

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

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

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

- Publisher**  
Randy Miniard  
randy@highschoolsportsscene.com  
517-202-1808
- High School Liaison**  
Paul Hornak  
paul@highschoolsportsscene.com  
989-331-1168
- Northern Michigan Sales**  
Scott Salowich  
ssalowich@yahoo.com  
313-408-4410
- Sales**  
Patricia A. Rempp  
patriciaremp@gmail.com  
989-620-4600  
  
Caleb Walden  
waldenc24@gmail.com  
989-436-3825
- Editorial**  
John Raffel, David Cook,  
Dan Strickrandt, Butch Harmon,  
Scott Salowich, Ben Murphy,  
Nate Schneider, Scott Keyes
- Photographers**  
Chuck Prikasky, Zip Widman,  
Russ Pierce, Skip Traynor,  
Dana McCann, Bob Campbell,  
Gary Williams, Don Goostrey,  
Kim Larner, Nate Schneider,  
Tim Chrapek, Nick Rethman,  
Tom Pearson

Vol. 9, Issue 98 • January/February 2018

# CONTENTS

- 4 | Alma Wrestling
- 5 | Eye on Wrestling
- 6 | Team Wrestling Rankings
- 7 | Individual Wrestling Rankings
- 8 | Battle on M-57
- 9 | College Wrestling Notebook
- 10 | Wrestling Rivalry Heats Up
- 11 | Ithaca Roundup
- 12 | Eye on Boys Basketball
- 14 | Grand Ledge Hoops Impresses
- 15 | MHSAA Student-Athlete Finalists Announced
- 16 | Can Mr. Basketball Make Its Way Back To Mid-Michigan
- 18 | Breckenridge Hoops Looking To Improve
- 19 | Eye on Girls Basketball
- 20 | Hemlock Girls Excel
- 21 | MPSH Siblings Carrying Load
- 22 | Top-Ranked Heritage Impresses
- 23 | Dow's Davis delivers
- 24 | Eye on Bowling
- 25 | New Football Coaches Announced
- 26 | Eye on Cheer
- 27 | Eye on Bowling
- 28 | Scene Stealers
- 32 | Northern Report

Find Us On **facebook**



## BECOME AN OFFICIAL – STAY CONNECTED TO HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

They don't make the headlines, their names are not in the box scores and they don't make the all-star teams. But perhaps the most important individuals in high school sports are the contest officials.

These individuals are so important that, in fact, there would be no organized competitive sports at the high school level without the men and women who officiate these contests every day across the country. Subtract the dedicated men and women who officiate high school sports, and competitive sports would no longer be organized; they would be chaotic.

In some areas of our country, high school officials are retiring faster than new ones are being added. And junior varsity, freshmen and middle school games are being postponed – or even canceled – because there are not enough men and women to officiate them.

Anyone looking for a unique way to contribute to the local community should consider becoming a registered high school official. For individuals who played sports in high school, officiating is a great way to stay close to the sport after their playing days have ended. Officiating helps people stay in shape, expands their social and professional networks and offers part-time work that is flexible, yet pays. In fact, officiating is a form of community service, but with compensation.

Another benefit of officiating is that individuals become role models so that teenagers in the community can learn the life lessons that high school sports teach. Students learn to respect their opponents and the rules of the game and the importance of practicing good sportsmanship thanks, in part, to those men and women who officiate. And the objectivity and integrity that high school officials display is an example that every young person needs to observe firsthand. In short, communities around the country will be stronger because of the life lessons that high school officials help teach the next generation.

Officiating is a great way to stay connected to sports and to give back to the local high school and community. We need dedicated men and women to become involved so that high school sports can continue to prosper for years to come.

Individuals interested in learning more about becoming a high school official, and even beginning the application process, can do so at [www.HighSchoolOfficials.com](http://www.HighSchoolOfficials.com).



Bob Gardner  
Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations



Mark Uyl,  
Assistant Director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association



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

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



**Sundance** 888-799-3896  
TAX & PLATES INCLUDED IN ALL PRICES!  
Sweet Deals!

OPEN SUNDAYS NOON - 5PM! EXIT 99 OFF US-127 ST. JOHNS FOR SAVINGS

<b>2017 GMC SIERRA DOUBLE CAB 2WD</b> \$3,000 DOWN* \$129/MO. SAVE \$9,230! SALE PRICE \$23,200 <small>MSRP \$32,430</small>	<b>2017 BUICK ENCORE</b> \$3,000 DOWN* \$49/MO. SAVE \$3,405! SALE PRICE \$21,100 <small>MSRP \$24,505</small>	<b>2017 GMC TERRAIN FWD</b> \$3,000 DOWN* \$45/MO. SAVE \$5,035! SALE PRICE \$22,400 <small>MSRP \$27,445</small>
---	---	--

Come Take A Test Drive And Receive A Free Ride At The Stables - [sundanceridingstables.com](http://sundanceridingstables.com)

## OVER 1200 USED CARS AND TRUCKS

<b>2009 PONTIAC G6 GXP</b> SALE PRICE \$9,500 \$185/DOWN \$185/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2009 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT</b> SALE PRICE \$7,900 \$155/DOWN \$155/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 DODGE CHARGER R/T</b> SALE PRICE \$7,900 \$155/DOWN \$155/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 GMC SIERRA EXT SLE</b> SALE PRICE \$17,500 \$309/DOWN \$309/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2007 GMC SIERRA EXT SLT</b> SALE PRICE \$13,900 \$255/DOWN \$255/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2008 CHEVY COLORADO CREW</b> SALE PRICE \$10,900 \$209/DOWN \$209/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 HD DIESEL</b> SALE PRICE \$25,900 \$365/DOWN \$365/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2015 CHEVY TRAX LT</b> SALE PRICE \$14,900 \$255/DOWN \$255/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 CHEVY EQUINOX LT</b> SALE PRICE \$12,700 \$229/DOWN \$229/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2015 JEEP CHEROKEE LTD</b> SALE PRICE \$18,900 \$309/DOWN \$309/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2015 CHEVY MALIBU LT</b> SALE PRICE \$14,500 \$255/DOWN \$255/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2008 CHEVY IMPALA SS LEATHER</b> SALE PRICE \$5,900 \$129/DOWN \$129/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2011 GMC SIERRA EXT SLE Z-71</b> SALE PRICE \$10,500 \$206/DOWN \$206/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2013 CHEVY TRAVERSE LS</b> SALE PRICE \$15,900 \$279/DOWN \$279/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2012 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM</b> SALE PRICE \$11,200 \$209/DOWN \$209/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT
<b>2012 DODGE RAM 1500 ST QUAD CAB</b> SALE PRICE \$18,900 \$309/DOWN \$309/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 FORD ESCAPE</b> SALE PRICE \$9,900 \$189/DOWN \$189/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2014 FORD ESCAPE SE</b> SALE PRICE \$16,500 \$299/DOWN \$299/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2015 BUICK ENCORE</b> SALE PRICE \$16,500 \$299/DOWN \$299/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT	<b>2010 BUICK LUCERNE CXL</b> SALE PRICE \$11,500 \$219/DOWN \$219/MONTH TAX & PLATE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT

**877SUNDANCE.COM**

**ATTENTION!** High School Seniors and Special Vocational Education Students  
Call Sundance, We Have Special Intern Programs As Well As Automotive Technician Programs And More!

**Go To School, Make Money. Graduate With Sundance and Make Money!**

New & Used Vehicles: All Payments are with approved credit, see dealer for details. \*On used vehicles from 2.49% - 3.24% APR, 24-64 month financing.



# Panther Pride...



## Alma Wrestlers Optimistic Heading Into Postseason

Nate Schneider  
Sports Scene

Everything for Alma wrestling was building toward this season.

Bolstered by the best roster number of 30 varsity wrestlers Panthers head coach Randy Miniard has had in his time with the program, there was plenty of reason to be optimistic as the winter approached.

Now a month-and-a-half into the campaign, Alma is getting it done on the mat.

The Panthers, ranked 6th in Division 3, most recently traveled to a tournament at Hudson on Jan. 20 and came away with four placers

out of 10 wrestlers who made the trip. Nine out of 10 wrestlers won at least one match.

Greg Simmons (HWT) placed third and Alex Rosas was fourth while Nolan Rodriguez (103) and Justin VanBlaricum (152) each placed sixth.

Miniard is pleased with how the season has gone to date, with brighter days ahead as Alma continues to get healthier as several wrestlers have been absent for the lineup in order to be at peak condition as the postseason nears.

"We're in pretty good shape at our district in Ithaca," Miniard said. "We've seen Portland and

beat them 48-26. We haven't seen the other two teams, but should match up well. Obviously, anything can happen but we like our draw. And not to look ahead, but we like what we see in regionals too. Right now we're just getting healthy and getting ourselves ready for what is in front of us."

Alma won the Tri-Valley Conference Central with a perfect 7-0 record last season and are 4-0 in conference action this year.

"All our goals are still ahead of us and I'm satisfied with where we're at," Miniard remarked.

A lot of credit for the continued improvement and rising numbers



The Alma wrestling team is starting to come together as a team and is expected to be a tough out during tournament time. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene photo)

at the varsity level goes to coaches at the lower levels of the Alma wrestling program, according to Miniard.

"It starts with my assistant coaches, Zip Widman and Jarod Hughes," Miniard added. "It's a testament of getting the right people

in the right positions. Our middle school coach is Jaquine Castillo along with Matt Hoppe. And then our youth program is being spearheaded by Marty Wright, Adam Garcia, Adam Forist and others. They're all doing a fantastic job in helping to build our program."

good amount of blame on himself for the uneven performance.

"I think Valley Lutheran wanted it more than we did," Apple opened.

"There was some confusion on certain plays and at this point of the season, that shouldn't happen. And there were a couple breakdowns on transition defense. We pride ourselves on good defense and giving up those easy buckets didn't help at all on a night when buckets were hard to come by. And we failed to execute down the stretch at the free throw line.

"And we took a 30-foot shot at the end when we were only down one point. That's on me, because I don't have them disciplined enough. Hopefully this is a wakeup call and a step in the right direction. We need to have some tougher practices."

Apple went on to also commend the effort of his team in nearly pulling off a last-minute comeback in overtime. After

the game went into the extra session at 34-34, neither squad scored until Valley Lutheran scored five points in quick succession to grab a 39-34 advantage with a little over a minute remaining.

The Panthers managed to bring the score within 39-38 and had a chance to win it with one final possession, but the long-range shot was off the mark.

Freshman Alyssa Leister, who leads Alma in scoring this season, put in a team-best 10 points as the only Panther player in double figures.

"These crossover games are great and lets us see where we're at," Apple added. "It's a disappointment because we like to win all our home games, no matter who it is. I thought we let this one get away, but Valley outplayed and outcoached us."

Alma will go on the road next week for another crossover at TVC East opponent Frankenmuth (Jan. 30) followed by a tilt at Carrollton (Feb. 2). The Panthers return home Feb. 6 for a big 6 p.m. game versus Freeland, which handed them the first of their two defeats.



## Alma Drops Heartbreaker To Valley Lutheran

Nate Schneider  
Sports Scene

One of the benefits of playing in the Tri-Valley Conference are the crossover games that become a good measuring stick for teams, especially those in the upper portion of the standings.

Such was the case for the Alma girls basketball team on Jan. 26 when it hosted Saginaw Valley Lutheran in a TVC Central-West crossover between two squads positioned in second place in its respective divisions.

The Panthers came into action sporting a 10-1 record, but as it was they suffered their second loss of the season in a heartbreaker to the Chargers by a count of 39-38 in overtime.

Alma head coach Scott Apple put a

The Alma girls basketball team is 10-2 prior to press time after suffering a tough 39-38 loss to Valley Lutheran Jan. 26. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene photo)

**Scott DeMull**

**Chuck Kimber**

**Debbie Whitman**

**Guy Erwin**

**Paul Penix**

740 N. Alger Rd, Alma • Toll Free 888-229-2336 • Local 989-463-2161 [www.almachevybuickgmc.com](http://www.almachevybuickgmc.com)

# SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON WRESTLING

## Area Teams Jockeying For Position Entering Final Stretch Of Season

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

The team wrestling state tournament begins Feb 7 and 8 and a number of Mid-Michigan wrestling teams are primed for tournament runs with hopes of making it to Kalamazoo for the team wrestling finals Feb. 23 and 24.

High School Sports Scene takes a look at some of the state-ranked wrestling teams in the area that are prime for deep tournament runs.

### DIVISION 1

Ranked 10th in the state in Division 1, Grand Ledge has faced a number of state-ranked teams in Division 1 and 2 including Detroit Catholic Central, Clarkston, Hudsonville, Eaton Rapids and DeWitt. The schedule has prepared the Comets for what they will see in the state tournament, especially at the regional level where they will likely face sec-



MYWA

ond-ranked Brighton at some point.

The Comes feature a solid group of wrestlers in the lower weights led by sophomore Andrew Hughes at 112 pounds along with Tommy Lear (125), Alex Kingsley (130) and Ryan Legal (135).

In the middle of the lineup, junior Karson Kost and senior Adam Castaneda are interchangeable at 140 and 145.

Up top, James Sharpe (171), Adam Aguilar (215) and heavyweight Brady Riggs can provide points.

### DIVISION 3

Ranked third in the state in Division 3, Chippewa Hills has the talent to make a return to the state semifinals and even take it a step further this season.

The Warriors have a loaded lineup this season. Heavyweight Billy Vinton and Billy Koepp (215) provide a strong one-two combination up top. David Spedowski (160/171) and Austin Young (152) are big point scorers in the middle. Daylin Wittig (103), Carson Hayes (112), Bray Haynes (119) and Mason Hayes (140) leads a solid group of wrestlers in the lower weights.

With its depth and talent, Chippewa Hills is a strong favorite to make it to Kalamazoo.

Birch Run is ranked two spots behind Chip-

pewa Hills at fifth in the state. The Panthers are led by several outstanding wrestlers in the lower weights. Christian Miller (112), Macintyre Breece (119), Kyle Parberg (130) and Mason Breece (140) provide the Panthers with plenty of points in the lower classes. Up top, Brock Cook (189) and sophomore heavyweight Terrance Watson have been solid all season.

Alma has faced a loaded schedule this season to prepare for a run at making it to state. The Panthers main competition at the district will be as solid Portland team led by standouts Desmond Garner (140) and Owen Guilford (171) while at the regional level a Lake Fenton team led by standouts Jarrett Trombley (135), Sean Trombley (140) and Jackson Nevadomski (160) will be the main challenger.

Alma is solid up and down. Nolan Rodriguez is one of the best in D3 at 103 while heavyweight Greg Simmons is one of the premier heavyweights in D3. In between are a solid group of talented wrestlers led by Demetrius Castillo (119), Jacob Torres (125), Jarrett Ferman (130), Alex Rosas (145) and Justin VanBlaricum (152). Up top, Norman and Hunter Frost (189/215) are two more solid wrestlers.

### DIVISION 4

Ranked second in the state in Division 4, New Lothrop is poised to make a run at regaining the top spot. The Panthers have a number of standout wrestlers led by Tom-



MYWA

my Malloy at 125 along with Austin Wolford (140) and Austin Wendling (160). New Lothrop has also received strong seasons from Andrew Krupp (103), Jackson Knieper (112), Logan Zell (130), Zack Riley (152) and Justin Carnahan (171).

Carson City-Crystal is ranked sixth in the state and is also geared up for a run at Kalamazoo. Nolan Datema (103), Jamison Ward (112) and Daryn Shepler (119) provide plenty of points in the lower weights. Braxton Seida (145), Kolton Blasher (130) and Caleb Collins (152) are solid in the middle with Brian Yeakey (215) and Daniel Smith (189) topping off the lineup.

## Area Wrestlers Reach Milestones

January was a milestone month for several area wrestlers.

At St. Louis, both Jayce Keuhnlein and Ernie Diaz won their 150th career match.

A pair of Alma wrestlers also reached significant career marks. Alex Rosas picked up his 150th win while Greg Simmons won his 100th career match.

Austin Wolford of New Lothrop notched his 100th career

victory while competing at the Lake Fenton duals where he helped the Hornets to a 5-0 record and the team title.

Jack Thayer of Corunna picked up his 100th career win at the Mooney Classic at Williamston where he also took first place in the 215-pound weight class.

At Blanchard-Montabella, Carson Dalrymple won his 100th career match.

Carson City-Crystal wrestlers Daniel Smith (left) and Daryn Shepler (right) recently recorded their 100th career wins of their high school careers. (Submitted photo)



**WORKING HARD TO GET WRESTLERS READY FOR COMPETITION!**

1109 River St. • Lansing, MI  
517-819-8381 • [saw121.com](http://saw121.com)

# YOUNG OWOSSO

## PRESENTS AREA TEAM WRESTLING RANKINGS

### DIVISION 1

- 1 DAVISON
- 2 BRIGHTON
- 3 ROCKFORD
- 4 GRAND LEDGE
- 5 HOLT
- 6 GRAND BLANC
- 7 HOWELL
- 8 FLUSHING
- 9 MIDLAND
- 10 BAY CITY WESTERN

### DIVISION 2

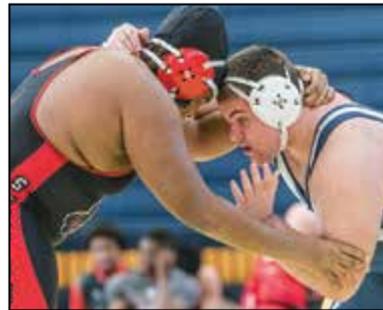
- 1 LOWELL
- 2 EATON RAPIDS
- 3 DEWITT
- 4 St. JOHNS
- 5 CEDAR SPRINGS
- 6 GOODRICH
- 7 LINDEN
- 8 FLINT KEARSLEY
- 9 FENTON
- 10 OWOSSO

### DIVISION 3

- 1 CHIPPEWA HILLS
- 2 BIRCH RUN
- 3 ALMA
- 4 LAKEWOOD-LAKE ODESSA
- 5 LAKE FENTON
- 6 MT. MORRIS
- 7 PORTLAND
- 8 CLARE
- 9 ESSEXVILLE-GARBER
- 10 SANFORD-MERIDIAN

### DIVISION 4

- 1 NEW LOTHROP
- 2 CARSON CITY-CRYSTAL
- 3 BEAVERTON
- 4 ST. LOUIS
- 5 BLANCHARD-MONTABELLA



## New Lothrop Wrestlers Hope To Be State Contender

### John Raffel Sports Scene

New Lothrop wrestling coach Jeff Campbell has another championship caliber team on the mat which doesn't surprise many who have witnessed strong Hornet



programs over the years.

New Lothrop's three-year Division 4 state championship streak ended last season with a 51-13 loss to Hudson in the title match. They had three extremely competitive matches against Hudson the three previous years for the state title and won each one 33-22, 38-24 and 35-27.

