, "we are a very young team," Gamble said. "We get nervous very easily, I feel like. We're undefeated right now, so it's going well."

Gamble is averaging around 18 points and 7 rebounds a game, a little higher than in previous years. "I'm with a very hard-working team, and I feel that I'm playing with the role as a senior and other people are stepping up as well," she said. "We have a good freshman [Scout Nelson], who is helping out a lot too."

Gamble's role has changed slightly this season, including shooting more from the outside.

Against archrival Beal City, Gamble scored 40 points, a career high and a school record. "It was mostly a lot of putbacks, because they didn't have a lot of height on that team," Gamble said.

She has also passed the 1,000-point mark.

As a team, "I think we have all the potential in the world to make it [far]," Gamble said. "We just have to put it all together. The younger players are not totally confident yet. I feel once we get our confidence up, we can be a formidable team."



Carson City-Crystal is Sacred Heart's biggest rival in the MSAC. The two schools have upcoming rematch, which could be tough for the Irish, along with a battle against Morley Stanwood.

"Our coach says everyone will give us their best game," Gamble said. "They want to beat Sacred Heart."

Gamble also plays volleyball, but basketball has been her best sport.

Her future plans for are uncertain. She currently doesn't have definitive college basketball plans. Gamble has received some interest but no offers.

"I'm thinking more of playing coed basketball in college, because it's such a huge commitment to play college basketball," she said. "I'm not sure I'm ready to commit to that yet."

After helping lead Sacred Heart to a Class D state championship as a sophomore, Averi Gamble has the Irish back on top of the Class D rankings. The Irish were a perfect 10-0 prior to press time. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photo.)

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

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

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

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

Tomorrow's *Community* Adventure

Member **FDIC**  
800.651.9111  
isabellabank.com

**Sparrow** Presents  
Carson Hospital

**Sparrow Hospital's**  
**PEAK PERFORMERS**

# Carson City-Crystal Wrestler Wants Another State Title

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Dallas O'Green is putting together, what he hopes will be, another state championship effort for Carson City-Crystal's wrestling team.

As a freshman, he was 119 pounds. As a sophomore and junior, he was 125. He's at 130 pounds this season. Being at 130 hasn't proven to be a tougher class so far, he said.

He has won his first 29 matches this season. He bumped up to 152 earlier in the season and had a close decision. "I think I've improved a lot more than last year," O'Green said.

"I'm more mature. Now that I've won a state title, I feel like they're trying to gun for me. I have to work harder."

He said he's hungry for another title and isn't content with just having won a one last season. "Hopefully I can do better in the state finals than I did last year," he said.

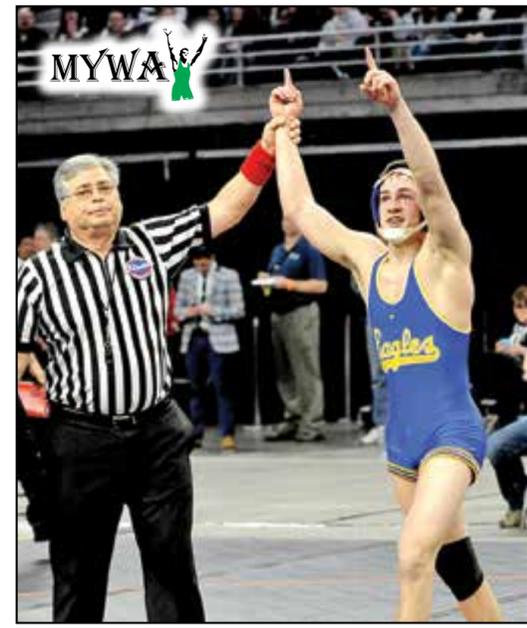
O'Green expects to face some stiff competition in his bid for another title. "You have to take it one match at a time," he said. "You can't go into the match nervous. If you lose, you lose; if you win, you win."

O'Green takes pride in his tech-

niques. "You have to know how to get out of trouble," he said.

He has been pushing his teammates hard and is looking to be a leader on a team that has a lot of young wrestlers. O'Green is confident that his team can do well in the postseason, even though it has "some freshmen in the lineup. It's tougher."

O'Green has been wrestling for 15 years. He has been thinking about college wrestling but is undecided of his plans. "I want to pursue my career with four years of college," he said. "I don't know which college yet."



Carson City-Crystal's Dallas O'Green celebrates after winning a Division 4 individual championship a year ago. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photo)

# Carson City-Crystal, Vestaburg Staging Unique Basketball Rivalry

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Carson City-Crystal and Vestaburg are two small Montcalm county schools right next to each other, and both have had strong sports programs for many years.

Now that CC-C is in the Mid-State Activities Conference with Vestaburg, the two schools have developed a unique rivalry. The rivalry is present in all sports, but especially basketball this season, with both teams having outstanding success.

"As for the basketball rivalry, that is a relatively new thing between us and CC-C," Vestaburg athletic director Matthew Walderzak said. "We had great, competitive games last year, which led to an MSAC championship game. They are definitely a team we prepare for and look forward to playing. The rivalry between our schools also stems from the Salute the Soldiers football game we have been playing for the past several years."

"This rivalry is a new thing brought on by the league change to the MSAC," Carson City-Crystal athletic director and girls' basketball coach Larry Farmer said. "The two things that seem to be genuine rivalries are football and boys' basketball."

"The football rivalry has been enhanced by our Salute Our Soldiers game. This game is very popular, as we honor our veterans with a ceremony and by wearing camouflage uniforms. This big event has brought out the best from both sides."

"Boys' basketball is also becoming a rivalry, as both teams have been playing for the league title the last two years. The games are close and meaningful."

This year, they're even more meaningful. The week of Jan. 24, the Wolverines and the Eagles were slated to meet, with both teams undefeated in the MSAC.

The Wolverines started out 7-0. "The key behind our success has been the returning veterans and our experience

inside," Vestaburg coach Todd Halcomb said.

"Ever since they came into the league a couple of years ago, we've always had real good battles with them, and the kids, I know, look forward to playing their kids, and I think their kids look forward to playing ours," Halcomb said. "We've always had good games and good competition with them. Cory [Schneider, CC-C coach] and I have had a good relationship. We're very competitive, and we both want to beat each other. But when it's done, it's done. We want to play the right way and play with good sportsmanship, which I think both programs do when we get together, no matter how close the game is."

"Right now, we're two different styles. Our emphasis is on big guys inside, and their emphasis is the three-point shots and the guards outside."

But the fact that both teams are undefeated makes for an extremely unique situation, Halcomb admitted.



