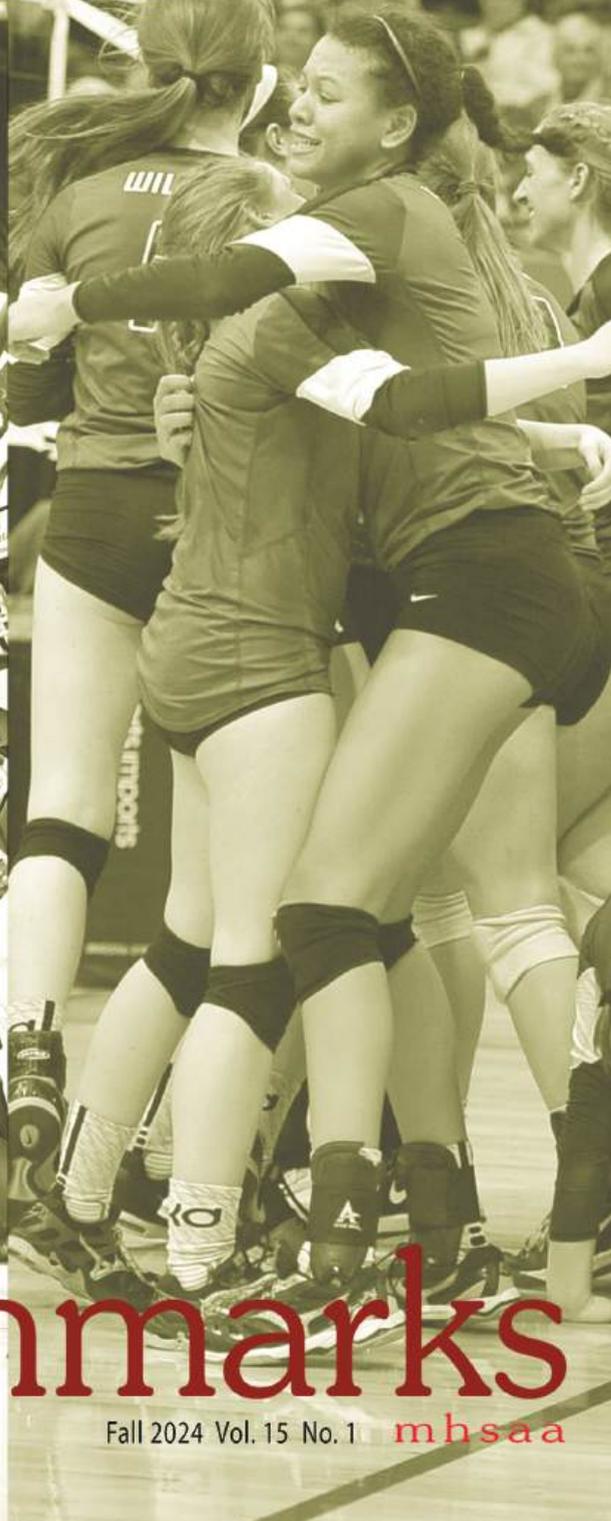
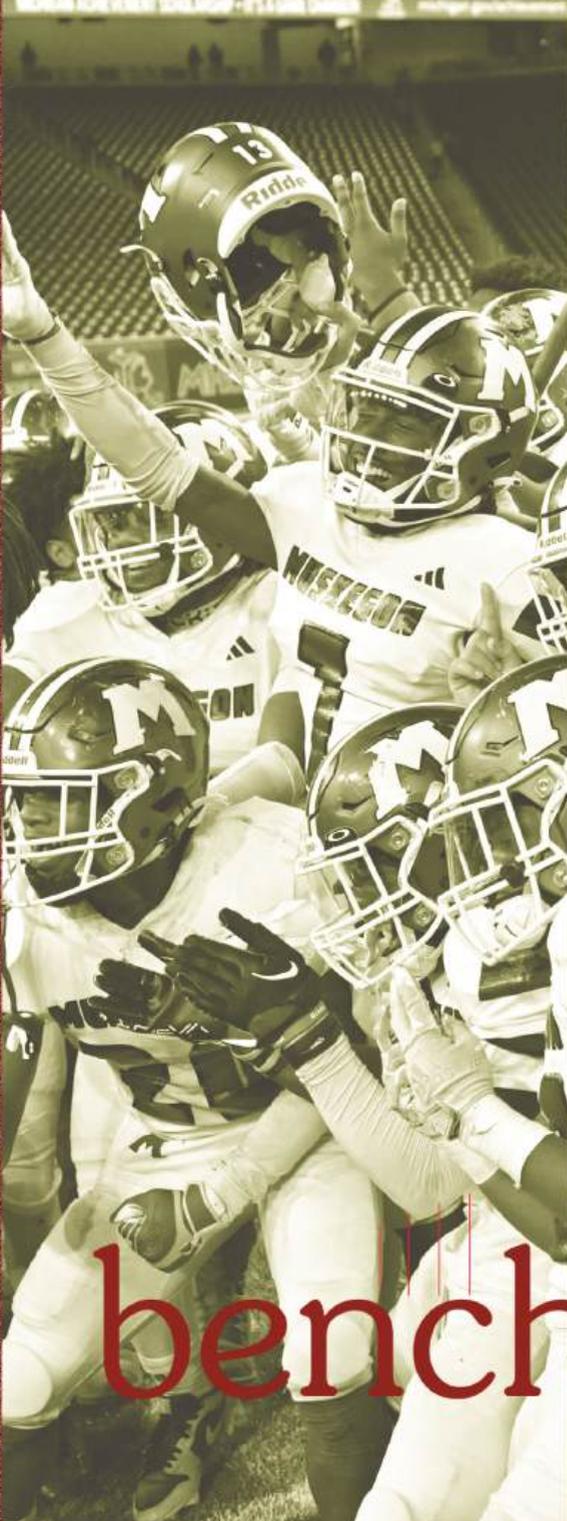


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# benchmarks

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# Cover Story: Kicking Off a Centennial Celebration



**4** The MHSAA is celebrating its 100th year during the 2024-25 school year, and this volume of *benchmarks* will revisit key dates, moments and memories that have given us reasons to cheer.

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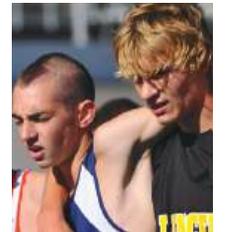
## The Vault – 12 Through The Years

During this centennial celebration we will look back at the histories of each sport by season. In this issue, fall sports.



## Student Spotlight – 22

The MHSAA Sportsmanship Summit series hits the road again this fall with new breakout topics, more interaction within the sessions, and student-to-student presentations.



## Regulations Review – 27

In the historical theme of this school year, this issue takes a look at a simple but vital question: Why do we have the rules we have?



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## Celebrating One Century, and Looking into the Next

**B**aseball great Satchel Paige once said, “Don’t look back; something might be gaining on you.” Looking back can be tricky as it is always a balance between learning from past successes and failures, and dwelling too much on the past can be a roadblock to moving forward with vision and progress.

Well, please forgive and indulge us over the next 12 months as the MHSAA will be spending plenty of time looking over our shoulders.

This year marks the 100th year of the MHSAA, and while our goal is always to expand, improve, and strengthen this association, it is also important to reflect on and recognize those who forged our special history and path. In December 1924, the MHSAA Representative Council met for the very first time, representing schools large and small across both peninsulas, much as it is today.

The MHSAA has faced battles and challenges throughout the past century and has endured each time largely because the goal remains the same—serving our membership with athletic opportunities for girls and boys at the local level while focusing on the proper Scope, Scholarship, Safety, and Sportsmanship of school sports.

One mantra we use every day is that school sports is a privilege, not a right. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to help serve and lead our membership over the past 20 years as a member of the MHSAA staff.



The list of previous Executive Directors is few, but mighty. The list of those leaders is a testimony to their accomplishments and acceptance by the membership. Indulge us for a moment as we recognize these four previous executive directors.

Our first executive director was Charles Forsythe, who figuratively and literally wrote the book on athletic leadership. His tenure was that of a pioneer and trailblazer, even taking time away from his role with the MHSAA to serve our country in World War II. He was followed by Al Bush, who champi-

oned significant developments during his tenure, including the addition of girls sports and their post-season tournaments. Serving under both directors was Vern Norris, who took the reins next. Vern served on numerous national rules committees, so it was only fitting that contest officials and coaches alike flourished during those years. And Jack Roberts would take the ball from those three and run with it like no other person in the nation. His name remains synonymous with sportsmanship, and at the time of his retirement, his 32 years at the helm were the longest of any director of a state high school association.

His hiring of me is at best a footnote on his long and lengthy tenure, but it’s one of the highlights and honors of my professional life. I had the blessing to work for Jack over 14 years, absorbing as much as I could from the man, while also learning of his predecessors and their finest qualities through him. I was honored to stand by his side on the stage in San Antonio in July 2022 when he was inducted into the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame.

Now, our current team continues to take its own steps for this great association. With our sights set forward to focus on evolving challenges while maintaining our missions, we will look back upon the footprints and pathways left by those who came before us, especially in this special 100th year of the MHSAA.

There is much to do ahead, but we need to take the time to reflect and celebrate our previous century of serving young people in the state of Michigan. I think Satchel Paige would be OK with us taking a few peeks back to celebrate those who have built this great foundation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Uyl'.

**Mark Uyl**  
**MHSAA Executive Director**

## Welcome Back! Here's What's Happening

Following are important deadlines to put on your calendars for 2024-25.

### OFFICIALS RATINGS:

• Fall — Dec. 1 • Winter — April 1 • Spring — June 20

### SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD APPLICATIONS

Now in its 36th year, Farm Bureau Insurance continues to sponsor the MHSAA's Scholar-Athlete Award. In 2024-25, 32 \$2,000 scholarships will be available to high school seniors who meet the eligibility requirements listed at MHSAA.com on the "Students" page.

- Applications Available Online NOW
- Applications Due to MHSAA — Dec. 6

### SPORTSMANSHIP SUMMITS

The Michigan High School Athletic Association's annual Sportsmanship Summit series will return this fall, again focusing on sportsmanship both on and off the field of play. The MHSAA has conducted Sportsmanship Summits across Michigan for more than 20 years, and this year's series kicks off Nov. 4 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Sessions will take place as follows:

**MARQUETTE** at The Northern Center at NMU on November 4  
**SAGINAW** at The Conference Center at SVSU on November 7  
**ANN ARBOR** at the Sheraton Ann Arbor on November 11  
**GRAND RAPIDS** at the Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport on November 13



Sportsmanship Summits last from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Scan the QR code here for registration info.

## CAP / CPR Requirements for Coaches

High schools must attest by each season's established deadline that all varsity, junior varsity and 9th-grade head coaches of each high school team have a valid current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. This will ensure that each team generally has one coach present who is CPR certified. A person who is head coach for more than one sport during the school year must meet the deadline for the first of those sports.



Each head coach of a varsity team in an MHSAA tournament sport hired for the first time as a high school varsity head coach at any MHSAA member high school after July 31, 2016 shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). If the head coach does not complete CAP Level 1 or 2 prior to the established deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season's MHSAA tournament for the sport involved and shall not be present at the facility where the MHSAA tournament involving that coach's team is being held.

Each head coach of a varsity team in a sport under MHSAA jurisdiction shall complete (in person or online) the MHSAA rules meetings for that sport for the current school year prior to the deadline if meetings are provided and attendance is required. If the head coach does not complete a rules meeting prior to the deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season's MHSAA tournament for the sport involved and shall not be present at the facility where the MHSAA tournament involving that coach's team is being held. See Regulation II, Section 15(H)4.

Schools shall attest that all assistant and sub-varsity coaches have completed an MHSAA rules meeting (online or in person) for that sport for the current school year prior to the deadline.

*MHSAA Handbook* Coaching Requirements Regulations (Reg. II, Section 3 (B & C) and Section 8 (B & C).

**The deadlines are:**

**Fall: September 12, 2024 | Winter: December 12, 2024 | Spring: April 17, 2025**

# HAPPY 100!

The Olympics in Paris have just completed. A presidential election will be held in November. The information technology industry rolls out new products impacting everyday life for years to come.

And, there will be an MHSAA Representative Council Meeting in December.

*The year is 1924.*

History, indeed, repeats itself. Yet, each time it does, history is also made.

Johnny Weissmuller, later of *Tarzan* fame, won three swimming gold medals and a bronze medal in water polo at the VIII Olympiad. Calvin Coolidge defeated John W. Davis in the 1924 presidential election. International Business Machines Corp. took over a small company with sights set on becoming an international force, creating what we know as IBM that February.

Fast forward 100 years, and Simone Biles, Trump v. Harris, and SpaceX and AI have taken the place of those before them for their rightful place in history.

The MHSAA? Well, it's still rolling in tact 100 years after that groundbreaking, inaugural meeting on Dec. 13, 1924.

Not that there haven't been changes, challenges, and gymnasiums and fields full of history along the way. There have been plenty.

Following is a timeline highlighting some of the important dates, personnel and battles outside the athletic boundaries that have us where we are today.

**OPENING DAYS (1800s)** – A new form of secondary education – the public high school – started to sweep the state in 1848. In 1895, the High School Section of the Michigan State Teachers Association deemed that conditions required a cooperative effort to supervise and regulate inter-school athletic contests.

**A NEW GAMEPLAN (Early 1900s)** – Athletics in Michigan high schools spread rapidly during the early 1900s, often following the collegiate model that emphasized winning over sportsmanship. Such behavior endangered the future of school sports before educational leaders – seeing the positive side of these additional activities in school settings – gathered to formulate rules for regulating games.

**BIRTH OF THE MHSAA (1924)** – From 1909-1924, the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association set forth eligibility rules and administrative regulations for school sports. When the office of the state Superintendent sought to take control in 1924, the MIAA resisted, seeking to maintain its autonomy and authority. Negotiations ensued and ultimately resulted in the creation of a Representative Council for the new Michigan High School Athletic Association. The first Council meeting on Dec. 13, 1924, included representation of schools large and small, public and private, and from both peninsulas – much as the Association operates today.

**FOUNDING FATHER (1924-42)** – A driving force behind the new MHSAA was Lewis L. Forsythe, an educator from Ann Arbor who twice served as president of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Association. He was elected as president of the first MHSAA Representative Council, serving from 1924-42, during which time he joined colleagues from Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa to found what is now the National Federation of State High School Associations. His book “Athletics in Michigan High Schools: The First Hundred Years” provides us with much of the historical record and context we point to today.