As of mid-January, the team's record is 13-2.

"Our team has been doing very well I feel thus far," Campbell said. "We have a nice mix of seniors, juniors and sophomores and a large and talented freshman class. We are just coming off a team tournament victory at Lake Fenton where we were able to compete with and

New Lothrop coach Jeff Campbell is hoping to lead the Hornets to another Division 4 title this season. (File photo)

beat five larger schools including a nice win over Lake Fenton which we have not been able to do in a couple of years.

"As a team we placed third at the Marquette Challenge. We went 3-1 at the Grandville Team Tournament. We placed seventh at the New Lothrop Hall of Fame tournament which featured many of the top teams from all divisions. Overall I believe we are a more experienced and a deeper team than last season, and I am looking forward to seeing how the guys progress the rest of the year."

Tommy Malloy is a senior 125-pounder who has placed in the state three times so far taking fifth last season.

"He has been wrestling at 125 primarily so far this year," Campbell said. "Tommy currently has a record of 15-6 which includes a tournament victory at Howell back in December."

Austin Wolford is a junior 140-pounder and a two-time state placer finishing fourth last season.

"He is currently ranked first in Division 4 at 140," Campbell said. "He has big wins and his current record is 21-1 with big wins over many wrestlers ranked in various divisions including the No. 1 ranked wrestler in Division 3, with his only loss coming to the No. 1 ranked wrestler in Division 1.

Justin Carnahan is a sophomore at 171.

"Justin placed fifth in the state last season and is currently ranked fifth this year as well," Campbell said. "He has wrestled a lot at 189 and beaten many ranked kids at both weight classes. He has placed at every tournament he has entered this year and is one of our true pinners on this year's squad making him very valuable in dual meets. He scrambles very well and is exciting to watch. His current record is 16-3."

Allan Jamick is a junior 189-pounder with a record of 14-6.

"Allan has been making huge improvements over the season," Campbell said. "He recently finished 5-0 at the Lake Fenton Duals. Allan is another one of our guys we count on for a pin and he has delivered a lot this season."

Campbell, like most coaches this time of year, is cautious in predicting what this team might do in the post season.

"It's always difficult to predict especially after last year's drama," Campbell said. "I think we have a very solid line-up that is capable of competing with all of the D4 teams. That said, there is a lot of parity in D4 this year. Carson City, Clinton, Mendon, and of course Hudson all look very strong this year. We will have our hands full for sure. We are looking forward to the challenge and testing ourselves. It should be fun."

# SPORT SCENE INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING RANKINGS

### DIVISION 1

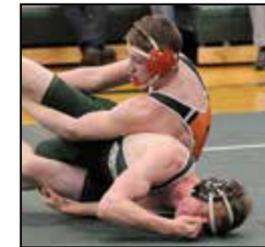
- 103 Andrew Chambal, Davison
- Mason Shrader, Brighton
- Treyton Gabold, Flushing
- Zach Platte, Holt
- Connor Scheld, Midland : p. J. Coffey (By-CWestern)
- 112 Steven Garty, Davison
- Andrew Hughes, Grand Ledge
- Ben Manly, Brighton
- Connor Humphrey, Grand Blanc
- Nolan Johnson, Howell
- 119 Jaron Wilson, Davison
- Brecken Griswatsch, Swartz Creek
- Brennen Herr, Flushing
- Logan Kehres, Brighton
- Dylan Phelps, Holt
- 125 Brody Kemper, Grand Blanc
- Eddie Homrock, Brighton
- Mateo Diaz, Midland
- Tommy Lear, Grand Ledge
- Zach Johnson, Brighton
- 130 Joe Carpenter, Swartz Creek
- Austin Hale, Bay City Western
- Alex Kingsley, Grand Ledge
- Marco Shinn, Howell
- Evan Kaser, Rockford
- 135 Marc Shaeffer, Davison
- Ryan Legal, Grand Ledge
- Aiden Brown, Brighton
- Griffin Redmond, Grand Blanc
- Jack Wooster, Howell
- 140 Kaleb Kemper, Grand Blanc
- Karson Kost, Grand Ledge
- Connor White, Rockford
- Adam Castaneda, Grand Ledge
- Dane Donabedian, Brighton
- 145 Alex Facundo, Davison
- Victor Schoenherr, Bay City Western
- Jay Nivison, Davison
- Nick Bleise, Brighton
- Braxton Gabold, Flushing
- 152 Brian Case, Davison
- Jack Richardson, Rockford
- Cole Gleason, Rockford
- Aaron Stearn-Raskin, Howell
- Sam Martin, Midland Dow
- 160 Seth Dominguez, Grand Blanc
- Brennan Doyle, Midland Dow
- Matt Waier, Midland
- Harley Berne, Brighton
- Colby Deberry, Holt
- 171 Cal Stefanko, Davison
- Sam Hine, Midland

- Jonah Schrock, Howell
- Tyler Waterstrat, Rockford
- James Sharpe, Grand Ledge
- 189 Ben Cushman, Flushing
- Trevor McGowan, Davison
- Logan Kozarian, Howell
- Grayson Stevens, Brighton
- Mason Schumacher, Bay City Central
- 215 Brent Booth, Midland Dow
- Alex Wilson, Howell
- Adam Aguilar, Grand Ledge
- Luke Stanton, Brighton
- Travis Eads, Davison
- 285 Arron Gilmore, Davison
- Lance Clapp, Swartz Creek
- Brady Riggs, Grand Ledge
- Colby Ford, Brighton
- Conner Melancon, Flushing

### DIVISION 2

- 103 Nick Korhorn, Lowell
- Luke Thornton, Fenton
- Robert Davids, Eaton Rapids
- Jason Judd, Kearsley
- Nick Ebright, DeWitt
- 112 Hunter Browning, Lowell
- Brendon Smith, St. Johns
- Tyler Koehn, Eaton Rapids
- Matt Foddrill, DeWitt
- Darren Wilson, Mt. Pleasant
- 119 Caleb Teague, Goodrich
- Brendan Zelenka, St. Johns
- Dawson Jankowski, Lowell
- La'Ron Ruffin, Flint Kearsley
- Chris Haynes, Eaton Rapids
- 125 Seth Strejc, Lowell
- Aaron Smith, Cedar Springs
- Richard Mayes, Mason
- Luke York, DeWitt
- Preston Baker, Charlotte
- 130 Andy Runstorfer, Flint Kearsley
- Kaleb Whitford, St. Johns
- Jeff Leach, Lowell
- D'Andre Sage, Greenville
- Carson Turnbow, Goodrich
- 135 Avry Mutschler, Lowell
- Chris Fauson, Charlotte
- Jackson Severns, DeWitt
- Chad Haynes, Eaton Rapids
- Jayden Rittenbury, Fenton
- 140 James Whitaker, St. Johns
- James Fotis, Lowell
- Caleb Fish, Eaton Rapids
- Quenten Hall, DeWitt
- Tyler Brandt, DeWitt
- 145 Austin Boone, Lowell
- Kilion Southworth, DeWitt
- Colton Blaha, Owosso
- Spencer Sillman, St. Johns
- Malik Davis, Flint Kearsley
- 160 Austin O'Hearon, Eaton Rapids
- Sam York, DeWitt
- AJ Moore, Clio
- Cross Gonzalez, St. Johns
- Derek Mohr, Lowell

- 171 Ryan Ringle, Cedar Springs
- Austin Engle, Lowell
- Braxton Parks, St. Johns
- Avery Jacobs, Linden
- Jared Davis, Eaton Rapids
- 189 Dave Kruse, Lowell
- Honour Kline, Goodrich
- Dan Clevenger, Owosso
- Tristan Foster, Fenton
- CJ Krum, St. Johns
- 215 Keigan Yuhus, Lowell
- Tyler Secord, St. Johns
- Connor Nugent, Lowell
- Ben Surato, Mason
- Dallas Price, Eaton Rapids
- 285 Riley Smith, Mason
- Blake Coffell, Goodrich



Tyler DeLoof, Lowell  
Devin Fuller, Fenton  
Blake Amy, Clio

### DIVISION 3

- 103 Jordan Rodriguez, Chesaning
- Garret Mogg, Sanford-Meridian
- Nolan Rodriguez, Alma
- Jake Elasovich, Montrose
- Daylin Wittig, Chippewa Hills
- 112 Mason Malin, Frankenmuth
- Christian Miller, Birch Run
- Curtis Perry, Lakeview
- Kanon Atwell, Lakewood-Lake Odessa
- Carson Hayes, Chippewa Hills
- 119 Sean Spidle, Flint Powers
- Kyle Schaaaf, Clare
- Macintyre Breece, Birch Run
- Demetrius Castillo, Alma
- Bry Haynes, Chippewa Hills
- 125 Dakota Greer, Howard City Tri-County
- Reese Wallis, Montrose
- Jordan Schofield, Stanton Central Montcalm
- Cole Jackson, Lakewood-Lake Odessa
- Jacob Torrez, Alma
- 130 Mitchel Christensen, Essexville-Garber
- Colt Smedley, Clare
- Jarrett Ferman, Alma
- Kyle Parberg, Birch Run
- Devon Anderson, Corunna
- 135 Jarrett Trombley, Lake Fenton
- Trevor Robinson, Shepherd
- Trevor Briggs, Montrose
- Cole Federer, Sanford-Meridian
- Jon Maag, Lakewood-Lake Odessa
- 140 Sean Trombley, Lake Fenton
- Mason Hayes, Chippewa Hills

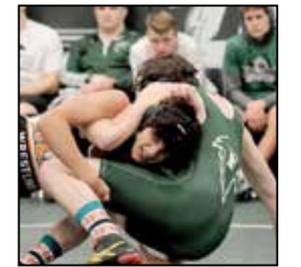
- Desmond Gardner, Portland
- Mason Breece, Birch Run
- Scotty Amaya, Mt. Morris
- 145 Alex Rosas, Alma
- Jacob Spiess, Perry
- Charlie Newton, Essexville-Garber
- Brandon Avery, Sanford-Meridian
- Logan Buckner, Shepherd
- 171 Austin Young, Chippewa Hills
- Justin VanBlaricum, Alma
- Tanner Orweller, Perry
- 215 Isaiah Dole, Clare
- Kyle Hinds, Portland
- 160 Jackson Nevadomski, Lake Fenton
- Gavin Morgan, Mt. Morris
- Brandon Russell, Chippewa Hills
- Trenton Naragon, Birch Run
- Jimmy Viar, Montrose
- 171 David Spedowski, Chippewa Hills
- Owen Guilford, Portland
- Mitchell Ward, Belding
- Jon Clack, Lakewood-Lake Odessa
- Logan Julian, Lake Fenton
- 189 Brock Cook, Birch Run
- Logan Young, Mt. Morris
- Robert Granberry, Chippewa Hills
- Norman Davis, Alma
- Lane Allen, Lakewood-Lake Odessa
- 215 Billy Koepf, Chippewa Hills
- Jack Thayer, Corunna
- Zolan Marron, Lake Fenton
- Toby Niedzwiecki, Freeland
- Diontae Givens, Tri-County
- 285 Greg Simmons, Alma
- Emiliano Flores, Hemlock
- Andrew Vinton, Chippewa Hills
- Zachary Morris, Ovid-Elsie



Terrance Watson, Birch Run

### DIVISION 4

- 103 Nolan Datema, Carson City-Crystal
- Andrew Krupp, New Lothrop
- Alex Newton, St. Louis
- Korbin Ingram, Blanchard-Montabella
- 112 Jamison Ward, Carson City-Crystal
- Jackson Knieper, New Lothrop
- Jordan Allen, Flint Beecher
- Mason Dalrymple, Blanchard-Montabella
- 119 Khalil Moten, Flint Beecher
- Gavin Giles, St. Louis
- Ethan Crawford, Blanchard Montabella
- Logan Wolford, New Lothrop
- 125 Tommy Malloy, New Lothrop
- Daryn Shepler, Carson City-Crystal



Logan Erskine, St. Charles  
Jason Johnson, Carson City-Crystal  
Carson Solomon, Mich Luth Sem

130 Robert Rogers, Burton Bentley  
Anthony Mack, Dansville  
Jake Brand, Burton Bentley  
Kohlton Blasher, Carson City-Crystal  
Carson Dalrymple, Blanchard Montabella



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

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

**Your Best Deals are at Young in Owosso!!**  
Supporting High School Athletics For 25 Years

Your local agent is your neighbor – someone you can trust and someone who's here for you when it matters most!

**Your #1 fan**

**DEMOTT INSURANCE AGENCY**

108 North Newton St.  
Middleton, MI 48856  
Tel: 989-236-7296  
www.demottins.com

**Auto-Owners INSURANCE**  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



# Sparrow Carson Hospital Presents AREA TEAMS TO WATCH

## Sparrow Carson City Hospital A Big-Winner In M-57 Hoops Tourney

### Butch Harmon Sports Scene

The Battle of M-57 basketball tournament was a success both on the court and off.

The games between the Carson City-Crystal and Middleton-Fulton boys and girls varsity and junior varsity teams provided some great action

on the court and raised substantial funds to benefit the community in the process. Some \$1,500 was raised to go toward the purchase of mobile vital signs equipment for Sparrow Carson City Hospital.

The boys varsity game was won by Fulton in a barn-burner. In a game tied after three quarters, Fulton used a big fourth quarter to edge Carson City 50-46. Evan Barton led the way for Fulton with 19 points, including 17 second-half points. Barton also came up big on defense with seven steals. Brevin Cassidy added 10 points and five steals while Cole Blair totaled nine points, four rebounds and three assists.

Carson City-Crystal won the girls junior varsity game in The Battle of M-57 by a 44-27 score. The Carson City girls extended a mid-January winning streak to five in a row with a 47-22 win against Ithaca to improve to 9-2 overall. A balanced offense has been a big part of the win streak. In a win against Blanchard-Montabella the Eagles had

four players in double figures led by junior guard Bailey Fitzpatrick with 16 points and seven steals. Sophomore Allyson Stevens added 11 points in the win while junior Kaylea Stone finished with 10 points and eight rebounds and junior Megan Dailey added 10 points.

- The Fulton-Middleton girls basketball team reeled off a three-game win streak in mid-January with wins against Dansville, Bath and Merrill. Senior points guard Kylie Slavik led the way for the Pirates who also have been getting strong play in the post from Lyndsi Wolfe and Morgan Warnke and wing Miakoda Canfield.



- The Carson City-Crystal boys basketball team improved to 5-1 in the Mid State Athletic Conference with a 77-60 win over Blanchard-Montabella.

Kolbe Rohne scored 20 points and Jackson Murphy added 19 points in the win.

- The Carson City-Crystal wrestling team dominated the competition enroute to winning the conference dual-meet championship. Carson City outscored conference foes by a combined score of 454-22 in league duals. The Eagles also claimed the title at their own invitational with a 65-13 win against Leslie.



A number of Eagle wrestlers also reached individual career milestones. Daryn Shepler, Daniel Smith, Braxton Seida and Nolan Datema all recorded their 100th career victories during the month of January.



Carson City and Fulton High Schools helped raise \$1,500 to go toward the purchase of mobile vital signs equipment for Sparrow Carson City Hospital. (Chuck Prikasky, Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene photos)

### Choose Wisely. Choose Sparrow.

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

Sparrow.org/SparrowCarson • 989.584.3131



## Former Area Wrestling Standouts Among The Best In The Nation On The Collegiate Level

### David Cook Sports Scene

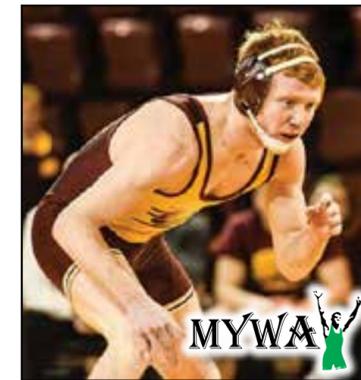
Year in and year out, Mid-Michigan wrestlers are among the tops in the state and in the Midwest. College wrestling programs make it a habit of recruiting the area hard and area wrestlers annually make their mark on the college level.

Following is a look at some of the top area wrestlers making an impact in NCAA Division 1 wrestling this season.

- The Michigan Wolverines are ranked fifth in the country in Division 1 and a number of area wrestlers are playing major roles in that success. Senior heavyweight Adam Coon, a Fowlerville graduate, is ranked second in the nation at heavyweight. Coon is 16-0 this season with seven falls.

- Sophomore Logan Massa, a St. Johns graduate, is ranked fifth in the nation at 165 pounds. Massa came into the season with a 45-4 career record and is 9-2 this season. Massa placed second in the Big Ten last year and third at the NCAA finals.

Fellow sophomore Myles Amine is ranked sixth in the nation at 174 pounds. A Brighton native, Amine is 12-5 this season after going 32-7 last year and placing fourth at the NCAA finals.



Justin Oliver, a Davison High School graduate, is ranked third in the nation at 149 pounds for the Central Michigan University wrestling team. (Submitted Photo)

- The Central Michigan University wrestling team is ranked 16th in the nation in Division 1. Davison High School graduate Justin Oliver is among the leaders for the Chippewas this season. A junior, Olson has compiled a 22-2 record this season and is ranked third in Division 1 at 149 pounds.

- Sophomore Mason Smith, a Clio graduate, is ranked ninth in the nation at 141 pounds. Smith is 25-3 this season and is ranked second at 141 in the Mid-American Conference. Freshman Nolan Saxton, a state champion at Chippewa Hills High School last year, is off to a strong start to his college career with a 14-6 record for CMU.

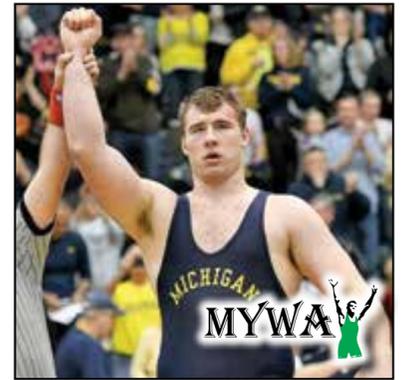
- Although two-time, NCAA national champion Gabe Dean has graduated, the Cornell wrestling team still has a Dean making an impact. Freshman Max Dean is ranked 11th in the country at 184 pounds. Dean is 17-2 this season with three falls and has helped Cornell crack the national rankings

at No. 17.

- Cornell is also receiving a big season from Bay City Western grad Chris Schoenherr. A sophomore, Schoenherr is 9-2 this season with one fall at 149 pounds.

- Former Davison High School and University of Iowa standout Brent Metcalf is a volunteer assistant coach at Iowa State University this season. Metcalf is working with a pair of local wrestlers that are making big impacts in college in their redshirt-freshmen seasons. Leslie High School grad Kanen Storr is ranked 16th in the nation at 141 pounds. Storr is 15-6 this season including an 8th-place finish at the Cliff Keen tournament in Las Vegas where he placed in a weight class that included 12 wrestlers ranked in the top 20 in the nation.