The Vestaburg boys basketball team has started the season a perfect 7-0 heading into the second half of the season. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photo)

**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**



# Elite Wrestling Teams Meet At Central Michigan For CMU Duals

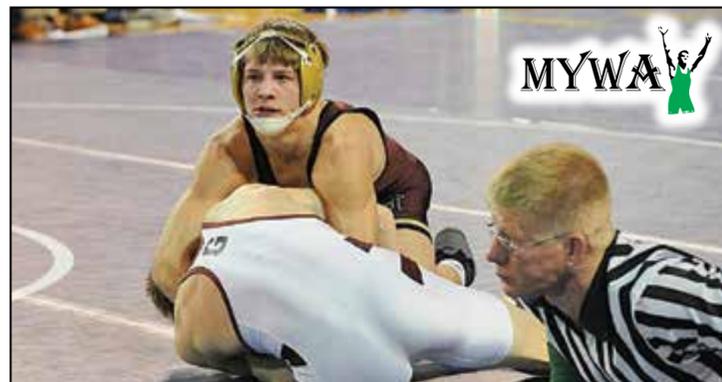
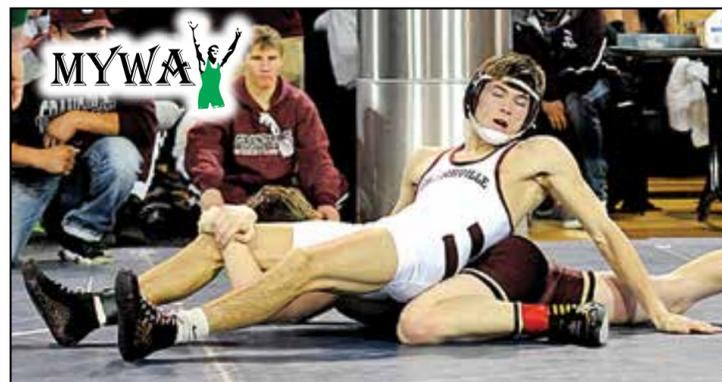
David Cook  
Sports Scene

For those wanting a sneak peek at this year's state team wrestling finals, Mt. Pleasant was the place to be in January.

The eight teams that gathered at Central

Michigan University for the CMU Duals on Jan. 17 were a virtual who's who of the premier wrestling teams in Michigan.

Included in the field were four of the top six teams in Division 1 (Detroit Catholic Central, Hartland, Davison, and Grandville), two of the top three in Division 3 (Richmond and Chippewa Hills) and the top two teams in Division 4 (New Lothrop and Hudson).



Eight of the top wrestling teams in Michigan took part in the Jan. 17 CMU Super Duals held on the campus of Central Michigan University. Included in the field were four of the top six teams in Division 1 (Detroit Catholic Central, Hartland, Davison and Grandville), two of the top three in Division 3 (Richmond and Chippewa Hills) and the top two teams in Division 4 (New Lothrop and Hudson). (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photos)

pewa Hills) and the top two teams in Division 4 (New Lothrop and Hudson).

If anything was settled during the competition, it was that this year's state finals will be jam-packed with two days of incredible wrestling.

Detroit Catholic Central came away looking to be the team to beat in Division 1, as it defeated Hartland, 33-16, and Grandville, 43-21. Catholic Central led Grandville 22-9 before breaking open the match with consecutive pins from Kevon Davenport (125 pounds), Cameron Amine (130), and Aaron Renfeldt (135).

Bonus points were key for the Shamrocks in the win against Hartland, as Jackson Ross (215) picked up a pin and Aidan Wash (145), Tyler Moreland (171), and Nicholas Jenkins (215) added major decisions.

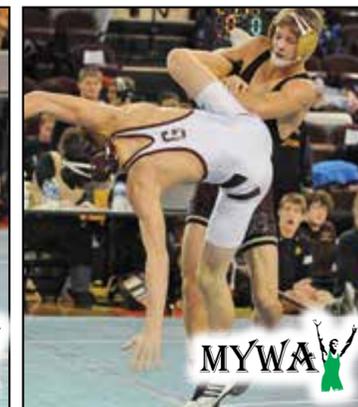
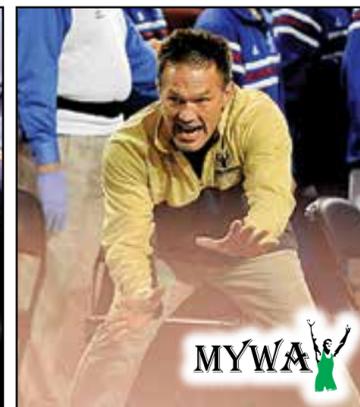
Hartland and Davison positioned them-

selves as the top challengers to the Shamrocks. Hartland edged Davison, 27-26. Davison was up 26-15 with two matches left in the dual when Hartland received pins from Sage Castillo (152) and Logan Vish (160) to pull out the one-point win.

Davison picked up a 43-25 win against Grandville.

Chippewa Hills came away with a pair of impressive wins, as it defeated Hudson, 31-29, and New Lothrop, 42-27. Chippewa Hills trailed Hudson 25-13 before winning four straight matches (Austin Young at 130, Austin Spedowski at 135, Slade Todd at 140, and Jaycob Sharp at 145) to surge ahead and hold off the Tigers.

While New Lothrop lost to Chippewa Hills by 15 points, the Hornets dropped just a two-point decision (34-32) to Richmond, the second-ranked team in the state in Division 3.



# 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

**Simmet Insurance Agency**  
Since 1938  
"Insuring For You & Yours"  
Auto • Home • Farm  
Business • Life  
Agents:  
Bradley M. Simmet  
Cedric E. Wasson  
Autumn Tobbe  
Brandon M. Simmet  
117 West Center  
Ithaca, MI 48847  
Ph. (989) 875-3580

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

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

**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**

**Lux Funeral Homes, Inc.**  
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

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

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

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

IN YOUR HOUR OF DARKNESS LET US BE YOUR LIGHT

# St. Charles Bowler Focusing on Third Straight State Title

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Kyle Tuttle has already won two Division 4 state bowling titles, and the St. Charles junior no doubt wants to win two more and become only the third four-time state bowling champion.

But Tuttle realizes that state titles don't

come easily, and the breaks will have to keep coming his way, along with continuing his streak of excellent bowling. "It's going pretty good," he said. "We've had one conference loss. I'm doing about average; hopefully we can do better by the time regionals and state comes around."

Tuttle said his conference average is around 195. It's a lower average compared to

this time last season. "It just kind of depends day to day," he said. "Everyone has good days and off days."

Tuttle has bowled three 300 games in the past two months during practices. "During high school season, I've never actually had one," he said. "It's just outside of high school bowling." But bowling an official high school game of 300 before his prep career concludes is a definitely goal for Tuttle.

As for getting two more state titles, "I'll worry about it when the time comes," Tuttle said. "I'll try to focus on myself and keep my goal in mind."

Tuttle has had two fabulous high school

seasons coming into this year. "They've gone pretty well," he said. "In order to win, you have to have a little bit of luck, too."

Division 4 has its fair share of good bowlers, and Tuttle realizes he needs to be at the top of his game. "It's been my consistency and the ability to adjust to different conditions," he said. "Normally [the lanes] are fairly easy."

Tuttle works at a bowling alley and bowls in a youth league. In high school, he has focused only on bowling, and it's paid off with two state titles so far. And Tuttle is hoping two more state championships are in his future.



St. Charles' Kyle Tuttle, a two-time Division 4 state champion, is gearing up to defend his state title in March. Only a junior, Tuttle looks to become one of only a handful of bowlers to win four state championships in a career. (Submitted Photo)

# Heritage Continues to Impress Mix Of Youth, Veterans Propels Hawks

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

When you are the No. 1 team in Class A, expectations are high.

Through 12 games this season, the Heritage High School girls basketball team is showing no signs of a letdown, and the offensive intensity is beginning to match the defensive side of the court.

When that happens, there is no telling how good the Heritage team is going to be. Right now, Heritage is scary good and only going to get better. It is currently ranked No. 22 in the country.

In the Hawks' 56-38 victory over Midland High on Jan. 22, three different players made nearly half of their shots from the floor. Heritage showed no signs of a letdown after defeating Midland Dow three days earlier.

"Last year, we didn't gut it out at this time [in the season.] The first time through, we beat Midland High and Dow, and the second time through, we lost to both of them," noted Hawks' coach Vonnie DeLong after the victory. "I'm proud of [my team.] This year, they were determined not to let that happen again."