**UNITED WE STAND (1933)** – Michigan's two peninsulas make it unique among states. Recognizing that, the Upper Peninsula was one of four designated Representative Districts at the MHSAA's conception in 1924. Tournament travel, expenses and weather – often more extreme in the UP – led to the creation of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee in 1933. For a time, the UP and LP conducted separate postseasons in all sports. In 1948, UP teams returned to postseason competition with LP schools in select sports. That arrangement continues to this day, with the UP Athletic Committee recommending the mix of statewide and UP-only championships.

# How We Got Here



Much of the MHSAA's success can be traced to its continuity, as the Association has had just five executive directors in its history. The first three are pictured above: Charles Forsythe (middle) was first, followed by Allen Bush (left) and Vern Norris (right).

**WRITING THE BOOK (1931-68)** – Charles E. Forsythe (L.L. Forsythe's nephew) became the MHSAA's first full-time executive director in 1931 and would literally and figuratively write the book on athletic leadership. His college textbook, "The Administration of High School Sports," continued to be published even after his time as the longest-serving director in Association history concluded in 1968. Interest in school sports thrived during his tenure, highlighted by growth in MHSAA Basketball Tournament attendance from 126,000 to 775,000 at his retirement. "Charlie" also championed methods to make the games safer by collecting injury data and focusing on equipment. Notably, Forsythe took a three-year leave to direct physical fitness activities for the US Navy during WWII.

**LOCALLY GROWN (1958)** – A close working relationship between the MHSAA and the state's athletic directors has long been key to the administration of school sports in Michigan, and 1958 saw the creation of the Michigan Association of Physical Education and Athletics. Renamed the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association in 1982, the MIAAA still works hand-in-hand with MHSAA staff to foster growth in statewide school athletic programs through local educational leaders.

**GIRLS BEGIN CHAMPIONSHIP RUN (1972)** – Women's athletics gained steam nationally with the passage of Title IX on June 23, 1972. In Michigan, the law only furthered participation growth, as girls had been playing sports as early as 1898. The first girls Regional, in skiing, took place in 1952. The first girls Final also predates Title IX, as a statewide MHSAA Final in gymnastics was held on March 11 of that year – and girls were competing for Finals titles in nine sports by the end of the 1975-76 school year. Competitive cheer, created by the MHSAA in 1994, continues to be the country's only variety of cheerleading that meets the federal criteria for sport under Title IX. This trailblazing spirit continues as Michigan consistently ranks among the top 10 states nationally in girls sports participation.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY (1972)** – The MHSAA's hard-earned status gained during the mid-1920s again was challenged nearly 50 years later, in 1972. A Michigan Attorney General ruling determined private organizations lacked legal grounds for eligibility matters and that authority for athletics rested with the State Board of Education. A battle for control of school sports made its way to the state legislature, where the House and Senate voted to give the authority to the MHSAA. On April 18, 1972, new Articles of Incorporation officially

– continued next page

## 100 years ago...1924

How long has the MHSAA been in operation? The following offers some perspective:

- World Series: Washington d. NY Giants (4-3)
- Stanley Cup: Montreal d. Calgary (2-0)
- NFL Champion: Cleveland Bulldogs
- NCAA Football Champion: Notre Dame
- Walt Disney creates his first cartoon, "Alice's Wonderland."
- First Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.
- Unemployment: 5.0%
- Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.02
- Average income: \$2,196
- New Car: \$265
- New House: \$7,720
- Gallon of Gas: 11¢
- Life Expectancy: 54.1 years

made the Association a non-profit 501(c)(3), untethered from state government, and affirmed the independence of the MHSAA.

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (1975)** – Despite being a staple of Michigan fall Friday nights for decades, football was the last existing sponsored sport added to the postseason menu, first offering pigskin Finals in 1975. Now a Thanksgiving weekend tradition, the Pontiac Silverdome served as host from 1976-2004, with Detroit's Ford Field welcoming the event in 2005. The 8-player variety came to the table in 2011, most often showcased at Northern Michigan University's Superior Dome. Football remains the most-played and most-attended sport among MHSAA offerings.

**MAKING – AND ANSWERING – THE CALL (1980)** – Officials have been a core constituency of the MHSAA throughout its century-long history. Nearly 10,000 register every year so that students can play the games they love, with the total growing to a high of 12,722 during the 2008-09 school year. Since 1980, the MHSAA has honored officials who reach milestone years of service and annually presents the Norris Award to recognize a veteran official's involvement in mentoring and education.

**ON THE COURTS v. IN THE COURTS (1986-2004)** – School sports are the lifeblood of the MHSAA, but occasionally games *on* our courts have shifted to contests *in* courts. Victories there have further strengthened the MHSAA's leadership position for schools. In 1986, it was determined that school sports are a privilege and not a right, with

transfer regulations created by member schools and not outside entities. The MHSAA Restitution Rule was upheld in 1991, allowing the association to defend its rules. That same year the Maximum Age and Semester rules also received a positive verdict. The Michigan Supreme Court further stamped the MHSAA's authority in 2004 in a ruling that helped set legal standards for all private, non-profit associations in Michigan.

**THE FUTURE IS THE PRESENT (1990s and 2000s)** – Leadership is passed from generation to generation. The 1990s and 2000s introduced dedicated programs to train and educate student leaders. The first Women In Sports Leadership Conference was held in 1990 and remains the largest and longest-running of its kind. Other student-centered programs, including Sportsmanship Summits, online Captains Courses, the Scholar-Athlete Award and the Student Advisory Council, also came to prominence during these years.

**SAFE AT HOME (2010s)** – As Executive Director John E. "Jack" Roberts entered the final decade of his 32-year tenure, Michigan became a national leader in school sports health and safety initiatives. His "Four Hs" – Health Histories, Heads, Heat and Hearts – yielded programs aimed at a safer environment. This focus included a more comprehensive participation physical exam questionnaire, heightened concussion reporting and care protocols, creation of a heat management policy for practices and contests, and CPR requirements for coaches with a goal of placing AEDs in every school. The MHSAA also provided catastrophic and concussion care insurance free of charge to all student-athletes, which is yet another additional benefit of MHSAA membership.

**TELLING OUR STORY (2010s)** – For most of the MHSAA's history, school sports enjoyed comprehensive media coverage at the local and statewide levels. During the early 21st century, a seismic shift in mediums led to instant, electronic coverage with multitudes of entertainment options all vying for attention. MHSAA staff kept pace through enhanced pages on MHSAA.com which featured stories, scores and schedules, and video and audio productions, and promoted this new content through a robust presence on social media. These efforts contribute to ensuring school teams, coaches, administrators, officials and fans are celebrated on the public stage.

**CONTINUITY COUNTS (1931-Today)** – The strength of any association is its leaders. Continuity is vital, too, transitioning seamlessly from one

era to the next. With only five executive directors in its history, the MHSAA has checked those boxes. That exclusive roster is as follows: Charles E. Forsythe (1931-68), Allen W. Bush (1968-78), Vern L. Norris (1978-86), John E. “Jack” Roberts (1986-2018) and current director Mark Uyl.

**ROSTER EXPANSION** – The additions of MHSAA Tournament sponsorship for bowling in 2004 and lacrosse in 2005, and a court-mandated switching of eight sports seasons to begin the 2007-08 school year, have produced the current MHSAA sports calendar. A girls individual wrestling bracket was added to the MHSAA Tournament in 2022, while girls field hockey and boys volleyball were added for 2025-26. These may not be the last additions as the evolution of sports, changing stu-

dent interests, and a continued focus on participation will drive our future.

Longtime communications director John Johnson said the following upon his recent retirement: “Being the voice, and often having to be the face (of the MHSAA) , is something that came with the territory – somebody had to be the storyteller. And while you can be prideful about that, the important thing is still the story. I’ve said it a lot: I was the lucky guy who got the job. Because the story was there to be told.”

Yes, the Association’s missions remain largely unchanged since the winter of 1924. But, it’s the stories of our students, coaches, officials and administrators that always have been – and will continue to be – the motivation for the MHSAA’s efforts.

## Special Medals and Patches Commemorate Special Year



**W**hile commemorating our “Century of School Sports” at the MHSAA office in East Lansing, you’ll be seeing symbols of this milestone at events all over the state – and our game officials and participating teams will have an opportunity to keep a memento of this celebration.

Our 100th Anniversary logo has been incorporated into uniform patches and championship medals that will be worn and awarded all over Michigan during the 2024-25 school year.

Medals have been given to champions going back to nearly the start of the MHSAA – a 1933 basketball tournament medal is among the oldest that have been sent back to us over the years – and medals to be awarded during District, Regional and Finals competition this fall, upcoming winter and spring have been redesigned to reflect the anniversary.

Patches, particularly those worn by our game officials, also date back to the MHSAA’s early decades – officials annually receive patches for their uniforms to signify they are registered with the MHSAA, and our collection in East Lansing goes back to the late 1940s. Several officials signed up for this school year already are receiving their 2024-25 patches, and these include a nod to 100 years. Officials selected for our Finals each season also annually receive a special patch – and for this school year, those Finals patches will reflect the anniversary.

Athletes will have an opportunity to wear a commemorative patch as well. Those taking part in several of our championship competitions will receive patches that adhere to their uniforms (in sports where adding a patch does not interfere with the uniform or competition).

# Home Sweet Home!

Visitors to 1661 Ramblewood for the multitude of MHSAA committee meetings, in-services and other functions are sure to see the faces of Michigan’s renowned educational athletics leaders throughout the years on various recognition boards.

Absent from any of those displays is the late East Lansing resident Thomas Reck. Yet, Reck and the long-range vision of Jack Roberts were equally as vital in “restructuring” the MHSAA in the late 1990s; quite physically.

“I really wanted something along US-127 – visible from 127 – and there was a good deal of open land where the building sits now that looked to be about the right size,” recalled Roberts, who at the time was just finishing the first decade of what would be an iconic 32-year run as the executive director of the MHSAA.

There was one potential roadblock to Roberts’ dream location: there was no indication of any kind that the property was for sale; no billboard, no realty listing.

That’s because it wasn’t for sale – yet.

“I contacted a realtor, Martin Property Development, and I suggested one of their employees call upon Mr. Reck,” Roberts said. “He did that, and got a purchase price of \$600,000. To me, the

excitement really took place before the first shovel went into the ground.”

The deal was then approved by both parties, and development began in 1996, with Reck’s residence remaining in place atop the small hill south of the new road leading to the proposed site of the MHSAA building.

“When we bought the land, there was no road,” Roberts said. “One of the reasons it curves is that Mr. Reck was given a life lease, so we had to go around his house. It also had to navigate some protected wetland areas.”

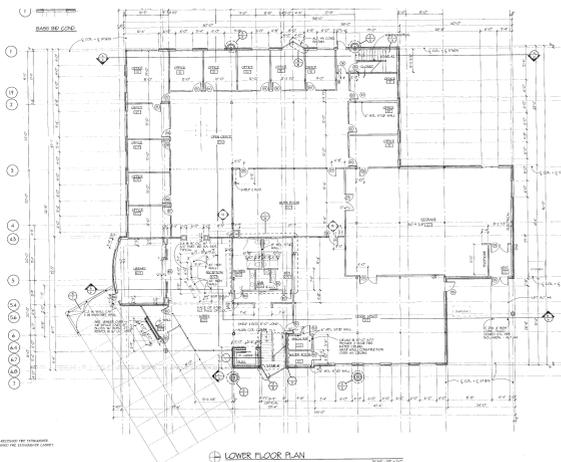
As for the name of the road, that was the MHSAA’s choice, one which actually came quite easily. The city of East Lansing had some concerns with the new development, and expanding on an existing name for the road was the first show of good faith by the newest tenants.

Keeping the name Ramblewood made sense as there was already a Ramblewood Drive at the exact intersection to the east of Coolidge Road.

“We didn’t want to come in and change a lot of things, or inconvenience the residents in that area,” Roberts said. “We kept development back from the road and kept as much nature in tact as possible. Even the signs that are there now are off the road and relatively small.”



The MHSAA moved into a former credit union building on Trowbridge Road in East Lansing in 1976, a few years after achieving non-profit status. The structure served as its headquarters until relocating to its current location on Ramblewood Drive in January of 1997.



Once designs were finalized for the new MHSAA headquarters, construction began in 1996 and was finished within the year.

Roberts and staff needed no signs to find their way to the new digs just more than three miles north of the previous offices on Trowbridge Road. Led by Roberts and former assistant director Tom Minter, much of the moving occurred during Christmas break of 1996. Doors to the new building were opened in January 1997, roughly seven years after Roberts first began dreaming of a new home.

The building on Trowbridge was formerly a credit union, and its structure provided some unique problems.

“In the late 1980s, around ‘88 or ‘89, we bought our first major computer, an IBM mainframe, and put it upstairs in the old building,” Roberts said. “It was about five feet high and eight feet wide and had its own room. We had to drill through concrete to wire it. I began to realize that we were going to have hard time keeping up with things in a building that was so difficult to modernize.”

John Johnson, the MHSAA’s first communications director and a pioneer in that position among state high school associations, also reflected on the early days.

“Anything which was data-driven was jobbed out for awhile,” Johnson said. “Football playoff rankings were delivered to us once a week from a third party. We were doing everything outside the building: school databases, officials databases, penalty databases. The only thing we had inside the walls was word processing. I had the first PC in 1987.”

And, he recalled the beast of a mainframe that took up an entire room at the expense of personnel.

“Yep, it took up the whole room,” Johnson confirmed. “I was in what was called the library, which had historical books, but also old t-shirts left over from previous years’ champions.”

That lack of storage was also motivation for Roberts to find new real estate, and addressing that shortcoming was paramount in the plans.

“We had no storage, and no efficient way to receive shipments like rules books, paper, and the basic supplies we needed to run our business,” Roberts said. “That’s also why we have the lift in its current location at the new building; shipping and receiving were really important to us, along with our drop ceiling which made it much easier to run wiring as needed.”

As sparkling and expansive as the new facilities were, perhaps the best feature of all was its cost. The structure only took up a portion of the land purchased by the Association, per Roberts’ vision. That left four parcels on the property for sale by the MHSAA, and with the road and utilities in place, those sections became even more valuable and enticing.

The MHSAA’s expenditures totaled roughly \$1 million for the purchase of the land, road construction and utility installations.

