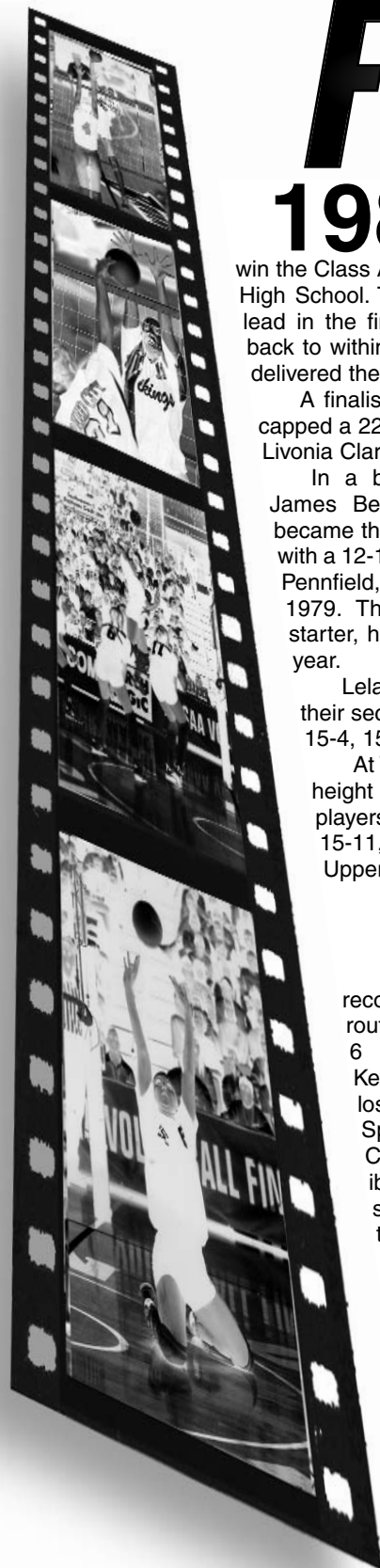


Finals

Flashbacks



1980

Grand Rapids Creston defeated Wayne Memorial, 9-15, 16-14, 15-11, to win the Class A title at Mt. Clemens Chippewa Valley High School. The Polar Bears dashed out to a 7-1 lead in the final game, then watched Wayne rally back to within three, 14-11, before Corinne Walker delivered the knockout point for Creston.

A finalist a year before, Saginaw Eisenhower capped a 22-1 season with a 16-14, 15-9 win over Livonia Clarenceville for the Class B crown.

In a battle of reigning champions, coach James Bermingham's Berrien Springs squad became the first team to earn back-to-back titles with a 12-15, 15-6, 15-2 victory over Battle Creek Pennfield, the winner of the Class B crown in 1979. The Panthers featured one returning starter, hitter Jackie Backus, from the previous year.

Leland and Coach Mike Kenney grabbed their second Class D title in three years with a 15-4, 15-3 win over North Adams.

At Watersmeet, St. Ignace used a distinct height advantage and rotated a cast of nine players to capture the Open Class title, 15-6, 15-11, over Bessemer in the first MHSAA Upper Peninsula championship.

1985

Portage Northern's Huskies rolled to a 71-1 record under Coach Jack Magelssen en route to the Class A crown with 15-11, 15-6 wins over Flint Kearsley at East Kentwood High School. The team's only loss came against highly regarded SPRI Sports Camps International from Chicago. The Huskies posted an incredible 153-0 mark in games against high schools during the season, rolling to their second title in four seasons. Seniors Katharine Werme, Andrea Proos and Toni Hall led the Huskies well rounded squad.

After visits to the Semifinals in 1977 and 1980, South Haven picked up its first volleyball title with a 9-15, 15-10, 15-3 win over Madison Heights Bishop Foley at Delton Kellogg High School. Coach Dene Hadden's team fell behind 5-0 in game two before a timeout awoke the Rams. Jillene Davis delivered strong serves and solid passes despite a slight ankle sprain suf-

fered early in the Semifinals. Big hits by senior Tracey Ross and underclassmen Ivy Stanfill and Kim Gould sealed the win.

