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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Hey Sports Fans! It's another great day at Sports Scene. It's hard to believe that another school year is almost over. It's hard to believe when school resumes in the fall I will have another senior in my household, as my daughter Bailey will be a senior and a 2019 graduate.

So where does the time go? It's a question I often ask myself, because nine years ago we set out to establish a publication that would provide the best high school sports coverage in all of mid-Michigan and I think we have succeeded in doing that.

Last month our 100th issue hit the newsstands. I had time to reflect and look back at everything Sports Scene has been able to witness through the years. From Tori Jankoska fulfilling her dreams at Freeland High School and winning Miss Basketball to becoming Michigan State University's all-time leading scorer to seeing Ithaca's Kayla Belles follow her dreams to East Lansing and becoming a Spartan.

You really must feel for Kayla as she had to sit out her senior season because of a knee injury she suffered in the summer. You hate to see those kinds of things happen to great kids, but I have all the confidence in the world that Kayla will bounce back and carry on the Spartan tradition.

I also witnessed something incredible this spring as one of my freshmen wrestlers, Dematrius Castillo gave Alma its first state champion in 25 years. It's those lasting memories that allows you to never ask where the times goes because you were there to witness first hand.

So as spring winds down and student-athletes prepare for what could be their last hurrah, the one thing I will leave you with is that never ever question yourself in anything. Believe in your abilities and cherish the moment and never ask where the time has gone. Believe in the now. Because 10 years from now you will ask yourself where the time as gone. Trust me, I ask myself that same question all the time.



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

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SCENE STEALERS!



Brett MacNeil, Mason, Golf
MacNeil recorded a hole-in-one on the 17th hole at Eagle Eye during action in the CAAC Open. MacNeil finished the day with a round of 78 to finish in the top ten individually and help Mason to a second-place finish as a team.



Taryn Ostrander, Ithaca
Ostrander, a senior, qualified for the state meet in both the shot put and the discus. She hit her personal best in the shot put with a throw of 36'11.75".



Greg Simmons, Alma
An All-State wrestler for the Panthers, Simmons qualified for state in the shot put with a throw of 49'7.25".



Lance Wiltsie, Michigan Lutheran Seminary
Wiltsie, joins Caro's Trevin Phillips and Gladwin's Grace Beardsley who were selected among the eight new members selected for the MHSAA's Student Advisory Council.



Hunter Goldensohn, Swan Valley
Jumping in only his third meet of the season, Goldensohn cleared the six-foot mark and qualified for the state meet. Goldensohn also plays baseball for the Vikings.



Kenyon Story, Breckenridge
Story recently announced he will continue his football career in the fall at Trine University. Story is a two-time Division 7-8 All-State selection.



Jacob Torrez, Alma
A freshman, Torrez made an impressive debut in his first high school regional. Torrez placed second in the long jump (21-3) and third in the 100 meters (11.44) at the D2 regional at Corunna. Torrez also set a new p.r. in the 100 (11.35) in the prelims.



St. Johns Girls Track
The St. Johns 4x400 relay team of Mariah Munro, Taryn Chapko, Madison Maloney and Mackenzie Others won the championship at the Division 2 regional at Corunna with a time of 4:09.3 and are headed to the Division 2 state finals.



Jordyn Conrad, Meghan Strange, Frankenmuth High School
Conrad and Strange won the No. 3 doubles championship at regionals leading the Eagles to a regional title.



Marcus Montgomery, Heritage
Montgomery shattered the Michigan High School Athletic Association dual meet record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 47.84 seconds.



Paige Seeley, Alma
Alma sophomore Paige Seeley qualified for the Division 2 state track and field finals in three events. Seeley placed second in the 800-meter run (2:25.58) and was part of the winning 4x800 relay team and the 4x400 relay team that placed second.



Charles Arrington, Okemos
Okemos senior Charles Arrington qualified for the Division 1 state track and field finals in the discus with a throw of 145'6". Arrington will continue his academic and athletic career at Olivet College where he will play football this fall.



Abi Whitford, Ithaca High School
Only a freshman, Whitford qualified for state after finishing second in the 3200-meter race at the Clare Regionals.



Mikayla Williams, St. Charles
Williams turned in a big effort at the Division 3 track and field regionals at Clare. Williams won the long jump (16'0.25") and the pole vault (10'0"). Williams was part of the 4x100 relay team that placed first and finished second in the high jump (5'0").



Tony Martin, Saginaw High
Martin ran away from the field in the 100-meter finals held at Chippewa Hills winning the race in a time of 11.04.



Jasmine Clerkley, Okemos
Okemos sophomore Jasmine Clerkley qualified for the Division 1 state track and field finals in the shot put. Clerkley set a new school record with a throw of 44'4" at the regional meet. Clerkley has committed to Michigan State to play basketball.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SCENE STEALERS!



Elizabeth Norris, Corunna
A sophomore, Norris qualified for the Division 2 state track and field final in four events. Norris placed second in both the high jump (5-2) and 100 meters (13.0). Norris was part of the 4x100 relay that placed first and the 4x200 relay that took second.



Teagan Woodworth, Haslett
Woodworth has provided the Haslett girls soccer team with solid all-around play this year, helping the Vikings to a fifth place ranking in Division 2. Woodworth was also a standout on the basketball court this past season.

Ovid-Elsie Boys Track

The Ovid-Elsie 4x200 relay team of Bryce Dolan, Carson Vincent, Shayne Loynes and Jacob Darling qualified for the Division 3 state track and field finals. The relay team took second at the Division 3 Bath regional with a time of 1:34.23.



Alma's 4 x 800 Relay

The Panthers 4 x 800 relay team of Victoria Gotaas, Cornelia Gotaas, Morgan Johnson and Paige Seeley set a new school record and qualified for state with a time of 9:49:42.



Heritage Athletes Make College Decisions

From left to right: Justin McMurren and Majestik Dudley (Central Michigan University), and Gavin Gohr (Saginaw Valley State University) have elected to continue their football careers at the college level. Amanda Kalkman will move onto Northwood to continue her running career, while Emilia Shokoohi will swim for Calvin College and Zack Rychel has elected to continue his swimming career close to home at SVSU.



Ethan Champney, Swan Valley

Champney was a part of the 4 x 800 relay team that took first at regionals in a time of 8:20.00. Other members of the team included Nick Anderson, Nathan Piwowarski and Andrew Wendler. Champney also qualified for 400m race.

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Chesaning Golfer Set To Go To Saginaw Valley

John Raffel Sports Scene

Eddie Murphy has been a very talented golfer for Chesaning this season, who like others, is hoping to go extremely far in the state finals.

But he won't be putting his clubs away when the high school season ends.

Murphy will be playing golf at Saginaw Valley State University.

It's the fourth varsity season

for the Chesaning senior. He's had plenty of highlights on the golf course for the Indians.

"My first year, we finished top two in the regional," he said. "We qualify for state. My sophomore year, I didn't do great. My junior year, I won five out of the seven tournaments I played in. The biggest one I won was the Alma Invitational. This year, I've won two tournaments I played in so far. One was at Ithaca. I shot a 69. One was in Saginaw County and I

shot a 72."

Murphy made an appearance at the state finals last season.

For 18 holes, he's averaging 75. It's two strokes lower than from last season.

Putting has been the strongest part of his game.

"It saves me a lot of strokes," Murphy said. "Once you putt to save par or save bogey, it saves you in the long run."

He's working on his driving

from off the tee and on his chipping.

"I haven't been perfect on that," he said. "I definitely want to place at state, top five. That'd be cool. Maybe I'll win it, that would be my dream."

Murphy said he was connected through someone else at Saginaw Valley and was able to make the connection to be invited to join the program.

He's also played high school tennis.



Chesaning's Eddie Murphy will continue his career in the fall playing for Saginaw Valley State University. (Submitted Photo)



Young Central Montcalm Team Continues Softball Team's Winning Tradition

John Raffel Sports Scene

Central Montcalm's softball team continues to dominate the Central State Activities Association Gold Division under Coach Bruce Nicholson.

The team started out the season 16-7 overall and 11-1 in the CSAA Gold.

"I'd say (our record) is adequate for what we have," Nicholson said. "The last three years we won more than 30 games all three of those years, but I lost seven seniors. We start four freshmen and a sophomore. We played really tough

Lilly Doyle of Central Montcalm delivers a pitch during a recent game this season. (Submitted Photo)

opening schedule. We're at Division 3 this year but stayed with our Division 2 schedule. We played Kalkaska, Shepherd, DeWitt and Portland (for nonleague).

"For the limited time we got to be outside like everyone else, we're pleased with what our record is," continued Nicholson. "But we're young."

Central's No. 1 pitcher is senior Lilly Doyle, a three-year starter.

"She's been our go-to in the circle," Nicholson said. "She's been getting a majority of the workload. She works

really hard. She puts a lot of time into it and plays a lot of competitive travel ball. She works her pitches well. She doesn't walk many kids. We played solid defense behind her. Her mental toughness and composure has been demonstrated as a senior. She's very composed."

Our best hitter is a sophomore and a starter last year as a freshman is Mia Morgan," added Nicholson. "She plays first base for us."

Other top players include senior center fielder Bree Schultz, junior catcher Brie Harris and freshmen pitchers, Izzy Doyle and Gabby Hirkaway.

Area Golf Teams Fine-Tuning Their Games As State Tournament Action Draws Near

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

BIG RAPIDS: The Cardinals are one of the premier teams in the state in Division 3 this season. Ranked second in Division 3, Big Rapids showed its depth in winning the Traverse City Central Trojan Invitational by 11 strokes with a team score of 322. Pierce Morrissey claimed medalist honors with a 74 while Owen Seay took fourth with a 79 and Fletcher Bolda placed fifth with an 80.

DEWITT: Ranked sixth in the state in Division 2, the DeWitt golf team is turning in some impressive performances this season. DeWitt won the East Lansing Invitational by nine strokes with a team total of 314. Charlie DeLong claimed medalist honors with a 69 while Joey Croley added a 79.

DeWitt added the CAAC Red tournament title by 20 strokes with a team score of 299. DeLong captured medalist honors with a 64 while teammates Brody Sigmon and Croley tied for fifth with rounds of 78. The Panthers also won the CAAC Open by 12 strokes with a team score of 307. DeLong again captured medalist honors with a 69 while Parker Dietzel tied for seventh with a 77.

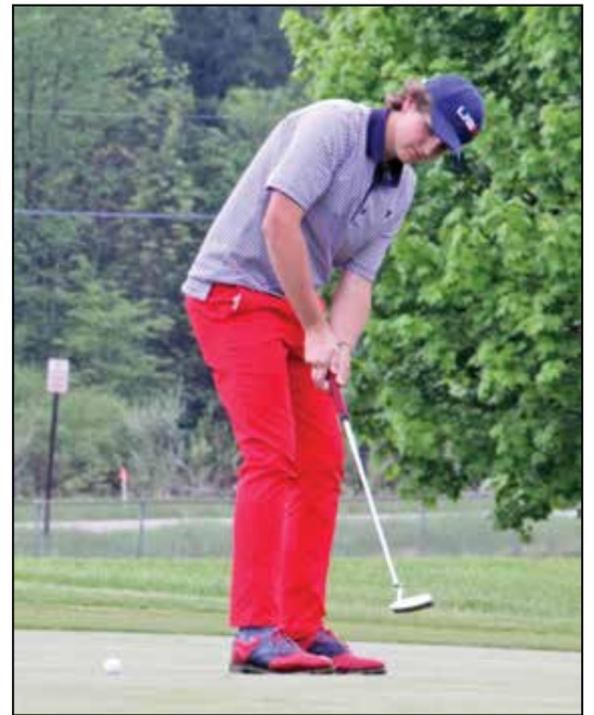
MIDLAND: Midland senior Drew Gandy is capping his high school golf career in a big way. Gandy, who will be golfing in college at Hillsdale College, fired a 71 to win medalist honors at the Grand Blanc/Orchard Lake St. Mary's Top50 junior Tour Tournament. Gandy also won the Chemical City Invitational by three strokes as he carded a 74.

HASLETT: The Vikings are put-

ting together some solid rounds this spring. Haslett took second at the East Lansing Invitational. Michael Corder shot a 79 and Ben VanGorder fired a 79 to pace the Vikings. Haslett took second at the CAAC Red tournament. Corder tied for second with a 77 to lead the team.

ST. JOHNS: St. Johns golfers turned in a solid effort to take second place at the Oiler Invitational. Cole Fenech placed fourth with a 77 while Zeke Ely finished in a tie for fifth place with a 79. The Redwings placed third overall at the CAAC Open. Fenech shot a 75 to finish in a tie for fifth place.

MASON: The Bulldogs took second place at the CAAC Open with a team score of 319. Alex Jordan placed fourth with a 74 and Brett MacNeil shot a 78 to finish in a tie for ninth place.



Area golfers are gearing up for regionals to earn a spot in next month's state tournament. (Submitted Photos)

Big Rapids Golfers Have Eyes On State Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

Big Rapids golfers figure they have the firepower to compete for a Division 3 state title this season.

Central State Activities Association jamborees and other tournaments are giving indication they could do it.

Senior Fletcher Bolda fired a 69 at Reed City's Spring Valley Golf Course.

It was the lowest score of Bolda's high school golf career.

He's excited to see what his team can do at the state finals in June at Michigan State.

"I think we can win the state championship," he said.

Bolda will refocus on his hockey career when the prep golf season ends. He was Big Rapids' starting goalkeeper for four hockey seasons. He's focusing on a junior hockey career after he

graduates from high school.

Right now he's hoping to help a talented team get the big prize.

Leading the way is state medalist contender Pierce Morrissey a junior.