The parcels then sold for approximately \$300,000 apiece.

“In the end, we had our space free of charge, and had \$200,000 for furnishings,” Roberts said. The lone cost would then be the actual construction of the building, financed through a bond.

And, the MHSAA could choose their neighbors, which was also part of the grand scheme.

“We were going to be particular about who moved in, and that they’d be further back; not right on the road,” Roberts said. “Above all, we wanted to be good neighbors to the residents in the area, and choose businesses that would be good neighbors as well.”

The other four parcels are occupied by medical practices, and the area remains a somewhat sleepy and hidden subdivision to this day.

— continued next page

Interestingly, and unknown to most, the MHSAA nearly held on to the parcel closest to its front door as a rental venture. That prospect led to spirited but friendly debate among Representative Council members at the time, leading to a vote on the matter of whether to sell the land or construct another building and rent space in that structure.

“There was good-natured discussion on the topic with arguments both in favor of selling and for building and renting on that last parcel,” Roberts said. “I remember on the morning of the vote, I offered the Council this to think about: We were really good at rules; really good at interpretations and administration of school sports. None of us were landlords or experts in that field.”

By a 10-9 vote, the Association would sell the final plot.

“We didn’t get greedy, and history showed it was the right decision, what with the housing market landscape years later,” Roberts said. “We’d already won the lottery in a sense. Why enter into an area in which we knew little about?”

The timing of this new gem couldn’t have been any better, as the MHSAA was hosting the Section 4 meeting of state high school associations in September 1997.

It was the perfect opportunity to showcase the facility with an open house attended by those in town for the meeting as well as current and former MHSAA staff and dignitaries.

Met with the now recognizable and unique high-arching “roof” – half copper and half green,

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*“We didn’t get greedy . . . We’d already won the lottery in a sense.” — Former Executive Director Jack Roberts*

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open frame – visitors were impressed.

“The architect was on vacation in Florida and saw a similar building with the copper roof. When she assured me that it wouldn’t turn green over time, I agreed to do it,” Roberts said. “The design is actually still trendy, so it’s held up over time.”

Indeed it has, as verified by builders and designers currently giving the MHSAA’s home its first facelift.

“When I told people how old the building was, they couldn’t believe it, because its design has held up so well,” said MHSAA Assistant Director Dan Hutcheson, who has worked closely with contractors on building renovations during the last several months.

Even prior to this expansion and cosmetic overhaul, the MHSAA and its technology staff were looking to the future.

“Ironically, we upgraded projectors and cameras to delve into Zoom and virtual meetings before we really even knew what they were or how valuable they could be,” Hutcheson said. “This was winter of 2020, and a couple months later, Covid hits and by luck we’re kind of prepared, at least communication-wise.”



Longtime Executive Director Jack Roberts stands by the building which now bears his name.

Following the Covid-19 Pandemic, once the MHSAA was back on solid footing, Executive Director Mark Uyl began to outline and identify areas for expansion and updating inside the building.

Roberts' foresight in the initial storage and expansion areas paid huge dividends, as plenty of space existed for new offices.

The first meeting with architects post-pandemic was in September 2022, with renovations beginning in September 2023. Now, two years later, the project is near completion.

New color schemes, video boards, LCD displays and touchscreens serve to keep the facility in stride with those to which the MHSAA's constituents have become accustomed.

There was plenty of work behind the scenes, too, such as fixtures and plumbing which simply had exceeded their lifespan or needed to be brought up to current codes.

Former Executive Director Al Bush (right) and his wife, Lois, were on hand for the 1997 open house hosted by then-Executive Director Jack Roberts (left) and staff.

The overall mission for the changes, as always, was to better serve the membership.

"We serve 750 member schools, with so many from those schools coming here for training, teaching and educational sessions," Hutcherson said. "As our staff members visit schools around the state, we see video boards, electronic message boards. We needed to keep in step with the schools, and in doing so, better assist our ADs, coaches and officials with their work."

For two people who didn't know one another, Reck and Roberts brought countless people together since 1997 to help them do their work.

— Rob Kaminski  
benchmarks editor



Guests enjoy the upstairs recognition walls in 1997, featuring most recent team champions on one side and honoring former coaches and athletic directors on the other.



Recent renovations include an interactive touchscreen for visitors, and AD of Year wall dedicated to former MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid, who passed away in December 2021.



Former Executive Director Jack Roberts emphasized the Core Values of School Sports. This nod to the four pillars greets visitors on their way to meetings at the renovated building, where they can stop and view rotating images of officials, coaches, athletes and recent champions on six LCD displays.

# Through The Years: Fall Sports

The “MHSAA Vault” features stories from past publications in the MHSAA Library. For this Centennial Celebration year, we will look back at the history of the MHSAA’s championship sports, beginning with fall sports in this issue.

Since the fall of 1924, when Ann Arbor High School won the MHSAA **Boys Cross Country championships**, tournaments have been the crowning glory for the Association’s membership for a century. (The MHSAA officially was established Dec. 4, 1924, but that lone fall championship is included in official MHSAA titles).

And now, entering this 100th year of existence, **28 MHSAA Tournament Sports** have produced a **grand total of 6,510 Team Champions** in MHSAA history throughout Michigan’s Lower and Upper Peninsulas, and thousands more individual victors within those sports.

These and other triumphs represent only the summit of each tournament run. Countless other memories and accomplishments have been achieved at District, Regional, Quarterfinal and Semifinal levels throughout the decades.

## Cross Country

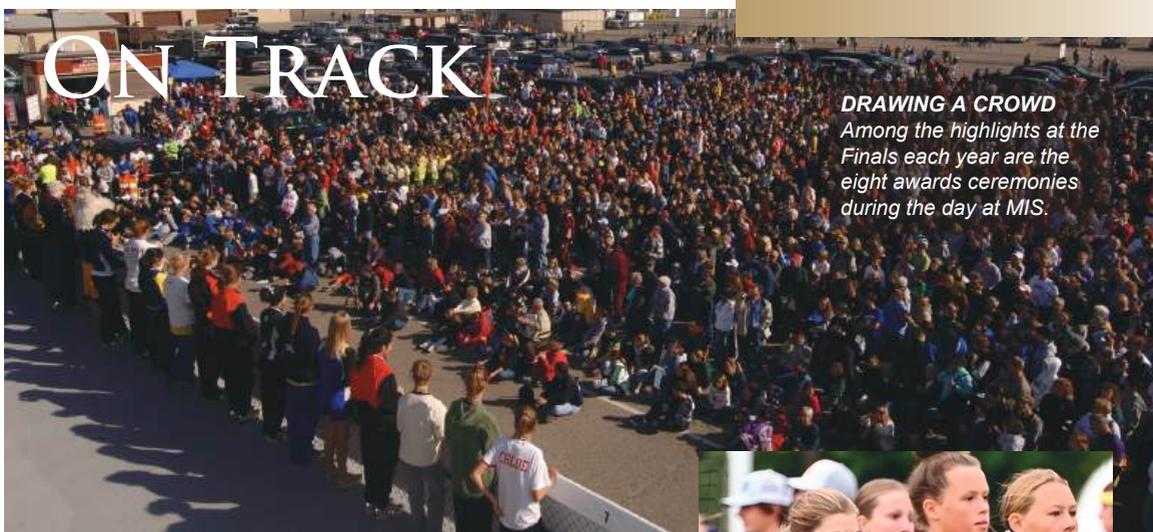
In 1996, the MHSAA and the Michigan International Speedway began a partnership that changed the course of the LP Cross Country Finals – quite literally. The land in and around the track at Brooklyn would host the Finals for **ALL** classes of runners in one place on one day, an annual festival of nearly 2,000 runners competing for the MHSAA’s top honors. Even skeptics – and there were several among running purists who thought the course was too flat, for example – can’t deny the results. Finals attendance nearly doubled in that first year, and crowds in excess of 10,000 have enjoyed a day of racing four times in the last five years. The record is 12,153 in 2011. Attendance has failed to reach at least 8,000 only twice since the move to MIS (not counting the pandemic year of 2020).

### TITLE TOTALS

| Lower Peninsula     | Years     | Titles |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|
| Open Class          | 1978-1978 | 1      |
| Class A, B, C, D    | 1979-1999 | 84     |
| Division 1, 2, 3, 4 | 2000-2023 | 128    |

| Upper Peninsula  | Years     | Titles |
|------------------|-----------|--------|
| Open Class       | 1978-1979 | 2      |
| Class C-D        | 1980-1993 | 12     |
| Class A-B        | 1980-1999 | 20     |
| Class C, D       | 1994-1999 | 16     |
| Division 1, 2, 3 | 2000-2023 | 96     |

Note: Class C and D were separate in 1984 and 1985



**DRAWING A CROWD**  
Among the highlights at the Finals each year are the eight awards ceremonies during the day at MIS.

### U.P. Power

The most dominant school in MHSAA Cross Country hales from the Upper Peninsula, where **Marquette’s** girls have won a staggering 34 championships, and the boys teams have compiled 27 titles.

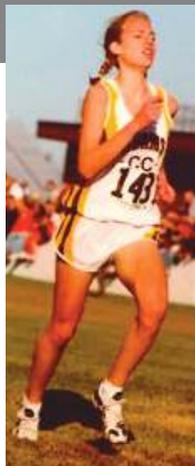


**MHSAA GIRLS XC 4-TIME CHAMPS**

- Abby Vanderkooi, Muskegon Western Michigan Christian (LP Division 4, 2018-19, 2021)  
(LP Division 3, 2020)
- Kirsten Olling, Breckenridge (LP Division 4, 2010-13)
- Tara Kiilunen, Calumet (UP Division 1, 2009-12)
- Amber Smith, Ishpeming Westwood (UP Division 2, 2000-03)
- Katie Boyles, Rochester Adams (LP Class A/Division 1, 1997-2000)
- Carrie Gould, Burton Bendle (LP Class C, 1992-93); Flint Powers Catholic (LP Class C, 1994-95)
- Theresa Padilla, Camden-Frontier (LP Class D, 1984-87)
- Valari Ambrose, Riverview Gabriel Richard (LP Class B, 1981-84)



Eight girls have won four MHSAA XC Finals, including four pictured here. From left, Calumet's Tara Kiilunen, Breckenridge's Kirsten Olling, Rochester Adam's Katie Boyles and Muskegon Western Michigan Christian's Abby Vanderkooi.



← **KERMIT** Running enthusiasts only need one name to recognize Kermit Ambrose. A successful coach at Birmingham Seaholm and even more renowned track and cross country official for 40-plus years, Kermit lived to be 101 years old and made the sports his life's passion. For decades after he retired, Kermit assisted with Finals medal ceremonies until his passing in 2012.



**Giant Steps**

Kalamazoo Central's Maroon Giants established a path for others to follow with an MHSAA-record 11 titles between 1925 and 1954, still more than any other LP school. The 1926 team is above.

**MHSAA BOYS XC 4-TIME CHAMPS**

- Hunter Jones, Benzie Central (LP Division 3) (2019-22)
- Austin Plotkin, Brimley (UP Division 3) (2016-19)
- Ryan Shay, Central Lake (LP Class D) (1993-96)



**HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS**

**11-Player**

2005-Present: Detroit (Ford Field)  
 1976-2004: Pontiac (Pontiac Silverdome)  
 1975: Class A, D-Kalamazoo (Waldo Stadium WMU)  
 Class B, C-Mt. Pleasant (Perry Shorts Stadium CMU)

**8-Player**

2012-2016: Greenville HS  
 2011; 2017-Present: Marquette (Superior Dome NMU)

**CMU Perry Shorts Stadium**



1975

WMU Waldo Stadium

**1976-2004: Pontiac Silverdome**



**Attendance Records**

4 Finals: 53,501-1986  
 8 Finals: 71,156-1995

**2005-Present: Ford Field, Detroit**



**Attendance Record**

67,549-2005



**2011; 2017-Present:**  
**NMU**  
**Superior Dome**

**8-Player Football**

**2012-16: Greenville HS**



The MHSAA introduced 8-player football in 2009, and the first title game was won by Carsonville-Port Sanilac in 2011.

**TITLE TOTALS**

| Class/Division                  | Years     | Titles |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Class A, B, C, D                | 1975-1998 | 96     |
| Class AA, BB, CC, DD            | 1990-1998 | 36     |
| Division 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 | 1999-2023 | 192    |
| 8-Player                        | 2011-2016 | 6      |
| 8-Player Division 1, 2          | 2017-2023 | 14     |

**Most MHSAA Championships**

- 13 - Jackson Lumen Christi (1977, 1979, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023)
- 13 - Farmington Hills Harrison (1981, 1982, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2010)
- 12 - Muskegon Catholic Central (1980, 1982, 1990, 1991, 1995, 2000, 2006, 2008, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)
- 12 - Detroit St Martin dePorres (1978, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1996, 2001, 2003)
- 11 - East Grand Rapids (1976, 1983, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)
- 11 - Mendon (1982, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2011)
- 10 - Detroit Catholic Central (1979, 1990, 1992, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2009)

**The Road to the Finals**

*A brief timeline illustrates the birth and growth of the MHSAA Football Playoffs.*

**1975** - Winter survey of football-playing schools shows 73 percent desire an actual playoff. MHSAA Representative Council approves playoff at March meeting. First playoff conducted. Top team from four Regions in four Classes (16 teams) participate in two-week tournament, with Finals outdoors at CMU and WMU.

**1976** - Finals move to the Pontiac Silverdome. Attendance for the four games was 29,234.

**1977** - Playoff expands to three-week format, involving the top two teams in each Region. 32 teams participate.

**1985** - Playoff expands to four-week format, involving the top four teams in each Region. 64 teams participate.

**1990** - Playoff expands from four to eight Classes, dividing each class (A-B-C-D) into upper and lower divisions. Format is still four weeks long. 128 teams participate.

**1999** - Playoff expands to five-week format. Classification for tournament into eight Divisions is conducted after 256 qualifiers are determined.

**2011** - The growth of 8-Player Football leads to separate Playoffs, later expanding to two Divisions in 2017.

**2020** - Pre-determined Divisions were used, along with "strength-of-schedule" format with all schools making the tournament (due to the Covid Pandemic).

**2021** - Enhanced "strength-of-schedule" format for selecting the 256-team field for the 11-Player Playoffs begins. The new format eliminates automatic qualification based on win total and bases it solely on playoff-point average, rewarding teams more for playing tougher schedules.