Heritage shot 22 of 46 (49 percent) from the floor to Midland's 15 of 39 (38 percent) and had an advantage both at the foul line and on the boards. The Hawks hit 11 of 13 free throws compared to

the Chemics' 2 of 4 and finished with a 32-18 rebounding edge.

Jaela Richardson led the Hawks with a game-high 15 points, while Moira Joiner had 13 points, eight rebounds, and four assists, and Mallory McCartney added 10 points and five assists.

Jenna Falkenberg had six points and six boards for Heritage, while Courtney McInerney dished out five assists.

That kind of balance is going to take Heritage to the next level.

McInerney, a junior, said that every day is a learning process with Coach DeLong. She said that she learns every time she hits the court. "Obviously, coming onto a varsity team as a freshman, there was a lot of development that had to happen," McInerney said. "What seemed to help me the most was being put up against girls that were better than me. I had to work every day to get better, and that's still happening today. I always have things that I can work on. Every day there are new goals that have to be reached in order to continue to make improvements."

McInerney went through the learning process just like this year's freshmen, Joiner, McCartney, and Shine Strickland. Even though these three players aren't your typical freshmen, they are still young players who are learning the game at the varsity level.

McInerney is impressed with how the freshmen are evolving this season. "Our freshmen this year are great," she said. "Each of them bring a new intensity to the team. Not only physically playing, but their attitudes, as well. Mo continues to step up by being our point guard. She handles the ball extremely well. It's easy to trust her to get the ball up the court. Mallory has a beautiful shot and is also easy to trust with the ball. She gets out and runs the floor well, and defensively she moves to cover shooters extremely effectively. Mal and Mo together are very in sync and know what the other is doing all the time, which is a huge asset for our team. Shine is developing and continues to work hard every day in practice. She is getting smarter inside and has improved her shot significantly. She pushes all of us every day."

Meanwhile, another player who continues to improve is Falkenberg, a senior, and she could be Heritage's X Factor this season. "Jenna continues to improve every day," McInerney said. "She has become more confident with the ball and has become fearless inside. She gets in position and goes after rebounds."

When you throw in other players like Haley Brefka and Jessi Bicknell, there is no telling how far this year's Heritage team can go. Another trip to the Breslin might be in their future.



The Heritage girls basketball team has used strong defense to start the season a perfect 11-0. In its Saginaw Valley League North showdown with Midland Dow Jan. 19, Heritage showed no signs of letting up, defeating the Chargers 53-38. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photos)

**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

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

DAVID RAYBURN

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

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

**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

 Anthony de Bari, MD Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained	 B.C. de Beaubien, MD Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained in Adult Reconstruction	 Colleen Linehan, MD Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon	 Michael Tucker, DO Board Eligible Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained in Orthopaedic Trauma	 Bryan Chamberlain, MD Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon	 Jason Maxa, PA-C	 Lindsey Pilling, PA-C
---	---	---	--	---	----------------------	---------------------------

**COVENANT**  
Center for Advanced Orthopaedics

<b>SAGINAW</b> 4701 TOWNE CENTRE, SUITE 301 989.921.3500	<b>SAGINAW</b> 3875 BAY RD., SUITE 2-5 989.793.1372	<b>SAGINAW</b> 800 COOPER, SUITE 5 989.583.7450	<b>FRANKENMUTH</b> 600 NORTH MAIN ST. 989.921.3500	<b>MIDLAND</b> 1549 WASHINGTON 989.921.3500
--	---	---	--	---

**BUICK GMC SUNDANCE**

**SAVE \$25.00**  
Off Any Service  
Purchase Over \$100.00  
With This Ad  
1800sundance.com

**Sundance**  
GMC BUICK WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADERS

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

**ALLEY I**  
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  
designs@alleyt.com 103 S Jeffrey Ave. Ithaca, MI 48847 F 8-5:30  
SAT 9-1

The name you've grown to trust just got better

**Weichert Realtors**  
Broadway Realty

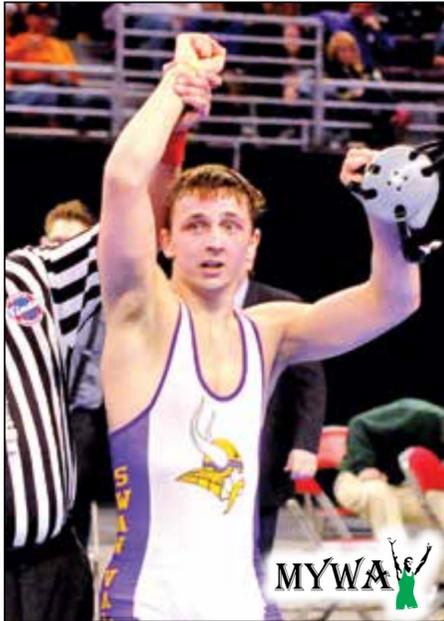
989-775-3800  
WeichertBroadway.com

**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 Meigs)  
**989-773-3477**



# Swan Valley Continues to Shine on Mat

## Suitor, Santos Ready To Step Into Big 10

### Scott Keyes Sports Scene

Coaches dream about having one talented wrestler on a team who can make it into the Big 10 ranks.

Try being a coach who is sending two into those ranks of the college elite. That's the situation of Swan Valley coach Darrell Burchfield.

Burchfield has had the luxury of watching KJ Suitor (130 pounds) and Matt Santos (135) mature right before his eyes. Now, the next step is on to college. Suitor recently announced

he will wrestle for the University of Michigan, while Santos will make the trip to East Lansing and wrestle for the Spartans.

Burchfield is ecstatic about the choices of his wrestlers. "Two Big Ten D1 Wrestlers... in a word...awesome!," he said. "We have had eight other scholarship wrestlers from Swan Valley move on and compete at the D1 level in the past 10 years. These two are right

there with any one of them. As a coach, it has been a lot of fun, and ultimately, all I can do is help guide them there, but they have to do the hard work.... And their future is all on them. I can tell you both these young men will bring their A game to the next level, and I'm looking forward to watching them compete in the Big 10."

Santos is looking forward to making the jump to the college ranks and the new challenges that await him at the next level. "I picked Michigan State University because I thought it would be the best college to help improve my wrestling to the next level," he said. "I know a lot of the guys going there now and some who are in my recruiting class, also, so it's nice to know the guys, too. Plus MSU is one of the best schools in the nation, period."

Suitor said that he had offers on the table from various schools, including Brown University, North Carolina State University, Hofstra University, and Sacred Heart University, but he felt that Michigan was the right fit for him academically and athletically. "I love the campus and have always grown up being

a Michigan Wolverine fan," he said. "I know I will be very happy down there in Ann Arbor."

Santos is coming off a state championship season last year and has his sights on possibly repeating in 2016. "States are the ultimate goal for every wrestler," he said. "It's what I think about every morning and every night before I sleep. I train for the next upcoming tournament, but I'm still thinking of the postseason at the Palace. I know I have a target on my back, but I'm confident in my training and skills that I'll get the job done. I just need to stay focused when the time comes."

Suitor has come close to winning a state title the previous three seasons and is confident, heading into the remaining six weeks of the season, that his elusive state title might be just around the corner. "Winning a state title is something that I have aimed for every year of high school," he said. "Unfortunately, I have fallen short every year, and I plan to end that this season. I think a state title will cap off my high school wrestling career on a positive note heading into college."

Burchfield has watched the growth of his two wrestlers through the years and knows it's going to be bittersweet when he watches Suitor and Santos strap on the headgear for the last time. "These two exude confidence, and neither of them panic or break if they make a mistake... That's big!" Burchfield continued. "They have matured and become extremely confident. Their situational understanding of a tough match and having the confidence that they can accomplish whatever is needed in the remaining time without losing focus is critical to becoming an elite wrestler. They have developed it in spades."