Morrissey took medalist honors on Friday and Saturday at the Katke Classic with rounds of 73 and 71. Flint Powers Catholic took first place

"I was able to get it going on

the putting green," he said after Saturday's round. "My putter was hot. I scrambled real well. The course was in great condition considering the rain we got over night. I hit the ball a lot better (on Saturday) and my putting was hot again."

"The team is looking great," he said. "We have five of us back from our top six last year. We have a good chance to win state finals."



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Young Breckenridge Golf Team Showing Plenty Of Improvement

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

With plenty of young and eager golfers, the golf program at Breckenridge is on the upswing in a big way.

A total of 10 golfers are on the Breckenridge golf team this spring and with a passion for the game, the Huskies are improving each time out on the course.

Second to Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart in the Mid-State conference, the Huskies have also turned in several solid efforts at tournaments and are gearing up for the Division 4 regional at Uby, where they plan to make a run at the state meet.

"The season has been going well," said Breckenridge golf coach Joel Parks. "Most of the team is sophomores and freshmen and they are all progressing. The whole team is fun to coach. They are a bunch of good kids who have been

working real hard."

Sophomores Chase Schmitz, Kyle Guthrie and Peyton Huntoon provide the Huskies with steady golf and all have been scoring in the 80s for 18 holes this season. Fellow sophomore Josh Sherman, in his first year on the team, is shooting in the 90s and showing plenty of improvement.

Kelby Reichard is the lone senior on the team. Reichard has been consistently in the low 90s.

"Kelby has been hitting the ball well and has been a joy to coach for four years," Parks said. "He's very athletic and strikes the ball real well."

Freshman Cole Brown is making an impact in his first year of high school golf.

"Cole has a nice swing," Parks said. "With a little more course management experience he should



Breckenridge golfers (left to right:) Jacob Frederick, Grant Willman, Caden Sitts, Cole Brown, Peyton Huntoon, Kyle Guthrie, Josh Sherman and Chase Schmitz are part of an improving golf program this is looking to qualify for the state finals this season.

be down into the 80s."

Fellow freshmen Jacob Fredericks and Grant Willman are also showing progress. Freshman Caden Sitts rounds out the freshmen class.

"Caden never golfed before this season," Parks said. "He is really

starting to get a feel for golf and by the end of summer he could be in the low 90s."

The team's passion for the game is one major reason why Breckenridge has a bright future.

"It's been fun to work with these kids," Parks said. "They are great

students and they love to learn. They are eager to play golf. After practice they usually head out and play another nine holes. They've played a lot of golf at Hidden Oaks and Twin Bridges. These kids play on their own after the season is over. It's so neat to see that passion in them."

Swan Valley Looking For Your Support

The Swan Valley school board is encouraging its current and former student-athletes to help with its "I'm Worth It" campaign to encourage people to go out and vote on August 7 in support of the Swan Valley Sinking Fund Bond Proposal.

Because so many infrastructure updates are badly needed the fund will help cut the much-needed cost for repairs. If the bond passes it would only cost the average household owner \$8 a



Swan Valley athletes lend a hand urging residents to go out and vote on August 7 in support of the Swan Valley Singing Fund. (Nick Rethman, High School Sports Scene Photo)

month. The money raised by the mileage will go towards much needed repairs to roofs, electrical systems and technology upgrades.

Rockford Sprinter Having Success

Noah Stallworth's junior track season at Rockford has been a good one.

He's been a sprinter and relay artist.

"It's going great," he said. "I haven't broken my personal 100 record yet. But my personal 200 record, I've got 22:02. That was probably my most significant achievement as far as the season goes."

Stallworth considers the 200-meter dash to be his best event.

"I've improved a ton from last year," he said. "It's almost been a

second. My start isn't always the greatest, but it's improved a lot. It's a matter of running consistently during the year and lifting weights. I was in the weight room a lot. This year, I've gained some muscles. That helps a lot."

His second best event has been the 100.

"I want to break 11 flat by the end of the season," he said.

The 4x100 relay may be the best of the two relays Stallworth is on. He's the anchor on both.

"I like the pressure," he said. "I love finishing and having a great start."

If he's had the lead when he gets the baton, Stallworth has been able to protect it.



Noah Stallworth is as fast as they come on the track for Rockford. (Submitted Photo)

Area Boys Track And Field Athletes Among Tops In State This Spring

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

DIVISION 1

ROCKFORD: The Rams have one of the top young sprinters in D3 in junior Noah Stallworth, who is a standout in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes. Senior Cole Johnson is one of the most versatile runners in the state as he is in the top 10 in the state in D1 in the 400, 800 and 1600-meter runs. Senior thrower Gavin McIntyre has the top throw in the discus in D1 this season with a throw of 166'7".

GRAND LEDGE: Comet sophomore Kavion Autrey has developed into the premier long jumper in the state this spring. Autrey is the lone long jump competitor in the state of Michigan to have a leap of more than 23 feet as he went 23'3.5" at the Spartan Classic. Senior Hawke Harrington is in the top five in D1 in the shot put with a put of 52'6".

LANSING WAVERLY: Junior Keshuan Harris is one of the top hurdlers in the state. Harris is second in the 110 hurdles (14.34) and third in D1 in the 300 hurdles (38.68). Senior Kenny Brewer is also in the top five in D1 in the long jump with a best of 22-2.

SAGINAW HERITAGE: Senior Marcus Montgomery is the premier sprinter in the state in the 400-meter dash, clocking a time of 47.84.

GREENVILLE: Junior Jake Rasmussen has developed into one of the top hurdlers in the state. Rasmussen is second in the 300-meter hurdles (38.6)

and fifth in the 110-meter hurdles (14.74).

OKEMOS: Senior Paul McKinley is in the top five in the state in the 1600-meter run (4:15.4) and the 3200-meter run (9:22.2).

DIVISION 2

CORUNNA: The Cavaliers are ranked fourth in the state this spring and are on pace to a lofty finish at the state meet. The Cavaliers have a deep group of distance runners led by senior Dakota Hundley and junior Ben Jacobs in the 1600-meter run and junior Charlie Bruckman in the 3200-meter run.

LANSING CATHOLIC: Ranked 10th in the state in D2, Lansing Catholic is paced by its 4x400 relay team of Jack Fedewa, James Fedewa, Ryan Schroeder and Ryan Ruitter who have the third best time in D3. Freshman Noel Spence is also in the top five in D3 in the high jump.

ST. JOHNS: Senior Dillan Haviland is one of the top distance runners in the state and is in the top 10 in D2 in the 1600-meter run.

DIVISION 3

CLARE: Ranked No. 1 in the state in D3, the Pioneers are led in the sprints by seniors Xavier Martin and junior Brenden Sersaw. Martin has the second fastest 200-meter time in Division 2. The 4x100 relay team of Silas Bear, Caleb Camp, Kaleb Brewer and Brecken Corp has the top time in D3 this spring while the 4x200 team of Michael Horbatiuk, Eric Huang, Michael McPhall and Aidan Hill is second in D3. The 4x400 relay team of Hunter Blain, Ross



Benchley, Bear and Horbatiuk are also in the top 10. In field events, senior Zac Stickler is second in D3 with a throw of 56'1.5" in shot put. Stickler and fellow senior Noah Nivison are also in the top five in the discus in D3.

CHESANING: Senior sprinters Brandon Keys and Sam Forsyth are both turning in strong seasons. Keys has posted a personal best of 11.18 in the 100-meter dash while Forsyth has recorded an 11.22. Forsyth has the fastest time in D3 in the 200-meter dash (22.32). Chesaning's 4x100 relay team of Anthony Aquado, Brady Fraiser, Adam Kulhanek and Keys has the third best time in D3, as does the 4x200 relay team of Aquado, Fraiser, Keys and Forsyth. In field events, Forsyth is top in the long jump (21'8") in D3 while Keys has a leap of 21'2.5".



ITHACA: Ranked ninth in the state in Division 2, the Yellowjackets are primed for a strong run in the post-season. Junior distance runner Ransom Allen is in the top 10 in Division 3 in both the 1600 and 3200-meter runs. Freshman Braxton Lamey is also strong in the distance events. Junior Derek Pendell is in the top 12 in D2 in both the 110 and 300-meter hurdles. In field events, junior Baylee Chaffin has the top throw in D3 this season at 57'3.5" in shot put, as well as the top throw in the discus. Junior Alex VanDeWeghe recorded a throw of 55'11.5" and is also in the top 10 in discus.



PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA: The Pirates have several solid athletes this spring including senior Isaiah Schafer and sophomore Nathan Spitzley in shot put and discus, and sophomore Ashton Walker in the distance events.

SANFORD-MERIDIAN: Junior sprinter Kyle Stockford has run an 11.18, 100-meter dash this season and is also in the top 10 in D3 in the 200-meter dash.

HEMLOCK: Senior Kyler Salo is in the top 10 in D3 in the 200-meter dash while senior Emiliano Flores has thrown more than 50 feet in shot put.

DIVISION 4

FULTON-MIDDLETON: Ranked 10th in the state in D4, the Pirates feature an outstanding group of sprinters led by senior Tristan Johnston, who has turned in a time of 11.67 in the 100-meter dash. Sophomore Nate Alwood is turning in a big season with the second fastest time in the state in the 400-meter dash (51.45). Junior Braydan Biddinger is a consistent point scorer in the 110-meter hurdles and in the high jump, where he has cleared 6'4". The Pirates are stacked in the relays; the 4x200 relay team of Johnston, Jon Baker, Adam Duflo and Alwood have the best D4 time in the state at 1:32.73 and the second best 4x100 team in Collin Stahl, Baker, Duflo and Johnston. The 4x400 relay team of Brennan Grant, Stahl, Duflo and Alwood are also top five in D4.

BRECKENRIDGE: Senior Caden Foster is one of the premier sprinters in Division 4 this spring. Foster has turned in a personal record time of 11.19 in the 100-meter dash and has one of the top times in the 200-meter dash with a personal best of 22.74. Junior Hunter

Collins is close behind with a top time of 11.67. The Huskies also have the premier D4 4x100 relay team in Lukas Ebright, Caleb Hurt, Collins and Foster, who have turned in a time of 44.60. The 4x200 relay team of Collins, Kyle Conn, Hurt and Foster are also top five in the state. In the field events junior Brennan Waslusky has the top mark in the discus this year at 148'1" and has thrown more than 48 feet in the shot put.

POTTERVILLE: Junior Zach Baker leads the way with a 52.96 time in the 400-meter dash. Senior Ross Schmiedeknecht and freshman Zach Wright have both broken 2:07 in the 800-meter run this spring. Wright and junior Luke Tarr are also turning in big seasons in the 3200-meter run.

CARSON CITY-CRYSTAL: Eagles freshman Coleman Clark is making a big impact this spring. Clark has one of the top times in the state in the 3200-meter run at 10:13.41. In the field events, junior Daniel Smith is one of just two athletes in D4 to have thrown more than 50 feet in shot put this spring.

MT. PLEASANT SACRED HEART: The Irish are led this spring by senior sprinter Emmanuel Chiejina, who has turned in a time of 11.62 in the 100-meter dash and is also a standout in the 300-meter hurdles. Junior distance runner TJ Moore has turned in a 10:17 in the 3200-meter run.

BEAL CITY: The Aggies are paced by sophomore Logan Chilman who has turned in a 23.76 in the 200 meters this spring. Seniors Max Nelson and Zach Yoder have both cleared 6'2" in the high jump.

Many area athletes put up stellar times during the Michigan High School Athletic Association regionals held at many different venues around Michigan. (Randy Miniard, Marvin Hall, High School Sports Scene Photos)

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Sacred Heart Distance Runners Having Strong Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart track's success in state cross country titles for girls gives the Irish plenty of talent in the distance races.

But it's been a challenging season for Skylar Nelson, who coaches both the boys and girls teams.

"The distance runners this season have overcome a lot of adversity," Nelson said. "They're dual sporting as well. What sets them apart is their hard work and they continue to put in the miles. We have quite a few girls that run together."

Among the girls that did well at regional include Bailey and Desiree McConnell, Lauren MacDonald and Scout Nelson.

"I hope all of those girls will wind up at the state meet," Skylar Nelson said prior to regionals.

Preseason for track was tolerable to distance runners despite the weather, since they're still able to do some training.

"At the start of the season, it was pretty difficult with the snow and rain," Nelson said. "They are all very supportive of each other, which really helps. If one can't make the relay, the other will jump in for her."

Sacred Heart was third at regionals for girls.

"We only have about 12 girls on the team total and they've done a really good job for the size we have," Nelson said. "We have about 20 boys. They're all really hard workers."

Nelson is coaching the team her first year. She's an alumna of Sacred Heart.

Going from middle school to high school, there's more strategy involved.

"On the middle school level, I got them to enjoy running the sport," Nelson said.



Sacred Heart Academy's Scout Nelson is considered on the top distance runners in Division 4. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photo)

Greenville Hurdlers Key Run To Conference Championship

John Raffel Sports Scene

Greenville's boys track team posted an OK White Conference track championship this season with Jake Rasmussen, Ryan Olsen and Nick Huizenga playing no small role in that success.

The team tied for the conference title in the OK White with Forest Hills Central. Greenville was 6-0 in the regular season conference

meets and 6-1 overall with a non-league loss to Rockford.

"Jake, Nick, and Ryan are juniors and the biggest point-getters on the team," Greenville coach Tim O'Brien said. "Jake and Ryan are captains along with Ellis Mason a sophomore distance runner."

Rasmussen earned three conference titles in 110 and 300-meter hurdles and the 200-meter dash. Olsen had three second place finishes in the 110-meter high hurdles

and 300-meter hurdles, and high jump fifth in the long jump

Huizenga was second in the 100-meter dash and fourth in the 200-meter dash and placed in the sprint relays.