## Celebrating the 50th MHSAA Football Playoffs

We've only just begun to celebrate the MHSAA's 100th anniversary – a "Century of School Sports" dating back to our start Dec. 13, 1924.

This celebration just happens to coincide with another major milestone this fall – the 50th season of MHSAA Football Playoffs.

After decades of football champions being determined by media polls, the MHSAA offered its first post-season for football in 1975 – 16 teams qualified to compete across Class A, B, C and D. Livonia Franklin, Dearborn Divine Child, Ishpeming and Crystal Falls Forest Park, respectively, claimed those first championship trophies.



The first year's Finals were played at Central Michigan University and Western Michigan University, two games at each site, before moving to the Pontiac Silverdome the following season – the home for MHSAA football championships until their move to Ford Field in 2005.

Meanwhile, the playoff field grew to 32 teams – eight per class – in 1977, and again to 64 teams over four classes in 1985. Classes AA, BB, CC and DD were added in 1990, bringing the number of 11-player football championships to its current eight. The 11-player field and format expanded one more time in 1999, doubling to 256 teams total – 32 per division – with a fifth week of postseason games bringing the playoff schedule to its current five weeks.

As more small schools began to have difficulty sustaining their programs during the first decade of the 2000s, the 8-player format began to grow with the first playoffs for that division in 2011. The 8-player bracket was split into two divisions in 2017.

Football remains the most played sport in this state, and its playoffs the most attended MHSAA post-season tournament. As of this writing, an estimated 35,000 athletes representing 601 varsity teams are vying for championships this 2024 season. This year's Finals are Nov. 23 for 8-player and Nov. 29-30 for 11-player.

Now, for the fun facts:

- A total of 24 teams have qualified for the MHSAA Football Playoffs at least 30 of the first 49 seasons. Beal City and Crystal Falls Forest Park lead the way with 38 qualifying seasons, followed by Mendon with 37 and Fowler and Traverse City St. Francis with 36. Forest Park and Mendon's totals include appearances in both the 11 and 8-player brackets. Farmington Hills Harrison remains tied for seventh on the list with 34 postseason appearances despite closing at the end of the 2018-19 school year. NOTE: The totals above do not include the 2020 season, when all schools were entered into the tournament as the regular season was shortened due to COVID-19.
- Rockford has the longest overall and active streaks of qualifying for the playoffs at 28 straight seasons, again not counting 2020 when all teams were added to the bracket. Forest Park at 26 seasons, Jackson Lumen Christi at 25 and Muskegon at 23 seasons are the next four on the overall and active streak lists (Muskegon is tied on the overall list with Felch North Dickinson's run from 1991-2013).
- Farmington Hills Harrison still has the most appearances in 11-Player Finals, with 18, but with Detroit Catholic Central just one back and Lumen Christi with 16. Lumen Christi has won the last two Division 7 titles to move into a tie for the lead on the total 11-player championship list with 13, the same number won by Harrison during its mighty history.
- On the 8-player side, Powers North Central leads with five appearances in Finals and five championships having won all of them.
- The Jets also own the longest championship streak in 8-player, with three straight titles from 2020-22. Grand Rapids West Catholic from 2013-17, Harrison from 1997-2001 and East Grand Rapids from 2006-10 all have won five 11-player championships in a row, with eight more 11-player programs having won at least three consecutive titles.



**LP GIRLS TITLE TOTALS**

| Lower Peninsula  | Years     | Titles |
|------------------|-----------|--------|
| Open Class       | 1973-1988 | 16     |
| Class A, B-C-D   | 1989-1998 | 20     |
| Division 1, 2, 3 | 1999-2023 | 75     |
| Division 4       | 2009-2023 | 15     |

*Note: Both Fall and Spring Finals in 2007 due to seasons change*

*Note: Upper Peninsula Girls Golf moved from Fall to Spring in 1973-74, and will be featured in Spring benchmarks*

**HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS**

Year-by-Year hosts throughout the history of MHSAA golf are difficult to pin down, but Michigan State's Forest Akers facility (below) has been a mainstay in the Lower Peninsula, hosting one or more Classes or Divisions since the early 1980s.

In the Upper Peninsula, Marquette, Iron Mountain, Escanaba and Rock Mid-Peninsula have been frequent hosts.



**GIRLS RECORDS**

**Lower Peninsula Titles**

- 9 - Grosse Ile (1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009, 2011, 2013)
- 8 - Grand Blanc (1985, 1988, 1991, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007-F)
- 6 - Jackson Lumen Christi (1989, 1992, 1995, 2003, 2004, 2022)
- 6 - Flint Powers Catholic (1989, 1993, 1994, 2007-F, 2008, 2018)

**Lower Peninsula Three-Time Champions**

- Mia Melendez, Ann Arbor Greenhills (Division 4) (2021-23)
- Lauren Timpf, Macomb Lutheran North (Division 4) (2021-23)
- Shannon Kennedy, Bloomfield Hills Marian (Division 2, 3) (2017, 2019-20)
- Anika Dy, Traverse City West (Division 1) (2016-18)
- Danielle Staskowski, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (Division 3) (2016-18)
- Nichole Cox, Maple City Glen Lake (Division 4) (2014-16)
- Elle Nichols, Okemos (Division 2) (2011-13)
- Kate Loy, Ann Arbor Pioneer (Class A) (1993-95)

**All-Class/Division top 10 (plus ties) – 36 holes**

- 607 – Rochester, 2008 LP D1 at MSU – Forest Akers East
- 615 – Northville, 2021 LP D1 at GVSU – The Meadows
- 618 – Rochester, 2016 LP D1 at MSU – Forest Akers East
- 626 – Traverse City West, 2017 LP D1 at GVSU – The Meadows
- 627 – Plymouth, 2021 LP D1 at GVSU – The Meadows
- 629 – Rochester Adams, 2022 LP D1 at Battle Creek – Bedford Valley Golf Club
- 630 – Northville, 2018 LP D1 at Battle Creek – Bedford Valley Golf Club
- 634 – Grandville, 1998 LP Class A at MSU – Forest Akers East & West
- 636 – Farmington Hills Mercy, 2023 LP D2 at MSU – Forest Akers East



**MIA MELENDEZ**  
 Ann Arbor Greenhills



**LAUREN TIMPF**  
 Macomb Lutheran North

## HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

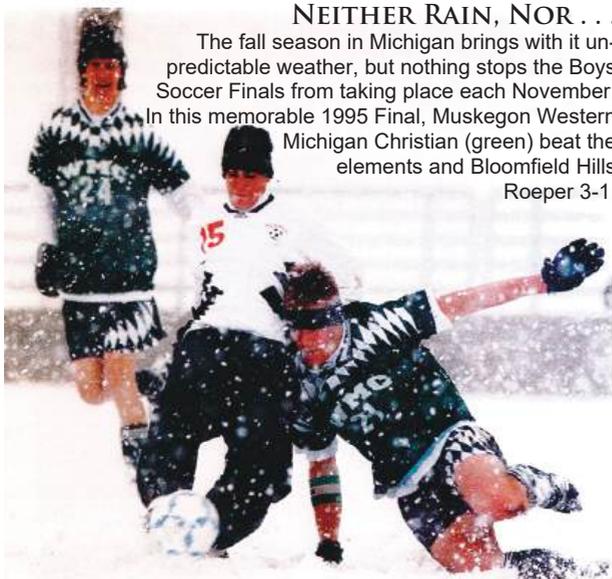
2023: Grand Ledge HS  
 2018-22: Novi HS and Comstock Park HS  
 2016-17: Comstock Park HS and Rochester Hills Stoney Creek HS  
 2015: Brighton HS and Comstock Park HS  
 2014: Brighton HS and East Kentwood (Crestwood MS)  
 2009-2013: Troy Athens HS and East Kentwood (Crestwood MS)  
 2008: Troy Athens HS and Rochester Hills Stoney Creek HS  
 2007: Troy Athens HS and East Kentwood (Crestwood MS)  
 2006: Troy HS and East Kentwood (Crestwood MS)  
 2005: Troy Athens HS and East Kentwood (Crestwood MS)  
 2003-2004: Troy Athens HS and Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central HS  
 2002: Novi (Meadows Stadium) and Lowell HS  
 1995-2001: Bloomfield Hills Andover HS and Lowell HS  
 1986-1994: Bloomfield Hills Andover HS  
 1982-1985: Flint (Atwood Stadium)

## Most Championships

15 - Detroit Country Day (1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2018)  
 9 - Muskegon Western Michigan Christian (1988, 1995, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2019, 2022, 2023)  
 7 - Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (1983, 1984, 1985, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2011)

## NEITHER RAIN, NOR . . .

The fall season in Michigan brings with it unpredictable weather, but nothing stops the Boys Soccer Finals from taking place each November. In this memorable 1995 Final, Muskegon Western Michigan Christian (green) beat the elements and Bloomfield Hills Roeper 3-1.



## CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

In 2023 – for the first time since MHSAA Boys Soccer went to four Divisions – all Finals took place at the same site on the same day, at Grand Ledge High School, cause for celebration among soccer enthusiasts.



## TITLE TOTALS

| Class/Division      | Years     | Titles |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|
| Class A             | 1982-1996 | 15     |
| Class D*            | 1982-1996 | 7      |
| Class B-C           | 1982-1986 | 5      |
| Class C-D           | 1987-1994 | 9      |
| Class B             | 1987-1996 | 13     |
| Class C, D          | 1995-1996 | 4      |
| Division 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1997-2023 | 108    |

\*Note: Class C-D was one combined Class from 1987-94

## Fit to be UN-tied

There have been six co-champions in MHSAA Boys Soccer Finals history, the last being in 2003 when Jackson Lumen Christi and South Haven shared the Division 3 crown following a 1-1 tie. The MHSAA implemented new overtime rules and a shootout at the Finals level in the fall of 2006. In 2015, the Finals yielded a pair of thrillers. The Division 2 Final began in bright sunshine, and finished under the lights at Comstock Park by the time the Mason Bulldogs defeated Forest Hills Northern in a 3-2 shootout thriller. The Division 3 Final, also at Comstock Park, also resulted in a shootout, won by Grand Rapids South Christian 1-0 over Williamston.

## HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

The MHSAA Lower Peninsula Swimming & Diving Finals often have taken place on college campuses, with the Holland Aquatic Center in the LP rotation recently as well. Over the last decade, Eastern Michigan University, Oakland University and the Holland facility have become most familiar to MHSAA finalists.



## TITLE TOTALS

| Lower Peninsula | Years     | Titles |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| Open Class      | 1972-1975 | 4      |
| Class A, B      | 1976-2001 | 53     |
| Division 1, 2   | 2002-2023 | 44     |
| Division 3      | 2007-2023 | 17     |

Note: Upper Peninsula will be featured in Winter benchmarks

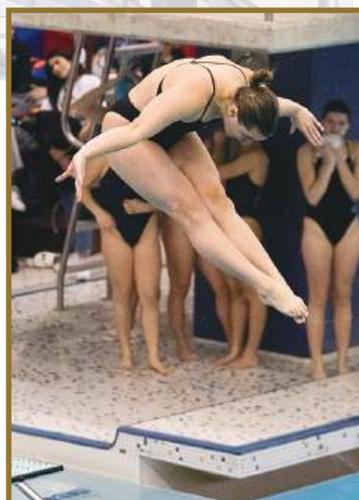
## Lower Peninsula Titles

- 26 – East Grand Rapids (1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- 20 – Ann Arbor Pioneer (1979, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- 12 – Farmington Hills Mercy (1972, 1998, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023)

## Diving Reign

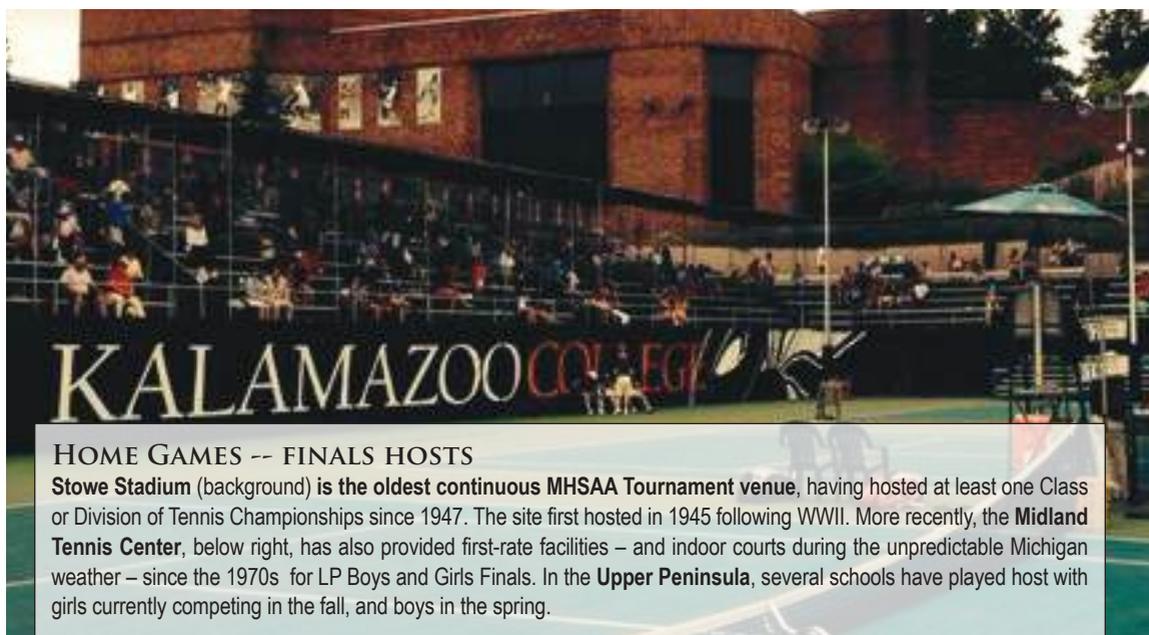
Dexter's **Lily Witte** (right) has no peers when it comes to MHSAA diving, with four LP Division 2 titles. As a senior she obliterated the all-Finals record with a score of 554.65, more than 45 points higher than the previous mark. Witte had entered that year's MHSAA meet having scored the second-highest score on the all-Finals list, 503.55, as a junior.

In something of a rarity for elite divers, Witte also swam on two relays for Dexter as a senior, helping her team to a 10th-place finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay and 13th place in the 200 medley.



