

2024 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL



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The Finals

November 23 | Superior Dome, NMU, Marquette

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2024 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL FINALS

NOVEMBER 23

Welcome



Welcome to the MHSAA Championships! This is a classroom like no other, and now is the time for the final exam. Like the academic classroom, some have had good fortune and smooth sailing along the way in getting here while others have overcome adversity during the season. Even today, a good bounce or a bad bounce will occur.

Your athletic skills are put to the test, but more importantly, your discipline will be challenged, as well. The knack for making the right move at the right moment is often the difference between winning and coming up just short.

Discipline also means testing your self-control and people skills. To embrace our diverse opponents as equals, and to employ common decency – every – single – moment. Win or lose.

That’s the beauty of educational athletics. The takeaways today are not the trophies and medals, but the life lessons learned and applied over years of sports.

This is the 100th year of the MHSAA and there is much to celebrate during this special year. Let’s remember and be thankful for the efforts of all those that have made this Final tournament experience so special.

Congratulations for reaching the end of the tournament road. Good luck to all!

— *Mark Uyl*
MHSAA Executive Director

MHSAA Programs and Scope

School Sports Editorial	MHSAA-1
Scholar-Athlete Award	MHSAA-2
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Student Advisory Council	MHSAA-6
Representative Council	MHSAA-8

Clipper Comeback for the Ages



2

The Martin Clippers made it back-to-back MHSAA 8-Player Football titles with a comeback for the ages at the Superior Dome in Marquette last November.

INSIDE the mhsaa 8-player football finals

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MHSAA Finals programs are produced by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, Mich., Executive Director Mark Uyl. The Finals program series is designed by Rob Kaminski, and edited by Kaminski and Geoff Kimmerly. Printing by Spartan Printing, Lansing, Mich. Advertising sales by Royal Publishing, Peoria, Ill. The rest of the MHSAA staff includes: Wendy Baker, Tony Bihn, Brad Bush, Jordan Cobb, Sam Davis, Andy Frushour, Camala Gillette, Scott Helmic, Dan Hutcheson, Cody Inglis, Cole Malatinsky, Maddie Maloney, William McKoy, Andrea Osters, Laura Roberts, Jon Ross, Adam Ryder, Lesli Schrauben, Jeff Spedoske, Jamie VanDerMoere, Ryan Wieferich, Tricia Wieferich, Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, and Paige Winne.

Cover Photo – Cara Kamps



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**GOOD LUCK AND CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE COMPETING TEAMS!**

CLIPPER COMEBACK FOR THE AGES

Martin had it easy in 2022, at least from a stress and anxiety standpoint. Sure, the 8-Player Division 1 Final was competitive in the first half, but Martin went on to win the championship game by 50 points, hardly anything to sweat too much about. But last year? Oh goodness.

Martin took possession of the ball on its own 15-yard-line with 1:15 on the clock and trailing by two scores, 26-14, to an Indian River Inland Lakes team determined to win its first MHSAA Finals title on the football field.

And Martin won. A title game for the ages, the Clippers claimed it 30-26 to repeat as champions despite also trailing 20-0 to start the fourth quarter.

It was still a 20-point margin, 26-6, when the Bulldogs scored what seemed to be the insurance points they needed with 6:26 left.

"It's amazing," Martin coach Brad Blauvelt said. "I'm not gonna lie – doubt creeps into your head when it's 20-6, they're driving down the field, they're running the clock. ... We made plays, we made plays when it counted the most."

Inland Lakes built its big lead with a stout red zone defense – Martin got there on every one of its possessions but didn't cash in until the final quarter – and a four-touchdown day from junior quarterback Aidan Fenstermaker.

It was the first Finals appearance for Inland Lakes, which had its two winningest seasons over the last three years.

Trailing 26-6, the Clippers scored quickly, going 70 yards in a minute and a half, with Haylen Buell's one-yard touchdown run pulling the Clippers within 26-14 with 4:54 left.

The Bulldogs recovered the Martin inside kick attempt and marched right into the red zone on the ensuing drive. But they turned it over on downs with 1:33 left.

That meant Martin had to go 85 yards just to pull within one possession with the clock even more daunting than the distance.

It took them a minute. The Clippers capped the drive as Taegan Harris caught a 10-yard scoring pass from Gavin Meyers with 33 seconds to go. The conversion pass made it 26-22.

Everything came down to the inside kick by sophomore Ben Romero. The bouncing ball went off at least two Inland Lakes players before Martin's Mike Branch recovered it.

The Clippers took over at their 45 with 32 ticks on the clock. Before long they were at the 21.

Meyers looked to pass, scrambled and then ran 21 yards for the touchdown with five seconds remaining.

"It was a pass play, trying to get it to Abe (Dykstra)," Meyers said. "The middle opened up, and I just took off."

He said he was just hoping to get out of bounds, with the clock running down, but he was able to get in the end zone.

The unfathomable score: 30-26 after the conversion.

Martin lost a lot of seniors from the previous year, including three all-staters. The Clippers didn't win their conference, and they fell to 2-2 early in the year with losses to Bridgman and Gobles. They didn't lose again, winning nine straight games with a young team.

"It's nice to be able to leave a legacy," said Harris, a senior. "Last year, we had a pretty stacked group of guys. We had three of our star players injured this season, it wasn't looking good, 2-2, then we won, what, nine, eight straight? ... It feels really good."

Meyers, who threw for 216 yards and ran for 142 on Saturday, filled in for one of those all-state graduates quite well, J.R. Hildebrand.