"Jake is a powerful runner that has a huge upside," O'Brien said. "His plans in track and field in college is to give the decathlon a try. Ryan has worked to become a better hurdler and has progressed to having more success this season. Both are coached by veteran hurdle coach Michael Woods.

"Nick Huizenga has been a pleasant surprise this season due to decreasing his time in the

sprints. His hard work in the weight room has paid off. Ellis Mason is a sophomore distance runner who put in a great deal of miles prior to the season. He was key in keeping the Yellow Jacket team in contention for the title, while being injured most of the season. Academically all of them are strong students."

In the regionals, Rasmussen won the 300-meter hurdles in 38.98 seconds. Olsen was second in the 300-meter hurdles (39.51) and third in the 100-meter hurdles (14.7) with a pair of PRs.



The Greenville boys track team won the OK White Conference track championship this season after finishing the regular season 6-0. (Submitted Photo)

Mohawk Distance Runner Is A Three-Event Regional Champion

Morley Stanwood sophomore Aiden McLaughlin was an all-state athlete in cross country last fall and is looking at the same type of status as a distance runner in track. McLaughlin had a memorable day at the Division 3 regionals in Clare,

taking home three titles.

"The start of the season was pretty slow because of the weather and everything," McLaughlin said. "We got to the point where I was confident with my times going into the regional meet."

He was second in the conference in two events, but he isn't sure how much he's improved in those from last year.

"Time wise, I have not yet (improved), but with the slow start of the season, we're not too worried going into regionals," McLaughlin said. "I think we'll be all right."

His kick "has saved me multiple times this season," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin won the regional 800-meter run in Clare with a time of 2:02.5 and clocked in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:37.42 for first place.

Among his best relays was the 4x800; the relay team won the regional in 8:22.02. He was the lead runner.

It's been a competitive season for the team, which was runner-up in the Central State Activities Association's Silver Division to Kent City.

"It's going well but it was disappointing not to win conference," McLaughlin said.



Aiden McLaughlin

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Meder Scores Points For LCC Runners

John Raffel Sports Scene

Sophomore Eli Meder has been a consistent runner in various track and field events this season for Lansing Catholic.

Meder saw some action in the

1600-meter run. In the 1600, he had a personal record of 4:35.24 in second place in a meet at Williamston. He was second in both that event and the 3200-meter run at regionals.

Meder also had his personal

800-meter run this year and his personal record was a 2:08.19 in a home meet. His best events were the 3200 and

records of 9:56.09 at regionals.

In some respects, Meder didn't consider it as strong of a season as his freshman year. He was second in the 3200 at the regional meet and placed 19th in the state finals.

But he did see his times go down in both events this year and his coaching staff is confident Meder will be among the top runners in the state in his division next year.

Cross country might be Meder's

best sport, but he might say it's hard to say. Last season, Meder ran at the state final. His personal record is 16:25.7 which he ran in the Greater Lansing Cross Country Championships. He was 12th at regionals and 50th in the state final at 16:36.3. His time was better than the 17:02.2 he clocked at the state final last season, but he was 40th place in 2016. He was fourth at regionals



as a cross country freshman in 17:05.2.

Todd Leads Chippewa Hills To Championship Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Chippewa Hills senior runner Hannah Todd is in the final weeks of her stellar four-year running career for the Warriors and is making the most of it.

Todd crossed the finish first in the 1600-meter relay, the final event of

the Division 2 regional, hosted by Chippewa Hills to provide the three points they needed to edge the Cadillac Vikings and win another regional crown.

By late April, Todd realized she was on the verge of another huge season.

"Considering having five weeks

of the season cancelled (from the weather) and all the hard practices, I feel I did really well," Todd said.

She entered the season with a goal of 59 seconds in the 400.

"In the 200 I want to be at 25," she said. "The 400 is a little of a struggle. You have to push in your last 200 instead of just cruising."

Todd figured she'd be hitting her peak by the middle of the season.

The Warriors wound up winning their 16th straight CSAA title and

another regional crown. At the regional, Todd was third in the 400

"We're looking really solid and really good," Todd said. "We have amazing 400 runners. The more 400 runners, you have, the better the team is, in my opinion. You can put them anywhere. The 400 makes it a strong team. Not many teams have 400-meter runners."

Todd will attend Ferris State University in the fall, but said she hasn't decided if she'll run cross country and track there yet.



Hannah Todd

Farwell's Jenna Odykirk Has Been Tough To Beat

To say Farwell's Jenna Odykirk has been unbeatable this season would be fairly accurate.

As of May 9, the Farwell junior had not lost in four events. She was 6-0 in the 100-meter dash with a personal best of 12.7, 7-0 in the 200-meter dash with a PR of 25.77, and 6-0 in the 400-meter dash with a season's best of 1:01.56. She is also 4-0 in the long jump with a personal record of 16'3".

It's debatable on what Odykirk's best event has been.

"I'd like to say the 200, but my coach tells me it's the

400," Odykirk said. "I'm hoping I get low 59s for my 400, low 12 for my 200 and high 15s in the long jump. It will take lots of form running and good workouts. I need to stay healthy."

She's having her best season in track, and as a sprinter, having a good start has been her key.

"I play baseball and volleyball, but track's my favorite," Odykirk said. "I've always liked it. I like running in general as weird as it sounds. I do a lot of training at Saginaw Valley during the offseason."

The team has been competitive in the Jack Pine



Jenna Odykirk

Conference.

"In the past, we haven't had a very good placing," Odykirk said. "This year we're 5-2 and ranked third overall. That's pretty good for us."

Alma High Jumper Wins Regional Title

Alma's Case Martin picked a fine time to have a top-notch effort in the high jump this season.

Martin cleared 6 feet, 2 inches to win the event on Friday at the Division 2 regional, hosted by Chippewa Hills.

"I jumped 6'4" last week at a (Bullock Creek meet)," he said. "I was hoping for 6'4" (at the regional)."

He also got 6-1 at the Scottie Classic at Alma College.

The 6'4" height has been

a personal best for the Alma sophomore.

"It's gone pretty good," Martin said. "I've only gotten second one time. I met my goal (Friday) by going to state."

It's his second varsity season but he also jumped his seventh-grade year. He feels he's strong in the various areas of the high jump.

"My coaches have helped me a lot on everything," he said.

On track, Martin only focuses on high jump. But he also played football and



Case Martin

basketball for Alma.

The high jump gives him an individual challenge.

Martin's goal for the state meet in his very first trip, on June 2, will be to place in the top three.

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Defending Fowler High Jump State Champ Also A Strong Hurdler

John Raffel Sports Scene

Fowler's Alyssa Vandegriff established herself as a standout during her sophomore season.

But she has not slacked off much as a junior and continues to be a threat in all of her events.

She was a state titlist as a high jumper with a clearance of 5'4".

Vandegriff was state-runner-up as a sophomore in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.43 seconds, which was a personal record and new school mark. She has also been a threat in the

300-meter hurdles.

She placed 19th in the state in the long jump last season.

In the high jump this year, through May 15, she had won nearly every event, aside from a seventh place finish at the Clare Invitational. Her best high jump was 5'3" at the Alma College Scottie Classic.

"She's exceeded her expectations," Coach Jill Feldpausch said. "In the 300 hurdles, which last year she did not place in at the state meet, she has continued to knock her times down. It was looking very good in the 100 as well."

"She's always one of the last ones

In the 100, her best time this season had been 15.80 seconds at Dansville and clocked in at 47:89 for a personal record in the 300-meter hurdles.

"She's improved by about a full second in the 300," Feldpausch added.

The 100-meter hurdles has been Vandegriff's best hurdle event.

"As the champion season rolls around, I suspect she has some great races ahead of her," Feldpausch said. "I hope she can break her school record again."

Vandegriff's steps have played a huge role in her success.

"When she three-steps every hurdle, she's hard to beat," the coach said. "The only time she's been beaten is when she's failed to three-step."

"She has a strong work ethic. She's always one of the last ones

at practice every day."

Vandegriff also runs cross country.

Feldpausch pointed out that Fowler has a strong hurdles program.

"Alyssa Vandegriff and Ciera Weber hold two of the top four 100 hurdle spots in D4 right now, and if you include Ciera's younger sister Sadie, the Fowler girls hold three of the top 11 spots in that event," the coach said. "Alyssa Vandegriff is not the only excellent 300 hurdler in Fowler. In her first year at the event, senior Sidney Horak now has the sixth fastest time in D4. Ciera Weber joins Alyssa and Sidney to have three of the top 10 hurdlers in that event. All our hurdlers are good sprinters as well."

At regionals, Vandegriff took three firsts with a season record of 15.64 seconds in the 100-me-



Alyssa Vandegriff

ter hurdles, a regional record of 47.59 seconds in the 300 hurdles and a clearance of 5'3" in the high jump.

In the high jump, she wanted to tie her PR of 5-4.

"The key is practice and having someone there to tell me what to work on," Vandegriff said.



Belding's Sower Following In Sister's Footsteps

Belding's Justice Sower decided to keep it in the family when he picked a race to run in track.

Sower was a hurdling regional champ for Belding

Justice Sower

"(Justice's) older sister McKenzie ran track, and he kind of followed in her footsteps," Belding coach John Carlson said. "Justice did hurdles in middle school, but he didn't return to the hurdles until 11th grade. He has really improved his form in the hurdles. He really leads with his front knee. This has been a big improvement. Late in 11th grade

he was able to 3-step in between the hurdles, which was a big breakthrough for him."

Carlson noted Sower ran hurdles in seventh and eighth grade and then returned to hurdles in 11th and 12th grade.

"Justice plays soccer in the fall. He does not run indoor track," Carlson said. "Justice has played high

school soccer all four years."

Carlson likes Sower's potential for the state meet.

"Justice has a good chance of breaking into the Belding top 3 all time at the state finals. He is undefeated on the season, so I wouldn't put anything past him and his chances to make the podium at finals."

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Area Girls Track And Field Athletes Turn In Big Performances During Spring Season

David Cook Sports Scene

DIVISION 1

ROCKFORD: The Rams are stocked with young sprinters this spring. Junior Taylor Korytkowski is in the top 10 in D1 in the 200 and 400-meter dashes and junior Jillian Roney is a standout in the 100-meter dash. Roney is also in the top 10 in the 300 hurdles. Rockford's 4x100 team of Valencia Goldsmith, Casey Lenon, Grace Gohl and Roney are also ranked in the top five in D1. Rockford's 4x200 team of Korytkowski, Abby Nash, Lenon and Gohl are in the top three in the state. Junior distance runner Ericka VanderLende is one of the top athletes in the state, as she is first in the 3200-meter run (10:05) and second in the 1600-meter run (4:50). VanderLende anchors the 4x800 relay team which includes Camryn Gabriel, Caleigh Dunn and Karlie Gardner that is in the top five in D1. In field events, Lenon is second in the high jump.

LANSING WAVERLY: Sophomore sprinter Priscilla Trainor is one of the top sprinters in the state. Trainor has top 10 times in the 100-meter dash (12.26), 200-meter dash (25.3) and the 400-meter dash (57.42). Waverly boasts one of the top throwers in the state in senior Malin Smith, who is ranked first in the shot put (48'1") and second in the discus (155'0").

OKEMOS: Sophomore Jasmine Clerkley is among the top five in the shot put with a put of 41-0.

DIVISION 2

CORUNNA: The Cavaliers are led by a solid pair of hurdlers. Sophomore Hannah Hollister is in the top five in both the 100 and 300-meter hurdles with junior Lexi Mort in the top 10 in the 100-meter hurdles. The Cavaliers' 4x100 relay team Maddie Birchmeier, Elizabeth Norris, Mort and Hollister are ranked fourth in D2. Freshman distance runner Lilly Evans is turning in solid times in the 3200 meters. In the field, senior Myah Kelly is third in D2 in the pole vault with a vault of 11-0 while Mort is in the top 10 in the long jump.

LANSING CATHOLIC: Led by an outstanding group of distance runners, Catholic Central is a top 10 team in Division 2. Senior Olivia Theis has the top D2 time in the 3200-meter run (10:03.9) and second-best in the 1600-meter run (4:58.6). Sophomore Jaden Theis is second in the 3200 (10:16) and third in the 1600 (4:59.9). Junior Lauren

Clery is in the top five in the 1600.

WILLIAMSTON: Senior Hannah Jones is a standout in the middle distance runs as she is in the top four in D2 in the 800-meter run and top seven in the 400. Jones and Danielle Pollak, Faith Schafer and Giselle Miller are also in the top five in the 4x400 relay. In field events, junior Jessica Robach is third in D2 in the long jump (17'4.5").

DEWITT: The Panthers are paced by a solid group of distance runners. Seniors Hannah Adler and Katie Vitou and junior Ashley Shipp are all in the top 10 in the 3200-meter run. Vitou is in the top 10 in the 800-meter run and 1600-meter run with Shipp in the top 15 in the 800 and the 1600.

PORTLAND: Senior Olivia Sandborn is on track for all-state honors in the relays as she is in the top five in D2 in the 100-meter hurdles and fourth in the 300-meter hurdles. In field events, junior Lesley Barker is in the top 10 in the long jump.

MASON: The Bulldogs are paced by talented sophomore Lucy Petee. Petee has the top D2 time in the 800-meter run (2:16.9) and the third best time in the 400-meter dash (58.6). Junior distance runner Cecilia Stalzer is in the top 10 in the 1600.

CHIPPEWA HILLS: Ranked fourth in the state in D2, the Warriors feature plenty of balance. Senior Hannah Todd leads the distance crew.

MIDLAND BULLOCK CREEK: Junior sprinter Samantha Chew is turning in a solid spring as she is ranked in the top 10 in D2 in both the 100 and 200.



ST. JOHNS: Sophomore Taryn Chapko has the second-best time in the 800-meter run (2:18.3) and is solid in the 400-meter dash.