## Schmitt Shows Her Mettle on World Stage

Canton' HS's Allison Schmitt holds the MHSAA Finals record in the 200-yard freestyle event, and didn't stop showing her mettle following her prep career, winning 10 medals over four Olympic Games, beginning with the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, and culminating with the 2020 Games in Tokyo. She won three gold medals at the 2012 Games in London – the 200-meter freestyle (in which she set an Olympic record), in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay, and in the 4x100-meter medley relay (in which a new world record was set). At the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Schmitt won a gold medal in the 4x200 meter freestyle relay.



## HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

**Stowe Stadium** (background) is the oldest continuous MHSAA Tournament venue, having hosted at least one Class or Division of Tennis Championships since 1947. The site first hosted in 1945 following WWII. More recently, the **Midland Tennis Center**, below right, has also provided first-rate facilities – and indoor courts during the unpredictable Michigan weather – since the 1970s for LP Boys and Girls Finals. In the **Upper Peninsula**, several schools have played host with girls currently competing in the fall, and boys in the spring.

## LP BOYS TITLE TOTALS

|                     |           |     |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|
| Open Class          | 1925-1929 | 5   |
| Class A-B           | 1930-1934 | 5   |
| Class A, B          | 1935-1997 | 136 |
| Class C-D           | 1930-1997 | 78  |
| Division 1, 2, 3, 4 | 1998-2023 | 116 |

*Note: Both Fall and Spring Finals in 2007 due to seasons change*

*Note: No Tournament 1942, 1943, 1944*

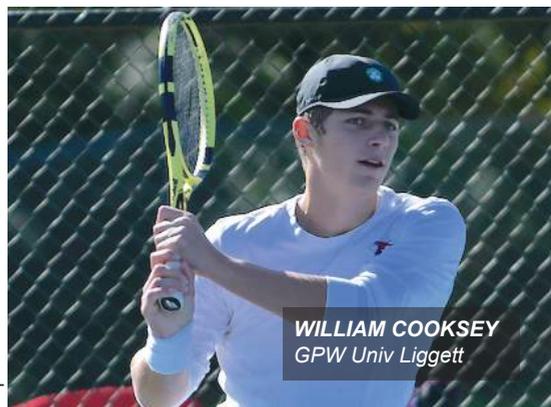
*Note: Boys Upper Peninsula will be featured in Spring benchmarks*

## UP GIRLS TITLE TOTALS

|                |           |    |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Open Class     | 1972-1976 | 5  |
| Class A-B, C-D | 1977-1999 | 46 |
| Division 1, 2  | 2000-2023 | 51 |

*Note: Girls Lower Peninsula will be featured in Spring benchmarks*

*All totals above include co-championships*



**WILLIAM COOKSEY**  
GPW Univ Liggett

## BOYS

### Lower Peninsula Titles

- 28 - Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett (1972, 1973-shared, 1974, 1975-shared, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1994-shared, 1995-shared, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002-shared, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022)
- 25 - Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook/Cranbrook Kingswood (1972, 1973, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023)

### LP Finals Championships - Consecutive

- 13 - Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett (1972-84)

## GIRLS

### Upper Peninsula Titles

- 16 – Escanaba (1975, 1976, 1977, 1984, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2011)
- 15 – Iron Mountain (1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1995, 2001, 2008, 2010)

## MHSAA No. 1 Singles Four-Time Champs

### LP Boys

- 4 - William Cooksey, Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett (2017-20)
- 4 - Francisco Castillo, Hamtramck (1957-60)

### UP Girls

- 4 - Kit Duford, Iron Mountain (1985-88)

## HOME GAMES -- FINALS HOSTS

### Lower Peninsula Finals

2008-Present: Battle Creek (Kellogg Arena)  
 1996-2007: Kalamazoo (University Arena WMU)  
 1990-1995: Kalamazoo Central HS  
 1989: Class A, D-Kalamazoo Central HS; Classes B and C-Comstock HS  
 1987-1988: Class A, D-Flint Carman-Ainsworth HS; Class B, C-Corunna HS  
 1985-1986: Class A, D-East Kentwood HS; Class B, C-Delton Kellogg HS  
 1983-1984: Class A, D-Howell HS; Class B, C-Linden HS  
 1982: Class A, B-Howell HS; Class C, D-Battle Creek Central HS  
 1981: Class A, D-Battle Creek Central HS; Class B, C-Battle Creek Pennfield HS  
 1980: Mt. Clemens Chippewa Valley HS  
 1978-1979: Grand Rapids (Gerald Ford Center GR Junior College)  
 1977: Livonia (University Center Schoolcraft College)  
 1976: Class A-Livonia (University Center Schoolcraft College);  
 Class B-Kalamazoo (Gary Center WMU);  
 Class C-D-Saginaw (Delta College)

### Upper Peninsula Finals

1999: Class A-B-Escanaba; Class C-Rudyard;  
 Class D-Rapid River  
 1986-1998: Escanaba HS  
 1985: Sault Ste. Marie Area HS  
 1984: Ironwood Luther Wright HS  
 1983: St. Ignace LaSalle HS  
 1982: Watersmeet HS  
 1981: Brimley HS  
 1980: Watersmeet HS

## TITLE TOTALS

| Lower Peninsula     | Years     | Titles |
|---------------------|-----------|--------|
| Class C-D           | 1976-1976 | 1      |
| Class C, D          | 1977-1999 | 46     |
| Class A, B          | 1976-1999 | 48     |
| Upper Peninsula     | Years     | Titles |
| Open Class          | 1980-1990 | 11     |
| Class A-B-C         | 1991-1998 | 8      |
| Class A-B, C        | 1999-1999 | 2      |
| Class D             | 1991-1999 | 9      |
| LP/UP Combined      | Years     | Titles |
| Class A, B, C, D    | 2000-2017 | 76     |
| Division 1, 2, 3, 4 | 2018-2023 | 24     |

*Note: Both Winter and Fall Finals in 2007 due to seasons change*

## NOBODY BETTER

Temperance Bedford Coach **Jodi Manore** (right) became the national leader in high school volleyball victories in September 2015. She finished her career with a remarkable 2,225-95-65 record and Class A titles in 1998, 2001 and 2005.



## TIGER TALE IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

With 22 MHSAA Volleyball championship trophies in its showcase, the Tigers of Battle Creek St. Philip have the most titles in tournament history, more than twice the number of No. 2 on the list, Portage Northern (10).

For many schools, transitions from coach to coach can be tough. Not so at this Class D power in lower Michigan, where the current coach is the daughter and a former player of the one who began to build the dynasty.



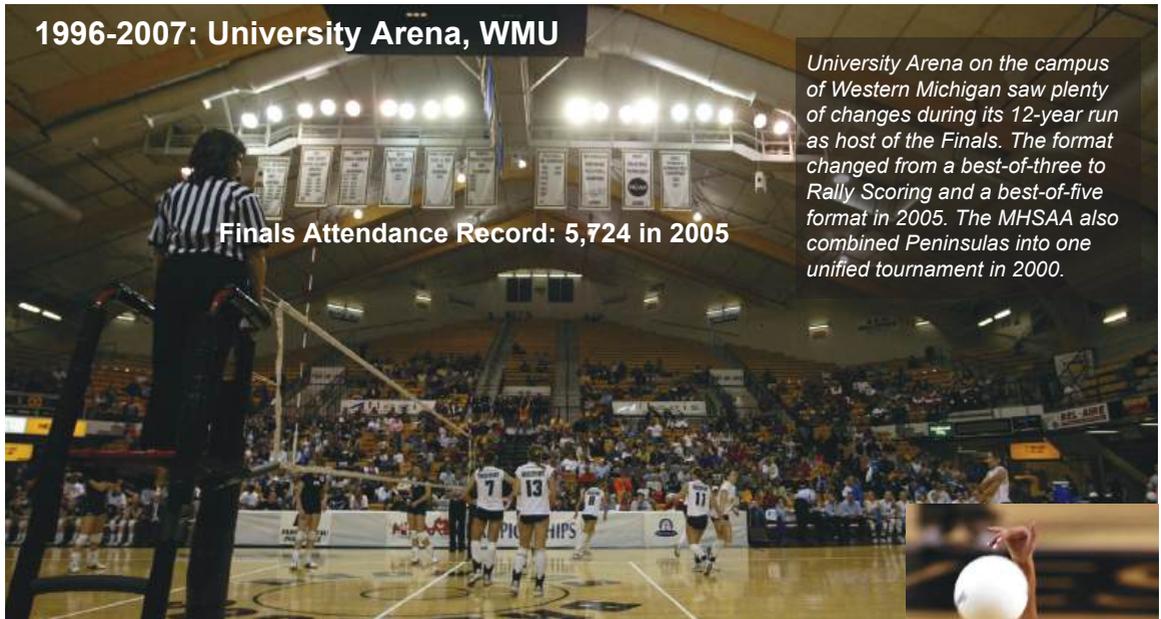
**Sheila Guerra** (left), an educator at St. Philip for more than 30 years, began coaching in 1976 as the junior varsity and junior high school coach. The rest is history. After Coach Becky Emrich got things rolling with the school's first crown in 1979, Guerra mentored the Tigers to nine championships from 1983-1997.

Guerra's daughter **Vicky (Guerra) Groat** played for her mother's first three title teams from 1983-1985, and took the reins of the program in 1998 and led the Tigers to runner-up finishes that year and again in 2002, 2003 and 2004. For a program used to titles rather than second place, things would change.

Groat, still active, guided the Tigers to the winner's circle in 2005, then after another runner-up in 2006, her squads won nine in a row before having the streak snapped at the hands of Leland in November 2015. Groat's 10th championship in 2014 eclipsed her mother's total of nine, and she would guide the Tigers to the top again in 2020 and 2021.



**1996-2007: University Arena, WMU**



**Finals Attendance Record: 5,724 in 2005**

*University Arena on the campus of Western Michigan saw plenty of changes during its 12-year run as host of the Finals. The format changed from a best-of-three to Rally Scoring and a best-of-five format in 2005. The MHSAA also combined Peninsulas into one unified tournament in 2000.*

**SMOOTH AS GLASS: HUGE IMPACT ON SMALL TOWN**

Scan the MHSAA Girls Volleyball record book and you'll find the little northern town of Leland coming up big, thanks to Laurie and Alisha Glass.

Laurie recently retired after amassing record of 1,218-393-122 over 29 seasons at Leland HS, with a brief stint in-between at Traverse City Central in the early 1990s. She led Leland to Class D Finals championships in 2002, 2006 and 2015, and runner-up finishes in Class D in 2014 and Division 4 in 2018 and 2019. She was named to the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association (MIVCA) Hall of Fame in 2006, and selected as national Coach of the Year in volleyball in 2014.



**Laurie Glass**

Laurie also coached and parented arguably the most accomplished volleyball player – and one of the top female athlete across all sports – in Michigan high school history. Her daughter Alisha Glass-Childress graduated from Leland in 2006 with national records for career kills, aces and blocks, and the first two still top those respective lists. Alisha, also an all-state basketball player, went on to star on the volleyball court at Penn State and as the U.S. Olympic team setter in 2016 in helping that team to the bronze medal.

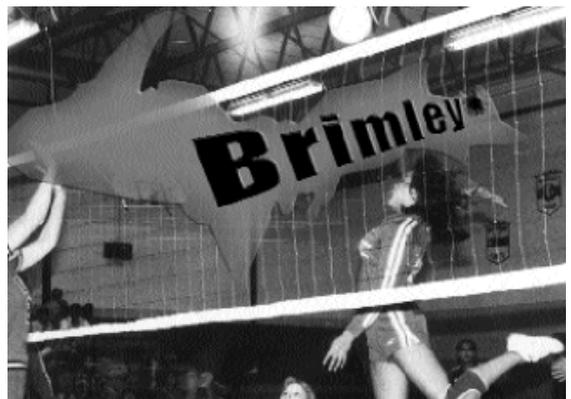


**Alisha Glass-Childress**

**KEEPING OPPONENTS AT BAY**

The Brimley Bays dominated MHSAA Upper Peninsula Volleyball in the 1980s, when they won seven of the school's eight championships, and five in a row from 1981-85 under Coach Charles Compo. Even more impressive was the fact that the UP was not split into classes at that time; all sizes of schools large and small competed for supremacy north of the bridge.

In 1978, the growth of girls sports saw the birth of a volleyball team at Brimley. Compo took on the coaching reins with very little experience in the sport, but with an eagerness to learn and to teach. Just two years later, the first UP Tournament took place and over the next decade Brimley established itself as the first volleyball dynasty in the Upper Peninsula.



## Student Advisory Serves MHSAA Leadership

**E**ight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2024-25 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's perspective, and also is involved in the operation of MHSAA championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2024-25 are: **Itzel Albarran**, Bronson; **Harper Barnhart**, Brownstown Woodhaven; **Diamond Cook**, Southfield Christian; **Henry Ewles**, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep; **Cole Haist**, Big Rapids; **Frannie Keeley**, Jenison; **Trey LaValley**, Romeo; and **Ethan Stine**, Bridgman.

Those eight new members were selected from 90 applicants. The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented 142 schools from 51 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 10 MHSAA sports, and five will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council generally meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the Council discusses issues dealing with the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group – student leadership.

This school year, the Council handed out championship trophies at Finals events, led sessions during four Sportsmanship Summits and provided assistance at the Women In Sports Leadership Conference, provided feedback to the MHSAA Representative Council on proposed rule changes, worked on a mental health initiative, and wrote the script for a public service announcement on adult spectator sportsmanship that will be included in broadcasts beginning this upcoming school year.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2025 members who were selected a year ago: **Cale Bell**, Sault Ste. Marie; **Drew Cady**, Oxford; **Macy Jenkins**, Milford; **Isaiah Kabban**, Harbor Beach; **Ella Knudsen**, Leland; **Kaylee Kranz**, Clinton; **Joey Spada**, Kalamazoo Central; and **Aynalem Zoet**, Grandville Calvin Christian.

### Student Advisory Council Belief Statement

*As the voice of Michigan's student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council's role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSAA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.*

*We believe athletes should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe students in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe coaches should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that parents should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child's decisions. We believe officials commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.*

*The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.*

## Scholar-Athlete Program Rolls Into 36th Year

Thousands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extracurricular activities, often improving their academic achievements in the process. The value that such programs play in the total education of a high school student is highlighted through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$2,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2024-25.



Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 36th year, and presents scholarships to students in every MHSAA enrollment classification. The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning.