Don't be surprised if Swan Valley's dynamic duo enter the college ranks as state champions. It's not far-fetched to see that happening. It would definitely be a great way to end their high school careers.

Swan Valley's KJ Suitor recently won his fourth consecutive Saginaw Valley Invitational Championship at 130 pounds. (File Photo)



**Downtown Auto Services Inc.**  
 Scott Nevins  
 President  
 110 W. Newark St. Ithaca, MI 48847  
 Shop Hours M-F 8-5:30  
 989-875-4261  
**Auto Value CERTIFIED SERVICE CENTER**

**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

**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**  
 www.BecksTrailerStore.com  
 7607 N US-27 St. Johns MI. 48879

**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...**

Marcie Browne Broker - Owner 989-620-1027  
 Michelyn Crowley Realtor 989-388-1750  
 Sherri Hessbrook Realtor 989-875-4649  
 Amber Weburg Realtor 989-620-7918

# With Eichelberger, Speicht Eligible, Skies the Limit for Saginaw High

### Scott Keyes Sports Scene

Saginaw High coach Julian Taylor got a glimpse of how good the Trojans can be this season during their 78-46 dismantling of Arthur Hill Jan. 15.

The Trojans did that damage without the services of Algevon Eichelberger (DePaul University signee) and Henry Speicht (transfer from Carrollton). Both are eligible to play for Saginaw High later this month, after having to sit out because of transferring.

With Speicht and Eichelberger coming into the mix, Saginaw

High might be the team to beat in Class A come tournament time. Taylor doesn't want to look too far ahead, but he likes his chances heading into the remainder of the season. "When we get Algevon and Henry back, there is no telling how good this team is capable of being," he said. "They both bring a great deal to the table that we have been lacking this season, and it's going to be exciting to see what the next couple of months bring to the team."

Arthur Hill entered the game against Saginaw High with a 7-0 record and the No. 3 ranking in the state. Both evaporated

quickly. Saginaw High turned a 21-14 advantage after one quarter into a 38-21 halftime lead. A 23-11 advantage in the third quarter turned the fourth quarter into a battle of the benches.

"The guys got after it," Taylor said. "Being able to hold Arthur Hill in check was pretty impressive. [Nate] Moore got some penetration, but we held Billy Burton down pretty good."

Burton, who has signed to play for Ferris State University, had just eight points and made just one three-pointer. Moore, who will play football for Saginaw Valley State University next fall, was the lone Lumberjack in double figures, with 10 points.

Arthur Hill was just 16 of 52 from the floor and 13 of 23 from the line.

Eddie Thigpen came off the bench to lead the Trojans with 17 points, while Ronquavious Southward added 15 points and 10 rebounds. Saginaw High made 28 of 47 from the field and 18 of 28 from the line.

The two teams square off for the second time this season Feb. 5 at Arthur Hill.



The Saginaw High boys basketball team handed Arthur Hill its first loss of the season with its 78-46 victory Jan. 15. The Trojans will get a huge boost as two transfers Henry Speicht and Algevon Eichelberger are set to return to the team at the end of the month. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photos)

**Nutrients to Refuel • Protein to Rebuild • Backed by Science • Produced by Local Farm Families**

**Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink**

RECOVER PROTEIN ENERGY STAMINA REBUILD REFRESH DELICIOUS CHOCOLATE MILK NUTRITIOUS REHYDRATE ENDURANCE VITAMIN A RIBOFLAVIN ELECTROLYTES POTASSIUM PHOSPHORUS VITAMIN B2 NATURE'S SPORTS DRINK

For more information, please visit [www.MilkMeansMore.org](http://www.MilkMeansMore.org) or call 1-800-241-MILK (6455) to learn how your school can get involved.

**milk Means More**  
 United Dairy Industry of Michigan



# GETTING DEFENSIVE

## Five Things To Take Away From Heritage's Big Win Over Midland Dow

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

### 1. Heritage Continues to Live Up to High Expectations

Heritage showed why it is the top-ranked Class A girls' basketball team in the state, when it topped No. 7 Midland Dow, 53-38. The matchup was between unbeaten Saginaw Valley League North rivals and was played Jan. 19 on the Hawks' home floor.

Heritage, which is also ranked in the top 25 in the nation, came out like it has done all season, jumping out to a 10-0 lead and taking a 25-8 lead into halftime. Dow was the first team to score over 30 points on Heritage all season.

### 2. The Mighty Zone

A trademark of Heritage coach Vonnice DeLong, the zone defense has become one of the staples of the Heritage team in recent seasons. Midland Dow couldn't attack the zone, and Heritage made them pay, coming out hot early in the game and jumping out to a big lead. Normally, a team would attack the zone with shooters, but Heritage bottled up Midland Dow's Ellie Taylor, the St. Louis University commit, and coasted to the victory.

### 3. No 'I' in Team

Everyone knows the kind of balance Heritage brings to the table on the defensive end of the floor. Against Dow, the offensive flood gates opened, and the Hawks walked right in. Sophomore Jessi Bicknell and Jaela Richardson led the way for the Hawks, scoring 15 and 13 points, respectively. Freshman Moira Joiner also scored 13 for Heritage. Transition baskets, not to mention the ability to make Dow turn over the ball over in uncharacteristic situations, were key in the Heritage victory.

### 4. Dow will be OK

Although Midland Dow lost by double-digits, there is nothing to be ashamed of. Led by juniors Nadia Atton, Kaylee Wasco, and Taylor, Dow is going to be strong for many years to come. However, so is Heritage. It's going to be interesting to see how this matchup is going play out in the coming seasons.

Midland Dow and Heritage square off for the second time this season on Feb. 12.

### 5. The Future

Even when Heritage lost its starting backcourt players, Allie Miller and Aubree Snow, from last year's team that made it all the way to the Class A semifinal round, those familiar with the program knew that it was going to be just fine, as freshmen Moira Joiner and Mallory McCartney were on the horizon. Then, when you throw another freshman in the mix, Shine Strickland, who comes off the bench, the Hawks have a bright future. Not only have the freshmen been bright for Heritage on the court, but they have also shown that they have ice water in their veins. Nothing seems to faze them.

However, Midland Dow also has a freshman that showed she can hang with the likes of Joiner and McCartney, in Molly Davis. Davis scored 14 points against Heritage in the loss.



The game was hyped up as one of the top games in the state during the first half of the season, but in the end it was Heritage who prevailed defeating the Chargers 53-38 in a Saginaw Valley League North Division showdown. Molly Davis led Midland with 14 points and Ellie Taylor chipped in 13. For Heritage, Jessi Bicknell scored 15 and Mo Joiner and Jaela Richardson added 13 each. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photo)



**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

**Ric's**  
 FOOD CENTER  
 14 Michigan Family Businesses



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

**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

**Gratiot Aerials**




Office 517-719-4670 • Mobile 989-285-8685  
 JoeBosley9133@gmail.com




**NCGX CINEMAS**  
 WWW.NCGMOVIES.COM

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

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

**Gratiot Towing** (989) 875-8484





**Midland Cinemas**







Drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a car accident while texting.

- Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

W82txt [WAIT TO TEXT]



# Breckenridge Basketball Building a Solid Program

John Raffel Sports Scene

Breckenridge coach Jeff Ostrander has had reason to be upbeat over his boys' basketball team this season. The Huskies started out the season 5-4 with a tough schedule. They sustained losses to 9-0 and 9-1 teams and have faced a tough TVC slate. "We do the crossover thing in the TVC and will be playing a Class B team," Ostrander said. "Being as young as we are, having graduated five seniors and only having one senior now, we are doing well."