DIVISION 3

PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA:

Few teams in D3 can match the speed of P-W's relay squads. The 4x400 relay of Emily Nurenberg, Bailey Droste, Brooklyn Nurenberg and Aubrey George has the top time (4:07) in D3, while the 4x800 relay of Brooke Stump, Droste, Nurenberg and George has the third fastest time. Also in the top five are the 4x100 relay of Claudia Heckman, Annabelle Schafer, Anneliese Hummel and Amelia Thelen and the 4x200 team of George, Sophie Thelen, Nurenberg and Amelia Thelen. Freshman sprinter Sophie Thelen is making an impressive debut, as she is among the top 10 in D3 in the 100 meters. In field events, senior Grace Trierweiler is in the top five in the pole vault (10'3") with sophomore Katie Lehman in the top 10 in the discus.

ST. CHARLES: The Bulldogs are led on the track by senior Najiyah Holden who is in the top five in the 100-meter dash (12.92). In field events, junior Mikayla Williams in fourth in D3 in the long jump with a leap of 16'10" and is also in the top 12 in both the high jump and pole vault. Holden and Williams are also a part of the 4x100 relay team that includes Hope Kushion and Celine Whiren that is second in D3.

SHEPHERD: The Blue Jays are ranked seventh in the state in D3. Junior distance runner Amber Gall is among the tops in D3 this spring. Gall has recorded the fastest time in the 1600-meter run (4:58.18) and has the second best times in both the 800 and 3200. Gall also anchors a top five, 4x800 relay team that includes Maddie Skeel, Haley Hegenauer and Amelia Gouin.

FARWELL: Junior sprinter Jenna Odykirk is one of the premier sprinters in D3. Odykirk has the top time in D3 in the 200 meters and a top time in the 100. Odykirk has also recorded a 16'3" leap in the long jump. In the field, senior Lillian Albaugh is in the top five in the shot put.

BRECKENRIDGE: Senior distance runner Chloe Brittain has the top time in the 800-meter run (2:24.4) and is in the top 10 in the 1600 and 3200-meter runs. Sophomore Annie Laurenz is in the top 10 in the 300 hurdles. The 4x800 relay team of Annie Laurenz, Ellen Laurenz, Myra Marr and Brittain are ranked in the top 10. In field events, junior thrower Brooklyn Federspiel is third in the shot put (37'6.25").

FULTON-MIDDLETON: Senior Megan

Bruff is also part of a 4x100 relay team that includes Sydney Pope, Alana Wendling and Alex Bedrosian that is third in the state in D3.

CHESANING: Senior sprinter Samantha Hill has turned in a time of 1:01.7 in the 400-meter dash. Sophomore thrower Claire Greenfelder is in the top 10 in the shot put.

HEMLOCK: The Huskies are being led by senior Hailey Marrietta in the 100 and 200-meter dashes.

DIVISION 4

FOWLER: Second in the state in D4 last season, the Eagles have the athletes to take home the top prize this year. Freshman sprinter Kaitlyn Langin is making a big impact as she is in the top 12 in the state in D4 in the 100, 200 and 400. Junior hurdler Alyssa Vandegriff is tops in the 100 hurdles (15.8) and third in the 300 hurdles. Senior Ciera Weber is also in the top 10 in both hurdles and senior Sidney is in the top 10 in the 300 hurdles. In the middle distances Morgan Goerge is in the top five in the 800-meter run. The Eagles are loaded in the relays as the 4x100 relay of McKenzie Koenigsnecht, Langin, Weber and Horak, the 4x400 relay of Koenigsnecht, Langin, Grace Boak and Goerge and the 4x800 relay of Josie Koenigsnecht, Taryn Schafer, Boak and Goerge are all ranked first. The 4x200 relay of Shannon Schmitz, McKenzie Koenigsnecht, Horak and Langin are ranked second. In field events Ciera Weber is number one in the pole vault (10-1) while Marisa Snyder is third in the discus and Vandegriff third in the high jump.

MT. PLEASANT SACRED HEART: The Irish are headed for a lofty finish in D4. Versatile junior Scout Nelson is ranked in the top 10 in the 400, 800 and 1600-meter runs. The 3200-meter run is a major team strength with senior Bailey McConnell, sophomore Desiree McConnell, junior Cammie McConnell and sophomore Sara Peltier all ranked in the top 10 in D4. Sacred Heart's 4x800 relay of Bailey and Cammie McConnell, Peltier and Nelson are ranked third in D4. In field events, junior Erikah Cudjoe is in the top 10 in the shot put.

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FULTON-MIDDLETON: Senior Megan



Struble is ranked in the top 10 in the 100 hurdles and is fourth in the long jump (16'3.5"). Struble also runs the anchor leg of the 4x100 relay team that includes Rachel Craft, Destiny Johnston and Tatum Plath that has the fourth-best time in D4. In field events, junior Lyndsi Wolfe is fourth in the high jump and fifth in the discus.

BEAL CITY: Freshman Angela Kotecki is making an impressive debut for the Aggies. Kotecki has the second-fastest time in the 400 (1:00.6) in D4 and is in the top 10 in the 100 and 200. Kotecki is also in the top 10 in the long jump and anchors the top five 4x400 relay team that includes Ashley Reihl, Jesse Pratt and Amy Schwerin.

POTTSVILLE: The Vikings feature a pair of top 10 hurdlers in senior Natalie Shafor and junior Samarrah Brown. Pottsville also boasts a pair of top five pole vaulters in senior Kyleigh Booden and junior Morgan Myles. Junior Sydney Yarger has cleared five-foot in the high jump.

CARSON CITY-CRYSTAL: The Eagles have a pair of solid athletes in the field events. Senior Haleigh Hubbell is in the top 10 in the discus and sophomore Sarah McCrackin is in the top 10 in the high jump.

SAGINAW NOUVEL: Junior sprinter Brianna Greene is turning in a big spring as she is ranked in the top five in the 100-meter dash and top 10 in the 200-meter dash.

EDMORE-MONTABELLA: Junior thrower Laura Keilholtz has the fourth best effort in the discus in D4 this year with a toss of 112'5". Keilholtz has also eclipsed 30-feet in the shot put.

PORTLAND ST. PATRICK: Junior Annie

Gunderman, a returning all-state athlete, fourth in the 400-meter dash (1:01.1) this spring.

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'Jackets Pride...




Derek Pendell Claims Pair Of Titles To Help Ithaca Take Third At Track Regional

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Ithaca junior Derek Pendell won a pair of individual regional titles and helped the Yellowjackets to a third-place team finish in the Division 3 track and field regional at Clare.

A hurdler for the Yellowjackets, Pendell won the 110-meter hurdles in a time of 15.83 and captured the 300-meter hurdles in a time of 41.98. Pendell credits his coach for playing a big part in accomplishing a pair of goals that he has had for some time.

"Winning both hurdles gave me a feeling of accomplishment because winning regionals and going to the state meet has always been a dream for me," Pendell said. "My head coach (Jason Marcy) never allows me to doubt myself and constantly supports my peers and I."

Pendell also gave a nod to his competitors who made for some exciting racing.

"I also give credit to Kolt Lincoln (Clare) and Rhys Wazny (St. Charles) for pushing me during those races," Pendell said.

Wazny took a close second in the 300-meter hurdles (42.05) while Lincoln placed third (43.73).

Pendell's wins were a major step up from his performance at last year's regional where he took eighth in the 110-meter hurdles and ninth in the 300 hurdles. Plenty of hard work in the offseason led to Pendell's improvement this spring.

"During the winter I actually started

training seriously with the football team," Pendell said. "Things like conditioning and lifting to really prepare me for the outdoor season. My goal for this year is to hopefully place top eight at the state meet and for next year is to possibly place top three and help my team win a state championship."

ITHACA BOYS TRACK: The Ithaca boys track team totaled 130 points to place third as a team behind regional champion Clare and second-place Chesaning at the Clare regional.



Along with Pendell winning a pair of titles, Ithaca junior thrower Baylee Chaffin turned in a pair of strong efforts. Chaffin won the shot put with a put of 57'5". Chaffin also placed third in the discus with a throw of 149'5". Fellow junior Alex VanDeWeghe placed third in the shot put (54'0.5") and fourth in the discus (143'3").

In the distance events, junior Ransom Allen came away with a regional title as he captured the

3200-meter run (9:46.89). Freshman Braxton Lamey placed second in the 3200 (9:56.67).

In the sprints, senior Zack Bartnik placed fourth in the 400-meter dash (54.17) and senior Cavun Beck placed fifth in the 100-meter dash (11.82).

The Yellowjackets also had a pair of relay teams place in the top eight. The 4x800 team of Allen, Bartnik, Lamey and Tom Steward placed fourth (8:34.72) and the 4x100 team of Beck, Jordan Johnson, Blake Campbell and Jared Hoard placed eighth (46.28).

Ithaca was well represented during the MHSAA Division 3 finals as numerous girls and boys put up solid efforts during regionals. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photos.)



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ITHACA GIRLS TRACK:

The Ithaca girls placed eighth in the pole vault (7'6.25").

"I thought we did very well," said Ithaca coach Gene Lebron. "We are a very young team. We have 26 girls on the team and 16 are either freshmen or sophomores. We still have a handful of senior leaders who have given us great senior leadership."

Senior thrower Taryn Ostrander is one of those senior leaders. Ostrander turned in a pair of solid efforts as she took second in the shot put (36'11.5") and third in the discus (103'2").

"This year Taryn embraced the role of team leader," Lebron said. "She has been our rock, the leader of the team. We expected big things from her this year and she's been near the top all year."

Senior Cassadie Crowell placed eighth in the pole vault (7'6.25").

On the track, freshman distance runner Abi Whitford placed second in the 3200-meter run (12:04.99). Sophomore Faith Bartnik took sixth in the 1600-meter run (6:02.09) and freshman Jozlyn Baxter placed seventh in the 100-meter dash (13.92).

"Jozlyn has had to carry a tough load for the team," Lebron said. "For her to make the finals she has to race six races at each meet. She has handled it well and has become our top sprinter."

A pair of relay teams placed in the top eight. The 4x800 relay of Bartnik, Josie Morrow, Rachel Boucher and Whitford placed fifth (11:04.09) and the 4x100 team of Emma Browne, Baxter, Ostrander and Morgan Most placed eighth (55.65).



Heritage's Joiner, McCartney Announce Their College Decisions

Scott Keyes Sports Scene

Trust the proces.

It's a philosophy Heritage's Moira Joiner swears by.

It's something that has allowed her to take her game to unprecedented heights over the last three years, and it will carry her into her senior season in the fall.

In the meantime, there was some unfinished business to take care of.

However, that business became more clear as Joiner announced earlier this month that she plans on taking her basketball skills to Michigan State University in the fall

of 2019.

It was a vision that started to become clearer as Joiner helped Heritage win the 2018 Class A championship in March with the Hawks finishing the season with a 27-1 record.

"Well first off, I chose Michigan State mainly because it's always been my dream to play in the BIG 10 and to play at the highest level I could," Joiner said. "Michigan State has been known to have a winning program, they have a beautiful campus, and they have Coach Merchant. It also doesn't hurt that it's so close to home and I could potentially see my friends and family in the crowd I had many great offers already and I

could've waited to see if more came this summer, but honestly MSU felt right and I knew I couldn't let this pass me by."

Joiner, a three-time Associated Press all-state athlete, averaged 16 points, eight rebounds six assists and four steals during her junior season. The 5-foot-9 point guard was named the Associated Press Class A Player of the Year.

Joiner's dad Will said it was his daughters dream to become a Spartan.

"Mo has been a fan of MSU for a long time," Will said.

"When she was young she dreamed of playing for MSU. Then she got to watch Tori (Jankoska) play there ... Mo used to chase her around the gym while their older sisters played AAU together. Playing in our state and being so close to home was a bonus. She knows she will have

to work hard at this level, but if you know Mo, you know she is up for the challenge. I know she is grateful for this opportunity and so is her entire family."

McCartney verbally commits to Ferris

Joiner's teammate Mallory McCartney announced in April she plans on continuing her basketball career at Ferris State University.

McCartney averaged 10 points a game during the season. She scored 13 points in Heritage's 46-28 semifinal win over Grosse Pointe North, then 10 more in the Hawks' 57-36 championship win over East Lansing.

"Mallory loved the distance Ferris State is from home and the size of the school," Mallory's mom April McCartney said. "She said the team adopted her right into the family right away."



Saginaw Heritage's Moira Joiner gave a verbal commitment to Michigan State University where she will continue her academic and basketball career in the fall of 2019. (Submitted Photo)

Heritage's Shine Strickland-Gills is another player who is expected to announce her college decision in the coming weeks.

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PRESENTS GIRLS SOCCER ROUND UP

Area Girls Soccer Teams Gearing Up For Post-Season Tournament Runs

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

CORUNNA: The Cavalier soccer team has been steadily checking off team goals this season. Corunna has secured a record above .500



(10-6 as of mid-May), reached double digits in wins and has totaled over 50 goals this season. A big highlight of the season came when the Cavaliers won the Ithaca invitational. Corunna defeated both Ithaca and Portland on penalty kicks to win the tournament. Junior forward Payton Rhyne is one of the leaders of the offense with 12 goals while junior forward Ila Tuller has 10 goals and six assists. Sophomore Madison Witt has added six goals and senior Alex Ostman leads the team in assists with seven.

ALMA: The Alma girls soccer team captured the conference title for a second straight season with a 7-1 win against Ovid-Elsie. Senior Tia Everdeen scored a pair of goals in the win and became the first player in Alma history with 100 goals as she scored her 100th and

101st goals of her career in the win. Senior Sydney Hanson added three goals in the game while Kennedy Davis and Tamanda Store added one goal each.