“It is amazing to see the number of young people who are proven achievers in academics and activities,” said Mark Uyl, executive director of the MHSAA. “At a time when our educational system is coming under fire, the Scholar-Athlete Award is something that proves how important athletics are to the development of a well-rounded person.”



Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must be graduating during the 2024-25 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors postseason competition.

Applicants will also be required to show involvement in other school/community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Application materials can be found on MHSAA.com. Scan the code below to access the page.

Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships will be awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.

A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select regional and statewide winners.

Farm Bureau Insurance, a long-time supporter of MHSAA activities, also sponsors other educationally oriented programs.

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing in March 2025.



Scan this code for more information

The MHSAA encourages people to submit success stories for generating sportsmanship, participation and attendance at their schools. Please send to: [info@mhsaa.com](mailto:info@mhsaa.com) and type School Success Story in the subject line.

## Sportsmanship Summits Continue in 2024

The Michigan High School Athletic Association’s annual Sportsmanship Summit series will return this fall, again focusing on sportsmanship both on and off the field of play, led by student-athletes.

The MHSAA has conducted Sportsmanship Summits across Michigan for more than 20 years, and this year’s series kicks off Nov. 4 in Marquette and finishes Nov. 13 in Grand Rapids.

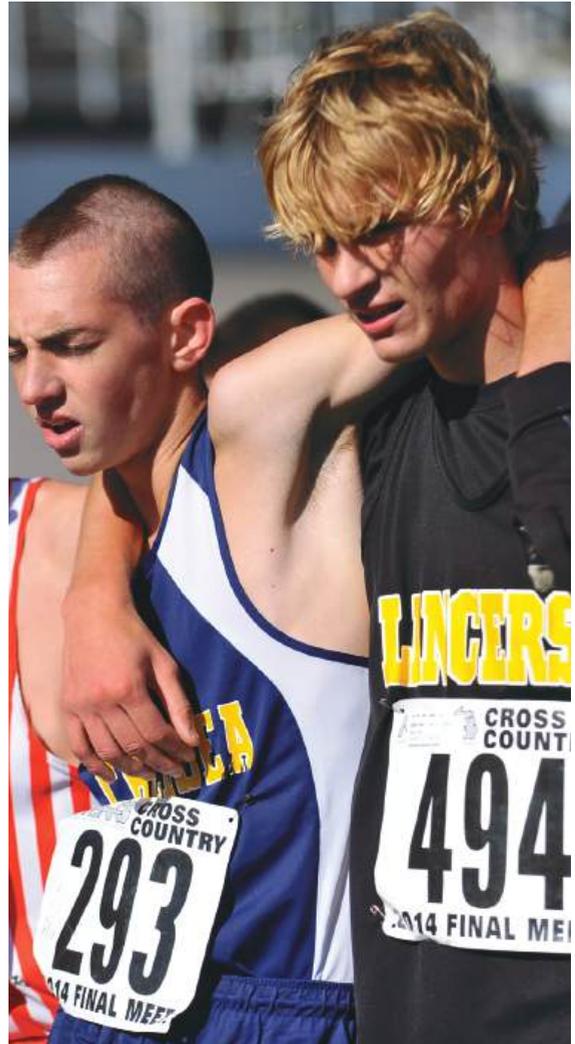
MHSAA staff, with assistance from school administrators and the MHSAA Student Advisory Council, conduct Sportsmanship Summits. More than 800 students are expected to take part in the four workshops. Workshop sessions will focus on sportsmanship both on and off the court and feature hands-on activities including one session developed and instructed by members of the Student Advisory Council. At the end of the day the delegation from each participating school will meet to develop a school sportsmanship campaign.

Breakouts at each Summit also provide a great opportunity for student sections to learn about appropriate student section behavior. There will be information for the veteran student sections and guides for schools that want to start their own organized student sections for the first time.

“Winning is great, but good sportsmanship helps develop habits that can be used well beyond the playing field,” said MHSAA senior assistant director Andy Frushour, the lead Sportsmanship Summits presenter. “A lively student section can create a fun and exciting atmosphere at games, but we want to make sure students don’t take this a step too far. The Summits are a great way to learn from other schools around the state.”

Sportsmanship Summits last from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the cost is \$30 per participant (for both students and administrators). Lunch is in-

cluded. Registration at each site is limited to 225. Schools are welcome to bring as many as 10 total representatives, including two administrators. For additional registration information, contact Andy Frushour at the MHSAA office – andy@mhsaa.com or (517) 332-5046. Registration information also is available on Students page of the MHSAA Website.



### 2024 MHSAA Sportsmanship Series

- **MARQUETTE** at The Northern Center at NMU on November 4
- **SAGINAW** at The Conference Center at SVSU on November 7
- **ANN ARBOR** at the Sheraton Ann Arbor on November 11
- **GRAND RAPIDS** at the Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport on November 13

# Meanwhile, Back in Paris . . .

The lead story to this issue of *benchmarks* indicated that the 1924 Summer Olympics were held in Paris, the same year as the birth of the MHSAA.

100 years later, the MHSAA left its mark on the 2024 Paris Olympics, as 15 competitors who had once participated in MHSAA sports took to the world's biggest stage.

Among those who graduated from Michigan schools, Grand Blanc's **Grant Fisher** and Caledonia's **Alena Olsen** provided the most memorable finishes this summer.

Fisher, a two-time Lower Peninsula Division 1 cross country champion and five-time champion at Track & Field Finals, won bronze medals in the Olympic 5,000 and 10,000-meter races. Never in Olympic history had an American man medaled in both the 5,000 and 10,000 meters.

After high school, Fisher went on to win NCAA championships at Stanford, and he still owns the all-MHSAA Finals record in the 1,600 (4:00.28), run in 2015 as a senior. His 14:52.5 in 2014 remains the sixth-fastest 5K time in MHSAA cross country championship history.

Olsen played volleyball and soccer at Caledonia, graduating in 2014, and was part of the bronze medal-winning U.S. rugby team in Paris. She began playing that sport as a freshman at Michigan, where she was a two-time All-America selection.

Also competing this month for the United States were the following (with high school graduation year in parentheses):

- **Heath Baldwin**, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep (2019) – Track & Field (10th in decathlon)
- **Adam Coon**, Fowlerville (2013) – Wrestling
- **Freddie Crittenden**, Utica (2013) – Track & Field (sixth in 110 hurdles)
- **Aaron Cummings**, Grand Haven – Rugby (also played football, wrestled and ran track at Grand Haven)
- **Andrew Evans**, Portage Northern (2009) – Track & Field
- **Hobbs Kessler**, Ann Arbor Skyline (2021) – Track & Field (fifth in 1,500)
- **Grace Stark**, White Lake Lakeland (2019) – Track & Field (fifth in 100 hurdles)
- **Abby Tamer**, Dexter (2021) – Field Hockey (also played soccer at Dexter)

Additionally, **Devin Booker** was a member of the gold medal-winning men's basketball team; he played as a freshman at Grandville before moving to Mississippi. **Cindy (Ofili) Sember** from Ann Arbor Huron ran the 100 hurdles for Great Britain; **Udodi Onwuzurike** from Bloomfield Brother Rice ran the 200 meters for Nigeria; **Alex Rose** from Ogemaw Heights threw the discus for Samoa, and **Myles Amine** from Detroit Catholic Central wrestled for San Marino.



*Grand Blanc's Grant Fisher, shown here winning his second straight MHSAA Cross Country crown in 2014.*

## McEvans, Ansel, Masi Named 2024 Bush Award Winners

**D**etroit Public School League assistant director Anika McEvans, Comstock Public Schools athletic director Justin Ansel and Kensington Lakes Activities Association commissioner Bryan Masi all have served educational athletics for multiple decades in high-profile positions – but as is common in those roles, with much of their difference-making work taking place behind the scenes.

To recognize their efforts and celebrate those vast contributions to school sports, they have been named the 2024 recipients of the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s Allen W. Bush Award.

Al Bush served as executive director of the MHSAA for 10 years. The award honors individuals for past and continuing service to school athletics as a coach, administrator, official, trainer, doctor or member of the media. The award was developed to bring recognition to people who are giving and serving locally, regionally or statewide without a lot of attention. This is the 33rd year of the award.



**McEvans**

**McEvans** finished her fifth school year last spring serving in the Office of Athletics for the Detroit Public Schools Community District, which administers programs for the Detroit PSL. She is responsible for planning and implementation of the PSL’s sports offerings for 72 elementary and middle schools in addition to her responsibilities with the league’s 20 high schools.

The 1994 Detroit Renaissance graduate, and three-sport athlete there, came to the PSL from Southfield Public Schools, where she served as athletic director from 2012-15 for the former Southfield High School and then as district athletic director through 2017-18. As district director, she supervised more than 100 coaches, staff and volunteers and assisted in the merger of Southfield High and Southfield-Lathrup into Southfield Arts & Technology High School for the start of the 2016-17 school year.

The mother of three – with two current college athletes and a college freshman-to-be – also served as head girls basketball coach at Academy of Arts & Sciences, assistant girls basketball coach at Southfield and assistant boys basketball coach and assistant softball coach at Renaissance. She has a bachelor’s degree in sports management & communication from University of Michigan and a master’s in business administration from University of Detroit Mercy.

**Ansel** has served the last 17 years as athletic director for Comstock Public Schools, and during his time in the district also has coached varsity girls basketball and boys soccer and middle school girls and boys basketball, soccer and cross country. Both of his Colts varsity programs won multiple league champi-

onships under his guidance. Ansel came to Comstock after a decade at Onaway, where he taught and coached all 10 years and also served as athletic director over the final five.



**Ansel**

His vast experiences on the sidelines and in the athletic office have made Ansel a valuable contributor on several MHSAA committees as well, including most recently the Junior High/Middle School Committee, and he’s also served as Southwest 10 Conference president and in multiple leadership roles with the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA). Locally, Ansel has raised more than \$60,000 for various projects at Comstock, several highlighting the school’s athletic history.

A Monroe High graduate, Ansel earned a bachelor’s degree from Spring Arbor University in 1997, master’s degrees in education from Marygrove College in 2003 and educational leadership from Grand Valley State University in 2005, and he completed GVSU’s educational specialist in leadership program in 2018.

**Masi** just completed his fourth year as commissioner of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, which is made up of 16 of the largest suburban schools in Metro Detroit, with his responsibilities including serving as liaison for the league locally and at the state level.



**Masi**

He previously served as athletic director at Northville for 17 years, where he created the Northville Athletic Community Service Initiative that has raised thousands of dollars and provided goods and services for needy individuals and community service groups. He also started Northville’s unified sports program and hosted one of the MHSAA’s first junior high/middle school cross country Regional meets during the pilot stage of that program.

A teacher previously and longtime coach as well, Masi was named Michigan Secondary Teacher of the Year in 1997 by the Michigan Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. He was named MIAAA Region 11 Athletic Director of the Year in 2013 and MIAAA Middle School Athletic Director of the Year in 2019, and inducted into the Northville Athletic Hall of Fame in 2021.

Masi graduated from Dearborn Edsel Ford, then earned his bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University, his master’s from Wayne State University and his certified athletic administrator (CAA) designation.

## Why Do We Have These Rules?

MHSAA administrators recently made their annual seven-stop fall trek that has become a tradition during nearly half of the Association's "Century of School Sports" – and this year, a focus has been on answering a key question at the heart of educational athletics since long before the MHSAA was formed during the 1924-25 school year.

The MHSAA's Update Meeting series, in its 47th year, features MHSAA assistant directors explaining recent rules changes and discussing challenges that school administrators face on a daily basis.

MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl speaks to athletic directors, superintendents, principals and school board members on a variety of topics including the MHSAA's current objectives and ideas for the future, while also reinforcing the longstanding values that remain the bedrock of our daily work.

And that leads to the question he's presenting across the state this fall: **Why does the MHSAA have these rules?**

Frankly, the answer goes back to the beginning of school sports in Michigan – all the way back to 1895, when the first MHSAA predecessor organization was formed.

The first MHSAA Representative Council president Lewis L. Forsythe explained in his book "Athletics in Michigan High Schools – The First Hundred Years" how regulations always have been necessary:

"Eligibility rules are a necessity in interscholastic competition. It was common acknowledgment of this fact that led to the first State inter-school organization in 1895. The rules at first were few, simple and liberal. But with the passing of the years they came to be more numerous, more complex, and more restrictive, again through common acknowledgment of desirability if not of necessity."

That necessity – and the reasoning behind it – has not changed.

Two main points explain why rules are absolutely imperative for educational athletics to thrive.

► 1. Participation – through providing as many opportunities as possible for students to play – has been the mission of school sports since their start. Rules contribute to the value of participation.

If there are requirements for children to participate in athletics – for example, an academic standard or rules that dissuade students from switching schools every year – then school sports programs mean more to all involved.

If we raise the bar, raise the standards of eligibility and conduct, we raise the value of our school sports programs. If we lower the bar, we lower the value of being part of school sports – because without rules, contest results are meaningless, and the value of participating is diminished.



► 2. We have rules where the stakes are higher, and agreement is lower – because where the stakes are highest, there is the greatest tendency for some people to try to gain an unfair advantage, and the greatest need for rules to curb possible dishonest activity.

This statement goes to the heart of the history, rationale and application of MHSAA rules. Obviously and simply put, school sports mean a lot to those who take part, and that significance is high enough to stoke disagreement – and we need rules to govern those disagreements. We have the most rules for high school sports, where championships are at stake and the possibility of disagreement is greatest.

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Finally – and perhaps providing the strongest reinforcement of the two points above – is this:

Schools choose to make MHSAA rules their own. Quite literally, school districts vote annually to be part of the MHSAA – and confirming this voluntary membership comes with the requirement to follow all MHSAA rules.

When schools challenge our rules, they literally are seeking to break the rules they already have committed to uphold.

These rules, and this commitment, are the strength of our organization across 752 member high schools and several hundred more middle schools and junior high schools. They have been constructed on a century of precedents and after considerations by representatives of those same member schools – representatives those schools have voted to elect every school year during the MHSAA's history.