- Ian Parker, a St. Johns grad, is also off to a strong start with the Cyclones. Parker is ranked 20th in



Adam Coon, a Fowlerville High School graduate, is ranked second in the nation at heavyweight for the University of Michigan wrestling team. (Submitted photo)

the nation at 133 pounds and has fashioned a 15-5 record.

- At Michigan State University, freshman Brad Wilton is off to a solid start. A graduate of Mason High School, Wilton is 21-6 this season at 197 pounds. Wilton has placed third at both the Michigan State and Eastern Michigan open.

Redshirt-freshman Danny Kruse, a Lowell grad, is 8-5 this season and also took third at the Michigan State Open.

## Chippewa Hills Coach Passes 500 Wins

### John Raffel Sports Scene

Nate Ethridge has passed the 500-win mark as a wrestling coach this season in his 18th year with the Warriors.

It wouldn't surprise anyone knowing Ethridge's devotion to the sport if he would keep it going for another 18 years and another 500 wins for 1,000.

"It's exciting," Ethridge said. "It's a program milestone, not a personal milestone."

Ethridge hit the 500 mark when his team defeated Big Rapids 81-0 and Newaygo 72-16

"That's really cool," Chippewa Hills senior heavyweight Andrew Vinton said. "We've been around

him forever and it's really good to see that. I never thought I would see something like that."

Ethridge has spent all of his 18 years of high school coaching at Chippewa Hills

"My philosophy is that as long as I feel like I'm doing the right thing and the kids respond to me and as long as I can still get results from them and they buy into it and are accountable to what we want them to do, I'm still effective," Ethridge said. "When I feel I'm not effective anymore, I need to be done."

Ethridge was named the National Wrestling Coaches Association Coach of the Year for Michigan for 2016-17.

The Warriors were a team state

semifinalist last season.

Ethridge had 11 state qualifiers, five state place winners and one state champion.

Ethridge has been wrestling coach 17 seasons.

"I'm excited for our program," Ethridge said. "I don't see these as a reflection on me but our staff, kids and community. These types of things are program awards about the accomplishments as a whole."

"I'm honored to even be considered for this award, much less win it" Chippewa Hills was 28-2 last season and Ethridge entered this season with a career record of 492-93.

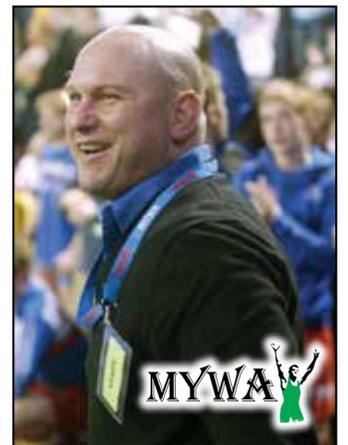
"Buy in and accountability are the reason we are successful,"

Ethridge said. "It goes from our kids to our parents and coaches. They believe in the process and are accountable to it."

"The most enjoyable thing has been my relationships with the kids and watching them grow throughout high school and into adulthood and watching what we teach impact their lives in a positive way."

Ethridge entered this season anticipating more success for 2017-18.

"We bring in an excellent class of eighth-graders who have been successful at the lower levels for years," Ethridge said. "We also have some guys who wrestled on our Red team (other varsity team) who had exceptional records and that team's overall record was 15-5 and they won three varsity tournaments."



Chippewa Hills wrestling coach Nate Ethridge recently celebrated his 500th coaching victory for the Warriors. (File photo)

**CHEVROLET Shaheen**

Next To Celebration Cinema  
Lansing

**Mid-Michigan's Largest Chevy Dealer!**

New • Used • Finance • Service • Parts • Body Shop

SELL US YOUR CAR MID MICHIGAN'S ONLY AUTOTRADER BUYING CENTER [AutoTrader.com](http://AutoTrader.com)

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

FIND NEW ROADS™  
CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

# Familiar Rivals DeWitt, Eaton Rapids, St. Johns Looking To Battle In Division 2 State Meet

## Butch Harmon Sports Scene

With the wrestling state team tournament about to begin, long-time rivals DeWitt, Eaton Rapids and St. Johns are putting in their final tune-ups for what they hope are tournament runs that end with a trip to the Division 2 state team finals in Kalamazoo.

When it comes to wrestling, these three, long-time mid-Michigan powers annually put outstanding teams on the mat. Since 1996, St. Johns and Eaton Rapids have won a combined six Division 2 state championships while DeWitt has steadily been building a team capable of winning a state team title.

This year the three teams are in separate Division 2 districts that they are hosting. DeWitt and Eaton Rapids could possibly meet in the regional while St. Johns is heading north for its regional.

Eaton Rapids has an outstanding team this season and has posted wins over both St. Johns (33-31) and DeWitt (33-18). The Greyhounds have also posted non-league wins over strong Division 1 programs like Grand Ledge and Hudsonville.

Balance is the key for Eaton Rapids this season. That balance was on display at the Williamston invitational where a total of 10 Eaton Rapids wrestlers placed to help the Greyhounds win the team title. Senior Austin O'Hearon improved his record to 21-1 for the season as he won the 160-pound title while sophomore Caleb Fish upped his record to 21-2 as he won the title at 140 pounds. Robert Davids (103 pounds) and Hayden Campbell (130) both placed second at Williamston while Chris Haynes (125),

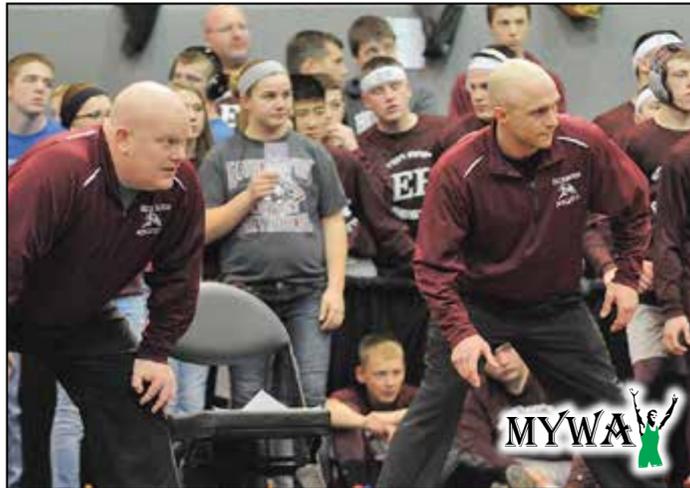
Chad Haynes (135) and Brayden McNamara (152) placed third.

To make it to Kalamazoo, Eaton Rapids may have to get past an equally deep and talented DeWitt team for a second time this season. Since the first meeting with Eaton Rapids the Panthers have been making solid progress including wins against solid Division 1 teams like Grandville (52-16), Clarkston (40-21) and Hudsonville (50-18) along with a tough 34-29 loss to Division 1 powerhouse Davison.

DeWitt has a talented roster from top to bottom. Nick Ebricht (103), Matt Foddrill (112) and Jordan Weber (119) give the Panthers strength in the lower weights. DeWitt is loaded with talent in the middle of the lineup. Quenten Hall (140/145/152), Kilion Southworth (145/152/160) and Sam York (160/171) have been turning in big seasons and give the Panthers plenty of versatility.

St. Johns has lost duals against state-ranked powerhouses like Lowell, Detroit Catholic Central and Davison but the rugged schedule has put the Redwings through the fire and have them battle-hardened for the team district and regional.

Junior 140-pounder James Whitaker has won individual titles at Hudson and Goodrich this season and leads a lineup that also features Brendon Smith (112), Brendan Zalenka (119) and Kaleob Whitford (130). Seniors Spencer Sillman (145) and Cross Gonzalez (160) and junior Braxton Parks (171) have also turned in solid efforts this season along with CJ Krum (189) and Tyler Secord (215) in the upper weights.



St. Johns, DeWitt and Eaton Rapids are all expected to be in the running to make the Division 2 state meet this season. Lowell will be gunning for its fifth straight D2 title. (File photos)



# Ithaca Boys Basketball Starting To Hit Its Stride

## Nate Schneider Sports Scene

### Boys Basketball

The Yellowjackets have yet to fully hit their stride through nine games, but is coming off a positive result after a 56-31 victory Jan. 19 at home over St. Charles to improve to 5-4 on the season.

After completing the 2017 portion of its schedule with a 53-46 home win over a tough Fulton squad on Dec. 28, Ithaca lost back-to-back games to begin the new year via a 66-59 home setback versus Ovid-Elsie and a 57-55 tilt at Ovid-Elsie.

On a positive note, both of those losses can be chalked up as close losses to strong teams but Yellowjackets head coach Jim Thompson knows there is plenty of room for improvement.

"Our league is very, very good this year," Thompson said. "Ovid-Elsie and Hemlock are very good. Valley Lutheran too. I'd say Fulton was a quality win for us, but we struggle against good teams right now because we struggle to score. And along with that, we turn the ball over too many times. It's cost us. Plus, as a varsity basketball team we're shooting 50 percent from the free throw line."

Junior Baylee Chaffin leads a balanced scoring attack for the Yellowjackets at 11.9 points per game plus 8.5 rebounds and 1.4 steals. Senior Joey Bentley is tallying 10.4 points, 4.9 boards, 3.5 assists and 2.3 steals. Junior Tom Steward is putting in 10.3 per game, connecting on 20-of-55 from 3-point range.

Due to a snowed out game against Pinconning, Ithaca began a stretch with St. Charles where it will play five games in eight days.

"Sometimes the best remedy is just getting out on the court and playing games," Thompson added. "They won't have to listen to me at practice and can just work things out on the court in games. Hopefully that will get us on the right track."

### Girls Basketball

Ithaca has struggled to the tune of a 2-7 record with future Michigan State Spartan Kayla Belles sidelined with a torn ACL.

While hope is still being held on the chance

that Belles could return by the end of the season, right now she acts as an extra assistant coach and the team's top supporter from the sideline.

The Yellowjackets dropped to their current record following a 38-29 home loss to Ovid-Elsie, in which Lindy Litwiler had her head cut open in the second quarter and had to go to the hospital.

While Litwiler was ultimately OK and cleared to play in the next game, her absence the rest of the way versus the Marauders sapped Ithaca of a player who has been key thus far this season.

"Litwiler going out really hurt us and [point guard] Sam Vermeesch got into foul trouble," Yellowjackets coach Ty Warczynsky said. "So we had to play through some adversity. And we were tied with them at 28-28 with about 2:30 left, but just kind of ran out of steam at the end."

Prior to the O-E game, the Yellowjackets did win their contest over the holidays as it rolled past Shepherd 52-31 at home on Dec. 29.

"There is definitely reward in watching these young players grow on the court," Warczynsky added. "Even though we're not having the season we wanted, we know improvements are being made and we're happy with the progress that has been made to this point."

### Wrestling

Ithaca split its double dual at Michigan Lutheran Seminary on Jan. 17, dropping a close heartbreaker 35-33 to Hemlock while rolling past Saginaw Valley Lutheran to the tune of 54-9.

Tristan Sparks (152) and Cole Tilton (160) both won by fall against Hemlock. Dakota Hamilton (145) won his match via decision. Jared Barden (171), Guillermo Macias (189) and Chance McCormick (215) all won their matches by forfeit.

Kyle Wood (119), Sparks, Hamilton, Macias and Ethan Schall (HWT) each won by fall versus Valley Lutheran. Harrison Cameron (130), Juan Ixcotoyac (135), Darren Gutierrez (171) and Zack Hessbrook (215) all won due to forfeit.

Macias is a team-best 26-3 this season with 18 of his wins coming by fall. Schall is 19-6 with 14 victories via fall, while Hamilton comes in with an 18-8 record.

Top: Joey Bentley is starting to find his legs heading into the second half of the basketball season averaging 10.4 points a game for the Yellowjackets this season. Below: The Ithaca girls team was struggling prior to press time posting a 2-7 record. (Russ Pierce, High School Sports Scene photos)



**BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value**

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

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

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

**Pine River DENTAL CARE**

Where excellent care, the latest technology, and friendliness live

Jenna Putman, D.D.S. • Brian Putman, D.D.S.  
610 N. Pine River Street • Ithaca, Michigan 48847  
**(989) 875-2888** www.pineriverdentalcare.com

**ITHACA CHEVROLET**

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

**Ithaca's Home Of The 1/2 Price Oil Change!**  
When Vehicle Purchased From Ithaca Chevy

**CHEVROLET**

# SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON BOYS BASKETBALL



## Area Boys Basketball Teams Turning In Impressive Performances During First Half Of Season

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

The boys basketball season is rounding the halfway mark and is headed for the home stretch. The 2017-18 season is shaping up as a memorable one and High School Sports Scene takes a look at some of the teams and players making an impact so far this season.

- Some of the best basketball in the area is taking place in the Tri-Valley Conference East Division. Bridgeport is shaping up as the team to beat in the TVC East as it won its first five league games. After falling to Lansing Everett in its season opener, Bridgeport has reeled off six consecutive wins including an 85-72 non-conference win against Flint Beecher and a 68-54 win against Frankenmuth in a showdown for first place in the TVC East. Senior Charles Garrett is turning in a big season as he leads the team in scoring at 26 points per game.

- Frankenmuth is hot on Bridgeport's heels in the East. Led by standout senior Mario Whitley, Frankenmuth opened the season with nine wins in its first 10 games. Whitley is averaging 27.1 points per game and 9.6 rebounds while senior Sam Gray is adding 15.7 points per game.

- A sizzling conference title chase is unfolding in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference. As the season reaches the halfway point, Dansville and Laingsburg are tied atop the conference with 5-0 records while Fowler is a half-game behind at 5-1.

Pewamo-Westphalia, with 6-foot-4 senior Jimmy Lehman back on the floor after recovering from an

injury suffered during the Division state title football game, is back in the race after handing Fowler its first loss of the season on Fowler's home court.

Dansville junior center is making a case for all-state honors as he is averaging 23.8 points per game along with 14 rebounds per game. Senior Carter Frantz is also having a big season for the Aggies as he is averaging 15.4 points per game.

- One of the big stories of the early season is the run that Mt. Pleasant is making. The Oilers opened the season by reeling off seven straight wins. High school basketball fans need to check out sophomore guard Mason Wojtusik, an up and coming player that is a treat to watch with his ball-handling and shooting skills. Wojtusik kept the Oilers undefeated with a jump shot at the buzzer to defeat Midland 54-52. Wojtusik finished the game with 28 points.

- In Class D, keep an eye on the Ashley Bears. After dropping their season opener 60-57 against Portland St. Patrick, Ashley reeled off nine straight wins, including six straight league wins to take control of the Mid State Conference. Senior big man Nick Sperling (6-foot-7) and senior guard Colin Dolloff (6-foot-2) lead the way for Ashley.

- The Haslett Vikings have taken the upper hand in the CAAC Red. Haslett defeated DeWitt 49-48 and went on the road to stop Waverly 58-53 to improve to 5-0 in the league and 7-3 overall. Junior guard Ty Andrades is a major impact player for the Vikings. Andrades pumped in 17 points in the win against DeWitt and added 11 against Waverly. Forward Sam Laczynski (6-foot-5) is another standout for Haslett. Laczynski scored 23 points in the win at Waverly.

Left: Prior to press time, Swan Valley was leading the Tri-Valley Conference Central Division by one game over Alma. Right: East Lansing and Lansing Eastern are putting together solid seasons in the CAAC, meanwhile Bridgeport and Frankenmuth will do battle again later this season to decide the TVC East championship. (Nick Rethman, Skip Traynor, Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene Photos)

Junior Mitchell Mowid has also come up big for Haslett including a 25-point effort in a win against St. Johns.

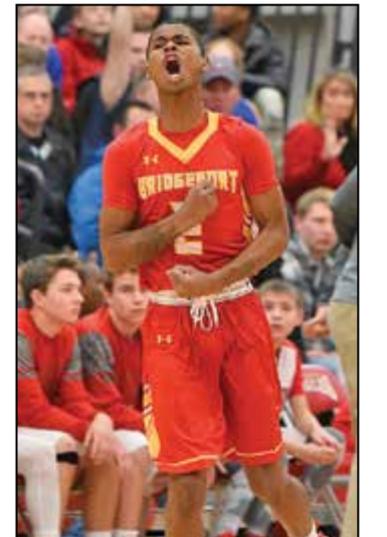
- Grand Ledge turned in one of the biggest efforts of the first half of the season when it snapped East Lansing's 45-game regular-season winning streak. Grand Ledge upended East Lansing 59-53 to hand the Trojans their first CAAC Blue Conference loss since 2015.

- Williamston wrapped up the first-half of the CAAC White schedule with a 5-0 record and has a two-game lead over Lansing Catholic Central and Fowlerville. Williamston guard Cole Kleiver is one of the premier outside shooters in Mid-Michigan and he showed just how hot he can get in a 99-66 win against Fowlerville. Kleiver connected on 10, three-point shots and finished with a career-high 41 points in the win.

- Ovid-Elsie turned in a 7-0 mark in the first half of the conference schedule in the TVC West and has a two-game lead

over Hemlock and Valley Lutheran. The Marauders have won seven straight games since a 69-60 loss to Fowler in the season opener. Carson Vincent is leading the offense for Ovid-Elsie as he is averaging 18.7 points per game.

- Looking for an under the radar team that could get hot in March? If so, Corunna could be that team. A junior-dominated team, the Cavaliers started the season 5-5 but have dropped contests with Flint Beecher, Flint Hamady and Class A Rockford. Corunna picked up a 64-48 win against Sterling Heights Parkway Christian in the Battle of the Midway tournament at Corunna. Junior guard Logan LePage came close to a triple-double with 20 points, eight rebounds and nine assists in the win. Corunna handed Almont its first loss of the season, 35-34, when junior guard Mitchel Skym hit a three-point shot at the buzzer. The Cavaliers also have a standout big man in 6-foot-9 junior Sage Walker who is averaging 10 points, 6.6 rebounds and 2.4 blocked shots per game.



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

**GRAFF CHEVROLET DURAND**  
Jason Saunders Sales Professional  
989) 288-2657 Flint (810) 232-9157 Fax (989) 288-2347 jsaunders@hankgraaff.com  
9009 Lansing Road Durand, Michigan 48429 www.graffchevydurand.com

**Carman's Tree Service & Stump Removal**  
Gary Carman Owner/Operator  
8426 N. Wheeler Wheeler, MI 48662 (989) 330-9782 cell 25yrs. Experienced Free Estimates License/Insured  
Taking Pride in our Exceptional "Clean up!"