MIDLAND: Defense is the strong point for the Chemics this season. Ranked 12th in the state in Division 1, Midland has allowed five goals in 16 games this season en route to a 12-06 record. Maya Etienne and Megan Schaffer provide the Chemics with solid play in goal. Ellie Wardell scored a pair of goals in a key 3-2 win against Saginaw Heritage and Chloe Rajewski scored the lone goal in a 1-0 win against rival Dow.

DEWITT: The DeWitt soccer team is ranked fourth in the state in Division 2 this season. The Panthers are one of the top teams in mid-Michigan this season and

feature a balanced offense led by Lily Stephan, Abbey Dawes, Shelby Sims, Kendra Brown, Isabelle Gilmore and Teresa Ashbrook. Chloe Averill and Lexie Brya have been the leaders on the defensive side of the field.

HASLETT: The Vikings are ranked fifth in the state in Division 2 this spring. Haslett features a potent offense led by Elizabeth Ferguson. Emma Campbell, Ally Melvin and Cami Harp have also played key roles on offense while senior midfielder Teagan Woodworth has provided the team with outstanding play in the midfield area. Goalkeeper Ali Swackhamer is an anchor for the defense.



The Corunna soccer team celebrates with the first-place trophy it won at the Ithaca Invitational. (Submitted Photo)

MASON: Led by a balanced offense, the Bulldogs are ranked sixth in the state in Division 2. Jenna Chappell, Sydney Martinez and Avery Peters are among the offensive leaders this season while Katie Gross provides strong play in goal.

BIRCH RUN: The Panthers captured the TVC East Division title for a fourth straight season. Maria Samnegard is leading a potent Panther offense with Allison Voelker providing strong play in goal.

Freeland Soccer Hoping For Another Strong Postseason

John Raffel Sports Scene

Freeland soccer coach Lauren DeRoo isn't quite sure how far her Falcons soccer team will go in the state tournament this season.

But as always the Falcons are looking to have as much success as possible. Freeland got as far as the state title game last season before losing 4-0 to Flint Powers Catholic.

Its DeRoo's fifth season as coach. Entering action this week, the Falcons were 9-3

"It's been going pretty good," DeRoo

said. "We're a young team. I would say we've had our ups and downs. But we're also played better teams this season. We want to be able to take the next step.

"The competition is better, and it's a humbling experience to lose and to see where our weaknesses are. But it could help us to be develop more as a team."

There are various girls taking charge in leading the team in scoring.

Mackenzie Stroebel and Autumn Kloss have bene among the leaders.

"They're both very versatile players," DeRoo said. "I can put them in whatever position I need them at. It's really what you want from a player and being

coachable. They're two very good spirited girls to coach. They have good attitudes. I love the fact they have a good attitude, no matter what."

Senior Alexa Walker has been the keeper. It's her third year as keeper for Freeland.

"She's more aggressive as a player," DeRoo said.

DeRoo notes that it's no secret on the keys for success the rest of the season: playing as a team.

"Everybody wants the limelight, but it's a team sport," she said.



Freeland is hoping to make a return trip back to the Division 3 finals heading into district play. Alma and Freeland will likely meet in the district finals.

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Dow's Ismail Excelling In Multiple Sports This Spring

John Raffel Sports Scene

Sarah Ismail of Midland Dow has had quite a season in both tennis and soccer. But when her high school season is over, she'll be focusing on soccer at Saginaw Valley State University.

It's her third year at Dow. She was home schooled in the eighth and ninth grades.

Ismail has been doing both sports just for this year.

"In general, I've been doing high school soccer and travel tennis," she said. "Before, I used to do USTA travel tennis; I had played high school tennis all three years, I decided this year I

would do soccer as well."

Ismail indicated that she's always preferred soccer.

"I was more passionate about it," she said. "I went to a camp there. I thought the facilities were just amazing and the coaches were super great. I instantly connected there."

The soccer season so far this spring "has gone pretty good," Ismail said. "The closest game we could have won was against Midland High. We're both good teams."

"It's been a productive scoring year

for Ismail, a forward. It's been her usual position.

"I'm pretty good at finishing," she said.

It's been a fun tennis season.

"We've basically swept everybody so far," Ismail said.

She's been a No. 3 singles and the team is going to the state finals.

"I usually like to get up to the net more," Ismail said. "I mix it up. If one part of my game isn't working, I can mix it up."



Although Midland Dow's Sarah Ismail will attend Saginaw Valley State University in the fall to play soccer for the Cardinals, she is also a contender to win a Division 1 tennis title this season. (Submitted Photos)



Portland St. Pats Coyne In A League All Her Own

John Raffel Sports Scene

Katie Coyne is having quite the season for Portland St. Patrick's softball team.

She's a third baseman for the team.

Coyne was an all-conference and all-state athlete in basketball. But in softball she was first-team all-conference last season and picked up other honors.

At the plate, Coyne is having a productive season with a .490 batting average, which is very comparable to last season's.

"For the most part the key to that has been being aggressive and going after the

ball," Coyne said. "You have to go after the ball or else you're not going to hit it. You have to have good hand-eye coordination or else you're not going to hit it."

When it comes to hitting, Coyne has been able to be both a contact and power hitter for St. Patrick.

"It depends on what the situation is," Coyne said. "If I have to get the ball in play, I'm not going to try to get a huge hit. I'm just going to try to get a base hit."

She remembers a game when she had eight RBIs. It was just an illustration for St. Patrick softball fans that when Coyne was at the plate and runners were on base, it was going to be a very good

chance for her to drive in some runs.

Coyne has enjoyed playing third base.

"My first couple of years, there was a really good upperclassmen at third base," she said. "She helped me make the transition. I was at first base."

Coyne's throws to first base have been reliable although Coyne also gives her first baseman a lot of credit for getting the ball when it's thrown to first.

She's played softball since fourth grade. Right now, Coyne isn't planning on college sports. She will attend Central Michigan University in the fall.



Portland St. Pats Katie Coyne is having a monster season including an eight RBI game earlier this season. (Submitted Photo)

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Lowell Soccer, Softball Teams Among Best In State

David Cook
Sports Scene

LOWELL SOCCER: Ranked seventh in the state in Division 2, the Lowell girls soccer team has turned in some impressive efforts this spring. Lowell defeated Forest Hills Northern, the third ranked team in Division 2, 5-0, in the regular season finale. Regan Coxon scored a pair of goals and Maddie Halfmann, Khloe Hayes and Isabel Remar added goals in the win while goalkeeper Abby White totaled eight saves in the shutout. Lowell ended the regular season with an 11-3-5 overall record. During the season the Red Arrows tied Rockford, ranked sixth in Division 1, 3-3. Coxon scored a pair of goals while Darby Dean had a goal and an assist. Lowell also tied Grandville, ranked 16th in Division 1, 2-2. Lowell trailed 2-0 before

Khloe Hays and Jaki Hays scored goals to tie the match.

LOWELL SOFTBALL: The Red Arrows are ranked among the honorable mention in Division 1. Lowell defeated Rockford 9-3 in a non-conference battle of state-ranked teams. Kenzie Jordan has three hits and Miah Ransom two hits in the win. Madison Sage was the winning pitcher and Maddi Jordan picked up the save. The Red Arrows also won the Tier 2 Bracket at the Michigan Challenge with a 3-1 win against Schoolcraft. Megan Summerfield sparked the offense with a two-run home run. Lowell also earned a dramatic 9-7 win against Canton at the tournament when Maddi Jordan hit a two-out, grand slam in the bottom of the last inning for a walk-off win.

LOWELL GIRLS TRACK: The Lowell girls track team won a share of their first conference title since 2003 with a second-place finish at the OK White Conference meet. Junior sprinter Diana Roth won both the 100 (12.84) and 200-meter dashes (27.36) while sophomore Julia Pytlik won the long jump (15'7.25"). At the regional meet, senior pole vaulter Amber Brown took third with a vault of 9'3". Roth placed fourth in the 200 meters at the regional with a personal record of 25.99. Freshman Kaylee Diamond took fourth in the high jump (4'10") and freshman Theresa Judd placed sixth in the 300-meter hurdles (48.69).



Lowell senior Darby Dean (10) and junior Jaki Hayes (8) have helped the Red Arrow soccer team to a top 10 ranking in Division 2 this season.

LOWELL BOYS TRACK: Seniors Jacob Rau and Caleb Devereaux finished one-two in the discus at the OK White Conference finals. Rau followed up by taking fourth at the regional meet with a personal best of 148'6". Senior hurdler Will Reynolds took third in the 300-meter hurdles with a personal best of 40.22 at the regional and placed fifth in the 110-meter hurdles.



Crossroads Goalkeeper Having Strong Year In The Net

John Raffel
Sports Scene

Trinity Murray has established herself as one of west Michigan's top goalkeepers while getting the job done at Big Rapids Crossroads Charter Academy.

A senior, Murray has been goalkeeper for six years and has been starting for the Cougars the last two seasons. Her goals against average has been more than cut in half this

year compared to 2017.

"We've got some new players and our defense has really stepped up and our offense has connected more with our defense this year," she said. "It's about talking with my defense and organizing them better."

Murray had a strong performance in a home tournament to help her team win a title.

"Against Cheboygan, even though we lost,

we played an incredible game," she said.

Murray has had five shutouts this season. Murray is a three-sport athlete. She played volleyball in the fall and bowled in the winter for Crossroads.

"My favorite is probably volleyball," she said. "It's the first sport I started to play in middle school. I've always loved the game. I love to set. It's so intense. I love playing it."

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Alma opens state tournament action by playing St. Johns in a pre-district game of the Division 2 district that Alma is hosting. The winner of the Alma/St. Johns game will play Portland in the district semis.

Improving Alma Softball Team Prepared To Make Run In State Tournament

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

When playing in a conference loaded with outstanding softball teams, progress is not always reflected by wins and losses.

That is the case for the Alma softball team this spring. Playing in a loaded Tri-Valley Conference West division, picking up wins can be as rough as getting teeth pulled.

"The conference is just loaded," said Alma softball coach Phil Block. "Our division is loaded with tough teams and it's hard for a young team to learn how to play in a division like this."

Despite the tough competition, the Panthers have been making progress throughout the season.

"We are getting better as we go," Block said. "We play in a tough

conference but that way it makes us ready to go come district time."

The Panthers feature solid pitching and some talented hitters. Junior pitcher Hailey Leister is the ace of the Alma pitching staff.

"Hailey has been throwing really well," Block said. "She soaks up coaching like a sponge. When you work on pitching with her and tell her something she is going to do it. She is a leader on our team. She is a great kid and is having a very good year in the circle."

At the plate, senior first baseman Aaliyah Wilson is turning in a strong season.

"Aaliyah is hitting the ball really well," Block said. "She is another kid who is very coachable and is a joy to be around."

Senior second baseman Olivia Apple and senior centerfielder Kemmie

Shunk have also been turning in solid seasons.

"Olivia is having a great season," Block said. "She is hitting over .500 this season. I've had her for four years and she is the best second baseman I've had."

Kemmie is hitting over .400 and is a very good defensive centerfielder. She is another player that is a pleasure to have around."

Alma opens state tournament action by playing St. Johns in a pre-district game of the Division 2 district that Alma is hosting. The winner of the Alma/St. Johns game will play Portland in the semifinals with Belding and Ionia playing in the other semifinal.

"We're just enjoying the season," Block said. "We have some strong pitching this year and this team has a lot of character."

Alma's Everdeen Hits 100-Goal Mark For Career

Scott Keyes
Sports Scene

For four years, all Tia Everdeen has done is score goals for the Alma girls soccer team.

It only took her two seasons to become the Panthers all-time leader in goals scored.

After that milestone, Everdeen set her sights on the boys record of 78 goals for a career, which she eclipsed earlier this season.

On May 21, she added to her impressive resume, scoring her 100th and 101st career goal in the Panthers 7-1 victory over Ovid Elsie. The win clinched the Tri-Valley Conference West Division title for Alma.

Everdeen was ecstatic about scoring those milestone goals, but more importantly, she was glad to see her team clinch the conference championship for the second straight year.

"You always envision how you want to end your career on your home field and to be able to score my 100th goal in front of my friends and family it is pretty special," Everdeen said.

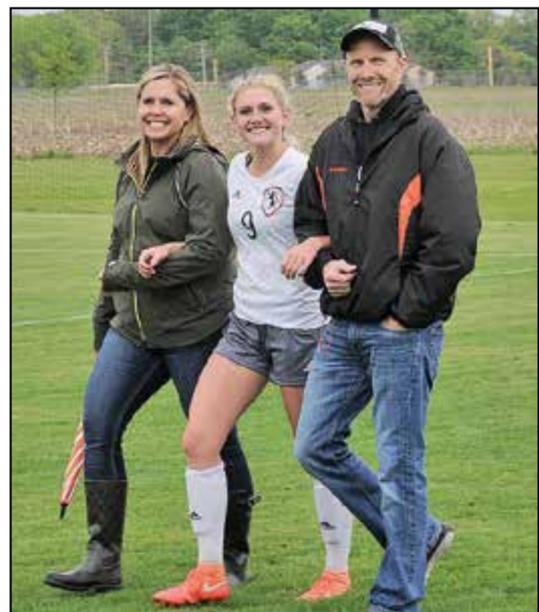
"Never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect to score 100 goals for a career four years ago, but when I saw that 100 was close I went after it. It's a pretty amaz-

ing feeling."

Alma coach Nick O'Neil said one of Everdeen's biggest assets as a player is that she is extremely driven as a student-athlete.

"Tia has been a pleasure to coach over the last four years," O'Neil said. "She is really competitive and after she broke the girls scoring record as a sophomore she set her eyes on the boys record. That's just the type of drive she has. There is no stopping her when she sets her mind on something."