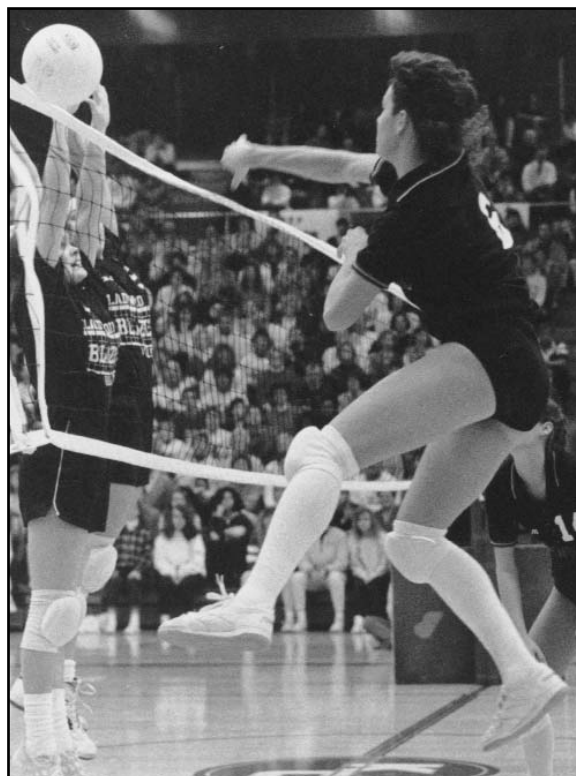
The Shamrocks of Berrien Springs became the first team in tournament history to win five titles by topping Newaygo, 14-16, 15-6, 15-8, in Class C at Delton. Behind the play of junior Kerri Thomas, Newaygo earned victory in the first game before falling. Senior Linda Mangus led the Shamrocks.

A victory by Battle Creek St. Philip completed the Southwestern Michigan sweep of the title hardware as Coach Sheila Guerra's squad defeated Ottawa Lake Whiteford, 15-7, 15-5, for Class D honors at Kentwood. It was the third consecutive crown for the Tigers.

In UP play, Charles Compo's Brimley Bays earned their fifth consecutive Open Class title, with a 15-5, 15-8 win over Bessemer in a rematch of the 1984 Finals.

1990

Coach Henry "Bud" Cole's top-ranked East Kentwood cruised through Class A action, defeating two-time defending champ Livonia Ladywood, 15-10, 15-6, at Kalamazoo Central High School. With the middle attack effectively negated by Ladywood, Kentwood moved to the outside to score points. Strong serves by April Oswald, including three



1990 – East Kentwood's Terri Wilholt

Sue Barthold

aces, gave the Falcons a 7-0 lead to open game two. Marcie Spender and Kari Domanski led the Blazers attack with 12 assists and 10 kills, respectively. Kentwood finished with a 75-1 mark – the lone loss coming against perennial powerhouse Portage Northern.

Comstock and Coach Jeff Borr grabbed their fourth title in five years with a 15-6, 15-7 victory over Fenton in Class B. The top-ranked Colts opened up a 9-1 lead in the first contest.

Semifinalists in 1989, an additional year of seasoning gave Saranac the confidence needed to earn the Class C title, 15-6, 15-6 over Bronson. A 7-0 run capped by senior Karen Simpson's service ace sealed game one for the Redskins. Another 7-0 run in game two was completed by Simpson's tip of a block for the game winner. It was the second MHSAA title for Coach Annette Schneider, as Saranac won Class D honors in 1981.

Potterville rebounded from a 15-3 loss in the first game with 15-9, 15-10 victories to knock off Class D power Battle Creek St. Philip. It was the third consecutive trip to the Finals and second crown for Coach Sheryl Mox's squad. Maureen Gray's tip on the right side was match point.

Led by seniors Jenny Lofquist, Jenny Howard, and Judi Skredski, Escanaba snagged its second straight UP Open Class crown with a 15-9, 11-15, 15-7 win

over Cedarville. Trailing 7-4 after splitting the first two games, Howard's serves combined with Lofquist's hitting led the Eskymo comeback before the hometown fans at Escanaba High School.

1995

Despite beginning the year with only one returning starter from the 1994 team, Portage Northern capped an 82-0 record with a 15-8, 15-2 win over Port Huron Northern in Class A at Kalamazoo Central High School. It was the fourth consecutive title and eighth overall for Coach Jack Magelssen, and the school's first perfect season. Jennifer Magelssen led the team with nine kills, while Missy Doan and Brooke Stanek added six apiece. Ashley Edlund finished with 19 assists.

In Class B, Stevensville Lakeshore stopped Lake Odessa Lakewood's 64-match win streak, 15-5, 15-13. Near flawless play by Lakeshore's front wall highlighted the match, as Sarah Behnke and Connie Paul delivered nine kills each, while Katy Kamp tallied five service aces.

Ashleigh Foutch's final kill in game two gave Burton Atherton its second Class C crown in three years, as the Wolverines rallied for a 19-17 win and the title over Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port. It was the 20th kill of the day for Foutch, whose team was trailing 11-5 before storming back. The victory negated a record-setting 24-kill, seven-assist performance by the Laker's Betsy Drury.