Halfway through the season, the Huskies were being led in scoring by Gavin Ostrander, Jack Staley, and Jake Wendling. Ostrander, the coach's son, is averaging 14 points a game, while Staley, a junior center, is also at 14 points per game, and Wendling, a wing, is at 15 points per outing.

"I'm excited about the future, especially if I can keep them excited this year," Jeff Ostrander said. "We're balanced. The biggest thing is, we have a sophomore point guard and freshman forward. We're young."

Vestaburg coach Todd Halcomb has been impressed with Breckenridge's progress this season. The Wolverines won, 54-52, in their season opener over the Huskies. It was the toughest game in a 7-0 start for the Wolverines. "They're getting through the transition from last year when you have a new coach and transition from players and kids understanding what they're trying to do," Halcomb said. "This year, they seem to be a little more fluid and have a little better chemistry. I think they're a team up and coming on the rise. I think

they stand a real solid chance of winning the league next year when they come to the MSAC."

Breckenridge and Merrill enter the MSAC and join Ashley, Carson City-Crystal, Coleman, Montabella, Sacred Heart, and Vestaburg next year. "They'll be coming in with a solid unit basketball-wise," Halcomb said. "They've got a pretty good core there. Just the improvement they've made from last year to this year is very noticeable."

The season opener between Vestaburg and Breckenridge showed Halcomb and others plenty of things about the Huskies. "We play them March 1 at their place," Halcomb said. "That's just before tournaments, which will be a good test right before tournaments."



Although they are an extremely young basketball team, Breckenridge is starting to come around and is playing a good brand of basketball this season in the Tri-Valley Conference West Division. The Huskies are hoping the momentum carries over for many years to come. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photo)



# Chesaning Wrestling Makes Headlines after Winning Saginaw Tournament

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Chesaning wrestling team may not be ranked in the state yet, but the way the Indians have been wrestling this season, pollsters should take a look at them.

Chesaning improved its dual-meet record to 10-1 for the season and 4-0 in the Tri-Valley Conference as of mid January. Even more impressive was Chesaning winning the Saginaw County Championship. It totaled 297 points to win the title, 53 points

ahead of second-place Birch Run, which is ranked eighth in the state in Division 3.

Chesaning turned in a solid team performance at the Saginaw County Championship, with six wrestlers winning championships. Senior Kegan McAlpine, ranked 10th in the state in Division 3, won the title at 140 pounds. Earlier this month, McAlpine notched his 100th career win.

Junior Hunter Gasper, ranked third in the state at 160 pounds, won the title at 160. Gasper also

won his 100th career match earlier this season at the North Branch Invitational.

Junior Trevor Patterson, ranked fifth at 152 pounds, captured the title at 152. Dawson Giesken added a title at 103 pounds, Wyatt Lanczynski won at 215 pounds, and Morgan Miller won at 285 pounds.

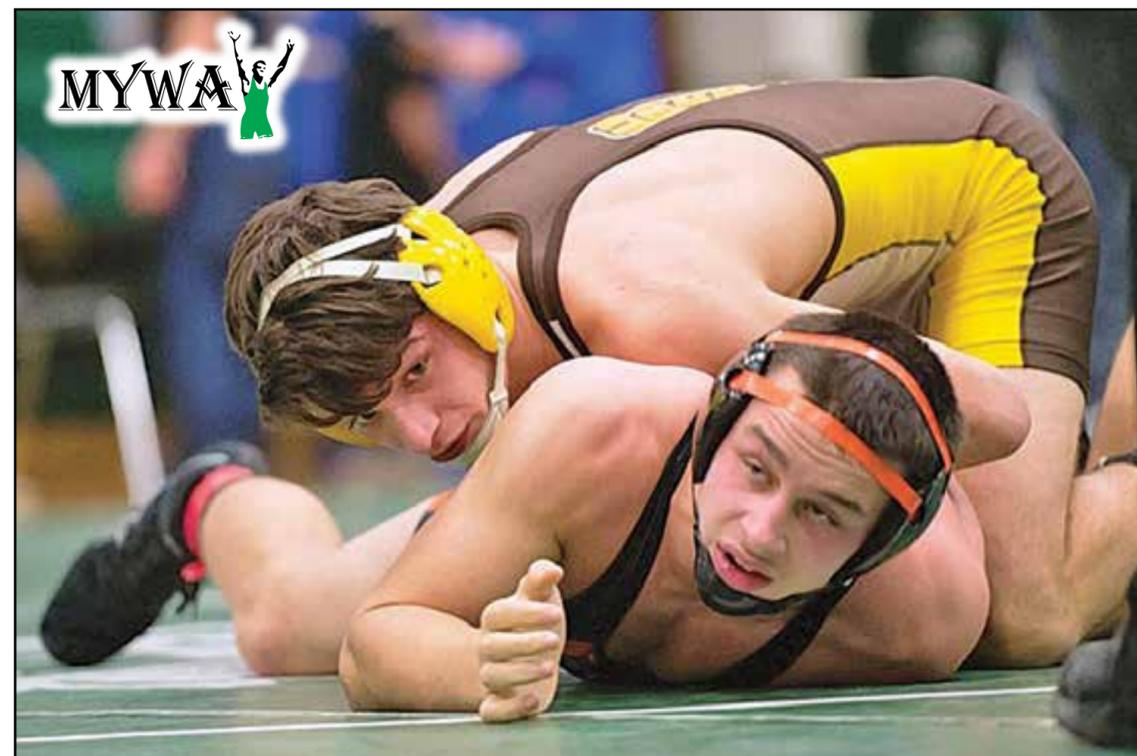
A trio of Chesaning wrestlers took second place - Kolin McAlpine at 145, Skyler Nathan at 171, and Jacob Wright at 189. Collin Rolfe took third at 125 pounds,

and Nate Martin took third at 135. Hayden Giesken took fifth at 130, Zach Matsumiya placed sixth at 112, Collin Rodriguez took sixth at 119, Jake Stevenson took sixth at 152, and Casey Yon took seventh at 215.

"I was so impressed by our performance," said coach Jeremy Reiber. "We have been talking about how we had a chance to be one of the top teams in the county this year after finishing third last year. The guys definitely accepted the challenge, stayed focused, worked hard all week in practice,

and gave it everything they had. I'm super proud of everyone on the team."

The Chesaning wrestlers have been making their coach proud all season. Along with winning the Saginaw County title, Chesaning also took first place at the North Branch team invitational, where it went 5-0. Collin Rolfe, Kegan McAlpine, and Jacob Wright led the way at North Branch, as they all went 5-0. Dawson Giesken, Collin Rodriguez, Kolin McAlpine, Hunter Gasper, Skyler Nathan, and Morgan Miller all went 4-1.