Alma opens up district play May 29 against Chippewa Hills at Freeland High School.



Alma's Tia Everdeen recently scored her 100th career goal during a recent 7-1 victory over Ovid-Elsie. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene)

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Carson City-Crystal Baseball Teams Hanging Tough With Some Of The Best In The State

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

While the win-loss record may not reflect it, the Carson City-Crystal baseball team is proving that it can compete with some of the top teams in the state in Division 3 and 4.

While the Eagles have a 12-18 record as of mid-May, the team has dropped a total of five games by just one run.

"We are right there," said Carson City-Crystal coach Thane Erskin. "It's a matter of getting that one run when we need it. We've played a lot of top 10 teams in Division 3 and Division 4 and

lost by one run. We have a great bunch of kids who hustle and work hard."

Senior pitcher Cameron Saylor leads the way for the Eagles. Saylor has a 3-4 record this spring with a 1.35 ERA.

"Cameron is doing a very good job for us," Erskin said.

Sophomore shortstop Conner Smith is another standout this spring.

"Conner just made an all-star play at short at the Pottersville tournament," Erskin said. "He is going to be a fun player to coach."

At the plate, junior Drew

Stout is turning in a big season. Along with hitting .470, Stout has stolen 35 bases.

"Drew is very fast and he loves to steal bases," Erskin said.

Thomas Taeter is batting .350 this spring and has added 16 stolen bases. Senior center fielder Brennen Strayer is the anchor of the outfield defense and is hitting .300 at the plate.

"We're hanging tough," Erskin said. "We just have to keep working hard because we are right there. We're this close with the top 10 teams. We lost to Sacred Heart by one or two runs and they are a top 10 team and we



lost 1-0 to Breckenridge and they are close to a top 10 team. We also played Bronson very close."

The Carson City-Crystal baseball team has played close games with several of the top teams in the state in Divisions 3 and 4 this spring.

Improvement At The Plate Leads To Strong Season For Carson City-Crystal Softball Team

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

Thanks to major improvements in the batter's box, the Carson City-Crystal softball team is putting together a solid spring.

As a team, Carson City-Crystal has a .332 team-batting average this spring, an increase of over 60 points from last year's average.

The improvement at the plate is showing up in the win-loss record; after turning in a 6-27 record last season, the Eagles have a 14-15 record as of mid-May.

"We've had our ups and downs, but we've improved tremendously since last year," said Carson City-Crystal coach Bob Naumann. "Our

offense has really come a long way since last year. Last year we were shut out 12 times, this year we've been shut out just twice and we have improved the team batting average by over 60 points."

Numerous players have picked up their game at the plate led by junior catcher Caila Coleman. Coleman is hitting .478 this spring with a .500 on-base percentage. Coleman is also hitting with power as she has four doubles and a pair of home runs.

"Caila has really come on this year," Naumann said. "She has been a very pleasant surprise."

Sophomore pitcher/first baseman Nicole Tyler is turning in a solid season at the

plate and in the pitcher's circle. Tyler is hitting .462 this season with a .570 on-base percentage. Tyler hits for power as well with 12 doubles, five triples and two home runs. Tyler also pitched a one-hitter this season in a game the Eagles dropped 2-1 to Vestaburg.

Carson City-Crystal has enjoyed a team-wide power surge this spring. After hitting just one home run as a team last year, the Eagles have hit 10 home runs as a team this year.

Junior shortstop Claire Adkinson leads the Eagles in home runs with four. Adkinson is hitting .461 with a .538 on-base percentage and has added 14 doubles and a triple.

The Eagles have a trio of hitters in the .300 range. Junior



outfielder Cera Vargas is hitting .366 with a .435 on-base percentage, senior outfielder Heidi Strayer is hitting .343 with a .500 on-base percentage and senior outfielder Rachel Stoudt is hitting .316 with a .325 on-base percentage.

This year's Carson City-Crystal softball team includes (back row, left to right) Alyssa McMillan, Caila Coleman, Libbi Cusack, coach Bob Naumann, assistant coach Shelley LaVictor, Desaray Wadle and Rachel Stoudt. (Middle row) Kirsten Andrews, Autumn Vining, Haylei Schaefer, Cera Vargas and Claire Adkinson. (Front, left to right) Nicole Tyler, Kailin Rohn and Heidi Strayer.

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As of press time Grand Ledge improved to 24-2 overall and 14-0 in the conference. (Marvin Hall, High School Sports Scene Photo)

Area Baseball Teams Prepared To Make Runs In Upcoming State Tourney

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

GRAND LEDGE: The Comets wrapped up the CAAC Blue title with a doubleheader sweep of rival Holt. Comet pitcher Braedon Stoakes improved his record to 6-1 for the season as he tossed a one-hitter and struck out 13 to help the Comets claim a 2-0 win in the first game. Dominic Guzman led the way at the plate as he went 3-for-3 and drove in the game-winning RBIs in the seventh inning. Grand Ledge won the second game 6-0 as it improved to 24-2 overall and 14-0 in the conference. Payton Wieber, Cal Johnston and Elliot Patten combined to strike out 11 batters in the shutout. Aaron West collected two hits and two RBI and Logan Hylek added three RBI to pace the offense.

NEW LOTHROP: The Hornets have been putting up big numbers this season and are ranked eighth in the state in Division 3. Senior Zac Besant, who recently committed to Albion College, is hitting .602 this spring with 53 RBI. Senior Nic Johnson is hitting .512 with 17 doubles and 17 stolen bases. Freshmen pitchers Cam Orr and Julius Garza are making impressive debuts as they have combined for 12 wins and sport ERAs of 1.50 or lower. New Lothrop won an eighth straight GAC title this spring.

BAY CITY WESTERN: Ranked second in the state in Division 1, the Warriors are set up for a deep post-season run. Western claimed its sixth Saginaw Valley League title in the past seven years. Western features a deep pitching

staff led by Logan LaCourse, Evan Schlatter, Adam Randall and Nick Dardas. The offense is potent led by Seth Gower, Garrett Sheridan, Tyler David, Schlatter, Dardas and LaCourse.

MIDLAND: The Chemics are ranked 13th in the state in Division 1. Garrett Willis and Jeff Landis have been standouts on the mound this spring while Martin Money, Alex Money, Liam Grady, Landis and Willis have been supplying plenty of punch at the plate.

SAGINAW SWAN VALLEY: The Vikings are turning in a solid season led by senior Cam Schroeder. An Alma College commit, Schroeder is an impact player as a pitcher and at the plate.



Willis Having Huge Season For Midland Baseball

John Raffel Sports Scene

Garrett Willis continues to get the job done for Midland's baseball team, both as a pitcher and a hitter.

Willis, after 57 innings of pitching in 11 games this season for Midland, including 10 starts, is 8-2 allowing 12 runs and 38 hits. He's only allowed eight earned runs and has 15 walks compared to 60 strikeouts and two hit batters. His ERA is 0.98.

His hitting remains impressive. Willis is batting .429 with a .510 on-base percentage and .607 slugging percentage. He has 31 RBIs, 16 runs scored and 15 doubles.

His coach, Eric Albright, is also the school's athletic director and assistant principal.

He notes Willis is a three-year varsity player, and Willis was first-team all-league as a junior.

"Garrett's command of his

pitches has improved," Albright said. "He has a little better idea of how to get hitters out. He's become more of a complete pitcher as you would expect kids to do. He's to be commended more for his decision making. He doesn't have eye-popping strikeout numbers. But he gets hitters out."

"He pitched against Heritage on May 16 and that might have been one of the better games he pitched," Albright said. "He was

very efficient and had a low pitch count. That game stands out for me."

Willis has batted third in the order.

"We count on him to be an impact hitter," Albright said. "He leads the team in batting average and hits. He's a complete baseball player. He's an excellent outfielder."

Albright has committed to playing collegiately at Saginaw Valley State University.

Through 11 games this season, including 10 starts, Midland High's Garrett Willis is 8-2 allowing 12 runs and 38 hits. He's only allowed eight earned runs and has 15 walks compared to 60 strikeouts and two hit batters. His ERA is 0.98. (Submitted Photo)

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Area Softball Teams Poised To For Big Finishes As State Tournament Takes Place

David Cook
Sports Scene

SAGINAW SWAN VALLEY: Ranked 10th in the state in Division 2, Swan Valley has compiled

a 26-7 record with the state tournament set to start. Viking pitcher Callie Burgess is the ace of the pitching staff with an 18-3 record and an 0.99 ERA. Burgess

has totaled 213 strikeouts in 135 innings pitched. The Swan Valley offense is paced by junior Mallory Eurich who is hitting .455 with seven home runs, 28 stolen bases and 24 RBI. Junior Jordan Delisle is hitting .425 with four home runs and 35 RBI and senior Kaylynn Gulliver has seven home runs and 22 RBI.

COLEMAN: Ranked second in the state in Division 4, the Comets clinched a share of the Mid-State Activities Conference title with a doubleheader sweep of Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart. Coleman boasts a potent offense led by senior Autumn Tubbs who is hitting .525 with 28 RBI and junior Jaden Berthume who is hitting .529 with 35 RBI. Junior Annabelle Bovee his hitting .356 with two home runs and 27 RBI and junior Mackenzie Miller is

hitting .384 with 20 RBI.

BAY CITY WESTERN: Western clinched the Saginaw Valley League title with a doubleheader sweep of rival Bay City Central. Ranked second in the state in Division 1, Western turned in a 19-1 conference record and 25-3 overall record. Adaline Ziehmer is the ace of the pitching staff with Addie Cooley, Karlee David and Megan Mann among the leaders of the offense.

MIDLAND: The Chemics are ranked among the honorable-mention in Division 1 this spring with a 19-7 overall record

and 14-6 conference mark. Maggie Gomola and Emily Corbat provide the team with strong pitching while Allison Gray, Logan Haring, Jillian Krawczak, Nicole Miller and Taylor Sanborn pace the offense.

BEAL CITY: The Aggies are ranked fifth in the state in Division 4 with a solid blend of pitching and hitting. In the circle, Lyndsey Fillenworth and Elizabeth Powell proved Beal City with strong pitching. The offense is paced by Sara Bushong, Amanda Haupt, Grace Mindel, Sydney Upton and Fillenworth.



Area softball teams are gearing up to make possible runs deep into the 2018 state tournaments. (File Photos)

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St. Louis Softball Team A Success On Field, In Classroom

Butch Harmon
Sports Scene

On the softball field and in the classroom, the St. Louis softball team is posting some outstanding numbers this season.

Challenging for the top spot in the Tri Valley Conference West Division, the Sharks also have the highest grade-point average for softball teams in the state of Michigan in Division 3.

Along with earning team academic all-state honors, the Sharks had the highest team grade-point average in Division 3 with a 3.838 average. The Sharks will be honored at the all-star game at Central Michigan University on July 18.

"I'm super proud of our team earning academic all-state," said St. Louis pitcher Alexis Beeson. "I think it is something that none of us were planning on getting, but we were not too surprised when we got it. Our team is full of academi-

cally motivated people and I think that hard work in the classroom leads to success on the ball field."

Many of the St. Louis players are also multi-sport athletes, putting even more on their academic/athletic plates. Along with playing a key role for the softball team, Olivia Anderson also found time to qualify for the state track and field finals in the high jump.

"I am really proud of my team, but I am not surprised because we are very competitive in everything we do," Anderson said. "It does not matter if we are on the field or in the classroom."

"The girls are very proud of this award, which they should be," said St. Louis coach Robin Hanline.

Along with excelling in the classroom, the Sharks are putting up some solid numbers on the field. St. Louis is battling it out with Hemlock and Ithaca for the title in the TVC West.

"All three teams are good teams," Hanline said. "I believe we are all capable of winning it and I'm hoping we end up on top. For whatever reason we are really struggling right now to hit the ball. Hopefully we put it all together to be ready for districts."

The St. Louis offense is paced this season by Laurel Hrabal, Aynlee Koutz, Skylar Rodriguez and Anderson. Through mid-May the quartet combined for 46 singles, 16 doubles, three triples and six home runs.

While the numbers are good, the Sharks believe even more is possible.

"I feel that we are playing well but haven't hit our potential yet," Anderson said.

In the pitching circle, the Sharks are receiving a strong effort from starting pitcher Beeson.

"Alexis is our ace pitcher," Hanline said. "She is doing a great job keeping us in the game. We always have a chance with her on the mound, but we have to score runs."

Beeson also believes the Sharks can accomplish plenty down the stretch.

"I think we have room to



On July 18 during the all-star game at Central Michigan University, the St. Louis softball team will be honored for having the highest GPA in all of Division 3 with a 3.838 average.

improve," Beeson said. "We have lost a few key conference games that put us out of the running for conference champions and that really put us down. We had high expectations coming into this year, we were striving for a conference championship and a district championship. Seeing though one is already out the door, we are putting

everything we have into winning a district title."

St. Louis will play in the Division 3 district tournament on June 2 at Hemlock. The Sharks play Ithaca in one semifinal with Hemlock playing St. Charles in the other semifinal. St. Louis split with Ithaca in the two games they have played this season.

St. Louis Golf Team Pick Up Signature Tournament Win At Ithaca Invite

David Cook
Sports Scene

Thanks to some strong team efforts, the St. Louis boys golf team is turning in a special season this spring.

The Sharks, who are playing some outstanding golf this spring, picked up a signature win when they captured the team championship at the Ithaca Invitational.

St. Louis totaled a team score of 342 to edge out second-place Pinconning with 345 and Alma with 347 at the 12-team tournament.

"Since I've been coaching here this is the first varsity tournament we've won," said St. Louis coach Dave Biehl. "We're start-

ing to get four consistent scores and that is the big difference. In the past we've got three good scores but not that fourth score."