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

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

**ALLEY T SCREEN PRINTING & EMBROIDERY**  
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS SCREEN PRINTING EMBROIDERY LOGO DIGITIZING ON SIGHT DESIGNER SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR  
P:(989)875-4793 F:(989)875-7148 www.alleyt.com M-TH 8-5 F 8-5:30 SAT 9-11  
designs@alleyt.com 103 S Jeffrey Ave. Ithaca, MI 48847

**GI-TEC Students**  
Bring this coupon to ICCU's Student-Run Credit Union for a free prize!  
ICCU Student-Run Credit Union Branch  
ICCU Isabella Community Credit Union  
ICCUonline.com \*One prize per person

The name you've grown to trust just got better  
Put Our Team To Work For You  
**Weichert Realtors**  
Broadway Realty Mount Pleasant 989-775-3800 WeichertBroadway.com

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

**Mid-Michigan Dental Excellence**  
www.midmichigandental excellence.com • Find us on Facebook!  
Now 2 Locations To Better Serve You!  
306 North State Street Alma, MI 48801 (989) 463 - 4036  
117 South Kinney Ave Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 (989) 773 - 2133

# Grand Ledge Boys Turning Heads; Upsets Previous Unbeaten East Lansing

## Nate Schneider Sports Scene

Don't count Scott Lewis among those surprised at the fantastic 9-1 start Grand Ledge boys basketball is enjoying.

The head coach of the Comets oversaw a seven-win team last season, so what is transpiring this winter is clearly a huge step forward.

But in digging deeper, it all makes sense that Grand Ledge would be turning those deflating losses into thrilling victory a year later.

"Our record last season was very misleading," Lewis said. "We had all these guys last year and we lost nine games by three

possessions or less. They were in every single game and battled. That helped motivated them in the offseason and into this season, to make sure those tight ones go our way this year."

The senior-laden Comets are getting the job done with a balanced attack most nights, with quite often no one on the roster compiling huge statistics on a nightly basis.

"Every Thursday the Lansing State Journal puts stats out," Lewis stated. "The last time they ran those stats, we had one person toward the bottom in rebounding. Aside from that, we didn't have anyone stand out in their statistics. That speaks to how they play as a unit. In so

many games we'll have three, four or five guys in double figures. We're able to switch up starting lineups based on matchups and we play 10-deep on a regular basis. Everyone is contributing."

Grand Ledge's lone blemish is a 68-63 loss to Lansing Everett in the second game of the season. Since then, the Comets have reeled off eight straight victories.

Among the wins is a 59-53 triumph at East Lansing on Jan. 9, which effectively ended the Trojans' 45-game regular season winning streak.

Al McCready had a huge game against East Lansing as he went for 23 points, then added 24 in the next game versus

Lansing Eastern. He is putting in 23.5 points per game to lead the way.

"Al is one of those guys who can take over a game," Lewis added. "He can do a little bit of everything. He's really crafty and smooth. He can go to the basket and finish well above the rim. He's long. He's a really good player and an even better person. He gets A's and B's in the classroom."

A really quiet kid who we almost have to stoke a fire to get him going. We sometimes try to get him to be more verbal because he tries to lead by example so much, but he's a really good kid who is having a great season. Al is collecting some interest from colleges now and rightfully so."

Grand Ledge continues its season Jan. 26 at home as it attempts to get avenge its lone defeat versus Everett.



Grand Ledge was 9-1 entering the second half of the season including a victory over previously unbeaten East Lansing. (Marvin Hall, High School Sports Scene photo)



# Alma "In It To Win It" Panthers Playing Championship Basketball During First Half Of Season

## Nate Schneider Sports Scene

Alma boys basketball coach JT Cleveland has been asked plenty this season whether he is surprised about the strong start his squad is enjoying.

To an extent, yes. But he also knew the potential for the current version of the Panthers was immense, an outlook they are clearly living up to.

With a 56-31 victory at Fowlerville on Jan. 22, Alma improved its record to 9-1 and pushed its win streak to four games. The only setback thus far is a 48-42 loss at Swan Valley,

Alma posted a 10-1 record prior to its TVC crossover showdown against Frankenmuth. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene photo)

pushing the Panthers down to second place in the Tri-Valley Conference Central standings.

"It proves that the kids we have this year wanted to continue to play championship basketball and at that high level we have the last five years," Cleveland said. "They've worked their absolute butt off all summer, all fall, last spring. And now every practice is a dogfight. They're just getting after it and competing like mad. When you do those things, great things happen."

Alma graduated five key seniors - Konner Vedrode, CJ Thompson, Anthony Humm, Ryan Cornejo and Troy Bastian - from last year's roster. Gone was a lot of scoring punch and leadership, but the Panthers have managed to prowl on with a new-look team.

"We go through [senior point guard]

Damon Anguiano when we need a basket, whether we look for him to score or find a teammate," Cleveland explained. "But we don't necessarily have that one go-to scorer like Vedrode was. And we're not as big as we have been the last several years, but we're actually rebounding better than we did last year. Our press always helps disrupt opponents, but we're also defending really well in the half-court. I love this team and I'm proud of the way they've been able to get rolling so far."

The Panthers finished last season 17-7 overall and 12-2 in TVC Central play before falling to Frankenmuth in the Class B regionals.

Now Alma is ahead of last year's pace record-wise as it prepares for another tough home game Jan. 25 versus 7-2 Hemlock.

"We've got some tough games ahead against some really good opponents so we need to keep our focus and continue to get after it," Cleveland added.

**Stay in the Game** with **D Events Sports Photography**

529 E. Center St. Ithaca  
989-875-4348  
dicksstudio.com

**BECKS Trailer SUPERstore**  
Nation's Largest Trailer Dealer  
Over 1,200 Trails In-Stock!

**BECKS TrailerStore.com**  
1-888-499-9061

7607 N US-27  
St. Johns  
MI. 48879

THE LAW OFFICES OF **GALLAGHER EVERITT & ASSOCIATES**

We're more than just a law firm. We're a team of professionals who understand what you're going through and who will work tirelessly to get you results. Call us today for all your legal needs.

**ALMA OFFICE:**  
120 E. Superior St.  
Alma, MI 48801  
Phone: (989) 466-4779  
Fax: (989)466-5469

**MIDLAND OFFICE:**  
115 McDonald St.  
Midland, MI 48640  
Phone: 989-832-8096  
Fax: 989-533-3133

**WWW.GELEGAL.COM**

# Dansville's Hodgson Considered To Be One Of Top Juniors In State

## Nate Schneider Sports Scene

A picture shared by Dansville athletics on Twitter back in September of 2015 shows all you need to know about how regarded Caleb Hodgson is as a basketball player.

Then a freshman for the Aggies, Hodgson was shown in the picture after an invite from Spartans men's basketball coach Tom Izzo.

The 6-foot-9 Hodgson has received plenty of invites and over-

tures in the couple of years since, with the same Twitter account showing him last November as a guest recruit at a University of Michigan men's basketball game.

Hodgson has received scholarship offers from Western Michigan and Central Michigan to name a couple, while the junior will certainly see more offers and attention come his way before making a decision on his future.

But in the present, he is providing a dominating force in the interior for the Aggies once again.

In helping lead the charge to an 8-1 start this season, Hodgson is averaging 23.8 points per game along with 14.0 rebounds and 3.0 blocks. He is also adding 2.8 assists and 1.9 steals per.

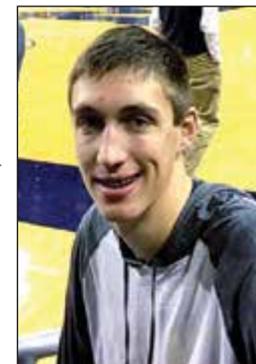
"He's scoring at a great pace for us but he does so many other things as well," eighth-year Dansville head coach Cole Feldpausch said. "He gets so many rebounds and he blocks a lot of shots, so he's anchoring our defense as well. He's a great passer. Our offense runs through him. He's a great scorer, but he's capable of doing so much more."

Hodgson has managed to not only embrace the spotlight and all the attention that comes with being a high-profile Division I recruit,

but also keep the focus on his high school team and the goals that have been laid out.

"Credit to him for being able to take care of both responsibilities," Feldpausch said. "On the one hand, he recognizes his responsibility to the team as far as being a great player and needing to be more aggressive. But at the same time, it's never about him. More than anything, he cares about winning and doing what's best for the team. But he also knows he has an important future choice and he puts a lot of stock into doing what will best for him."

Dansville has won four in a row, the latest being a 69-60 triumph at Fulton on Jan. 17. The Aggies hosted Pewamo-Westphalia on Jan. 24 after our print deadline.



Caleb Hodgson is putting up All-State kind of numbers this season for Dansville. (Submitted photo)

# Area Finalists Announced For MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award

The Michigan High School Athletic Association announced its annual Scholar-Athlete award finalists and as always the Sports Scene coverage area in heavily represented.

Of the 120 finalists the top 32 earn \$1,000 scholarships. The program, in its 29th year, has awarded 736 scholarships to students who participate in at least one MHSAA-sponsored sport and own a 3.50 grade-point average.

Of the 32 scholarships, 12 will go to Class

A athletes, eight to Class B athletes, six to Class C athletes and four to Class D athletes. Also, two at-large scholarships will go to minority student-athletes.

Winners will be announced in February with Class C and D winners announced on Feb. 6, Class B on Feb. 13 and Class A on Feb. 20. Scholarship winners will be honored during halftime of the Class C boys basketball state final on Saturday, March 24, at Michigan State University's Breslin Center.

## Class A Boys Finalists

Anthony Joseph, DeWitt  
Anthony Kim, Grand Blanc  
Joseph Corner, Holt  
Aditya Middha, Midland Dow  
Paul Cheng McKinley, Okemos  
Cole Johnson, Rockford

## Class A Girls Finalists

Samantha Hild, Holly  
Anushka Murthy, Okemos

## Class B Girls Finalists

Hannah Shorkey, Essexville Garber  
Megan Brooks, Saginaw Swan Valley  
Emily Buska, Saginaw Swan Valley

## Class B Boys Finalists

Jackson Lund, Big Rapids  
Vincent Goyette, Flint Powers Catholic  
Anthony Harris, Frankenmuth  
Hunter Goldensoh, Saginaw Swan Valley

## Class C Girls Finalists

Shelby Trevino, Beal City  
Ellen Charlotte Laurenz, Breckenridge  
Emily Spitzley, Pewamo-Westphalia  
Kendahl Grace Overbeck, Saranac  
Emma Pachulski, Saranac  
**Class C Boys Finalists**  
Parker Hayes, Beaverton  
Eric Vandefier, Montrose

## Class D Girls Finalists

Katelyn Smith, Akron-Fairgrove  
Sophie Ruggles, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart

## Class D Boys Finalists

Nicholas Burlingame, Ashley  
Aaron Jacob Fahrner, Owendale-Gagetown



Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Academy's Sophie Ruggles was one of the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete finalists for the 2017-18 school year. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene photo)

**Seeley AUTO**

101 Hidden Oaks Dr,  
St Louis, MI 48880  
989-463-AUTO (2886)  
seeleycars.com

**RPC**  
Robust Prestige & Company

**DAVID RAYBURN, RTRP**

525 W. Warwick Dr., Ste A  
Alma, Michigan 48801  
www.rpcpcas.com

Ph. (989) 463-6123 ext. 200  
Fax (989) 463-4055  
email: dave.rayburn@rpcpcas.com

**Shred Experts**

Proud Supporters Of Our Area Athletes

1595 Champagne Dr. South  
Saginaw, MI 48604  
www.shredexperts.com • 989.752.4200 office

**MIDSTATE SALES AND SERVICE**  
Outdoor Power Equipment

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

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

Rebates up to \$300

**U.S. 27 YOUR GATEWAY TO THE NORTH SUPERSTORE!**  
**MOTORSPORTS & TRAILERS**  
866-554-4217  
www.us27motorsports.com

SERVICE PROFESSIONAL AND PARTS EXPERTS.....SERVICING ALL MODELS OF ATVs, MOTORCYCLES, SNOWMOBILES, PWC AND TRAILERS

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

CAN-AM, POLARIS, HONDA, YAMAHA, ski-doo, SUZUKI, SEAGOO, ARCTIC CAT, SURE-TRAC, Haulmark, AMERICAN MADE, HALL-IT



# Skies The Limit For East Lansing's Brandon Johns

## U of M commit can do it all for Trojans

**Nate Schneider Sports Scene**

East Lansing star Brandon Johns was sitting in the stands earlier this month prior to a game at Holt when he was caught off guard by a request from a young kid.

Johns was asked for his autograph by a child wearing University of Michigan colors, alongside his father who was also donning maize and blue.

"I'd never seen that before," Trojans head coach Steve Finamore said. "I believe that might have been his first autograph request. This poor kid had a nice basketball to sign and was very polite as we were watching the girls game. It shows you how much everyone looks up to Brandon. He is such a great role model for kids. He has a younger brother in fourth grade and he's so great to him. Aside from everything he does on the basketball court, what also stands out about Brandon is how tremendous he is as a person. He has no ego at all. It makes it pleasurable for a coach to come to practice."

Johns, a University of Michigan commit, is a four-year varsity performer at East Lansing and has continued his rise each season. This year, he is averaging an astounding 29 points per game along with 12 rebounds and four blocked shots.

His scoring prowess is well-documented and he's scored as many as 51 in a game this season, which he accomplished against Lansing Sexton in a 114-82 victory despite

sitting out a couple stretches in the contest.

But it is his defensive ability that really sets the tone for the Trojans (8-2).

"He plays both ends of the court at a high level which allows him to impact the game in two different ways," Finamore said.



"His on-ball defense and off-the-ball defense is unbelievable. We put him at the top of our 1-3-1 zone and he's amazing with his long arms. It makes it difficult for the opposing point guard to do anything."

Johns has sat out the last couple games with a knee injury, which was a big reason why East Lansing eked out a 52-50 overtime win at Lansing Eastern on Jan. 16 before falling at home to Okemos by a count of 60-55 on Jan. 19.

The 6-foot-8 and 206-pound power forward should be a perfect fit in the scheme that John Beilein runs at Michigan.

"If he would have chose Michigan State, it would have been an outstanding choice," Finamore said. "But what appealed to Brandon was Coach Beilein and his style of play, where guys his size are allowed to shoot threes. Not to say Michigan State doesn't allow that, but he just felt comfortable with those two things at Michigan - the coach and the style of play."

Johns will look to get healthy and back in the lineup as the Trojans have some tough upcoming games as they prepare for the postseason.

East Lansing's Brandon Johns, a University of Michigan commit is making a case for himself this season as a strong candidate for Mr. Basketball. (Marvin Hall, High School Sports Scene photos)

# Super Mario Whitley Has Frankenmuth Believing

**Nate Schneider Sports Scene**

Four years ago, Mario Whitley was not even convinced he belonged on the varsity team at Frankenmuth.

Nowadays, confidence isn't an issue at all as Whitley is one of the leading scorers in the state and a Saginaw Valley State commit who has helped guide the Eagles to a 9-1 start this season.

"In the summer and even the fall leading into his freshman year he did not want to play with the varsity," Frankenmuth head coach Andy Donovan said. "He didn't think he was ready and finally during some workouts that fall, he started to come around. The rest is history. He made his mark pretty quickly."

Whitley averaged a very respectable 10.7 points per game as a freshman despite his reservations about being ready for the varsity level.

He improved that to a 15.3 average his sophomore season, while as a junior he took a huge jump forward and poured in 25 per.

Now he is once again bumping his scoring average up, boosted by a recent 37-point explosion in a 68-52 victory at Reese. Whitley is also tallying 9.6 rebounds, 4.1 steals, 2.8 assists and 1.1 blocks per game as an all-around star on the hardwood.

"All four years he's improved," Donovan said. "He's always been a guy who could rebound the ball and finish around the rim, plus he could catch and shoot it. But over the course of four years he's become a really good passer and created his own shot more. He's also become a really good defender."

For the last couple seasons, there has been no element of surprise in Whitley's game as every opponent knows exactly what he brings to the table. With drawing so much attention from defenses, he has to work for every basket he gets and has managed to do so with flying colors.

Prior to his senior season of basketball, Whitley

made the decision to play high school football. He had previously played two games on varsity as a junior before quitting.

Needless to say, he was also a rousing success on the gridiron.

In nine games played, Whitley caught six passes for 185 yards and five of the receptions went for touchdowns. He also returned a kickoff for a score.

Donovan barely even had to worry about injury with Whitley because no one could touch him.

"There was a point well into the season where he hadn't even been tackled all year," Donovan quipped. "He either returned a kick or caught a pass for a touchdown every time. Coaches commented on his physicality in practice and I thought the whole experience was good for him. It allowed Mario to have a fall where basketball wasn't his sole focus."



Frankenmuth finished the football season with a 12-1 record, not losing until the Division 5 semifinals when it fell to five-time defending state champion Grand Rapids West Catholic.

Despite the commitment to Saginaw Valley State, Whitley is still getting inquiries from various college coaches on a regular basis as he is clearly a hot commodity as a player so many programs would love to add.

"There's always people filling your ear and coaches that still call," Donovan remarked. "So saying that committing to SVSU in November was a relief is sort of a cliché answer. Ultimately it is on Mario to be done with the recruiting process. It is on him to decide whether Saginaw Valley State is the place he wants to be. If it is, that's great for him."

Frankenmuth fell 68-52 last season to Lake Fenton in the Class B regional hosted by Corunna. With a loaded roster led by Whitley and senior point guard Sam Gray (15.7 ppg, 5.0 apg), it appears the Eagles are a prime candidate for an even deeper run this March.

Frankenmuth has never won a boys basketball state championship.

Frankenmuth's Mario Whitley is averaging close to 30 points a contest this season for the Eagles. (Nick Rethman, High School Sports Scene photos)



No Limit to the Fun You'll Have

**CityLimits**  
Bowling Center Sports Grill

Pizzas Burgers Steaks Ribs

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

**JTS AUTO ACCESSORIES**

CAR & TRUCK ACCESSORIES

REMOTE STARTERS • HEATED SEATS • HITCHES  
CAR AUDIO • TRUCK LIFTS • CUSTOM FAB • AND MORE

**QUALITY IS OUR PASSION**

MON - FRI - 8 am - 5 pm, SAT - 8 am - 12 pm  
(989) 463-5871

2010 WEST MONROE RD, ST. LOUIS, MI 48880  
www.facebook.com/JTSAutoAccessories

**THE Camera SHOP**

M-F 9am-6pm, Sat: 10am-4pm

We Can Transfer To DVD  
Home Movies Including:

- VHS
- 8mm, Super 8mm & 16mm
- 8mm & High 8mm video
- Digital 8mm video tape
- Mini DV Type

**FREE** Second Copy With This Ad

6006 S. Pennsylvania at Miller, Lansing  
517-272-0027  
www.LansingCamera.com

\*See Store For Requirements

sears of Alma  
1650 Wright Ave. • Alma, MI • 989-466-6688

**HOMETOWN STORE**

sears of Greenville  
301 S. Maplewood St. • Greenville, MI • 616-754-7121

**FINANCING FOR EVERYONE!**

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

Owner Jarred Cline

**WATERSHED TAVERN AND GRILL**

Family Owned And Operated  
5965 Marsh Rd • Haslett, MI 48840  
Call Us For  
**517-999-SHED Take-Out!**  
Now Serving Lansing's Best Slow Smoked Barbecue!