Chesaning won its first Saginaw County Invitational meet since 2005 on Jan. 16 at Freeland High School. (Submitted Photos)

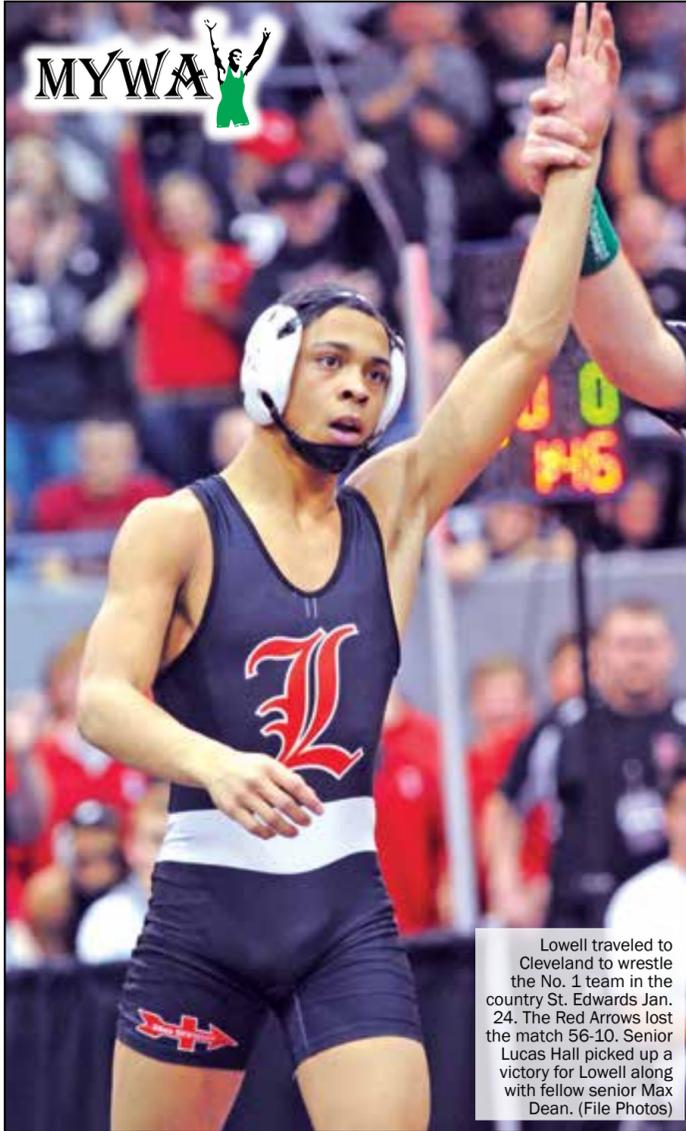
ISN'T IT TIME YOUR CUSTOMERS CAN READ YOUR PUBLICATION ON THE INTERNET? Zoom Pubs 1-866-262-4449

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

BOLAND'S BEST ONE TIRE The Leader In The Field General • Cooper Fireston • Bridgestone Goodyear 24 Hour On The Road Service Large Selection of Farm Tires - Semi Light Truck - Passenger - ATV - Lawn & Garden

BRECKENRIDGE INSURANCE AGENCY OF MICHIGAN 989-842-3161 www.biaofmi.com Auto-Owners INSURANCE LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Committed to our Future ... Village of Breckenridge Inspired by our Past.



Lowell traveled to Cleveland to wrestle the No. 1 team in the country St. Edwards Jan. 24. The Red Arrows lost the match 56-10. Senior Lucas Hall picked up a victory for Lowell along with fellow senior Max Dean. (File Photos)

# Lowell, Tri County Wrestling Taking on Top Competition

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Ranked number one in the state of Michigan and 48th in the nation, the Lowell wrestling team put state pride on the line when it invaded Ohio to take on powerhouse St. Edward, ranked seventh in the nation by InterMat.

St. Edward showed just why it has earned that high ranking, as it defeated Lowell, 56-10.

Lowell's two wins came from its nationally-ranked wrestlers. Max Dean, ranked seventh in the nation at 195 pounds by InterMat and a Cornell University commit, claimed a major decision against St. Edward. Lucas Hall, ranked 17th at 126 pounds and a Michigan State University commit, picked up a pin for the Red Arrows.

Lowell had a number of close losses in the dual, including Danny Kruse and Max Bishop dropping 1-0 decisions.

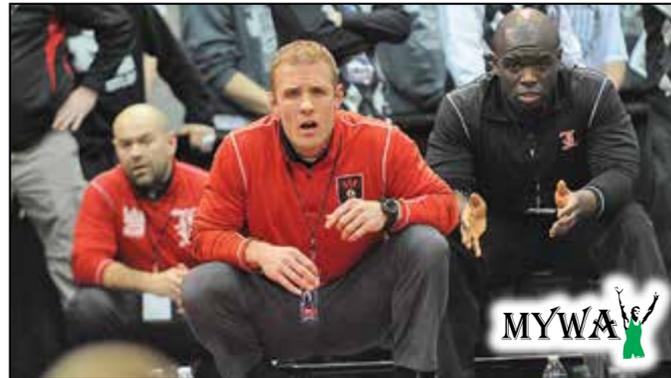
In state, Lowell has been tough to beat, and Red Arrows wrestlers have been turning in some impressive performances. At the Detroit Catholic Central invitational, Max

Dean won the title at 189 pounds, while Zeth Dean was second at 140 and Avry Mutschler was second at 130. Austin Engle placed fourth at 160, while Sam Russell took fourth at 125.

The Tri County wrestling team has been turning in a big season in Division 3. The Vikings won the Rockford invitational, when they defeated Rockford for the first time in program history, 47-30, in the semifinal round. Tri County also defeated Greenville for the second time this season, when it topped the Yellowjackets, 42-25, in the final.

Tri County won 18 of its first 20 duals this season. The defeats came against Grandville, ranked sixth in Division 1, and Chippewa Hills, ranked third in Division 3.

Tri County has been led by senior Nick McGhan, who is ranked first in the state at 112 pounds. The Vikings have a number of other state-ranked wrestlers, including senior Jarrod Tague (4th, 189 pounds), sophomore Dakota Greer (5th, 119), junior Ben Behrenwald (9th, 145), junior Lucas Prater (9th, 215) and senior Dustin Prins (HM, 135).



**Blake Hollenbeck Auto Sales Inc.**  
 W. M57 Greenville, MI  
**www.Blakehollenbeckinc.com**  
 CHECK OUT OUR INVENTORY  
 Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9 to 8 Ph. (616) 754-5586  
 Tuesday, Thursday Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-3 Toll Free (866) 358-7473

**Tim McCormick**  
 Sales  
 749 W. Main  
 Lowell, MI 49331  
 Phone: (616) 421-7615  
 Cell: (616) 717-3686  
 Fax: (616) 897-5007  
 timccormick@grandautofamily.com  
**Supporting The Red Arrows Since 1988**  
**www.wittenbachgmc.com**

**WIDEMAN APPRAISAL SERVICE**  
 Full Line Of Appraisals  
 1002 E. Center St.  
 Ithaca, MI 48847  
 Office: (989) 875-4544  
 Fax: (989) 875-4838  
 James J. Wideman  
 Owner  
**www.widemanappraisal.com**  
 E-mail: jim@widemanappraisal.com

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

# College Basketball Notebook

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

It was a pair of pleasant homecomings for two former mid-Michigan basketball stars who now play basketball in the Hawkeye state.

Tania Davis, last year's Miss Basketball for the state of Michigan, and former Lansing Sexton standout Anthony Clemmons both enjoyed big homecomings during the month of January, as they led their respective Iowa teams to victories against Michigan State University at the Breslin Center.

Davis, a freshman from Goodrich, scored a career-high 16 points, as she helped the University of Iowa defeat the Spartans. Davis was four of five from three-point range and added six rebounds and five assists in the win.

"It was amazing, playing in a place where I've played a lot of big games," Davis said. "Getting back there and playing against old teammates in front of my former coaches, family, and friends was a special experience."

That feeling was shared by Clemmons. A senior point guard with the Iowa men's team, Clemmons helped Iowa to a season sweep of Michigan State and his former Sexton teammates Denzel Valentine and Bryn Forbes.