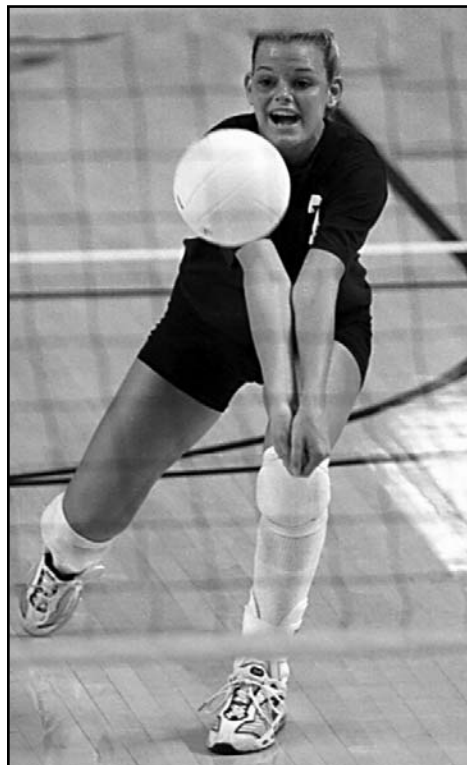
Like Portage Northern, Battle Creek St. Philip picked up its fourth consecutive title and eighth overall by knocking off Maple City Glen Lake, 15-9, 15-1, in the Class D match. Sophomore Brooke Formsma finished with seven kills, while teammate Jenny Heisler added six.

Trailing 7-1 in the final game of their battle for the Upper Peninsula Class A-B-C crown, Marquette rallied for 10 unanswered points to down Rudyard, 12-15, 15-6, 15-8.

Coach Mark Engle's Cedarville squad wrapped up its fourth consecutive UP Class D crown with a 12-15, 15-8, 16-14 victory over Bessemer. After winning the first game, Bessemer had Cedarville on the ropes following a kill by Amy Sipponen, but battled back for the win on three consecutive points on serves from Jaime Fountain.

2000

Tied at one game apiece, East Kentwood scored a thrilling 15-12 win over Traverse City West to snag the Class A crown at Western Michigan's University Arena. The Falcons dropped the first contest, 11-15, but rebounded in game two, 15-9. Senior Sarah Spaulding finished with a team-high 14 kills, while teammate Cheryl Blok collected seven.



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2000 – Parchment's Lindsey Whalen

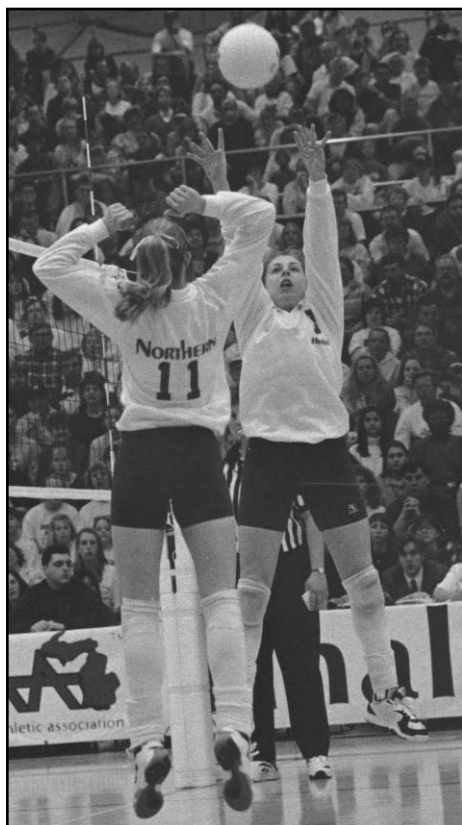
Coach John Knuth's Marysville Vikings wrapped up a 58-1 season with a 15-8, 15-0 win over Reed City in Class B. It was the fourth consecutive title for Marysville, which joined Portage Northern (1992-95) and Battle Creek St. Philip (1992-95) as the only Lower Peninsula schools to accomplish the feat. Senior Jennifer Hadden open game two serving for seven straight points and finished the day with 16 assists. Senior Kristen Fenton added 11 kills.

Parchment, the Class B champion in the first year of the MHSAA volleyball tournament, returned to Finals for the first time since that trip in 1976. The Panthers repeated their success with a 16-14, 15-8 win over Burton Atherton for the Class C crown. Lindsey Whalen led Parchment with 18 kills, while junior Kelsey Chapman chipped in with 11 more. Heather Whalen added 28 assists and a team-high 10 digs.

New Lothrop fought off five match points by Adrian Lenawee Christian in the final game of the three-game set to emerge with the Class D title, 15-3, 12-15, 16-14. The Wendling twins, Jennifer and Jessica combined with Erica Ebenhoeh for an outstanding match. Jessica totaled 20 assists, three service aces and 14 digs, while Jennifer added 16 kills. Ebenhoeh's 24 kills tied a Finals record at the time.

— Ron Pesch

Ron Pesch is the historian for the MHSAA. To submit story ideas and potential statistical records, write to Pesch at 1317 Lakeshore Drive, Muskegon, MI 49441.



Gary Shook, Otsego

1995 – Portage Northern's Ashley Edlund sets Missy Doan