**Shed**

LOOKING FOR TALENTED TEAM MEMBERS  
POSITIONS START AT @ \$12.75  
BENEFITS AND 401K WITH COMPANY MATCH ON DAY 1

**SHILOH**  
Lightweighting without compromise.<sup>™</sup>  
250 Adams Alma 989-463-6166 shiloh.com

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- MACHINING
- MAINTENANCE
- TOOLING
- MATERIAL HANDLING
- ENGINEERING



## Breckenridge Boys Coach Eyes Improvement

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Breckenridge's boys basketball team has had its ups and downs, but coach Jeff Ostrander is gearing his team up for a late season and postseason tournament run.

The Huskies started out the season 3-5.

"I would describe it as average," Ostrander said. "We're doing OK. We played a pretty good game against MLS (Michigan Lutheran Seminary). We came out six points from winning. It was 24-11 going into halftime and we scored 38 points in the second half (in a 55-49 loss).

"They're coming on. They have a really

Breckenridge coach Jeff Ostrander is hoping to see improvement by his team during the second half of the season. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene photo)

good quarter, then they have two bad quarters. It's mostly juniors and sophomores. They're trying to get used to the speed."

The Huskies are coming off a banner 2016-17 season when they were 17-4. They started out 5-0.

Three-year starter Caleb Hurt is back this year and a junior who has been coming on is Braydon Aldrich, who scored 22 points in the second half against MLS.

"Braydon is a real good guard and has good speed," Ostrander said. "He's about 6-foot tall and is a good ball handler and a good shooter. He understands the game

and knows when to do what.

"The biggest thing I'm trying to teach this young group is sometimes you have to score at all costs and sometimes the clock is more important than more points. They're learning. They're trying to figure out what to do and when to do it. A lot of it is about getting reps. Going from JV to varsity is a big step. I try not to put too much emphasis on the win and loss stuff. My emphasis is to get better every day. Otherwise, what are we doing? I only have two seniors and I want them to have a good experience. I want my juniors to become a team who next year could compete for a title."

## Mt. Pleasant Boys Hoops Continue To Impress

Nate Schneider  
Sports Scene

Dan Schell envisioned maybe somewhere between five and eight total wins this season.

No need to be greedy when playing in the top-notch Saginaw Valley League and having graduated a pair of Class A All-State honorable mention players in Noah Ingram and Obie Ricumstrict from the 2016-17 roster.

The Oilers came into this campaign with some varsity experience, but it is a roster loaded with juniors and sophomores that had yet to have any experience being go-to difference makers at the varsity level.

So much for tempered expectations.

Mount Pleasant has roared out of the gates with an undefeated 7-0 record, the latest win coming on Jan. 19 with a 72-47 home win over Bay City Central. The

Oilers played at Midland Dow, a team it has already defeated on their home court 65-43, on Jan. 23 in a game that took place after print deadline.

"This has definitely surprised me," Mount Pleasant head coach Dan Schell said. "I knew we were really young. But give credit to the kids, they've worked their tails off in the offseason. Everyone who didn't play football didn't miss a day of weight room. They've worked on their games and have all gotten substantially better. That's a huge difference."

The Oilers have only played two games decided by single digits, defeating Midland 54-52 and following that up with a 65-57 triumph over Flint Powers.

A dramatic finish in the contest against the rival Chemics saw sophomore Mason Wojtusik score the final two of his game-best 28 points as time expired as he drained a jumper from the free throw line to send Mount Pleasant to the

win.

Wojtusik is leading the Oilers in scoring at 21 points per.

"He was a role player last year as a freshman averaging maybe four or five points per game," Schell said of Wojtusik. "He made a considerable jump in the offseason, knowing he'd have a very important role this year. He's also probably leading us in rebounding, so numbers-wise he's had a huge impact."

Mount Pleasant has also received a big boost from the additions of the Ostrowsky brothers, junior forward Jackson and sophomore point guard Joe. Their father, Chris, is the offensive coordinator for the Central Michigan football team.

"We have a lot of young contributors who will only get better," Schell said. "The schedule gets tougher from here on out with some very quality Saginaw Valley League opponents, but we're looking forward to those tests."



Mt. Pleasant coach Dan Schell has his team believing that this could be another special season for the Oilers. Mt. Pleasant was 8-0 prior to press time. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene photo)

## SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON GIRLS BASKETBALL



## Area Girls Basketball Teams Turning In Some Eye-Catching Efforts This Season

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

There is defense and then there is Defense!

The type of defense that the Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart and Pewamo-Westphalia girls basketball teams are playing this season needs an even new category created.

When it comes to playing outstanding defense, both the Sacred Heart and Pewamo-Westphalia are taking it to a different level this season. At the halfway points of the season, Sacred Heart's defense is allowing just 18.5 points per game. The Irish have held seven of their first 10 opponents to 20 points or less. That type of defense has Sacred Heart in control of the Mid State Activities Conference and among the teams to beat come state tournament time.

Pewamo-Westphalia is putting up similar numbers. The Pirates are allowing 18.45 points per game. In its first 11 wins of the season, Pewamo-Westphalia has allowed 20 points or less in seven of the wins. That defense is a big reason the Pirates are the lone undefeated team in the Central Michigan Athletic Conference and poised for a long tournament run in Class C.

The Williamston girls basketball team has fashioned a 13-0 record as of mid-January and is among the premier teams in the state in Class B. Making a run at a state title, however, became much more difficult in early January when Maddie Watters was lost for the rest of the year with a season-ending knee injury. The Western Michigan University recruit and Miss Basketball candidate was averaging 22.6 points per game when she went down. The Hornets have an all-around talent-

ed team with plenty of depth and will still be a major factor come state tournament time. Senior center Allison Peplowski looks to pick up some of the scoring slack as evidenced by a 21-point effort in a win against Fowlerville in the game after Watters' injury.

Big Rapids and Stanton Central Montcalm are waging a spirited battle for the Central States Activities Association Gold title this season. Central Montcalm is 13-0 heading into late January while Big Rapids is 11-1. Big Rapids, the defending league champions, dropped a 48-39 decision to at Central Montcalm for its lone loss of the season. Seniors Jayla Strickland and Kaitlyn Rays led the way for Big Rapids. Central Montcalm is a young and talented team led by juniors Kiara Wernetze, Kiley Guelzo and Hannah Putnam with an emerging freshman standout in Bailey Vissman. The two teams will collide once more on Feb. 16 in Big Rapids.

The DeWitt Panthers continue to surge this season. Led by Wayne State University signee Grace George, the Panthers are ranked fourth in the state in Class A. The Panthers are undefeated in the CAAC Red and have an impressive win over fifth-ranked Howell to their credit.

Hemlock continues to roll in the Tri Valley Conference West division. The Huskies have won nine of their first 10 games this season by double-digit point margins and lead the conference by a full two games.

Freeland and Alma are battling it out in the Tri Valley West. Freeland is unbeaten in the conference and handed Alma its lone loss of the season 47-38. Freeland won 10 of its first 12 games this season with the lone losses coming against Saginaw Valley League powers Saginaw Heritage and Bay City Western.

Enjoy the moment... Knowing your local independent agent, and the company that stands behind them, has your family covered.

**BRECKENRIDGE INSURANCE**  
AGENCY OF MICHIGAN  
126 Eaton St. Breckenridge, MI 48615  
(989) 842-3161  
fax (989) 842-5570  
biaofmi.com

**Auto-Owners**  
INSURANCE  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

vintage gifts antiques

rickedyredos@icloud.com 136 N. Mills Street  
Sweet Rickedys Redo's St. Louis, MI 48880  
sweetrickedyredos1 (989) 681-2020

**Laurie's Hair Junction & Tanning**  
Mon 9-5 Tues 8-8 Thurs 9-8 Fri 9-5  
Sat 8-12  
116 W. Main, Maple Rapids MI 48853  
Laurie Baker  
Savannah Baker  
Cosmetologist and Nail Tech  
"Color" "Cuts" "Waxing" "Manicure" "Pedicure"  
"Make-up" "Up-do's"  
(989) 682-4420

**Gratiot Towing**

(989) 875-8484

Committed to our Future ... Inspired by our Past.

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

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

SEALS • TACIA BARTZ • ZAINEA • WHITEMORE •  
*Comprehensive Optometry*



# Sharks Off To Impressive Start

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

St. Louis Sharks girls basketball coach BJ Tomanek has good reason to be pleased with his team so far this season.

The Sharks have gotten off to an 8-3 start overall and 5-3 in the TVC West.

"So far, we've done ok," Tomanek said. "We're pretty young and we're pretty athletic. We're trying to put together our offense. It's a new coaching staff and new scheme. I think we've won most of the games we're supposed to win so far. We lost to Hemlock but they're a pretty good and pretty experienced team with a lot of success the last couple of years."

It's Tomanek's first season of coaching. The Sharks were 10-11 last year.

St. Louis high school was 9-3 on the season prior to press time. (Randy Miniard, High School Sports Scene photos)

apart. We've been trying to focus our team around defense because we're athletic. You can do well on defense with effort and things like that. We've been trying to go all out on defense."

One of the top players and top scorers has been Allison Taipalus, who is averaging 12 points and seven rebounds a game.

"She does a lot of good things for us," Tomanek said.

Another standout is Chloe Pestrue, a senior guard, averaging eight points and eight rebounds a game.

"She also averages around four assists," Tomanek said. "She does a lot of different things for us."

Brook Filipiak is averaging five points and five steals a game.

"We have talent and we have girls that work hard," Tomanek said.

"Last year, they got into a slump and things kind of fell

"She's one of our better defenders," Tomanek said.

He's hopeful for the rest of the season.

"Our goal is to finish as far up in the conference as possible," he said. "Then we'll see what we can do against Hemlock in the playoffs. We have them first round."



# Hemlock Continues To Improve Under First-Year Coach

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Hemlock's girls basketball team has fired out to a 10-0 start under coach Joe Rodriguez.

"Defense has been the key so far," he said.

Huskies were 21-5 last season.

Seven players return from that team and there are two newcomers.

Among the standouts are Natalie Hoffman, who is averaging 12 points a game, and is a senior captain.

"She's been our defensive specialist," Rodriguez said. "She guards the best player from every team."

Morgan Mulvaney is a senior, "who has been contributing off the bench," Rodriguez said. "She's our second leading scorer and averages around three steals a game."

Sophomore Sydney Peake is the team's leading

rebounder, and is averaging 10 points a game.

Junior Katy Snyder is 6-foot tall and has been the third leading scorer and another top rebounder.

There are big tests coming up, including against perennial state power Freeland.

"I was the JV coach over there last year," Rodriguez said. "This is my first year at Hemlock. They're ranked in the state. That will be one of our biggest challenges."

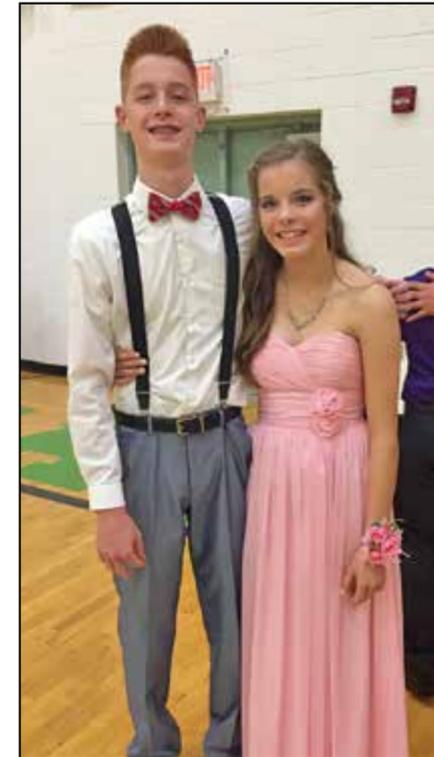
The key in that game will be "defense, whomever can stop each other," Rodriguez said. "Both teams can shoot, both teams can score. The best defense is going to win, I believe."

As a first-year coach "the girls picked up my plans, systems, everything, right away," Rodriguez said. "They had a foundation when I came here. All I'm, doing is adding to that foundation, and they picked it up."

"We were ranked No. 5 by the Associated Press. That's the highest ranking we've had here in years."



Hemlock jumped out to a perfect 10-0 start to the season before losing to Freeland Jan. 26 under first-year coach Joe Rodriguez. (Nick Rethman, High School Sports Scene photo)



Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart siblings Colten and Skylar Nelson have been staples in the school's athletic department the last three years. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene photos)

# Nelson Siblings Doing It All For Sacred Heart

**John Raffel Sports Scene**

Scout Nelson and her brother are having successful athletic careers at Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart and the Fighting Irish are reaping the rewards.

They are two of three triplets and are in their junior season of basketball

Scout was third last fall in the Division 4 state cross country meet for the state championship Irish team.

Damon Brown coaches Scout on the girls team. She's been a two-time all-stater.

"She's been a three-year starter for me at point guard," Brown said. "She has been on state contending teams for three years and is a pretty well-rounded athlete. She's grown tremendously each year in her knowledge of the game of basketball. She is probably averaging 13 points, six assists and five steals a game. She's a very efficient point guard for us. She does a lot of good things for us on both ends of the floor."



"She came as a starting freshman for us and hasn't given up the job yet. She's improved a lot from last year. Her point totals are a little down but her assists

and rebounding are up. She's taken the approach of being a more well-rounded player. She's getting her teammates involved and making sure the team is successful and knowing she can get her points in other ways."

Nelson makes her mark in big games, Brown has observed.

"We played Grand Rapids West Catholic and she had 18 points, seven rebounds and nine steals," Brown said. "She's a big-game player. When the game is big is when she shows up."

Colten Nelson "is a heckuva player" for the boys team, Brown said. "He's probably one of the best players in the area as far as boys goes. He's been leading the team in scoring the last two years. He can shoot the ball and run the floor. They're very athletic. They're always competing with each other. The other triplet (Chase) doesn't play (bas-

ketball) but they always compete.

"Growing up, Sout played baseball she didn't play softball. She played all the boys sports. That's why she's been so tough."

Chase Nelson does run cross country and was 31st at the 2017 state finals.

Brown see similarities in Scout's and Chase's basketball styles.

"They both have a strong basketball IQ," Brown said. "They loved contact. They're both very aggressive. They both like to compete. They're always challenging each other which is good for both teams. Scott, from a girls standpoint doesn't back down from anybody. She's very aggressive and rather physical. She's tall for a point guard, 5-8. They're twins and very similar in how they approach and play the game."



**MICHIGAN PAVING & MATERIALS CO**

- Binding Our Roads And Communities Together
- Serving All Your Asphalt & Emulsion Needs

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

Michigan Paving & Materials - Alma .....	(989) 402-5932
Michigan Paving & Materials - Monroe .....	(734) 241-9189
Michigan Paving & Materials - Spartan Asphalt Division ..	(517) 482-9611
Michigan Paving & Materials - Jackson.....	(517) 787-4200
Michigan Paving & Materials - Kalamazoo .....	(269) 343-4659
Michigan Paving & Materials - Grand Region South .....	(616) 459-9545

**VALET AUTO CARE, INC.**

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

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

610 N. Mission (in Mount Pleasant 12 blocks S. of Meijer)

**989-773-3477**

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

**Randy Lewis**  
Associate Vice President, Investments

**John W. Pobanz**  
Financial Advisor

**RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
Member S&P 500

989-463-5052 Toll-Free: 888-846-7895 Fax: 989-463-1989  
[dipfinancialgroup.com](http://dipfinancialgroup.com)

**Discount TIRE & BATTERY**

Greg Hamling  
Manager  
[greg@discounttires.com](mailto:greg@discounttires.com)

Brakes • Tires • Alignments

193 Michigan Avenue • St. Louis, MI 48880 • (989) 681-4100

**THE LAURELS OF FULTON**  
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

## Your Small Town Rehabilitation Center

**The Laurels of Fulton**  
4735 Ranger Road  
Perrinton MI 48871  
[www.laurelsoffulton.com](http://www.laurelsoffulton.com)

**The Laurels of Carson City**  
620 North Second Street  
Carson City MI 48811  
[www.laurelsofcarsoncity.com](http://www.laurelsofcarsoncity.com)

**The Laurels of Mount Pleasant**  
400 S Crapo St  
Mount Pleasant MI 48858  
[www.laurelsofmountpleasant.com](http://www.laurelsofmountpleasant.com)



Heritage junior Moira Joiner drives to the hoop in a recent game against Freeland. (Nick Rethman, High School Sports Scene photo)

## Heritage Hoops Aren't Letting Up; Continues To Be Team To Beat In Mid-Michigan

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

Vonnie DeLong, the Saginaw Heritage girls basketball coach is known for her suffercating defense since she has taken over the program five seasons ago.

The 2-3 zone has been staple of the Hawks defense since DeLong has gotten to Heritage.

This season, DeLong has opened eyes in the Saginaw Valley League with the addition to man-to-man, that has caught teams off guard.

The result is still the same as Heritage is ranked No. 1 in Class A in the recent Associated Press polls and was 11-0 prior to press time.

All in a days work for the Hawks.

"You know when I was at Arthur Hill I didn't coach one minute of zone," DeLong said.

"I was strictly man-to-man. Sometimes you look at where your kids are and to put them in the best position to win games so zone was the direction I took. And if you look and where the game of basketball is as a whole right now Coach K and Duke is playing zone. I mean, college teams are playing zones. Teams you would have never guessed would be playing zones, are playing zones. They do it because it works sometimes. Some kids aren't really good shooters. When they are wide open, kids can knock down a wide open three. But if you put a body on them, a hand in their face they struggle to attack the zone."

DeLong admits she would

have loved to play man from the start, but she said she won't play it, if her team wasn't good at.

However through the first seven games this season, DeLong has surprised teams playing man-to-man. It wasn't until game eight against Carman-Ainsworth that DeLong brought back the zone.

"It took us awhile to get to where we are at currently, and we still struggle with it," DeLong said. "I think a big problem is AAU. They don't teach defense. They tell you to go get your man. The college coaches want to see an offensive display right out of the gate. I am sorry this is not college. I am trying to win high school basketball games and if I am playing man and normally win a game and beat that team pretty convincing in a zone you know I will be playing zone no

question."

Junior Moira Joiner loves playing more man-to-man, but she said there were some limitations in the beginning.