Clemmons scored 13 points and added two assists and three rebounds to help lead Iowa to the win, the first time Iowa has defeated Michigan State in East Lansing since 1993.

"This is a moment I've been waiting on for my



High school teammates and best friends Denzel Valentine and Bryn Forbes combined to score 44 points in a recent game against Maryland. (Photos by Michigan State)

entire life," Clemmons said. "Growing up there, I haven't seen a lot of teams beat them (at home)."

The win was chronicled by the Big Ten Network in its program "The Journey," which went into detail about the three former Sexton standouts playing on the same floor.

Valentine and Forbes have been enjoying big seasons of their own. Valentine is in the mix for national player-of-the-year honors, as he is averaging 18.4 points, 7.9 rebounds, and 6.6 assists per game. Forbes is adding 13.6 points per game and shooting 46% from three-point range.

Former Bay City Western standout Matt Costello is also having a huge senior year for Michigan State. Costello is averaging nearly a double-double this year, with 9.8 points and 8.1 rebounds per game.

Former Freeland standout and Miss Basketball Tori Jankoska is turning in another big season with the Michigan State women's basketball team. She is averaging 16.7 points and 5.1 rebounds per game. A two-time all-Big Ten honoree, Jankoska was also named the Big Ten's Women's Basketball Player of the Week for the second time in her career in late December and went over the 1,000-point mark in her college career earlier this season.

Former Mt. Pleasant standout Jaleel Hogan is having a successful season for the University of Detroit basketball team. A sophomore forward, Hogan is averaging 9.9 points and 4.2 rebounds per game. Hogan recorded a double-double, with 14 points and 10 rebounds, against Bowling Green State University.



Freeland's Tori Jankoska is having a strong junior season for the Spartans in 2015-16. (Photos by Michigan State)



Former Mt. Pleasant standout Jaleel Hogan throws one down during a recent Detroit Mercy victory. (Photo courtesy of the University of Detroit)



Tania Davis (Brian Ray, hawkeyesports.com.)

**AARON WALDRON TRUCKING, LLC**  
 7480 West Polk Road, Alma, MI 48801  
 Local 989-466-2300  
 Or Toll free 866-507-2300  
 • Haulers of Agricultural Commodities • Temporary Dumpster Service  
 • Van and Flatbed Hauling • 10, 15, 20 & 30 Yard Containers

**Auburn Bean & Grain**  
 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**

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

**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!"

**Kubota**  
**ALDERMANS INCORPORATED**  
 Lennon, Michigan 810-621-4201  
 www.aldermans.com  
**Kubota RTVX900**  
 4 wheel drive Diesel  
**Sale \$13,600**  
 Freeland's Tori Jankoska is having a strong junior season for the Spartans in 2015-16. (Photos by Michigan State)  
 Former Mt. Pleasant standout Jaleel Hogan throws one down during a recent Detroit Mercy victory. (Photo courtesy of the University of Detroit)  
**0% for 48 months**  
\*Minimum 1% 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 \$10000 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 ineligible equipment may result in a higher blended A.P.R. 0% A.P.R. and low rate financing may not be available with customer financial repair orders. Financing is available through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A., 3300 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503, subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Offer expires 9/30/2015. See Alderman's in Lennon for details. Original equipment may be shown.

# The Three R's Readin', Ritin', Rasslin' at The Beaverton Library

Scott Salowich  
Sports Scene

The Beaverton Library has moved a few doors down the street and is now located in the Beaverton Community Center.

That is important to know, because if you show up at the old place hoping to check out the latest novel in John Sanford's "Prey" series, you are in for a surprise.

Instead of carpet on the floor, there are wall-to-wall colored mats.

Instead of mandatory silence, there are shouts and whistles.

Instead of readin' and ritin', there is rasslin', and when the folks inside start talking Greco-Roman, they don't mean the works of Aristophanes and Cicero anymore.

The old library is the new headquarters of the Beaverton wrestling team and, just like in a big match, timing and execution were key when the Beavers pinned down their new home.

"We practiced in the mezzanine

at the high school last year, and we were looking for a new place," said Beaverton coach Bryan Cassidy. "We wanted to practice with no interruptions and, especially on basketball nights, it was tough to keep up the intensity.

"We wanted an isolated area, where we could think about nothing but wrestling."

There wasn't enough room at the school, so the search began for a nearby spot. With the cooperation of the school district and the city government, the emptying library emerged as the place to be.

"When the library moved, this place was vacant and kind of in limbo," Cassidy said. "We ended up getting some of the kids together and helping move a few shelves and desks to the Community Center and, when they were gone, we rolled in the mats."

There are still a few remnants of the building's more cerebral past, notably a desk and (relatively) quiet area where the athletes tend to

their homework before practice.

Otherwise, wrestling rules.

Cassiday runs a youth program right after school for kids age 5 through eighth grade. The varsity guys are on hand to help train the youngsters for an hour or two before their own practice begins. Cassidy said there are about 20 regular participants in the youth program, six of whom placed in a recent tournament at Gladwin.

The varsity has 18 on the roster, which isn't bad, considering that high school wrestling at Beaverton is a rather novel idea (pun intended). The program is in just its second season.

It all started a couple years ago when Cassidy was approached by one of the school's football coaches about how to get the sport started.

Cassiday wrestled in high school at Gladwin and had been coaching in Gladwin's youth program for 10 years.

His son, Kyle, was competing nationally at youth tournaments, and sending him to a high school with no wrestling program was not appealing.

"We were thinking about moving," said Cassidy, "but then we approached the school board about getting a wrestling program started, and they were supportive, and it just kind of took off from there.

"The whole community has



been supportive. A lot of local businesses have stepped up to help us, along with the parents and the Booster Club, and we've even had a few anonymous donors.

"We didn't go out begging. People just heard about what we wanted to do and stepped up, and now the city is involved, by helping us get into the library. The kids really appreciate it."

The Beavers don't have the depth up and down the lineup to compete for the Jack Pine Conference crown just yet, but they are heading in the right direction, and they are cutting their teeth against some pretty tough customers.

"It seems like every team in our league has one, two, or three kids who are ranked in the top 10, and

Roscommon is the No. 10 team in the state, so it's a tough league," said Cassidy. "We have some holes to fill, but we are progressing about the way I expected."

Senior Wade Sturgeon is ranked sixth in the state at heavyweight, according to michigangrappler.com. Kyle Cassidy is 10th at 135 pounds, and fellow freshman Jack Owens is among the best in Division 3 at 152.

Roscommon leads the league in the standings, with an undefeated dual-meet record, and also in the number of ranked wrestlers. Sophomore Ethan Noreyko received honorable mention at 119; senior Gage Major is No. 7 at 140; and senior Donald Jernigan is 10th at 160.



# Gladwin Girls Lead Hoop Standings at the Half

Scott Salowich  
Sports Scene

The first half of the Jack Pine Conference girls' basketball season is in the books, and Gladwin is in the middle of a storybook campaign.

The Flying G's beat host Beaverton, 55-49, in a battle of unbeaten, to sit alone atop the standings, with a perfect 7-0 mark.

Gladwin had rolled over its first six conference opponents by an average of about 40 points per game, but the defending champions did not slip down into second place without a fight.

The Flying G's led just 14-13 at the end of the first quarter and 31-25 at the half before the Beavers rallied in the third quarter and even took the lead at one point. Then, Carley Cote hit a couple key 3-pointers down the stretch, and the visitors took home a hard-fought win.

"Beaverton always brings it when they play us," said Gladwin coach Emily Cote. "A rivalry game like that can go either way, and we

didn't go in there taking anything for granted. We were just glad to come out on the winning end, especially at their place."