– Geoff Kimmerly  
MHSAA.com senior editor

## B#4 Foundation Offers Powerful Message & Help

Ithaca Athletic Director Terry Hessbrook and his family suffered an unimaginable tragedy with the death of their son Brady in January 2023. Terry and his family have created the **B#4 Foundation** in an effort to communicate with students across the state who may also be dealing with mental health struggles to let them know that help is available:

Roughly 1-in-4 high school students have seriously considered suicide in the past year. Nearly 25%; that could equate to the entire sophomore class of students at your high school. Mental health conditions – such as depression or anxiety – are real, common, and treatable. The mission of the B#4 Foundation is to remove the stigma of depression and anxiety, and to let people know that it is okay to talk about it and okay to get help. And to do that “B#4” a tragic decision is made.

Terry Hessbrook has presented at more than 30 schools across the state about his son Brady and the foundation named for him. He'd like to speak at yours; to your student-athletes, your staff, your coaches – anyone who would like to hear his message. There is no charge for him to present at your school, but donations are accepted. He can be reached at:

**Email:** [info@theb4foundation.org](mailto:info@theb4foundation.org)

**Phone:** 989-444-5819

**Web:** [theb4foundation.org](http://theb4foundation.org)

The mental health and safety of all student-athletes is a top priority of the MHSAA. Terry's message is powerful – and he's already had people who've seen his presentation tell him that they got help because of his message. The MHSAA encourages you to have Terry speak at your school if at all possible.

*Scan the QR code at right for a brief video about the B#4 Foundation.*



## Coach's Guide to Nutrition: Pre-Workout Snacks

Heading into practice or a game under-fueled may take away from athlete performance. Encourage student-athletes to not only eat regularly throughout the day, but to have a small, carbohydrate-focused snack about 30-60 minutes before activity. This will top off their energy stores so they are ready to hit the field.

Pre-workout snacks don't have to be complicated. Choose easy, high-carb snacks that can be stored safely in a gym bag.

Snacking can be detrimental when done out of boredom or in place of regular, balanced meals. But, for an athlete, healthy snacks can aid performance and recovery.

In planning to eat every 3-4 hours, a mid-morning snack may be ideal. Having a snack in the hour or two before practice and in the 'window of opportunity' following practice can help maintain energy levels and ensure proper recovery.

Work with your athletes to create simple snacks that are easy to transport. Encourage athletes to include a carb and protein in each snack when possible. Fresh fruit, granola bars with 8-10 grams of



protein, or trail mix that includes nuts/seeds and dried fruit are easy to keep in a gym bag and relatively affordable. A small cooler with an ice pack is a great way to keep snacks cold and fresh.

Snacks are important to maintain energy between meals, before exercise and after workouts. Snacks before and after exercise help performance as well as aid optimal recovery. Try to include carbs and protein in every snack.

## Candace Cox Named 2024 MHSAA Norris Award Winner

**A** registered contest official since the Michigan High School Athletic Association introduced competitive cheer with the 1993-94 school year, Quincy's Candace Cox has played one of the leading roles in building the sport that's averaged more than 5,500 participants annually over its 31-year history.

She was celebrated in April as the 2024 Vern L. Norris Leadership in Officiating Award honoree during the MHSAA's Officials Awards & Alumni Banquet, where she and several of her competitive cheer colleagues who began as registered officials that inaugural season were also recognized for completing their 30th years of service in 2022-23.

The Norris Award is presented annually to a veteran official who has been active in a local officials association, has mentored other officials, and has been involved in officials' education. It is named for



Cox

Vern L. Norris, who served as executive director of the MHSAA from 1978-86 and was well-respected by officials on the state and national levels. He initiated the officials banquet in 1980, and this year's will be the first in-person celebration since 2019. Cox will be honored along with high school game officials with 20, 30, 40,

45 and 50 years of service.

Competitive cheer is unique to Michigan. While several states have spirit or cheer as a sport, the MHSAA format – which includes teams showcasing a variety of skills over three rounds and encourages full teams to participate by scoring higher when more athletes are on the floor – was created in part to provide more opportunities for cheerleaders to compete. Cox brought her knowledge and experience in sideline cheer into the initial development of the competitive format.

She officiated a Regional competition during that first season of competitive cheer in 1993-94, and the following season she began in a string of officiating at the last 30 MHSAA Finals, including in Division 1 this past winter. Cox also is in her 11th year as executive director of the Michigan Cheer Judges Association, the statewide leadership and training organization for the sport, and in that role she has trained thousands of officials – the MCJA instructs about 175 annually.

She will be the first competitive cheer official to be recognized with the Norris Award.

"At the very beginning, we didn't know what (competitive cheer) was going to involve, and there was a lot of work put in, a lot of committees, sharing a lot of information from sideline because Michigan is so unique to cheer," Cox said. "At the very beginning, I never believed we would advance as much as we have. But I really feel we're a leader in the competitive cheer community."

"My favorite thing is helping educate and be involved, and I do it for the kids. I want them to have a positive experience, and I want them to learn, and I also want to educate other officials so they realize what an important sport this is ... another sport for girls to compete in."

Cox cheered while a student at Coldwater High School and became the sideline cheer coach after she returned from college. It was during that time she was approached by Marilyn Bowker, another of the founding trailblazers in the sport, and from then on Cox became a growing presence as competitive cheer continued to develop and thrive.

She has served on the MHSAA's Competitive Cheer Committee and Judges Selection Committee, and is an MHSAA registered assigner in the sport. Cox was named MCJA Official of the Year in 1999 and Michigan's top official in cheer by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in 2000.

"She's been a pioneer since Day 1 in competitive cheer and is considered literally one of the fundamental pillars who have grown and promoted the sport over the years," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "Candy is a very worthy Norris Award winner."

Cox is the clinic manager at the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency and provides expertise from her professional field as part of the MHSAA's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. A 1973 Coldwater High School graduate, she earned an associate's degree in medical administration from Barton Bryman School in Phoenix in 1979 and is certified as an HIV counselor by the State of Michigan, and BLS (basic life support), CPR/AED and first aid instructor by the American Heart Association.

She has served her community of Girard Township in several roles, including currently as township supervisor after previously holding office as trustee and contributing on multiple boards and commissions. She's also served as Branch County jury board chairperson and was named Branch County Citizen of the Year in 2011 by the Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce.

Cox is a member of the Coldwater Early Bird Exchange Club and has served as president of the Bronson Polish Festival. She is active in service projects for St. Charles Borromeo Parish and judged CPR for local, district and regional Future Health Professionals (HOSA) competitions.

## Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions/case plays for volleyball, soccer and football. Answers appear in red on next page.

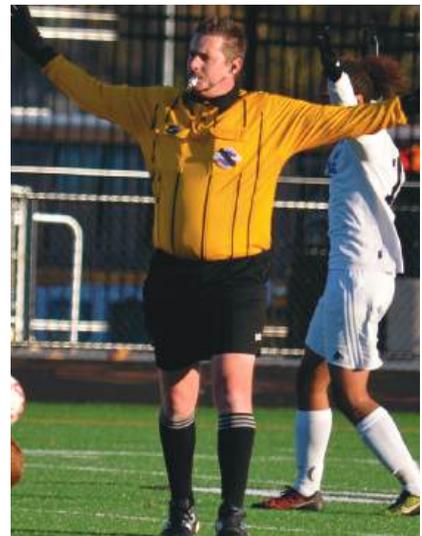
### Football

- Second and 10 at team A's 40 yard line. A1's pass is caught by A2, who advances to team B's 30 yard line, where he is hit and fumbles. The ball rolls to team B's 22 yard line, where prone A3 recovers. During the play, B4 is flagged for roughing the passer.
  - If team A accepts the penalty, it is enforced from the spot of the foul.
  - If team A accepts the penalty, it is enforced from the previous spot.
  - If team A accepts the penalty, it is enforced from the spot of A2's fumble.
  - If team A accepts the penalty, it is enforced from the spot of A3's recovery.
- A series of penalties on team R have moved the free-kick line to team R's 35 yard line. K1's free kick is high and is over team R's end zone when K2 catches it. There is no team R player in the vicinity.
  - That's first touching.
  - That's kick-catch interference on K2.
  - That's a touchback for team R.
  - That's a touchdown for team K.
- First and 10 for team A from its own 20 yard line. After the referee has signaled the ready, team B has 14 players in its defensive formation. Two seconds later, after team A breaks its huddle, team B sends three players to the sidelines before the snap.
  - No problem.
  - Illegal substitution on team B.
  - Unsportsmanlike conduct on team B.
  - Illegal participation on team B.



### Boys Soccer

- A1 is in an offside position. A2 shoots on goal and the ball deflects off the crossbar to A1, who shoots and scores.
  - No goal since A1 was in an offside position and interfered with play. Restart with an indirect free kick where A1 was at the time the ball was played.
  - Goal is awarded since the ball deflected back to A1.
  - Caution A1 for being in offside position and interfering with play.
- Player A of the attacking team is clearly in an offside position when her teammate delivers the ball to her with a throw-in. She collects the ball and kicks it into the goal. The referee should:
  - Award an indirect free kick to Team B.
  - Award a goal to Team A.
  - Award a goal kick to Team B.
  - Award a re-take to Team A.



## Listen to “Be The Referee” on MHSAA.com



3. Near midfield a pass by A7 deflects off the official, changes direction and goes directly to A8 who has a clear run at the goal. What is the appropriate restart?
  - a. There is no restart, play on.
  - b. Indirect free kick for Team A.
  - c. Indirect free kick for Team
  - d. Drop ball to the team that last touched the ball prior to hitting the referee (Team A).
  - e. Drop ball to the defending goalkeeper (Team B).

## Volleyball

1. At the moment of the serve, which statement about player positioning is not true?
  - a. All players, including the libero, shall be in the correct serving order.
  - b. All players, including the libero, are not required to be in the correct serving order.
  - c. No player, other than the server, may have any part of the body touching the floor outside of the boundary lines.
  - d. All players, except the server, shall be within the team's playing court and boundary lines.
2. For illegal alignment, loss of rally/point is awarded to the opponent for:
  - a. Positioning, at the moment of a legal serve, of any player other than the server, outside the boundaries of the playing area.
  - b. Overlapping by players other than the server at the moment a legal serve occurs.
  - c. Both A and B.
  - d. None of the above.
3. Which statement is correct regarding an unruly spectator disrupting the set?
  - a. The first referee gives a yellow card to the coach of the team for whom the fan is yelling.
  - b. The first referee approaches the spectator and tells the spectator to leave the facility.
  - c. The first referee suspends the set until the host management resolves the situation, then play continues.
  - d. The second referee approaches the spectator and tells the spectator to leave the facility.



## Officials Associations Benefit from NASO Membership

The MHSAA is proud to continue to provide the Platinum program of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) “Association Advantage” for all MHSAA Local Approved Associations. The MHSAA is providing this Platinum program membership to all local Approved Associations in assisting these groups with association meeting preparation, association governance and effective, time-tested techniques on how to make good associations great.

All Platinum Association Advantage member associations will receive the all-new monthly electronic newsletter Click, the revamped monthly printed newsletter Advisor, access to the Association Advantage website, a subscription to Referee magazine and a discount on supplies. Groups may choose to upgrade their membership with additional options and levels to include additional insurance, member benefits and training options. Contact the MHSAA office or NASO (262-632-5448).

Football Answers: 1. d. (10-5-5); 2. c. (6-3-1a, 8-5-3a-1); 3. b. (3-7-1).  
Soccer Answers: 1. a. (11-1-4b Diagram 10); 2. b. (11-1-2); 3. d. (9-1-1b1).  
Volleyball Answers: 1. b. (6-4-3a, b); 2. c. (6-4 PENALTIES); 3. c. (12-3).

# OFFICIAL REPORT OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS

## East Lansing, September 23, 2024

We, whose signatures appear below, declare the following to be nominees for, or members-elect of, the Representative Council or the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., as a result of ballots received in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution, or as authorized by the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee at its meeting on October 3, 1941.

### REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

#### NORTHERN SECTION, CLASS A AND B HIGH SCHOOLS (#1)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .42  
 Eric Albright, Midland . . . . .41  
 Illegal or Incomplete ballots received . . . . .1  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Eric Albright**

#### NORTHERN SECTION, CLASS C AND D HIGH SCHOOLS (#2)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .50  
 Aaron Gaffney, Ellsworth . . . . .15  
 Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs . . . . .31  
 Illegal or Incomplete ballots received . . . . .4  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Ann Rigby**

#### SOUTHEASTERN, CLASS A AND B HIGH SCHOOLS (#3)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .66  
 John Thompson, Brighton . . . . .37  
 Chris Westfall, Ypsilanti-Lincoln . . . . .24  
 Illegal or Incomplete ballots received . . . . .5  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – John Thompson**

#### SOUTHWESTERN, CLASS A AND B HIGH SCHOOLS (#4)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .42  
 Chris Riker, Portage . . . . .40  
 Illegal or Incomplete ballots received . . . . .2  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Chris Riker**

#### UPPER PENINSULA, CLASS C AND D HIGH SCHOOLS (#5) 25

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .25  
 Sean Jacques, Calumet . . . . .13  
 Thomas McKee, Rudyard . . . . .10  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . .2  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Sean Jacques**

### STATEWIDE AT-LARGE (#6)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .434  
 Michael Bakker, Fenton . . . . .410  
 Illegal or incomplete ballots received . . . . .24  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Michael Bakker**

### JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS (#7)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .131  
 Fred Smith, Bangor . . . . .118  
 Illegal or Incomplete ballots received . . . . .13  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Fred Smith**

### PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS (#8)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .51  
 Vic Michaels, Detroit . . . . .51  
 Illegal or Incomplete ballots received . . . . .0  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Vic Michaels**

### UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

#### CLASS D HIGH SCHOOLS (#9)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .17  
 Jack Kumpula, Lake Linden-Hubbell . . . . .17  
 Illegal or Incomplete ballots received . . . . .0  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Jack Kumpula**

#### ATHLETIC COACH – HIGH SCHOOLS (#10)

Total number of legal ballots received . . . . .31  
 Mike Berutti, Iron River-West Iron . . . . .30  
 Illegal or Incomplete ballots received . . . . .1  
**Elected by Majority of Votes – Mike Berutti**

### BOARD OF CANVASSERS (Signed)

Mike Brya, Athletic Director, DeWitt High School  
 Nicole Norris, Athletic Director, East Lansing High School

## MHSAA Representative Council

### Chris Adams\*

Superintendent  
Camden-Frontier High School  
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

### Eric Albright\*\*

Athletic Director  
Midland High School  
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

### Jay Alexander\*

Executive Director of Athletics  
Detroit Public Schools  
Detroit Public Schools Position

### Judy Cox\*\*

Principal  
Auburn-Bay City Western High School  
Appointee

### Ross Fort (ex-officio)

Special Assistant to Deputy Superintendent for Finance  
and Operations  
Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing  
Designee

### Scott Grimes\*\*, President

Superintendent, Grand Haven Public Schools  
Statewide At-Large

### Chris Hartman\*

Athletic Director  
Kingsford High School  
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

### Sean Jacques\*\*

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director  
Calumet High School  
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

### Jeff Kline\*

Athletic Director  
Mt. Morris High School  
Statewide At-Large

### Jason Malloy\*\*

Athletic Director  
Westland John Glenn High School  
Appointee

### Vic Michaels\*\*, Secretary-Treasurer

Director of Physical Education & Athletics  
Archdiocese of Detroit  
Private and Parochial Schools

### Chris Miller\*

Athletic Director/Director of Operations  
Gobles High School  
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

### Anna Rigby\*\*

Athletic Director  
Harbor Springs High School  
Class C-D — Northern Michigan

### Chris Riker\*\*

Athletic Director  
Portage Northern High School  
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

### Fred Smith\*\*

Athletic Director  
Bangor Middle School  
Junior High/Middle Schools

### Adam Stefanski\*

Athletic Director  
Boyne City High School  
Junior High/Middle Schools

### Dr. Arnetta Thompson\*

Superintendent  
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools  
Appointee

### John Thompson\*\*, Vice President

Athletic Director  
Brighton High School  
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

### Jennifer Thunberg\*

Principal  
Freeland Middle School  
Appointee

\*Term Expires December 2025

\*\*Term Expires December 2024

# Failure to Rate Officials

Member schools of the Michigan High School Athletic Association have agreed through Regulation II, Section 7(B) to rate officials in several of the sports for which the MHSAA conducts a postseason tournament and to be subject to penalties when a school fails to rate any officials in a sport that requires it.