"I think the biggest thing as a team we have to work on is playing better defense as a whole, but a big reason for that is because we started playing more and more man defense," Joiner said. "We have run the 2-3 zone as people know, but this season we are running more man than we ever have. It's a new concept for this team. We are giving up more penetration points than we have had in the past. But I think by changing the defense up we are surprising teams now compared to previous seasons. That will definitely help us come tournament time."

Hawks are up big in a game instead of coasting to a victory.

"When we set goals as a team we look at scored this many against a particular team, now we have to go out and win buy this many. It's a mindset. It's an attitude," she said.

As far as her senior season goes, she said she is gaining confidence every time she hits the court.

"My senior season is going pretty well," Bicknell said. "I have progressed each of my last four seasons and that's all I can hope for."

## Bicknell Provides Senior Leadership For Top-Ranked Hawks

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

Each of the last four years Heritage senior Jessi Bicknell has watched her offensive numbers improve every season.

Lead my a strong junior class that includes Moira Joiner, Mallory McCartney and Shine Strickland-Gills, all three will be playing at the next level, it's

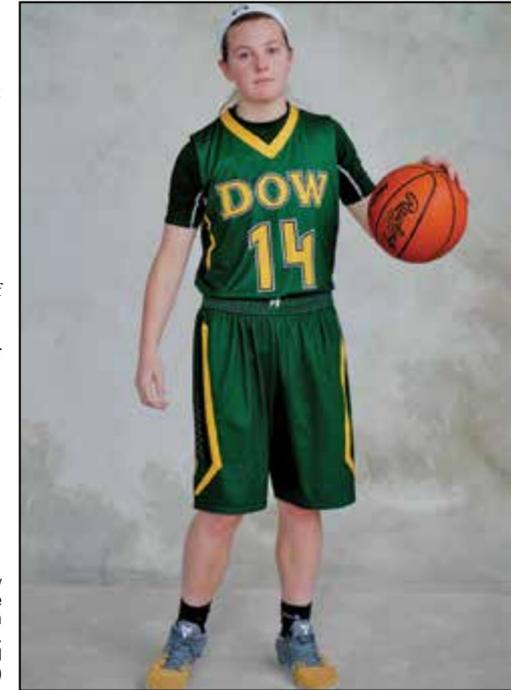
University of Detroit commit that has Heritage believing anything is possible when the Hawks step on the court.

Bicknell scored 23 points and Strickland-Gills added 13 to lead Heritage a 65-23 Saginaw Valley League victory over Flint Powers Jan. 23. Even with the convincing wins, Bicknell said there is always room for improvement.

"In order to continue our level of play we have to continue to get better," Bicknell said. "I think in the past we might have peaked kind of early and we lost games we probably shouldn't have. If we play our game the way I know we can everything else should fall into place."

Bicknell knows Heritage needs to go for the juggler when the

Heritage senior Jessi Bicknell lines up her three throw in a game against Freeland. (Nick Rethman, High School Sports Scene photo)



Midland Dow junior Molly Davis is averaging close to 18 points this season for the Chargers. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene photo)

## Midland Dow Junior Taking On Heavier Load For Her Team

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

Molly Davis has gained attention as a basketball player for a long time, and for good reasons.

Davis plays for Midland Dow. She's a junior but has already made the commitment to Central Michigan University.

"She's been a starter since her freshman year," Dow coach Kyle Theisen points out. "She's having her best year. The last couple of years, we've had really a lot of talent on the team, plus girls who are playing in college, graduated from last year. They're all playing college basketball. Molly was part of a great puzzle last year."

But this year, "she's really the main piece for

us and is stepping up her scoring, her assists and her leadership. All-around, she is having a great year."

Theisen said the coaching staff knew prior to Davis' freshman season she was more than ready to play on varsity.

"We knew Molly was coming through our middle school feeder program," Theisen said. "We were well aware of how talented she was in middle school. She played with the varsity team over the summer. She had to earn it. But she earned it during summer and she earned it during tryouts. We knew she was coming into a starting role right away."

Davis averaged 9.0 points a game as a freshman, 11 as a sophomore and is at 17 per game as a

junior.

"It's experience and hard work," Theisen said. "She puts a lot of hard work into her game. She's our only returning varsity player. The entire rest of the team hasn't played varsity. She's doing her best to take a lot of the scoring load and responsibility of the team on her shoulders while the younger girls are trying to gain that experience. It's falling a lot of her shoulders this year to be successful."

Davis verbally committed to Central Michigan when she was a sophomore. Theisen indicated she was getting interest as early as middle school. She stopped playing other sports by middle school, Theisen said, to focus on hoops.

"With all the seniors having graduated this year, she has become more vocal," Theisen said. "She's a good example of working hard. She had a great game at regionals last year, playing on a bad ankle this year."

Dow is 8-4 overall.

"Overall, we've had pretty good success," Theisen said. "We played pretty good competition. Three of the four teams we've lost to are ranked in the top 10 in the state. We're holding our own and beating the teams we're supposed to beat, for the most part. We've run into some tough competition right now."

Midland Dow junior Molly Davis is averaging close to 18 points this season for the Chargers. (Scott Keyes, High School Sports Scene photo)

## MHSAA Rules On Kithier Case

Nate Schneider  
Sports Scene

One of the biggest prep stories in Michigan this winter has involved the MHSAA ruling Clarkston senior Thomas Kithier ineligible to play basketball following his transfer from Macomb Dakota.

The situation has become more contentious by the day, but ultimately the MHSAA has not budged on its decision that Kithier transferred to Clarkston for athletic motivations which is prohibited.

The MHSAA's case is a valid one as Kithier is committed to Michi-

gan State University and it believes he transferred to the defending Class A state champion Wolves to team up with fellow Spartans commit Foster Loyer. Transferring to a school of choice is allowed in Michigan as long as it is not for athletic reasons.

The transfer waiver from Kithier was delivered to Macomb Dakota in early August and within a week or two later, Dakota refused to sign off on it. Additionally, MHSAA executive director Jack Roberts agreed with the decision in an Oct. 31 ruling and cited that Kithier had spoken to local media about his desire to play on the same team as

Loyer.

In a lawsuit filed in late December by the Kithier family, they state that Thomas moved into an apartment in Clarkston in early August. Transfer options had been looked at, according to the Kithiers, since his sophomore year due to Dakota not offering certain classes he needed.

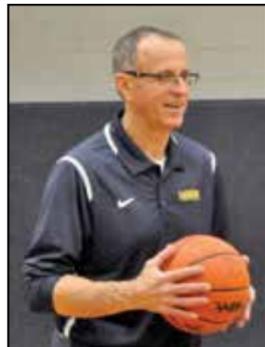
But the arguments have not been enough to convince the MHSAA that the transfer reasons were solely for basketball and Kithier teaming up to play with Loyer and a loaded Clarkston squad would create an unnecessary super team. One in which Kithier would be breaking Michigan transfer rules and therefore his senior season is lost because of his decision to not

stay at Macomb Dakota.

It's an unfortunate situation, but one that would have been avoidable had the Kithier family played by the transfer rules set by the MHSAA and the state of Michigan.

As for the Clarkston boys basketball team, it is getting along just fine even if it is without an outstanding player in Kithier. The Wolves come in with an 11-1 record and secured their sixth straight victory Jan. 25 with a 61-48 home triumph over West Bloomfield.

Clarkston played again Jan. 30 at Hazel Park in a game that took place after our print deadline, while the Wolves are back home on Feb. 2 versus Bloomfield Hills.



Despite all the distractions this season Clarkston's basketball coach Dan Fife still has the Wolves sitting atop of the Class A basketball rankings this season. (Submitted photo)

**CAMPUS LIFE** | **YOUTH FOR CHRIST**  
Give life to your story.  
HIGH SCHOOL | 6TH GRADE | FULTON ALTERNATIVE | MIDDLE SCHOOL  
Mondays 7-9 pm | Tuesdays 4-5:30 pm | Wednesdays 2-5 pm | Thursdays 7-9 pm  
2550 W. Chippewa Rd., Alma | 1611 S. Tealville Rd., Mt. Pleasant | Lenoir, MI

**Sayde Brennan Propaganda Goods**  
Visit the shop on Etsy.com/propagandagoods  
989-495-3586  
saydedosson@yahoo.com

**Good Luck All Area Sports Teams**  
**PROPANE GAS**  
RESIDENTIAL • FARM • INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL  
GAS PRODUCTION  
989-268-5879 8152 East M-46 Vestaburg 800-991-7472  
Gas Production Co. Inc.

**JIM NAVARRE** Supporting Gratiot County's Youth for Over 25 Years!  
Central Michigan's Fastest Growing Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealership  
- Our Hard Working Sales Staff.  
Bob Bechill Jim Britting Tom Wesolek TJ Hodges  
M-46 • Alma • Between Alma & St. Louis • (989) 681-5776 • www.jimnavarreford.com  
We Service What We Sell, Just Ask Our Many Satisfied Customers!!!



**ISABELLA BANK**  
bank local. bank anywhere  
We have low rates for new and used cars or trucks, we can also refinance an existing auto loan. Local loan processing means you'll be on the road in no time. Even the application is quick — apply online or in our office today!  
isbellabank.com 800.651.9111 isbellabankmi

**COVENANT CENTER FOR ADVANCED ORTHOPAEDICS**  
specializing in:  
SPORTS INJURIES • SHOULDER REPLACEMENTS • ADVANCED SHOULDER SURGERY  
JOINT PAIN • HIP AND KNEE REVISIONS • TOTAL HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENTS  
FRACTURES • ACETABULUM AND PELVIC FRACTURES • NONUNION FRACTURES  
COMPLEX INTRA-ARTICULAR JOINT FRACTURES

<b>Anthony de Bari, MD</b> Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained	<b>B.C. de Beaubien, MD</b> Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained in Adult Reconstruction	<b>Colleen Linehan, MD</b> Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon	<b>Michael Tucker, DO</b> Board Eligible Orthopaedic Surgeon Fellowship Trained in Orthopaedic Trauma	<b>Bryon Chamberlain, MD</b> Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon	<b>Jason Maxa, PA-C</b>	<b>Lindsey Pilling, PA-C</b>
<b>SAGINAW</b> 4701 TOWNE CENTRE, SUITE 301 989.921.3500	<b>SAGINAW</b> 3875 BAY RD., SUITE 2-5 989.793.1372	<b>SAGINAW</b> 800 COOPER, SUITE 5 989.583.7450	<b>FRANKENMUTH</b> 600 NORTH MAIN ST. 989.921.3500	<b>MIDLAND</b> 1549 WASHINGTON 989.921.3500		

Center for Advanced Orthopaedics

## SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON BOWLING

# Area Girls And Boys Bowling Teams Among Best In The State

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

After winning the Division 2 boys state bowling title last season, the Lowell boys bowling team is gearing up for a repeat performance.

Ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 2, the Red Arrows picked up a pair of league wins by defeating Cedar Springs 21-9 and Forest Hills Central 25-5.

Carson Clark, a second-team, all-state bowler last year, led the way against Cedar Springs with games of 277 and 242 for a season-best series of 519. Collin Clark added games of 197 and 210 for a 407 series while Marcel Primeau rolled a 187 game and Foster Skoog a 184.

Collin Clark led the way against Forest Hills Central with games of 196 and 203 for a 399 series.

Lowell also placed fifth at their own Lowell Invitational. Collin Clark made the all-tournament team with games of 270 and 224. Foster Skoog and Carson Clark were also named to the all-tournament team with series scores of 431 and 433.

• It's been a big season for both the Owosso boys and the Owosso girls bowling teams.

The Owosso girls are ranked third in the state in Division 2. Owosso upped its conference record to 6-1 for the season with a 22-8 win against Ortonville-Brandon. Raeanne Forrester has a high game of 207 while Shelby Gokee added a 204 high game and Ashley Abrams had a 203.

The Owosso girls also took third at the Lila Furnish Tournament and third at the Flushing tournament.

The Owosso boys are ranked eighth in Division 2. The boys placed fourth at John Glenn and sixth at the Lila Furnish tournaments. Owosso also took fourth at the Flint Metro Championships. Thomas Trecha led the way with a 670 series at the Metro championships. Along with Trecha, the Owosso boys have received strong efforts this season from Collin Wood, Braden Triggs and Jhakab Hickey.

• The Swan Valley boys and girls are both turning in huge seasons. The Swan Valley boys are ranked No. 1 in the state in Division 3 while the Swan Valley girls are ranked No. 2 in Division 3.

Undefeated in the league, the Swan Valley boys are led by Mason Eddy who has a 234 league average. Noah Conley has a 207 league average while Loga Lemmer has a 203 league average.

The Swan Valley girls are led by Becca Curtis who has a 195 league average. Zoe Mitchell has a 171 league average while Abby Bremer is averaging 165 in the league.

• The Alma girls are ranked first in the state in Division 3 and have a perfect 8-0 league record.

The Panthers have a deep and talented roster of bowlers led by Kimmie Shunk who has a 179 league average and Aaliyah Wilson with a 178. Morgan Johnson has a 173 average and Hallie Weaver is at 170.

• In Division 4, the St. Charles boys are ranked first in the state. The Bulldogs are a perfect 8-0 in the league. Michael Pratt is turning in a big season for St. Charles with a 212 average in the league. Luke Martell has a 190 average while Alex DiHenber is at 172



The Ithaca boys bowling team, coached by longtime coach Wally Schneider is led by a strong group of seniors this season. (Submitted photo)

and Drake McFarland at 171.

• The Ithaca boys bowling team is ranked second in the state in Division 3. The Yellowjackets have a dynamic one-two combination in Dalton Carl with a 205 league average and Matt Hoard with a 202 average. Dylan Macha has a 193 average.

The Ithaca girls bowling team is ranked sixth in Division 3. Bethany Slater leads the Yellowjacket girls with a 159 league average while Fiona Woodrow is averaging 157.

## SPORTS SCENE'S EYE ON GYMNASTICS

# Grand Ledge Gymnastics Team Continues To Thrive

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

The Grand Ledge gymnastics team has a different look this season and the early results are promising for one of the top gymnastics programs in the area.

Grand Ledge placed second at the regional tournament last year and placed 11th at the state finals. The Comets, however, are minus two of last year's top

gymnasts. Afton LaFrance, the regional all-around champion last season, and Janelle Hall, who placed in the top six in the all-around at the regional have both graduated.

This year's team is led by junior Arianna Guerrero who is coming off a solid season.

Grand Ledge opened the season by placing fourth at the East Lansing

Invitational. Guerrero placed fourth on the floor at East Lansing. Lizzie Maurer turned in a strong effort at East Lansing as she took first place on the floor, second on the beam and fifth all-around. Maggie Mullins took seventh place on the vault.

The Comets followed that performance with a fourth-place finish at the Haslett Invitational. Maurer turned in a big effort with a first place on the floor, a fourth on the beam and an eighth-place finish on the vault to place fifth in the all-around. Guerrero took fourth on the floor and sixth on the beam and the bars to finish eighth all-around.

Mullins also placed second on the vault.

Grand Ledge hosts this year's regional tournament on March 3. The Comets travel to St. Johns for the Capital Area Activities Conference championships on Feb. 17.



The Grand Ledge girls gymnastics team will host the Division 1 regionals March 3. (Marvin Hall, High School Sports Scene photo)

Group Fitness  
**LEAN**  
Check Us Out On Facebook  
LEAN 18  
(989) 620-0365

**Capitol Bowl**  
Your Family Fun & Entertainment Center  
Open/League/Cosmic Bowling, Parties, Arcade, Proshop  
Val's - Dine In, Carryout Delivery  
CB's Hot Spot - Sports Viewing, Pool, Weekend Bands/DJs  
219 S. Washington St. Owosso, MI 48867 capitolbowl@yahoo.com  
989-725-7717 989-725-VALS (8257)  
www.capitolbowl.net Become a Facebook Fan Today!

**Pat's Auto, Inc.**  
"Quality Of Our Work Guaranteed"  
Complete Collision Repair • Serving Gratiot County Since 1982  
Phone (989) 681-5334  
FAX # (989) 681-3855  
1501 West Monroe Rd. (M-46)  
Saint Louis, MI 48880  
www.patsautoinc.com

# Area Schools Introduce New Football Coaches

Scott Keyes  
Sports Scene

The Saginaw Valley League will look vastly different next season as a quarter of its teams introduced new football coaches this off season. Here is a look at the new hires.

Weingartz Hired In Davison

Jacob Weingartz, a former



All-State player and head coach at Lapeer East, has been hired to replace Kyle Zimmerman, the school announced earlier this month.

Zimmerman resigned in November after four seasons as the Cardinals head coach.

Weingartz began his coaching career at Lapeer East in 2007 and served as the school's head coach until it merged with Lapeer West in 2014. He was an assistant coach with the new Lapeer Lightning until being hired by Davison.

Under Zimmerman, Davison posted a 28-13 record.

That included a 9-2 mark last season, when the Cardinals finished second in the Saginaw Valley Red with a 6-2 record and reached the Division 1 state playoffs before losing in the second round to eventual state champion Clarkston.

Jacob Weingartz

Willertz Heading North

Chris Willertz, the former T.L. Handy and Michigan State University football star was recently named Bay City Western's new head coach.

Willertz is a 1985 graduate of Handy, where he starred in football, basketball and track and field. The son of John Willertz - the late former mayor of Bay City - and Jackie Willertz, who still resides in the area, he is returning to his roots in Bay County and returning to the sidelines for the first time in 12 years.

At Western, Willertz tackles a mighty challenge. He replaces Jeff Rahl, who stepped down after going 0-9 in his fourth season at the helm. Western has posted a 10-35 record the past five seasons since notching its most recent winning campaign in 2012.

Kevin Frederick Is Coming Home

Kevin Frederick, a 1997 Central graduate, who has spent the past four seasons as head coach at Sterling Heights Stevenson, has been selected to take the reins of the

Central football program.

Frederick was a standout quarterback for the Wolves, passing for 1,460 yards as a senior in 1996. He led Central to its first Saginaw Valley League championship in 14 years and a berth in the regional final, earning the Golden Helmet Award as the area's Class A player of the year.

He went on to play at Kansas Wesleyan before finishing his college degree at Saginaw Valley State University.

Frederick takes over coaching duties from longtime coach Morley Fraser.

Peterson Takes Over For Willey At Heritage

Matt Peterson, a 27-year-old Bullock Creek graduate was recently announced as the new football coach at Heritage High School.

Peterson replaces Joe Willey, who was 7-20 in three seasons as the Heritage football coach. The Hawks, who were 2-7, have not qualified for the playoffs since 2007.

Peterson played for Bullock



Matt Peterson

Creek and Darren Kalina from 2004 through 2007, starting at quarterback his junior and senior seasons. The Lancers were 6-4 in 2006 and 8-2 in 2007, falling in the first round of the Division 5 playoffs each season.

He walked on at Saginaw Valley State University in 2008, Jim Collins' first season as the SVSU head coach. Peterson eventually earned a starting job as a cornerback and a scholarship. In his senior season, the Cardinals were 8-3.