Carley Cote led the winners with 21 points. Carley Hickey had 10 points, 10 rebounds, and six blocks.

The Beavers were led by Alicia Aldrich, who had a huge night, with a game-high 25 points.

"Alicia was strong for them," said Coach Cote, "but we got contributions from quite a few different people at key times, and the three-pointers Carley made toward the end kind of propelled us to the win."

The Flying G's are enjoying the strong start, but it's not like someone is going to hand them half a trophy at the end of the year if they don't finish the job the second time through the league campaign.

"Beaverton, Clare, and Gladwin are the three strongest teams, and the rest of our league is down a bit this year," said Cote, "but any of the rest of the games can be dangerous if we are not ready to play, because

the people we beat pretty badly the first time are going to be coming after us."

A mixture of veterans and younger contributors has been key to the

success.

"We're having a good year, and we're having fun," said Cote. "We're getting good senior leadership, and the younger girls are playing well."

"We know the league is ours for the taking, but we can't take that lightly. We need to be confident, but not cocky, and there is a big difference. Nothing is going to be given to us. We still have to earn it."

The G's may be flying high these days, but they are not a fly-by-night organization. Cote is in her sixth year at the helm of the varsity, and she is building the program from the bottom up for the long haul. "I figured it would take five years to turn this program around," she said, "and we've been able to do that with some great assistant coaches and the people in our feeder program who are making it happen."

"It's nice to win right now, but I never stop thinking about what is going on with the second, third, and fourth grade teams. That's how you build a program, and it can't be



Prior to press time, the Gladwin girls basketball team was 10-2 overall and 8-0 in the Jack Pine Conference. (Submitted Photos, High School Sports Scene)

done in a hurry. It's a lot of work, but I am passionate about it, and I am willing to do it."

Carly Cote led Gladwin in

scoring with a 14.5 points per game average at the midway point. Lauren Mose averaged 10, and Dayna Fennell 8.

# Cheers! Farwell Sets A Record

Scott Salowich  
Sports Scene

A new attitude helped the Farwell competitive cheer team set a new school record when the school hosted the New Year's Cheer event in January.

State-ranked Houghton Lake finished first among the Division 4 teams on hand, with a total of 707 points.

Right behind were the Eagles with a 692 that had never been seen before.

"We've been steadily improving all season," said Farwell coach Taylor Bryant. "We were in the 500s at our first event, and now we're almost up to 700, which puts us near Houghton Lake, which is No. 9 in the state."

"Our girls are all looking good, and they do a good job getting prepared every week. This is the most talented team that has ever come through here. They are driven to win, and they are finally ready to win."



Farwell has 16 girls on the squad, which is led by seniors Michelle Boyd, Jamee Van Sicklen, and Reagan Douglas, sophomores Brooke Pritchard and Morgan Nestor and freshman Brianna McQuiston.

"These girls are very good gymnastically," said Bryant. "They are tumbling-talented and they work hard at it."

Meridian finished third at the event with 663.98.

Harrison competed in Division 3 and placed third with 632.26.

The next major local cheer event will be Cheer On The Lake at Houghton Lake on Feb. 13.

**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

**Good Luck All Area Sports Teams**  
**PROPANE GAS**  
RESIDENTIAL - FARM - INDUSTRIAL - COMMERCIAL  
GAS PRODUCTION  
889-268-5079  
Gas Production Co. Inc.  
8152 East M-46 Vestaburg 808-991-7477

**MEADOWLANES BOWLING & BANQUET**  
Glow Ball - Fridays & Saturdays  
Book Your Christmas Parties Today!  
430 W. Fifth St. - Gladwin  
989-426-7671  
www.bowlmeadowlanes.com

**JIM NAVARRE**  
Central Michigan's Fastest Growing Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealership  
Supporting Gratiot County's Youth for Over 25 Years!  
- Our Hard Working Sales Staff.  
Bob Bechill Jim Britting 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!**  
**866-554-4217**  
**MOTORSPORTS & TRAILERS**  
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 SEKOOZ ARCTIC CAT SURE-TRAC Haulmark AMERICAN MADE HALL-IT

# Keeping an Eye on Miss Basketball



Local players such as Saginaw Nouvel's Laurel Jacqmain, Cassidy Boensch (Bay City John Glenn), Jenai Laporte (Bay City John Glenn) and Frankenmuth's Brayene Benner are just a few area players that should garner some attention during Miss Basketball voting. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene Photos)

## Scott Keyes Sports Scene

### Getting to know Nouvel Catholic Central's Laurel Jacqmain

After watching Laurel Jacqmain grow up before our eyes, one of area's best is set to embark on new journey.

The Saginaw Valley State University signee took the time to discuss this season and to reflect on her four years at Nouvel Catholic Central. Here is a little of what she had to say.

**Q:** After growing as a player for four years, what do you consider your strengths to be as a senior compared to when you were a freshman?

**A:** I feel that I have more confidence and have more control over the game, as well as the experience from the years of having great teammates to look up to.

**Q:** How do you feel your game has evolved through the years?

**A:** I think I worked on more specific skills as I grew as a player and had to take on a bigger role. I had to get better in pressure situations, whether it be ball handling, taking the shot, defensive stops, and even just mentally.

**Q:** After making it to the Breslin your first two seasons, and coming up short a year ago, how hungry does that make you as a senior to get back?

**A:** Definitely coming up short for the Breslin last year, and even winning it before and losing it, I've felt the emotions of both sides, and so this year, I want to feel the emotion of achievement with my team. It makes me work beyond my limits daily, as well as pushing my teammates to do their best, because it will be a team effort to get there and win it.

**Q:** Talk a little bit about how strong girls' basketball has been in the area in recent years.

**A:** I think girls' basketball in the area has developed and improved through

its great success in recent years and it's so great to see it has, because each team definitely works so hard and puts so much time and dedication into the sport, so it's a great thing to see that it's growing so strong.

### Catching up with...

#### Cassidy Boensch, John Glenn, Forward

Boensch has been making a huge push for Miss Basketball in recent games.

Against Tawas Jan. 21, she helped the No. 3-ranked John Glenn girls basketball team past Tawas Area in a 55-16 victory.

The Grand Valley State University signee put herself firmly in the Miss Basketball discussion by delivering a triple-double of 12 points, 13 blocks, and 14 rebounds – all in 17 minutes of floor time – in a performance that screamed 'domination.'

Boensch eclipsed 1,000 career points earlier this season, but she has no problem being considered a defense-first player. The Tawas players who saw 13 shots turned back toward them by half-time would second that opinion.

Earlier that week, John Glenn dismantled Standish-Sterling, 63-17. Boensch had a double-double, with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

#### Jenai Laporte, John Glenn, Forward

Laporte, John Glenn's all-time leading scorer, has proven this season that she doesn't have to lead her team in scoring to be effective on the court. Currently Laporte is averaging close to 14 points, 3 assists, and four rebounds. The Bobcats have an 11-0 record and are currently ranked No. 3 in Class B.

#### Brayene Benner, Frankenmuth, Forward

Benner has helped Frankenmuth win its last eight games, since a loss to John Glenn. Benner is averaging close to 15 points and 6 rebounds for the Eagles.

**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](http://AutoTrader.com)

**517-803-2568**  
632 American Rd. • Lansing, MI  
[www.shaheenchevrolet.com](http://www.shaheenchevrolet.com)

**FIND NEW ROADS™**

**CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED**

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

**Your Voice For Local High School Football & Basketball Games!**

**The New 2 92.5 THE CASTLE**

**KROL COMMUNICATIONS INC.**