Individually, junior Grant Mills paced the Sharks at Ithaca. Mills fired an 80 to place second overall as an individual. Noah Harry carded an 84 followed by Patrick Hawley with an 88, Luke Harry with a 93 and Maverick Giles with a 95.

"We are getting some good golfers who have made some good strides the past couple years," Biehl said. "Noah and Luke Harry have been doing a good job and Patrick and Maverick have started to come into their own."

Mills has developed into the type of number one golfer that

provides an outstanding anchor for the team. Mills is near the top of the conference individually and has shot low rounds of 77 for 18 holes this year and 37 for nine holes.

"Grant is a good team leader," Biehl said. "The other kids watch him, and he helps the other kids on the range. He's been our catalyst the last couple years."

The Sharks are also competitive in the league this season as they are in second place as of mid-May behind St. Charles.

"The kids were ecstatic after winning the Ithaca tournament," Biehl said. "The win was not a surprise for me as the guys have



been doing a great job. Our program has become stronger the last couple of years and we're looking to build on that at the regionals."

St. Louis golfers brought home the trophy as they took first place at the Ithaca Invitational.

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Young Players Stepping Up For Talented Merrill Softball Team

Butch Harmon Sports Scene

With two seniors on the roster, along with seven freshmen and sophomores, one would think the Merrill softball team would be struggling through a rebuilding year.

Those young players, however, are improving game in and game out and as the season heads for the home stretch Merrill has fashioned a 25-5 record.

"The young players have learned a lot and come a long way since day one," said Merrill coach Jody Mayan.

"We have a culture of excellence and they are buying into it."

While Merrill has just two seniors, one of those seniors is standout pitcher Olivia Fleming. One of the top pitchers in the area, Fleming will continue her softball career at Alma College next year.

"Olivia averages eight to ten strikeouts a game," Mayan said. "She is not only an excellent pitcher, but she is hitting above .450 also. She's just an excellent player."

Olivia's younger sister, sophomore shortstop Zoe Fleming is also making a major impact.

"Zoe is an excellent young player," Mayan said. "She is hitting over .500 this year."

At third base, freshman Laney Wiley is making a big debut. Merrill's leadoff hitter, Wiley is hitting around .400 with an on-base percentage over .400.

"Laney is doing a great job as our leadoff hitter," Mayan said. "She is excellent defensively and is extremely fast."

Sophomore Emily Thelen bats second in the batting order and plays first base. Thelen is hitting around the .400 mark. Fellow sophomore Madison Raftery is the Vandal's catcher and is hitting .350 from the number-five spot in the batting order. Sophomore Ashtyn Hescott is hitting .350 and patrols center field.

Merrill counts on an all-around team effort and is getting contributions from every member of the team. Freshman second baseman Jordyn Knierim is hitting .320. Senior Hallie Briggs has provided the lineup with power as she has two home runs and brings a positive attitude that enhances the team chemistry. Junior Grace Newton brings energy off the bench along with freshman Madalynn Coty who is picking up valuable varsity experience. Junior right fielder Kezi Borsenik is a solid fielder. Freshman pitcher Lauren Wale and sophomore pitcher Maddie Senloy are a pair of young pitchers poised to take over pitching duties next season when Fleming goes on to college.

"I'm very proud of all of them,"



The Merrill softball team was 25-5 this season prior to press time. (Ryan Heath, High School Sports Scene Photo).

Mayan said. "We are just taking it one pitch at a time and continue to focus on what is in front of us."

Coleman Pitcher-Infielder Enjoying Banner Season

John Raffel Sports Scene

Jaden Berthume continues to put up impressive numbers for a talented Coleman softball team that is 17-5.

She is a third baseman and pitcher. A talented athlete, Berthume is also a three-year varsity starter for basketball and volleyball, along with softball.

As a pitcher, Berthume was 16-3 as a sophomore with 8 shutouts, two no hitters, one perfect game, 113.1 innings, 102 strikeouts and 1.54 ERA.

As a freshman, Berthume was 5-0 with five shutouts three no-hitters, two perfect games, 20 innings, 22 Ks, and .35 ERA

"Jaden's freshman year she was our third pitcher behind her sister Layken and Faith Barden," Coleman coach Chad Klopff said. "Last season she shared time with Faith Barden. She probably pitched more than she wanted to last season, but we needed her at times due to injuries or matchups."

Berthume has a career .506 batting average. In her sophomore year, she batted .521, and 58 runs, 76 hits, 54 RBIs, 15 doubles, two triples, and 1 home run. In her freshman year she

batted .486, 42 runs, 54 hits, 41 RBI, seven doubles, one triple, two home runs.

"Jaden is a professional hitter," Klopff said. "She puts the work in on the tee and in the cage during practice and after, along with all winter long. She works tirelessly to perfect her swing. Defensively, Jaden played left field as a freshman and moved to third base last season. Third base is where she wants to be. She would rather be there than on the mound. She has had a fielding percentage of .934 (as a sophomore) and .941 (as a freshman). She is very smooth defensively."

"Third base is Jaden's primary position," Klopff said. "She has a .942 fielding percentage

with 7 putouts, 42 assists, two errors and two double plays turned.

"Jaden is a professional hitter. She puts the work in and is never satisfied. She is always striving to be better. Jaden is a great defensive third baseman and is also very good defensively while on the mound. She has worked hard to continue to improve on short hops and attacking bunts and getting the off-balance throws to first."



Jaden Berthume

Beal City Softball Team Off To Strong Start



Beal City's baseball team has been a perennial state power.

But perhaps it's time the Aggies softball team takes center stage.

Beal City, coached for the fourth season by John Davis, is off to a 16-1 start.

Lyndsey Fillenworth

"The kids have all matured and gotten better," Davis said. "We've played some good competition. We lost to Grand Blanc, we beat Sacred Heart, and we also beat Clare. We've beaten some good competition; we've always wanted to beat Clare."

Senior leadership has been key for the Aggies.

"The girls have matured, and they're all working hard, it's all finally coming together for them," Davis said.

The No. 1 pitcher is Lyndsey Fillenworth, at the plate, has had five doubles, three triples and two home runs.

As a pitcher, "she has some good movement and has a real good changeup," Davis said. "Her ERA is 0.7.

She's a sophomore. She's improved a ton from last year. She's found out she doesn't have to throw 15 pitches. She puts together two really good pitches. That's all it takes. She always pitches ahead not from behind."

Elizabeth Powell, a sophomore, is another key pitcher for Beal City.

The schedule will provide some good tests for the Aggies prior to the playoffs, Davis said.

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Hemlock's Natalie Hoffman Having Strong Season In Two Sports

John Raffel Sports Scene

Hemlock's Natalie Hoffman is getting the job done for her school in two spring sports as a senior.

But between softball and track, Hoffman insists she doesn't have a favorite.

"They're pretty much equal because with softball, we're so close to a conference championship and in track we could still pull it out," Hoffman said in mid-May.

Last season, Hemlock won the conference and district in softball.

"For my first two years, I played first base. For these past years I've been playing third," Hoffman said. "They put me over there to see

how I could do. I played there in middle school. They were looking for somebody that had good lateral movement. They just wanted to try it out."

It worked.
"I like being able to touch the ball more," Hoffman said.

Her batting averages have been impressive.

"You have to be able to see the ball and read it," she said. "That's been helping me out this year. In past years, I'd strike out a lot.

I would close my eyes as I swung. This year, I've seen the ball more thanks to my coaches."

Hoffman has been in various

events in track. Her season record in the 400-meter dash is 1:06.39 and in the 800-meter run is 2:44.28. She has had good success as a member of the 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400 relays

She's finished first in three long jump events.

"We only have 15 girls, but I think we're doing very well," Hoffman said.

She points to the 400 and 800 as probably her best events.

"My strength is probably my finish," she said. "The last 100 meters, I don't know what it is, I just think to myself nobody can beat me. And nobody does."

Before the season ends, she's looking to qualify for the state finals in an individual event or on the relay team.

Hoffman is a four-sport athlete. She has run cross country in the fall and played basketball in the winter. Her favorite and best sport is basketball, and she's planning on playing that event at Hope College.



Hemlock's Natalie Hoffman (No. 21) has put together a strong senior season for the Huskies both as a standout on the softball diamond and basketball court. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photo)

Being a four-sport athlete has been a unique experience for Hoffman.

"It's been really hard physically on me," she said. "But I feel I'm made stronger. I don't use just one set

of muscles and just one skill set. I use all of them. It gives you a different perspective. In running, it's all on you. In basketball, you work together with your teammates."

Heritage Girls Basketball Receives National Honor

The Saginaw Heritage girls basketball team, fresh off winning the 2017-18 Class A title in March received National recognition May 15. The team was named to the 13th Annual MaxPreps Basketball Tour of Champions presented by the National Guard.

This honor is one of the most prestigious team awards in all high school sports and is an exclusive honor reserved for 100 of the top teams in the country.

Heritage finished the season 27-1 after defeating East Lansing

57-36 in the Class A title game. Senior Maddie Campbell led for Hawks in the double figures in the title game scoring 15 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Jessi Bicknell and Shine Strickland chipped in 12 points apiece and Mallory McCartney scored 10.

Not only did Heritage finish the season No. 1 in the Max Preps Class A rankings in Michigan the Hawks were also



The Heritage High School girls basketball team, the 2017-18 Class A champion, was recently honored as one of the top high school teams in the nation by the National Guard. (Submitted Photo)

ranked the No. 1 team in all of Michigan and finished the season 18th nationally.

Oates Takes Over Heritage Hoops Program

The Saginaw Heritage boys basketball team will get its third coach in five seasons as Mark Oates takes over the Hawks program for Chris Chaffer, who was 23-19 during his two seasons as head coach.

"Mark has been on our staff for six years and has been very successful at the lower levels of our program," Heritage athletic director Pete Ryan said.

Oates, a 1981 graduate of St. Stephen's High School, went on to Saginaw Valley, helping the Cardinals win two Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference titles.



Mark Oates

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Midland Dow, Okemos, Durand Capture Regional Tennis Championships

David Cook Sports Scene

DIVISION 1

MIDLAND DOW: The Chargers won their 21st consecutive Saginaw Valley League title and won all eight flights at the Division 1 regional. Seniors Jessica Brown (1s), Sarah Ismail (3s) and Hadley Camp (4s) and freshman Zoe Angell (2s) won regional singles titles. Winning regional doubles titles were Kelly Livingston/Tatum Matthews (1d), Meghan Killmaster/Victoria Leiti (2d), Giacomina Fabiano/Christina VanderKelen (3d) and Reema Patel/Amelie Kraef (4d).

SAGINAW HERITAGE: The Heritage girls tennis team qualified for the state finals for the first time since 1999. In singles action, junior Sabrina Laynes (1s) and sophomore Amaya Lott

(4s) placed second. In doubles action, Ariana Shokoohil/Emilia Shokoohil (2d), Salina Iqbal/Meghana Mulpuri (3d) and Olivia Baskind/Julie Jacoby (4d) all placed second.

DIVISION 2

OKEMOS: The Chiefs added a regional championship after claiming a sixth straight CAAC Blue title. In singles action, Sema Colak (2s), Lillian Gorelick (3s) and Yana Semerly (4s) won titles with Gigi Pedalec (1s) taking second. In doubles play, Shreya Kandukuri/Meg Doster (2d) won a regional title with Nishi Patel/Ayesha Panda (1d), Shruti Swaminathan/Martina Yen (3d) and Grace Albrecht/Gurueelam Nijjer (4d) placing second.

MASON: Led by Sophie Hanover, who won the title at No. 1 singles, Mason qualified for the state finals. Athena Bryer (2s) and Mallory Matthews (3s)

both placed second. In doubles play, Vy Nguyen/Liv Hiner (3d) and Leona Ahmeti/Payton Brown (4d) both won regional titles.

EAST LANSING: The Trojans qualified for team state finals with Kristin Swisher leading the way by taking second at No. 4 singles. The No. 2 doubles team of Kiwi McGill and Felicia French-Croll also placed second.

DIVISION 3

HASLETT: The Vikings placed third at the regional and qualified for the state finals. Winning doubles titles for Haslett were Anjani Raja/Sophie Vogelsang (1d) and Ally Michaud/Noor Pawar (4d). Anuva Surech placed second at No. 2 singles.

DIVISION 4

DURAND: The Durand tennis team made history by winning a first ever regional title. Leading

the way were a trio of doubles teams that won regional titles including Jenna Otten/Raegan Holec (2d), Cora Lynn/Maddie McMillin (3d) and Olivia Pawloski/

Dovie Jones (4d). The No. 1 doubles team of Kate McMillin and Graysen Fullbright placed second. In singles action, Rachel Warren won the title at No. 4 singles with Abbey Edmonds taking second at No. 3 singles.

PORTLAND: Portland placed second at the regional at qualified for the state finals. Kayla Weller (3s) and Rachel VanHouten/Riley Thelen (1d) won regional titles. Maura Lufkin/Novelle Matteson (3d) and Emily Bigelow/Danielle Curtiss (4d) were regional runner-ups.

CHESANING: Chesaning qualified for the state finals with a third-place finish at regional. Casey Hartt (2s) led the way with a regional championship. Anna Bates (1s), Kaylynn Princinsky (3s) and Jady Mathis/Katelynn Ferry (2d) were regional runner-



Many area teams are hoping for solid finishes during the upcoming girls tennis finals. Midland Dow is looking to repeat in Division 1. (Marvin Hall, High School Sports Scene Photo)



Big Rapids Tennis Standout Enters State Finals At 15-0

John Raffel Sports Scene

It was only a few years ago that Eden Short was a girls soccer player in the Chicago area.