Recent surveys indicate schools value the opportunity to rate officials and do not want that opportunity eliminated.

Most officials would prefer an evaluation process over ratings by participating schools; but under our

current system, officials need schools to rate them so they can amass the number of ratings necessary to be considered for advancement and tournament assignments.

On March 23, 2001, the MHSAA Representative Council adopted the policy of publishing the names of schools which fail to rate any officials in a sport and to do so as soon as possible following the season

Following are schools failing to rate officials for the 2023-24 school year.

## Failure to Rate Officials - Fall 2023

### Boys Soccer

Southfield Manoogian

### Volleyball

Detroit Pershing

Southfield Manoogian

## Failure to Rate Officials - Winter 2024

### Girls Basketball

Ann Arbor Central Academy

Bridgeport

Dearborn Henry Ford Academy

Dearborn Henry Ford Academy

Detroit Cristo Rey

Detroit Mumford

Hamtramck

### Boys Basketball

Detroit Edison

Detroit Pershing

Dexter

### Competitive Cheer

Beal City

Coleman

Detroit University Prep Art &

Design

Eastpointe

Gaylord

Ovid-Elsie

Union City

Warren Mott

### Wrestling

Detroit University Prep Science & Math

Detroit Martin Luther King

Detroit University Prep Art &

Design

Ishpeming

Kalamazoo Phoenix

Oxford

## Failure to Rate Officials - Spring 2024

### Baseball

Detroit Community

Detroit Denby

### Girls Soccer

Detroit Jalen Rose

### Softball

Detroit Communication Media

Arts

Detroit Lincoln-King

St. Ignace

Ypsilanti Community

# 2023-24 Officials Reports Listing

*(High Schools that received 3 or more negative Reports)*

In accordance with the May 1996 Representative Council adoption of the “Comprehensive Sportsmanship Package” the names of schools that received three or more “concern” or “ejection” Officials Reports in the school year are listed in this report.

|                               |    |                                |   |                             |   |
|-------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| River Rouge                   | 18 | Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills      | 5 | Bloomfield Hills            | 3 |
| Harper Woods Chandler Park    | 13 | Grand Rapids Union             | 5 | Burr Oak                    | 3 |
| Kalamazoo Loy Norrix          | 12 | Holland West Ottawa            | 5 | Caledonia                   | 3 |
| Dearborn Edsel Ford           | 11 | Kalamazoo Central              | 5 | Calumet                     | 3 |
| Fenton                        | 11 | Kalamazoo Comstock             | 5 | Carleton Airport            | 3 |
| Southgate Anderson            | 11 | Ortonville Brandon             | 5 | Center Line                 | 3 |
| St Clair Shores Lake Shore    | 11 | Port Huron Northern            | 5 | Charlevoix                  | 3 |
| Warren Mott                   | 11 | Rochester Adams                | 5 | Clio                        | 3 |
| Wyoming                       | 11 | St Clair Shores Lakeview       | 5 | Davison                     | 3 |
| Lansing Waverly               | 10 | Traverse City West             | 5 | Delton Kellogg              | 3 |
| Ann Arbor Huron               | 9  | Utica Ford II                  | 5 | DeWitt                      | 3 |
| Detroit Lincoln King Academy  | 9  | Waterford Kettering            | 5 | Erie-Mason                  | 3 |
| Allen Park                    | 8  | Waterford Mott                 | 5 | Flat Rock                   | 3 |
| Battle Creek Central          | 8  | Westland John Glenn            | 5 | Flint Carman-Ainsworth      | 3 |
| Bay City John Glenn           | 8  | Ypsilanti Ypsilanti Community  | 5 | Flint Kearsley              | 3 |
| Benton Harbor                 | 8  | Pittsford                      | 4 | Flint The New Standard Acad | 3 |
| East Lansing                  | 8  | Allen Park Cabrini             | 4 | Galesburg Augusta           | 3 |
| Farmington                    | 8  | Almont                         | 4 | GPW University Liggett      | 3 |
| Flint Flint Southwestern Acad | 8  | Canton                         | 4 | Grand Haven                 | 3 |
| Niles Brandywine              | 8  | Cheboygan                      | 4 | Grosse Ile                  | 3 |
| Salem                         | 8  | Clawson                        | 4 | Grosse Pointe North         | 3 |
| Utica Eisenhower              | 8  | Coldwater                      | 4 | Haslett Haslett             | 3 |
| Ann Arbor Pioneer             | 7  | Coldwater Pansophia Academy    | 4 | Hudsonville                 | 3 |
| Ann Arbor Skyline             | 7  | Dearborn Heights Star Int      | 4 | Kalamazoo Phoenix           | 3 |
| Bloomington                   | 7  | Detroit Catholic Central       | 4 | Lake Odessa Lakewood        | 3 |
| Byron Center                  | 7  | Detroit East English           | 4 | Lakeview                    | 3 |
| Chelsea Chelsea               | 7  | Frankenmuth                    | 4 | Lansing Everett             | 3 |
| East Kentwood                 | 7  | Grand Ledge                    | 4 | Lapeer                      | 3 |
| Ferndale                      | 7  | Grosse Pointe South            | 4 | Leslie Leslie               | 3 |
| Lake Orion                    | 7  | Hartland                       | 4 | Lincoln Park                | 3 |
| New Boston Huron              | 7  | Holly                          | 4 | Livonia Churchill           | 3 |
| Oxford                        | 7  | Ionia                          | 4 | Livonia Stevenson           | 3 |
| Sterling Heights              | 7  | Jackson Northwest              | 4 | Macomb Dakota               | 3 |
| Warren Michigan Collegiate    | 7  | Kalkaska                       | 4 | Martin                      | 3 |
| West Bloomfield               | 7  | Lawton                         | 4 | Melvindale                  | 3 |
| Adrian                        | 6  | Linden                         | 4 | Memphis                     | 3 |
| Berkley                       | 6  | Monroe                         | 4 | Midland Bullock Creek       | 3 |
| Brownstown Woodhaven          | 6  | Mt Morris                      | 4 | Milan                       | 3 |
| Burton Bendle                 | 6  | Muskegon Mona Shores           | 4 | Montrose                    | 3 |
| Dearborn Heights Annapolis    | 6  | Newport Jefferson              | 4 | Mt Pleasant                 | 3 |
| East Grand Rapids             | 6  | Redford Thurston               | 4 | Muskegon                    | 3 |
| Fennville                     | 6  | Riverview                      | 4 | Muskegon Orchard View       | 3 |
| Gaylord                       | 6  | Rochester Hills Stoney Creek   | 4 | Muskegon Reeths-Puffer      | 3 |
| Grand Rapids Catholic Central | 6  | Saginaw Heritage               | 4 | Ovid-Elsie                  | 3 |
| Harbor Springs                | 6  | Southfield for the Arts & Tech | 4 | Plainwell                   | 3 |
| Jackson                       | 6  | St Joseph                      | 4 | Pontiac                     | 3 |
| Jenison                       | 6  | Taylor Trillium Academy        | 4 | Port Huron                  | 3 |
| North Farmington              | 6  | Tekonsha                       | 4 | Portage Northern            | 3 |
| Novi                          | 6  | Traverse City Central          | 4 | Ravenna                     | 3 |
| Romeo                         | 6  | Troy                           | 4 | Rochester Hills Rochester   | 3 |
| Sturgis                       | 6  | Vestaburg                      | 4 | Royal Oak Royal Oak         | 3 |
| Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice | 5  | Walled Lake Western            | 4 | Saginaw Carrollton          | 3 |
| Bridgeport                    | 5  | White Lake Lakeland            | 4 | Sand Creek                  | 3 |
| Cadillac                      | 5  | Ypsilanti Lincoln              | 4 | South Lyon East             | 3 |
| Dearborn Fordson              | 5  | Bangor                         | 3 | St Ignace                   | 3 |
| Detroit Denby                 | 5  | Canton Preparatory             | 3 | Suttons Bay                 | 3 |
| Detroit U of D Jesuit         | 5  | Dearborn                       | 3 | Tawas City Tawas Area       | 3 |
| Dowagiac                      | 5  | Battle Creek Lakeview          | 3 | Union City Union City       | 3 |
| Forest Hills Northern         | 5  | Battle Creek Pennfield         | 3 | Vicksburg Vicksburg         | 3 |
| Fowlerville Fowlerville       | 5  | Bay City Western               | 3 | Walled Lake Northern        | 3 |
| Garden City                   | 5  | Belleville                     | 3 |                             |   |
| Gibraltar Carlson             | 5  | Big Rapids                     | 3 |                             |   |

## Michigan Sends 10 to National Hall of Fame



*Clockwise from top left: Bob Wood, Lofton Greene (in suit) with his 1965 team, Diane Laffey, Charles E. Forsythe, Jim Johnson, Brad Van Pelt, Richie Jordan (shooting the basketball), Ken Beardslee, and Jack Roberts, surrounding Tyrone Wheatley (Robichaud) during a race. (MHSAA archives.)*

**T**he campaign to promote Michigan’s all-time high school greats for National High School Hall of Fame recognition is advancing full-speed ahead.

Just this summer, past Dearborn Heights Robichaud three-sport star Tyrone Wheatley became the Hall of Fame’s 10th inductee from Michigan. With his addition, Michigan’s collection still ranks only 22nd nationally in terms of number of honorees – but his selection makes three over the last nine years as the MHSAA continues to make cases for more recognition from our state’s rich history.

Michigan’s contribution to the Hall of Fame includes five athletes, three coaches and two retired MHSAA executive directors who also had colossal impacts on school sports at the national level. Wheatley joined the MHSAA’s first full-time Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe (inducted 1983), River Rouge boys basketball coach Lofton Greene (1986), Warren Regina athletic director, softball and basketball coach Diane Laffey (2000); Fennville basketball and baseball standout Richie Jordan (2001), Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett boys and girls tennis coach Bob Wood (2005), Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook hockey standout Jim Johnson (2007), Owosso football, basketball and baseball all-stater Brad Van Pelt (2011); Vermontville Maple Valley baseball national record holder Ken Beardslee (2016) and retired MHSAA Executive Director John E. “Jack” Roberts (2022).

In addition to his selection and induction this summer, Wheatley was selected to speak on behalf of the entire 2024 Hall of Fame class during the ceremony in Boston.

The National High School Hall of Fame was started in 1982 by the NFHS. Nominations are made through NFHS member associations, including the MHSAA. Hall of Fame inductees are chosen after a two-level selection process involving a screening committee composed of active high school state association administrators, coaches and officials, and a final selection committee composed of coaches, former athletes, state association officials, media representatives and educational leaders.

Of course, not everyone nominated is eventually selected. Candidates receive a three-year period of consideration, and the MHSAA unsuccessfully campaigned for a nominee as recently as 2017-19, although multiple times that candidate reached the second level of the selection process.

Criteria also must be followed; the MHSAA (like all state associations) is limited to one athletic inductee per year, and the NFHS requires inductees to attend the annual summer ceremony unless, of course, they are deceased.

Obviously, there are several Michigan standouts absent from the list above. But as noted, the work has ramped up to bring their accomplishments to the Hall of Fame stage.

– Geoff Kimmerly  
MHSAA.com senior editor

**OFFICIALS:**

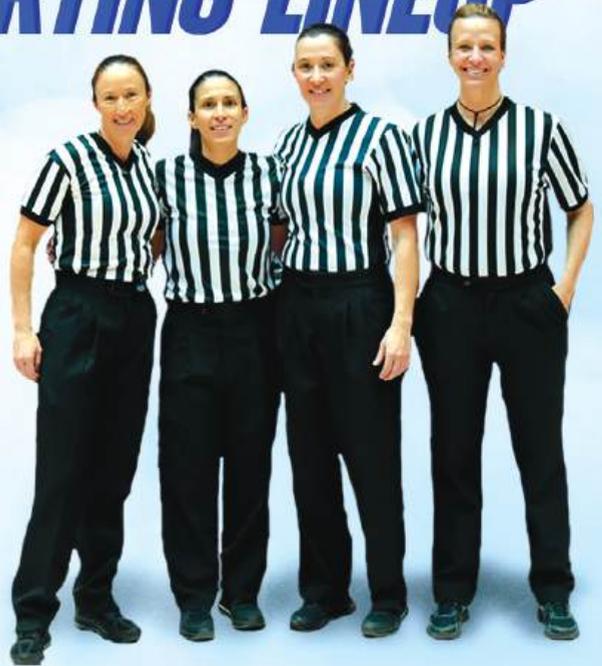
# **ESSENTIAL MEMBERS OF EVERY STARTING LINEUP**

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