# Area Football Coaches Try To Find Winning Formula At Coaches Clinic

Nate Schneider  
Sports Scene

Each year almost 1,500 high school and college football coaches from around the state make the trip to Lansing for Michigan High School Football Coaches Clinic.

This year's coaches get-together was the 46th annual and took place from Jan. 18-20 at the Lansing Center/Radisson Hotel.

Three of the winningest coaches

in state history were honored in John Herrington (Farmington Hills Harrison), Al Fracassa (Birmingham Brother Rice) and Tom Mach (Detroit Catholic Central).

Keynote speakers included Big Ten Conference head coaches Paul Chryst (Wisconsin), Kirk Ferentz (Iowa) and Mark Dantonio (Michigan State). Other collegiate head coaches in attendance included Tim Lester (Western Michigan), Matt Mitchell (Grand Valley State) and Tony Annese (Ferris State).

Among the prep coaches in attendance was Coleman's Chad Klopf, who went to the final day of the event and took away plenty of positives.

"You're always looking to add something," Klopf said. "This year I went in looking to add something to our run game. You don't always get a lot of things when you attend, but you're trying to get one thing. Maybe it's a wrinkle. Maybe it's a new concept. I think we picked that up. We're not going

to completely change our offensive scheme, but we found something that will help us do it better"

Coleman enjoyed back-to-back 7-3 playoff seasons in 2013 and '14 before slipping to 1-8 the subsequent two years. After improving to 3-6 last season, the Comets are looking to push forward further next fall.

"You always want to go in with the mindset of seeking out coaches who can provide something that can help your team become better," Klopf said. "Or just coaches that you haven't seen for a long while and want to catch up with. All of that, plus listening to major college coaches speak, it's a fantastic experience."



Coleman's Chad Klopf patrols the sidelines during the football season for the Comets. (Skip Traynor, High School Sports Scene photos)

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

Your Voice For Local High School Football & Basketball Games!

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

IN YOUR HOUR OF DARKNESS LET US BE YOUR LIGHT

**Lux Funeral Homes, Inc.**  
Funeral Directors  
Paul C. Lux, Scott Kilgo, Nicholas P. Lux, Laura E. Krebs, Chris Krebs

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

**Lux and Whiting Funeral Chapel**  
156 W. Saginaw Breckenridge, MI 48615  
Phone: 989-842-3547

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

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

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

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

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

**PREMIER COMPONENTS, INC.**  
YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR MILL ACCESSORIES

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

3984 W. Monroe (M-46) Alma, MI 48801  
Ph: (989) 463-4532  
Fax: (989) 463-4560  
Toll Free: 1-877-681-3064  
www.premier-com.com

SPORTS SCENE'S **EYE ON COMPETITIVE CHEER**

# Alma Cheer Has Sights On States

Nate Schneider  
Sports Scene

Keep an eye out for the Alma High School varsity competitive cheer team.

The Panthers are putting together a fantastic season, scoring as high as 731.8 in a meet this season and currently holding first place in the Tri-Valley Conference West with 10 points. The final TVC West meet was Jan. 24 at St. Charles..

There are 14 girls on the Alma roster with senior captains Mara Benitez and Payton

Sullivan along with a junior captain in Karen Nguyen helping to lead the way. Among the other standouts this season have been a junior in Cornelia Gotaas and freshman Christa Fornusak.

"It's our goal to finish first in the conference and win our district," Alma coach Laura McCarthy said. "This team definitely has the potential to go to the state finals."

The Panthers have never been to the state finals in program history.

Alma will also compete in the All-TVC meet February 3 at Frankenmuth.



The Alma cheer team celebrates after finishing in first place in the Tri-Valley Conference West with 10 points. The meet was held in St. Charles. (Submitted photo)

SPORTS SCENE'S **EYE ON SWIMMING**

# Area Swimmers Putting Up Fast Times

David Cook  
Sports Scene

After placing 13th in at the Division 2 state swimming and diving finals last season, the Midland Dow swim team is gearing up for an even loftier finish this season.

The Chargers are off to a strong start this season and are up to 8th in the state in the Division 2 state rankings. The Dow swimmers opened the season by winning their own invitational and in the month of January added a second-place finish at the Grand Rapids Forest Hills Invitational and a second-place finish at the Spartan Quad in Battle Creek.

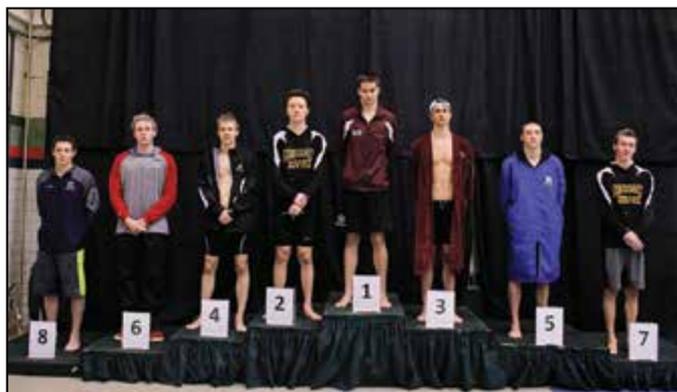
Jacob Krzciok, who will be swimming in college at Miami University next season, is one of the Chargers leading the way. A fourth-place finisher in the 100 free at last year's state finals, Krzciok has posted times of 21.76 in the 50 free and 47.89 in the 100 free this season. Krzciok won both the 50 and 100 free at the Dow invitational and won

the 100 free and the 200 free at Forest Hills.

Dow has a number of standout performances at Forest Hills. Gage Bunker won both the 100 butterfly and 500 freestyle while Ben Newman won the 100 breaststroke. Sophomore Collin Che is also turning in a solid season in both the 100 and 200 freestyle.

Okemos is ranked among the honorable-mention in Division 2. Okemos claimed a big league win against Grand Ledge and also placed fourth at the East Grand Rapids Pioneer Classic. Okemos diver Hunter Hollenbeck, who placed eighth in diving at the Division 2 state meet last season, is off to a fast start this season. Hollenbeck won the diving competition at the East Grand Rapids meet and placed second at the Jenison Invitational.

Alexander Eddy is having a strong season in the pool for the Chieftains. Eddy placed second in the 200 freestyle at the Spartan Quad and took third in the 500 freestyle at East Grand Rapids. Kevin Yan claimed first



Midland Dow's Jacob Krzciok, who will be swimming in college at Miami University next season, was a fourth-place finisher in the 100 free at last year's Division 2 state finals. (Gary Williams, High School Sports Scene photos)

place in the 200 IM at the Spartan Quad and took second in the 100 breaststroke at the same event.

The Alma swim team is putting together a solid campaign. The Panthers are ranked 9th in the state in Division 3 as of mid-January.

Senior Kyle Lovas, who placed third at last year's Division 3 state meet in the 500 freestyle, is off to a solid start. Lovas placed second in the 100 butterfly and second in the 200 freestyle at the Midland Dow invitation-

al.

Junior Brody Ross earned all-state honors in both the 100 breaststroke and the 200 IM last season. Ross began this season by taking second in both the 100 breaststroke and the 200 IM at Midland.

Jack Lesinger also turned strong swims at Midland as he placed fifth in the 100 butterfly and sixth in the 100 backstroke while Dayton Hedrick took seventh in the 100 free and eighth in the 50 free.

SPORTS SCENE'S **EYE ON HOCKEY**

# Flint Powers Hockey Team Putting Together A Banner Season In Division 3

Butch Harmon  
Sports Scene

Area hockey teams are in the middle of another exciting season on the ice. One team in particular that has been on a roll this season is the Flint Powers Catholic squad.

Going into the final week of January Powers is ranked third in the state in Division



3. The Chargers picked up a key Saginaw Valley Conference win on Jan. 17 when the defeated rival Davison 4-3 in a thrilling overtime battle at the Polar Palace. Luke Evo led Powers with a pair of goals, including the winning goal in overtime off an assist from Josh Kovach.

The Davison win improved Powers' record to 11-1-2 for the season. Powers' lone loss this season came in mid-January when it dropped a 3-2 decision to Orchard Lake St. Mary's, the second-ranked team in the state in Division 1. Powers led the game 2-0 in the third period before Orchard Lake St. Mary's scored three times, including the game-winner with 22 seconds remaining in the third period, to pull out the win.

Sam Lechel led Powers with a pair of goals in the game.

Lechel, a senior, and Evo, a junior, have led the Chargers in scoring this season. As of mid-January, Evo had tallied 13 goals and 15 assists while Lechel totaled 16 goals

Flint Powers Sam Lechel rushes the puck up the ice during last year's Division 3 finals. (Submitted photo)

and 11 assists. The Powers offense has also been boosted by 10 goals and 16 assists from senior Cam Conover and 20 assists from senior defenseman Josh Warda.

Powers has also received strong play in goal from Adam Cantley who has a .912 save percentage and a 1.96 goals-against average.

**DIVISION 1**

The Brighton Bulldogs continue to be one of the top teams in Division 1. Brighton is ranked No. 3 in the state in Division 1 as of mid-January. The Bulldogs have turned in a number of strong efforts this season highlighted by a 3-2 win against No. 2-ranked Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Senior forward Adam Conquest is leading a balanced attack for Brighton. The Bowling Green University commit has totaled 10 goals and 10 assists through mid-January. Senior defenseman Sam Brennan has six goals and 12 assists, junior defender Tim Erkkila has added three goals and 15 assists while senior forward Mathew Kahra has scored seven goals with 11 assists.

Saginaw Heritage is ranked 8th in the state in Division 1. The Hawks have posted key league victories over both Midland and Midland Dow and battled to a 5-5 tie with Flint Powers.

Junior forward David Helpap is turning in a huge season for the Hawks. Helpap has recorded at least one point in every game he has played in as of the middle of January. Helpap has a total of 12 goals and 18 assists including four power-play goals. Junior

forward Parker Severson is also turning in a solid offensive season with 15 goals and 14 assists while junior Jacob Best has 11 goals and 13 assists and sophomore Brady Rappuhn has 11 goals and 12 assists.

The DeWitt/St. Johns hockey team is playing some solid hockey in the CAAC. The DeWitt/St. Johns co-op is in second place in the league behind Jackson.

Junior defenseman Cameron VanTighem is one of the catalysts of the team. VanTighem has eight goals and 14 assists through mid-January and turned in a strong effort with four assists in a 6-4 win against Holt. Junior forwards Derek Hamp (10 goals, 10 assists) and Cole Fenech (12 goals, 6 assists) are also turning in strong seasons.

**DIVISION 2**

Midland Dow is leading the area schools in Division 2 this season and were ranked 8th in the state in Division 2 heading into the final week of January.

Senior goalkeeper Jeremy Slasor is having a strong season in goal for the Chargers as he has a .919 save-percentage and a 1.84 goals-against average along with a pair of shutouts.

Dow is using a total-team effort to get the job done on the offensive end of the ice. Junior Joey Johnson leads the team with 19 points including 12 assists. Fellow junior Shane Astrike leads in goals with 10 and has 16 points. Senior Brendan Sanders has 15 points while senior Casey LaRue has 14 points and sophomore Luke Blasy has 12 points.

SPORTS SCENE'S **EYE ON SKIING**

# Okemos Ski Team Building On Last Season's Success

Nate Schneider  
Sports Scene

Okemos girls skiing enjoyed a banner year last season, qualifying for the Division 1 state finals a first time in school history and finishing eighth.

Now the Chieftains are hoping to build on that success.

But getting a gauge on how Okemos will fare on the slopes has not been easy in the early going, with a pair of meets already called due to a lack of weather and not much in the way of results against opponents.

There is plenty of reason to be optimistic, however, as head coach Jeff David has a team brimming with potential.

"I like this team a lot and am really looking forward to seeing what they can accomplish this season," David said. "We haven't had any consistency with our meets yet. Being a ski team in the southern part of Michigan, we don't always get the necessary snowfall down here and it's been an issue this winter. So we're just hoping to get some competitive meets in over the next few weeks."

Okemos is led by sophomore Mattie Hartle, who placed ninth in the giant slalom



Okemos sophomore Mattie Hartle, who placed ninth in the giant slalom a year ago is back this season leading the Chieftains. Okemos is hoping to make the state meet for the second straight year. (Daniel Tetor, High School Sports Scene photos)

(58.11) and 21st in the slalom (1:18.49) at last last year's state finals. She'll be joined by a promising newcomer that David expects "big things from" in freshman Sarra Guggemos.

Both Hartle and Guggemos are both United States Ski & Snowboard Association club skiers, which has provided them more expo-

sure to top-notch competition and prepares them well for the high school season.

"Last year was a really great year for us," David added. "We gave up three seniors, but I'm equally excited for this year. Especially having Mattie back and adding Sarra, I think we'll be just as competitive."

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

*"We Care Enough To Make A Difference"*  
Helping people stay home with dignity and independence.

**Daily Living HomeCare, Inc.**  
Non-Medical In-Home Services  
145 E. Center St., P.O. Box 133  
Ithaca, MI 48847

Kim Hodge, President  
Locally Owned & Operated  
www.dailylivinghomecare.com

Phone: (989) 875-7405  
Fax: (989) 875-8685  
Toll Free: (800) 834-1915

**Downtown Auto Services Inc.**

Scott Nevins  
President

110 W. Newark St. Shop Hours 989-875-4261  
Ithaca, MI 48847 M-F 8-5:30

**Auto Value CERTIFIED SERVICE CENTER**

**Yep we cover Ithaca**  
Auto, Home, Life, Business, Farm and more

**Scott Allen**  
225 E. Center St., Ithaca  
(989) 875-2200  
FarmBureauInsurance.com

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**

**NICKRETHMAN PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Sport, Fitness, and Athletic Photography

"Capturing the Passion"  
www.nickrethmanphotography.weebly.com

989-751-1725  
Saginaw, MI

**THE STORE**  
**BEER GAS LOTTERY**

Elm Hall • 989-833-7311  
Open Sun - Thurs 7am - 10pm  
Fri & Sat 7am - 11pm

\*Deli closes one hour before store closing

Medium Pizza Special!  
Up to 3 Items \$10 + Tax  
Available 7 Days A Week!

**Stop In And See BIG MIKE!**

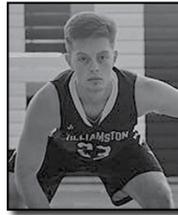
**SANDLOT SPORTS**

Custom Screen Printing & Embroidery  
Team Uniforms • Trophies • Business Apparel • Workwear • Varsity Jackets

**NOW FEATURING ONLINE TEAM ORDERING**  
sandlotports301.com/custom-online-store

1221 Salzburg Bay City, MI 48706 989-391-9684  
5605 State St. Saginaw, MI 48603 989-791-5900  
2900 Universal Dr. Saginaw, MI 48603 989-781-2991  
www.sandlotports301.com

# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SCENE STEALERS!



**Cole Kleiver, Williamston, Basketball**  
The senior guard improved his scoring average to 30.5 points per game as he helped the Hornets to wins over Haslett and Fowlerville. He tied a school-record with 10 3-pointers and scored 41 in the 99-66 victory over Fowlerville.



**Hannah Spitzley, Pewamo-Westphalia, Basketball**  
The sophomore poured in 20 points as the Pirates stayed unbeaten bytopping previously undefeated Laingsburg by a count of 53-19. She was also a key contributor in a victory over Dansville.



**Austin Brown, Madison Heights, Basketball**  
After earning All-State Division 7-8 recognition in football during a record-breaking junior season at quarterback, Brown has continued his stellar play on the hardwood as he is averaging 21.6 points per game for an Eagles team that has downed Clawson 75-46 and Center Line 66-63 in their last two games.



**Zeke Ely, St. Johns, Swimming**  
Won 50-meter freestyle (23.57 seconds) and 500 freestyle (5:09.7) plus was part of 200 relay win in victory over Swartz Creek. Also won 200 freestyle (1:53.27) and 100 freestyle (51.67) as Redwings topped Jackson.



**Mason Wojtusik, Mount Pleasant**  
The sophomore guard helped the Oilers improve to 5-0 on Jan. 12 as his jumper from the free throw line as time expired lifted his squad to a 54-52 victory over rival Midland. He finished with a game-high 28 points.



**Carson Vincent, Ovid-Elsie, Basketball**  
Averaging 18.7 points per game plus 6.4 rebounds and 2.7 assists for a Marauders team that began the season with a 7-1 record and is a contender in the Tri-Valley Conference Central.



**Isabelle Litz, Fowlerville/Byron Gymnastics**  
The sophomore helped her team to a league win against Haslett/Williamston/Bath and a runner-up finish at the East Lansing Invitational earlier this month. She had the second-best all-around mark at the East Lansing Invitational.



**Charles Garrett, Bridgeport, Basketball**  
The senior guard/forward has dominated through six games this season, guiding his team to a 5-1 start. Garrett is putting in 26 points per contest, shooting 56 percent from the floor and connecting on 4-of-7 from 3-point range. He is also hitting a solid 71 percent at the free throw line. Scored his 1,000th career point last week.



**Sam Gray, Frankenmuth, Basketball**  
Putting in 15.7 points per game along with 5.0 assists, 3.7 steals and 3.0 rebounds as an all-around senior playmaker for an Eagles squad that improved to 9-1 on Jan. 19 with a 69-36 home victory over Birch Run.



**Al McCready, Grand Ledge, Basketball**  
McCready scored 23 points to help the Comets end East Lansing's 45-game regular season winning streak, then contributed 24 points in a triumph over Lansing Eastern. He is averaging 23.5 points per contest as Grand Ledge is tied atop the CAAC Blue standings.



**Ryan Schafer, Beal City, Basketball**  
Connected on a free throw with four seconds remaining to send the Aggies (6-2) to a 55-54 victory over Baldwin. Schafer, Class C All-State honorable mention last year, is averaging 11 points along with nine rebounds and three assists.



**Cheyenne McEvans, Southfield A&T, Basketball**  
A versatile 5-foot-10 sophomore who can play anywhere from point guard and shooting guard to small forward, McEvans is putting in 16.0 points per contest for a Warriors team that is 8-5 and 3-1 in the OAA Red with three straight wins. She also tallies 12.0 rebounds, 2.8 steals, 1.7 assists and 1.3 blocks.

**Cupcake Creations by Megan**  
We Specialize In Gourmet Cupcakes and Old Fashion Sugar Cookies!  
We Accept All Major Credit Cards.  
Tue-Fri 9-5 Sat 9-1  
228 E. Saginaw St. Breckenridge, MI 48615 (989) 481-3165  
facebook

**George's D.D. Service**  
Designated Driver  
George Boyle  
"SAFE RIDE" Alma, Michigan  
boyle\_irish@hotmail.com Phone: 989-763-9778 CALL ME ANYTIME  
Serving Gratiot, Isabella Clinton and Midland counties

Bumping & Painting • Glass Repair  
Insurance Work • Custom Painting  
FREE ESTIMATES  
**YIM'S BODY SHOP**  
Domestic and Foreign  
Most Deductibles Waived Or Reduced  
Adam Musselman  
Monday-Friday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm phone/fax 989-681-2577

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

# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SCENE STEALERS!