Now she's a No. 1 singles tennis player for Big Rapids, is 15-0 and coming off a regional championship and preparing for the state finals on June 1-2 in Holland.

Last season Short was playing tennis in Plainfield, Ill.

Eden Short

"The competition is a lot harder," Short said. "It's a lot tougher. You were going against big city players who virtually lived on the court."

She's had only one loss in a set prior to the state finals.

Short indicated she has met her expectations. Mental toughness and endurance, "and going hard the entire time," has been the key to having success, she added.

She's now preparing to have success as the state meet.

"I'm very excited and I hope to do well," Short said. "A lot of colleges will be there. I hope to impress them."

Short is only a sophomore but is still looking forward to a college career. She plays tennis year-round and is a USTA tour member.

Short had been playing soccer in the Chicago area, but went to a sport where she could control her destiny better.

"I just want to continue to play well," she said.

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Area Lacrosse Teams Set To Make An Impact In State Tournament

David Cook Sports Scene

GIRLS

OKEMOS: Ranked third in the state in Division 2, the Okemos girls lacrosse team is putting together a solid season. The Chiefs



defeated rival Haslett/Williamston to win their 11th consecutive CAAC lacrosse title. Senior Grace Bielby reached a milestone with her 200th career point this season while Emily Renfrew scored her 150th career point this season. Alyssa Karber, Melaina Grewal and Lola Gonzalez have also been standouts on offense this spring.

ROCKFORD: The Rams are ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 1 and are the premier girls lacrosse team in the state. Senior captains Brooklyn Neumen, McKenzie Vander Molen and Maggie Hammer lead the way along with junior captain Anna Glynn. Neumen and Vander Molen lead an explosive offense while

Glynn anchors the defense. **DEWITT:** The DeWitt girls turned in a 13-6-2 regular-season record. The Panther offense was led by sophomore standout Alexa Beyer. Seniors Mackenzie Ferden, Morgan Haggerty, Elly Hanson, Julianna Harrison and Tallia Rodriguez provided solid senior leadership and play on the field.

BOYS

MIDLAND: The Midland boys lacrosse team capped the regular season in a big way with an 11-10 overtime win against Howell. Senior attacker Garrett Brillhart paced the offense with three goals and one assist and scored the game-winning goal in overtime.

The Okemos girls lacrosse team is currently ranked third in Division 2. Grace Bielby and Emily Renfrew lead the way for the Chieftains. (Marvin Hall, High School Sports Scene Photos)

"We fell behind early, but the guys showed some real perseverance and grit to come from behind there at the end and then win it in overtime," said Midland coach Kurt Brillhart. "I was proud of our performance."

Senior Jared Zahn added two goals and four assists while Chase Mahabir and Michael Andriot added two goals apiece.

DEWITT: Led by a deep and talented senior class, the DeWitt boys soccer team entered the playoffs with a 12-6-2 overall record. Seniors Travis Barr, Edward Beyer, Ray Canales, Cole DeSmyter, Nick Krause, Alan Smith, Nick Vanis, Drew VanZee, Dannie Ward, Owen Whetstone and Nick Wierich provided the team with outstanding leadership and strong performances on the field this season.

ROCKFORD: The Rams, who reached the state finals last year,



are gearing up for a title run this season behind a stingy defense. Seniors Cole Blunt, Kyle Heeren, Carson Banfield and Collin Hartley are leaders of the Ram defense.

Jack Pine Conference Loses Two Schools, Looks To Expand

John Raffel Sports Scene

Change is afoot in the Jack Pine Conference with the defections of Houghton Lake and Roscommon.

The two schools were the smallest in terms of enrollment in the eight-team league and will reportedly be joining the Highland Conference beginning with the 2019-20

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year the Jack Pine Conference will have a new look as it was recently announced that Roscommon and Houghton Lake will be leaving the conference. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene Photo)

school year.

Both schools were original members of the Jack Pine when it was founded in 1971.

The league has no plans to disband and, in fact, may expand beyond the remaining lineup, which still includes, Harrison, Gladwin, Beaverton, Clare, Meridian and Farwell.

Possible additions include geographically

friendly and like-sized schools such as Ogemaw Heights and Tawas Area, both currently independents, and current Tri-Valley Conference members Pinconning and Standish-Sterling.

The Highland Conference will put those two new schools in with its current listing to Beal City, Lake City, McBain, Eart, Pin River, Maton and McBain Northern Michigan Christian.

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Pioneer Girls Roll To Track Title

John Raffel Sports Scene

A romp to the team title for host Clare and a spectacular individual performance by Farwell's Jenna Odykirk highlighted the Jack Pine Conference's contributions at the Division 3 girls' track regional.

The Pioneers blew past the competition with 246 points. Odykirk led the Eagles to a fifth-place finish with 118 by winning three events and placing second in another.

The junior won the 100-meter dash in a time of 12.84, the 200 in 26.08 and the 400 in 1:01.27. She was second in the long jump with a leap of 15'11.75".

The Pioneers were led by distance specialist Lainey Veenkant, who had a big day of her own with one gold medal and three silvers. On her own, she won the 3200 in 11:33.44 and ran second in the 1,600 in 5:17.18. Veenkant, Katherine Haupt, Riley Schroeder and Ellie Johnson were second in the 1600-meter relay in 4:14.97,

while Kameron Haag, Olivia Haring and Haupt teamed with Veenkant to take second in the 3200-meter relay in 9:59.62.

Kayden Barber, Johnson, Erin Weeks and Olivia Cook were second in the 400-meter relay in 52.12. Weeks, Schroeder, Cook and Johnson were third in the 800-meter relay in 1:50.6.

Johnson was fourth on her own in the 200 in 27.3. Haupt was third in the 800 in 2:27.52. Haring was fourth in 5:49.67 and Natalee Kunes fifth in 5:57.9 in the 1,600. Haag was third in the 3,200 in 12:19.16, with Haring fifth in 12:44.

In the 100-meter high hurdles, Barber ran second in 16.92, with Lexi LaPoe fourth in 17.29 and Kylie Smith eighth in 18.6. LaPoe was second in the 300 lows in 48.35, with Barber fifth in 53.74 and Harmony Ramsey eighth in 54.24.

Meridian was 10th in the team standings with 58 points. Katie Blanchard ran second to Odykirk in the 400 in 1:02.05 and Hannah

Ordiway was sixth in the 3,200 in 13:12.46.

In the field events, Farwell's Lillian Albaugh won the shot put with a 40'4.5" heave. Teammate Mia Fetzter was fourth at 35'10.5". Clare's Grace Parsons was fifth in the discus with a 92'8" effort. Albaugh was sixth at 92'7", Kunes seventh at 91'2" and Farwell's Aleia Allbee eighth at 89'9". Blanchard was second in the pole vault at 9'0.25". Clare's Grace Ann Gomez was third at 9'0". Weeks was fourth in the long jump at 15'1.5", with Abby Mellish eighth at 14'3.5".

Meridian struck gold in the high jump as Camryn McKellar cleared the bar at 5-0.25. Jenna Betts tied for sixth for Clare.

Beaverton placed fourth at the Charlevoix regional with 76 points. Alicia Aldrich won the shot put with a 39'8" effort and was second in the discus at 107'5". Rebecca Wirt was second in the high jump at 4'11", third in the 300-meter hurdles in 54.03 and fourth in the 100-meter dash in 13.87. Alysia Abbas was sixth in the 100-meter hurdles in 19.85 and fourth in the lows in 54.64. Odessa Jenkins was fifth in the 100 in 14.01 and seventh in the 200 in

29.42. Anna Killian was fifth in the long jump at 13'6.75" and seventh in the 800-meter run in 2:43.78. Skyler Herber was second in the pole vault.

Harrison was 12th at the Benzie Central regional. Sprinter Krystal Steele led the way, placing second in the 100 in 13.54 and sixth in the 200 in 28.76. Steele teamed with Abby Fillhard, Sine Pedersen and Aurora Ault to finish seventh in the 800-meter relay in 1:56.62 and also in the 400-meter relay in 55.01. Fillhard was seventh in the 300-meter hurdles in 52.74.

Gladwin was at the Remus Chippewa Hills Division 2 regional.

Colette Morris won the gold medal in the pole vault with a 9'3" effort. She also joined forces with Grace Volmering, Olivia Kleinhardt and Mara Pellerito to take sixth in the 3200-meter relay in 10:56.22. Volmering was fourth in the 3200 in 12:19.71 and Pellerito seventh in the 800 in 2:33.84. Abigail Quick was seventh in the low hurdles in 32.85 and teamed with Victoria Doan, Sydney Conley and Kailah Morgan to place sixth in the 800-meter relay in 1:57.17. Doan, Conley, Morgan and Katie Breault were eighth in the



The Clare girls track team scored 246 points to win a Division 3 Regional. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photo)

400-meter relay in 55.0. Carly Haines was fourth in the 100-meter hurdles in 17.28 and fifth in the discus with a toss of 95'5". Erin Shearer was sixth in the high jump with a 4'7" effort.

Relays Key To Clare's Regional Victory

John Raffel Sports Scene

Really good relays carried the Clare boys' track team to a runaway regional victory.

The Pioneers, who played host to the Division 3 event, won championships in the 400, 800 and 1,600 relays and also placed third in the 3,200.

Jake Hawley, Colt Smedley, Xavier Martin and Brenden Sersaw struck gold in the 4 X 100 in a time of 44.06 and the same quartet also took the 4 X 200 in 1:30.28. In the 1,600, Sersaw, Smedley and Martin teamed with Justin Tickle to win in 3:31.44. Aiden Boyd, Brody Allbee, David Good and Tickle earned the bronze in the 3,200 relay in 8:27.87.

Clare dominated the team standings with a total of 288.5 points.

Martin was the champ in the 200 meters in 22.23 and another individual title came from Noah Nivison in the discus with a 157-10 effort. Zac Stickler was second at 151-4. In the shot put, Stickler was second with a heave of 56-9.5. Nivison was fifth at 46-9.5 and Dustin Van Sicklen sixth

at 46-5.

Alec Hoffman was third in the pole vault after clearing the bar at 11-3.75. Joel Lingaur was fourth at 11-3.

Shane Jenkins was sixth in the high jump with a 5-8.5 effort, with Tyler Smith seventh at 5-8.

In the long jump, Tad Matiza was sixth with a leap of 19-7.

Matiza was sixth in 11.85 and Drew Schuster seventh in 11.93 in the 100 meters.

JJ Gross was seventh in the 400 in 55.57.

Allbee ran fifth in the 800 in 2:07.56.

Good was fourth in 4:57.71 and Alan Winter sixth in 4:49.7 in the 1,600.

Jayne Miller was eighth in the 3,200 in 10:46.44.

Kolt Lincoln led the hurdlers, placing second in the 110 highs in 15.91 and third in the 300 intermediates in 43.73. Myles Williamson was fourth in the 110 in 17.07 and fifth in the 300 in 45.84. Justin Roberts was sixth in the highs in 17.36.

Meridian scored 14.6 points to

finish 13th. Joshua Ruddy cleared 11-3.25 to place fifth in the pole vault, with Chayten Westgate eighth at 10-9.

Ted LeViere was seventh in the long jump at 19-2 and Austin North was eighth in the 300 hurdles in 46.77.

Farwell was 14th with 14 points. David Gordon was third in the 1,600 in 4:45.67 and DeVon St. Johns was eighth in the 400 in 55.61.

Gladwin raced at the Remus Chippewa Hills Division 2 event and was led by sprinter Ryan Wisniewski, who placed second in the 100 in 11.24 and also struck silver in the 200 in 22.75.

The Flying G's excelled in the pole vault. Morgan Courneya was second, Ryan Baker third and Victor Edick fourth with all three clearing 12-10. Edick was seventh in the 110 hurdles in 16.88 and also in the high jump with a 5-7 effort. Fengjin Cui was fourth in the 1,600 in 4:47.08.

Beaverton was at Charlevoix's Division 3 event. Parker Hayes took silver medals in both the 1,600, in a time of 4:55.84, and the 800, in 1:59.44. Will Aldrich won the pole vault with an 11-3 effort. Elijah Hayes was second and Connor

Graves fourth at 11-0. Colton Walters cleared 5-5 to take third in the high jump. Hayes was eighth in the 800 in 2:12.88 and DJ Whitmer was eighth in the discus with a 109-11 effort.

Harrison was ninth with 39 points at the Benzie Central D-3 event.

Tyler Head led the way, winning the 110 hurdles in a time of 15.13, placing fourth in the 300 hurdles in 42.7 and taking seventh in the long jump with a leap of 18-9.

Hugh Brand won the discus with a toss of 143-1.5 and was sixth in the shot put at 40-11.5. Zach Taylor was sixth in the 400 in 54.12 and also in the 200 in 24.32. Joe Bailey was sixth in the 300 hurdles in 44.28.

Gladwin was at the Remus Chippewa Hills Division 2 regional.

Colette Morris won the gold medal in the pole vault with a 9-3 effort. She also joined forces with Grace Volmering, Olivia Kleinhardt and Mara Pellerito to take sixth in the 3,200 relay in 10:56.22. Volmering was fourth in the 3,200 in 12:19.71 and Pellerito seventh in the 800 in 2:33.84. Abigail Quick was seventh in the low hurdles in 32.85 and teamed with Victoria Doan, Sydney Conley and Kailah Morgan to place sixth in the 800 relay in 1:57.17. Doan, Con-



The Pioneers, won championships in the 400, 800 and 1600 relays and also placed third in the 3200 to win the Division 3 regional, which they hosted. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photo)

ley, Morgan and Katie Breault were eighth in the 400 relay in 55.0. Carly Haines was fourth in the 100 hurdles in 17.28 and fifth in the discus with a toss of 95-5. Erin Shearer was sixth in the high jump with a 4-7 effort.

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