**Maddie Beck, Clarkston, Basketball**  
Beck is a senior leader for a 9-2 Wolves squad as she is compiling stats of 14.9 points, 4.9 rebounds, 3.2 steals and 1.9 assists per game. Clarkston has won nine of its last 10 after dropping the season opener.



**Jayla Strickland, Big Rapids, Girls Basketball**  
A junior, Strickland has been among the top scorers in the Central State Activities Association Gold Division this year. She scored 30 points against Chippewa Hills and 27 against Reed City in mid-January.



**Kyle Lovas, Alma, Swimming**  
Lovas took third in the 500 freestyle (4:44.14) and ninth in the 200 freestyle (1:44) at the Division 3 state finals as a junior. He helped the Panthers to a 15th-place finish and they are team to watch out for once again.



**Elie Smith, Fowlerville, Basketball**  
A 6-foot-1 junior small forward, Smith is averaging 14.8 points per game as well as 6.9 rebounds, 3.0 steals, 1.5 blocks and 1.1 assists. The Gladiators are 8-3 overall and 4-1 in conference play after a 53-23 home triumph over Lansing Catholic Central on Jan. 19.



**Jeremy Slasor, Midland Dow, Hockey**  
Comes in with a sparkling 1.84 goals-against average and a .919 save percentage to post an 8-4 record, while the Chargers are 10-4 overall and enjoying a three-game winning streak.



**AJ Facundo, Davison, Wrestling**  
Facundo won the 125-pound individual state title for the second time as a junior last March and will again be the favorite this winter as he looks to defend his crown. He committed to Notre Dame College last month.



**Matt Hoard, Ithaca, Bowling**  
Finished tied for 22nd at the Division 3 state finals as a junior last year with a total of 1094 and is again one of the leaders for the Yellowjackets, which are ranked second in the initial rankings which came out last week.



**Tyler David, Bay City, Hockey**  
Has racked up 16 goals and 13 assists in 14 games thus far for the Wolves. Bay City is 10-4 overall and won a third consecutive game with a 7-1 triumph Jan. 17 at Mount Pleasant.



**Kyle Schaaf, Clare Wrestling**  
The junior recorded his 100th career victory last month and he is a top contender to win a Division 3 state championship after finishing third in the 119-pound division last year.



**Kemmie Shunk, Alma, Bowling**  
Shunk is a leader on the top-ranked girls bowling team in Division 3. She totaled a 988 last year to place 26th at the state finals. The Panthers finished second in the team state finals last winter.



**Emily Odykirk, Mount Pleasant, Ski**  
The senior finished 37th in the giant slalom (1:06.58) and 40th in the slalom (1:13.96) at the Division 2 state finals last year. She is focused on leading the Oilers back to the state finals this winter and improving on her times.



**Jasmine Clerkley, Okemos**  
One of the premier sophomores in the state, Clerkley has committed to Michigan State University. Clerkley is turning in a big season as she is averaging 16 points and 12 rebounds per game and has helped Okemos to an 8-3 overall record and 6-1 league mark.

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

**Evans Eye Centers**  
Dr. Lawrence M. Evans  
OPHTHALMOLOGIST  
120 E. Warwick, Alma, MI. 48801  
(989) 463-EYES (3937)

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

**Blake Hollenbeck Auto Sales Inc.**  
W. M57 Greenville, MI  
www.Blakehollenbeckinc.com  
CHECK OUT OUR INVENTORY  
Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9 to 8 Tuesday, Thursday Friday 9-8, Saturday 9-3  
Ph. (616) 754-5566 Toll Free (866) 358-7473

ISN'T IT TIME YOUR CUSTOMERS CAN READ YOUR PUBLICATION ON THE INTERNET?  
Zoom  
ZoomPubs  
1-866-252-4449

**BOLAND'S BEST ONE TIRE**  
The Leader In The Field  
120 S. Pine Street Breckenridge, MI 48615 989-842-5855  
General • Cooper Firestone • Bridgestone Goodyear  
24 Hour On The Road Service  
Large Selection of Farm Tires - Semi Light Truck - Passenger - ATV - Lawn & Garden

# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SCENE STEALERS!



**Cierra Cole, Durand**  
A senior guard, Cole is one of the most versatile players in the area and has helped Durand to an 8-3 overall record and 4-1 league mark this season. Cole is averaging 20.9 points per game along with 6.3 assists per game and 6.2 steals.



**Breanna Berry, Morley Stanwood, Girls Basketball**  
Berry, a sophomore, scored 13 points against Holton and has been among the top performers for Morley Stanwood, a contender in the Central State Activities Association Silver Division.



**Caleb Pitts, Farwell, Boys Basketball**  
Pitts, a sophomore, has been a key spark plug for Farwell this season. He had a strong floor game for the Eagles in a 57-51 loss to Evert on Jan. 15. The Eagles are young with five sophomores, including Pitts, and continue to improve.



**Betsy Cook, Freeland**  
A senior setter on the Freeland volleyball team, Cook recently signed with Madonna University to continue her volleyball and academic career. A four-year letterwinner at Freeland, Cook was also a three-time, all-conference and two-time all-state player. Cook finished her career 13<sup>th</sup> all-time on the MHSAA career assist list.



**Jenna Dove, Vestaburg, Girls Basketball**  
Dove is a freshman guard-forward who is having an excellent season for a ninth grader. She's averaging seven points, five rebounds, three steals and two assists per game. She's led Vestaburg to wins over Big Rapids Crossroads and Marion.



**Brighton Miller, Cedar Springs, Girls Basketball**  
Brighton Miller has been doing more than just scoring as a 5-foot-3 junior guard for Cedar Springs girls basketball team. Miller is averaging 15 points, four rebounds and 2.5 assists a game for the Red Hawks.



**David Helpap, Saginaw Heritage**  
Helpap has played a key role in Heritage's top-ten ranking in Division 1 hockey. A junior forward, Helpap has scored at least one point in every game this season. Helpap has totaled 12 goals and 18 assists in helping the Hawks to a 10-2-1 record.



**Ryan Schwab, Corunna**  
Corunna senior Ryan Schwab on the diving competition at the Greater Genesee County Championships. Schwab posted a score of 335.60 and is closing in on the Corunna school record for an 11-dive meet. Schwab is coming off a season where he qualified for the state meet.



**Dakota Greer, Tri County, Wrestling**  
Greer has a career record 154-5, and is a two-time state champ at 119. He is 23-1 this year and is one of the top wrestlers in the Central State Activities Association Gold Division. He currently has all As this semester.



**Luke Evo, Flint Powers**  
A junior forward, Evo has helped the Chargers climb to second in the state in the Division 3 state hockey rankings. Evo recorded a hat trick in a win against Chelsea and scored a game-winning goal in overtime against league-rival Davison.

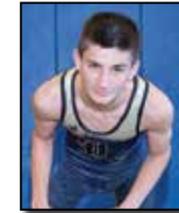


**Brent Booth, Midland Dow**  
A state qualifier last year, Booth recently won the 150<sup>th</sup> match of his high school career. One of the top 215-pounders in the state in Division 1, Booth took first place at 215 pounds at the Genesee County meet earlier this season.



**Hannah Putnam, Central Montcalm, Girls Basketball**  
A junior, Putnam is averaging 13.4 points, and 6.3 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 3.0 steals per game. Putnam has developed her game to be both an inside and outside threat this season. She is the team leader in points and rebounds. Central is off to a 13-0 start this season.

# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCENE SCENE STEALERS!



**Curtis Perry, Lakeview, Wrestling**  
A junior, Perry has a 28-4 record with 33 takedowns and 23 pins. Perry is a returning state placer. He has been wrestling 119 most of the season, but has made 112. He is looking to make a run at a state title this year.



**Bray Haynes, Chippewa Hills, Wrestling**  
Haynes, a 125-pounder, netted his 100th career win during Chippewa Hills Hills' dual meet in Central State Activities Association action on Jan. 17 in Reed City. He beat his opponents from Newaygo and Reed City to reach 100.



**Haley Jankowski, Crossroads, Girls Basketball**  
Jankowski, also a standout volleyball player, has been a leading scorer for the basketball team and has also helped the team on the rebounding side. She has been a leader for a team bidding to compete in the West Michigan D League.



**Farwell Competitive Cheer**  
After placing seventh in the Division 4 state finals in 2017, the Eagles are looking to improve on that finish this winter and are currently ranked third by only Hudson and Merrill.



**Gideon Scott, Central Montcalm, Boys Basketball**  
Scott, a junior, is averaging 10.4 points per game on the season. Scott is shooting 53 percent from the field this year with 62 percent from two-point range and 35 percent from 3-point range. He is also averaging 3.6 rebounds, 1.8 assists, and 1.2 steals per game.



**St. Johns Dance Team**  
The St. Johns dance team earned the Grand Champion honors at the Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills Invitational. The Redwings also finished in first place in Hip Hop out of 40 performances at the invite. The St. Johns Middle School team also placed first.



**Ryan Saxton, Lakeview, Wrestling**  
Saxton is a senior with a 22-3 record, 41 takedowns, 14 pins and two technical falls. He is wrestling extremely well now and has come on strong this season. He's proven to be a tough competitor with hopes of placing in the state tournament.

**Sport Scene Scene Stealers**  
Compiled By Sports Scene Staff

**Roth Audio/Video**  
The Spoken Word - Clearly Heard

Steve Roth  
1708 N. Fancher St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 621-0628  
steve@rothsound.com  
www.rothsound.com

**COMMERCIAL BANK**  
Your Hometown Community Bank

Convenient locations to serve you in Central and Western Michigan  
Specializing in Home & Small Business Lending  
www.commercial-bank.com

Alma • East Lansing • Grand Rapids • Greenville • Hastings • Ithaca  
Lake Odessa • Leslie • Mason • Middleton • Mt. Pleasant • St. Louis

Serving Mid-Michigan • Fully Insured

**Grass Wackers Inc.**  
Lawn Care Service  
(989) 763-1425

**DAN SEELEY**  
Lawn Mowing and Trimming • Trees and Shrub Care  
Spring and Fall Clean-Ups

Tim McCormick  
Sales  
749 W. Main  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Phone: (616) 421-7615  
Cell: (616) 717-3686  
Fax: (616) 897-5007  
tmcormick@grandaufamily.com

**BettenBaker**  
WHERE MICHIGAN SHOPS

**GMC**  
CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

Supporting The Red Arrows Since 1988  
www.bettenbaker.com

Crop Production Services  
**Dyna-Gro**

Doug Belles  
Manager

Office: (989) 842-1185  
8263 N. Ransom Rd.  
PO Box 157  
Breckenridge, MI 48615  
www.cpsagu.com

**ECOWATER**  
SINCE 1925.

Lindsay Soft Water Co.  
1209 Michigan Ave. P.O. Box 401  
St. Louis, MI 48880 Gladwin, MI 48624

(989) 681-5436 (989) 426-4220  
1-800-244-3464 Cell (989) 429-6576  
www.ecowater.com  
E-mail: waterboy@cmsinter.net

**KEVIN EAREGOOD**  
Certified Water Specialist

**GCCU**  
GRATIOT COMMUNITY

Alma - (989) 463-8321  
Ithaca - (989) 875-6184  
gratiotcu.org

**MAYAN**  
INSURANCE SINCE 1915

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

**GA General Agency Company**  
Insurance since 1915  
Knowledgeable. Committed. Trusted.

(989) 773-6981 (800) 589-6982  
www.ga-ins.com

**Become a School Coach or Game Official**  
Contact your local high school athletic administrator or the Michigan High School Athletic Association

**MHSAA**  
michigan high school athletic association

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

# NORTHERN REPORT

## Flying "Gs" Flying High

Scott Salowich  
Sports Scene

Gladwin girls' basketball coach Emily Cote was looking for a leader heading into this season.

Senior guard Brenna Hover was a candidate, but not necessarily an overwhelming favorite to win the job.

"She'd been a good player for us, but I saw a sleeping giant in her," Cote said. "When we were getting started, I asked her, 'If not you, who? If not now, when?' This is her last go-around for us and she's been the total package. She's quick, she gets to the rim, she has a sweet stroke and she's been great on defense."

The Flying G's got off to an 8-0 start in Jack Pine Conference play, with none of those wins bigger than the first one.

They were trailing Farwell 38-37 in the final five seconds when Hover got the ball, drove to the Eagles

3-point line and drilled a triple for the win.

"The buzzer went off as the ball was flying through the air," Cote said. "Whenever I need a smile, I watch that tape. It was beautiful and I think it set a high bar, for our team and for Brenna personally."

"I ask a lot from our kids and I am always on her to improve, but I think she's the best player in our league and that play in the first game gave her the confidence she needed to take that step."

Hover has been averaging about 16 points per game in league play. Gabby Airbets has been good for about 10 a game and Cote is looking for a consistent third option as the season comes to a boil.

"Our defense has been pretty good, but there are games where our offense gets kind of stagnant," Cote said. "I need one more scorer every night and that's what we're working on."

Gladwin won the Jack Pine

outright two years ago and shared the crown with rival Beaverton last season.

Most of the games were close the first time through the schedule and Cote expects more of the same down the stretch.

"I think we're the best team in the league and we definitely don't want to share the trophy with anyone this time," she said, "but the Jack Pine is getting better and we're going to have to keep improving if we want to get through it unscathed."

Cote noted that her team caught a break when it ran into Beaverton on a night when Alicia Aldrich --the Jack Pine's top scorer with over 20 points per game -- was out of the lineup.

"She's a strong, solid player who has given us a lot of trouble over the years," Cote said. "I expect her to be a factor when we play them again."

Working in Gladwin's favor when it comes to snagging the outright crown is the fact that its pursuers beat up on each other in the first half of the season, as Beaverton, Clare, Farwell and Houghton Lake

all emerged from the first eight games with 5-3 records that left them tied for second, three games back.

"That's a nice lead to have in the middle of the season," Core said, "but we can't take anything for granted."

The Flying G's opened the season with an overall record of 10-2 with the losses to Bay City John Glenn and Saginaw Swan Valley.

"We schedule tough games like that to prepare us for the districts," Cote said. "We have to learn from our losses and move forward. We've had a good start, but we need to get a little tougher and I'm hoping games like those help us at the end because I'd like to see us win a district championship."

Gladwin was ousted in the district finals by Tawas last year and has drawn a rematch in the first round at the end of February.



Gladwin's Brenna Hover works through a drill during a recent Flying Gs practice. Gladwin was 9-3 prior to press time. (Submitted photo)

"They have a good program and it's going to be a tough game," Cote said, "but we're hoping to get a little revenge this time and I think that, if we can get by Tawas, we can go on to win the district."

## Meridian Boys Hoops Peaking At Right Time

John Raffel  
Sports Scene

It's been a fun season so far for coach Mitch Bohn and the Sanford Meridian boys basketball team.

But the Mustangs are hoping the fun has just begun.

They beat Roscommon 67-33 on Jan. 19 and have won eight straight after a 50-40 loss to Saginaw Her-

itage in early December. The most dramatic win was at Beaverton on Jan. 4 in a 42-41 overtime triumph.

Bohn is in his 21st season. The Mustangs were 19-2 last season.

"I don't think we've reached our potential," he said. "We're just starting to get our entire team back. We had three starters out at one point. We're hoping we'll play at a higher level we have right now. But we think we're getting there."

Four senior starters graduated from last season.

"I thought we'd be very good because our sixth man was a junior and we started a sophomore and our JV was 19-1," Bohn said. "So we felt we'd be good. The win over Beaverton was especially dramatic since it puts the Mustangs on top of the Jack Pine Conference standings."

Lucas Lueder is averaging 15 points per game as the team's leading scorer. Gabe Brady is averaging 10 points a game.

"After those two, it's pretty even, pretty spread out," Bohn said.

He indicated this year's team is similar to those in the recent past.

"We have willing and able passers," Bohn said. "We have shooters. We can share the ball. We don't have to have one go-to guy to monopolize the ball."

Many big games are coming up for the Mustangs and Bohn points out what he feels will be the key for success.

"It will be the ability of our defense to stay focused on forcing the opponent to take a bad shot over a good one and the ability of the offense to get everybody involved," he said.



Mitch Bohn

**TRUSTWORTHY**  
FOR 100 YEARS

trust-wor-thy...  
able to be relied on  
as honest or truthful.

To Auto-Owners Insurance and your local independent agent, being trustworthy means that we will be there when you need us most - just like we have been for 100 years.

**SCHUMACHER INSURANCE AGENCY**  
215 Ross Street  
Beaverton, MI 48612  
989.435.7715

404 N. McEwan  
Clare, MI 48617  
989.386.3387

schumacherinsurance.com

**Auto-Owners**  
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

**MEADOWLANES**  
**BOWLING & BANQUET**

**Glow Ball - Fridays & Saturdays**

**Book Your Christmas Parties Today!**

430 W. Fifth St. - Gladwin  
989-426-7671

www.bowlmeadowlanes.com

**Bonham**  
HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING INC.

Serving Gladwin Area Since 1981

**bryant** Heating & Cooling Systems  
**WHATSOEVER IT TAKES.**

- Industrial • Residential • Commercial
- Service
- Geothermal Systems
- Design • Installation

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

989-426-2151  
2441 W. M-61  
Gladwin, MI 48624

Visit Our Website At:  
www.bonhamheating.com

**KRAPOHL**

Ford LINCOLN

Serving You Since 1950

**The Right Choice**  
**Ford Certified Pre-Owned**

Before you hit the road in a Certified Pre-Owned Ford vehicle, we put every car, truck, SUV and crossover to the test. Only the vehicles that pass our 172-point inspection become Ford Certified Pre-Owned (CPO) vehicles.

**Why Ford CPO?**

- The Ford Certified Pre-Owned Program takes the risk out of buying a previously owned vehicle. Driving a Ford CPO vehicle means driving with the knowledge and confidence that the vehicle you purchased has been thoroughly inspected and comes with manufacturer-backed limited-warranty coverage
- Ford cars, SUVs, crossovers and trucks (up to 350-Series) that are current or five previous model years and have less than 80,000 miles can qualify
- 12-month/12,000-miles Comprehensive Limited Warranty Coverage
- 7-year/100,000-mile Powertrain Limited Warranty Coverage
- 172 points of inspection by certified mechanics
- Vehicle History Report
- 24-hour roadside assistance
- A full tank of fuel, fresh oil and filter, and new wiper blades at delivery
- Service available at any Ford or Lincoln Dealer in the 50 states and Canada

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

www.krapohlford.com