"He's a good football player," Blauvelt said of Meyers. "And he's grown a bunch. Halfway through the year, he started moving in the pocket, keeping his eyes downfield. You saw it today, right, he kept his eyes downfield."



Cara Kamps

Martin quarterback Gavin Meyers on his way to scoring the game-winning touchdown.

LENAWEE CAPS PERFECT SEASON IN D2

Adrian Lenawee Christian won MHSAA Finals titles in its first two seasons of 8-player football before falling to eventual Division 1 champion Martin in a 2022 Regional Final.

Since then, they've been doing early Saturday morning workouts, anything to get better, anything to get back to where they want to be – lifting the championship trophy.

The Cougars did that last November after they defeated Marion 36-18 in the Division 2 Final at the Superior Dome in Marquette.

"That's why we've been doing it," said senior quarterback Sam Lutz, who was 20 of 23 for 350 yards through the air while accounting for all five touchdowns (two rushing, three passing). "You put in the work, you get the results."

They certainly get the results. The Cougars went undefeated like they did in their first two championship runs, and this 18-point win was their closest game of the season.

Marion had a long road to Marquette as well. While their five-hour drive was actually about two hours shorter than Lenawee Christian's, the Eagles had been trying for several years to get here.

They finally got to the Superior Dome after always running into juggernaut Powers North Central. The Jets won the three previous Division 2 titles after defeating Marion in a Semifinal every time.

The game started out in Marion's favor, when senior Gavin Prielipp returned the opening kickoff 76 yards for a 6-0 lead just nine seconds in.

Lenawee Christian scored 36 straight points after that.

The Cougars led just 1 minute, 41 seconds later when Lutz found senior tight end Easton Boggs for a 15-yard touchdown. The Eli Brainard extra point made it 7-6.

Lutz ran for touchdowns of seven and one yard as Lenawee Christian expanded its lead to 20-6. He found Boggs again for a 12-yard TD midway through the second quarter, and a 42-yard field goal by Max Stamats made it 29-6 at the half.

The Cougars outgained Marion 405-274 and was just the second team to score more than 14 points against the Eagles.



Cara Kamps

QB Sam Lutz threw for 350 yards.

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CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKETS

DIVISION 1 ROAD TO THE DOME

**Pickford (12-0)
Championship
Game**

**Nov. 23 - 11 am
Deckerville (12-0)**

DIVISION 2 ROAD TO THE DOME

**Crystal Falls
Forest Park (11-1)
Championship
Game**

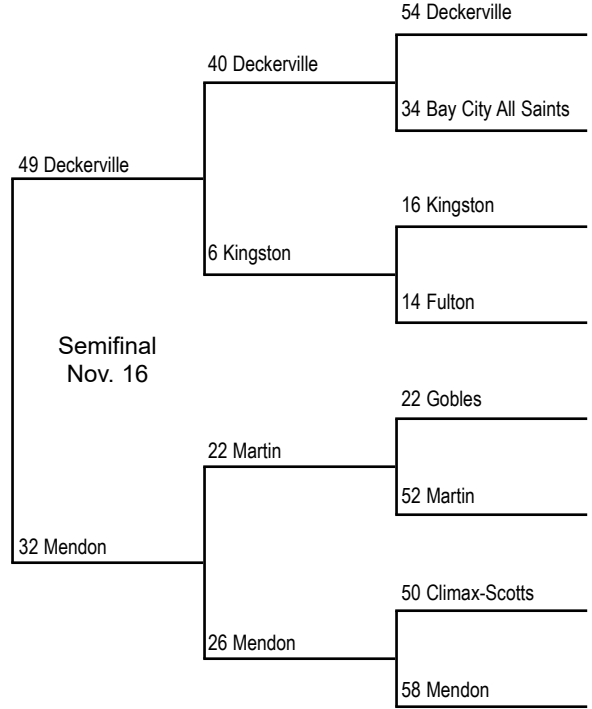
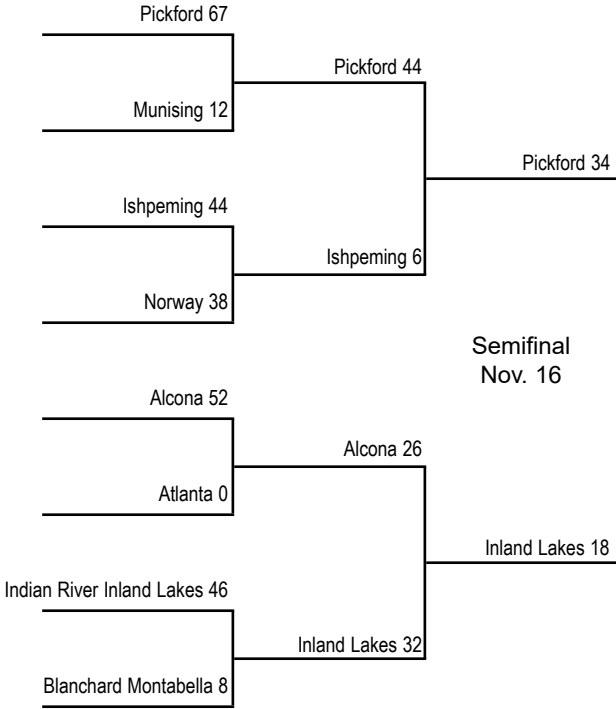
**Nov. 23 - 2 pm
Morrice (11-1)**

**Regional Semis
Nov. 1-2**

**Regional Finals
Nov. 8-9**

**Regional Finals
Nov. 8-9**

**Regional Semis
Nov. 1-2**

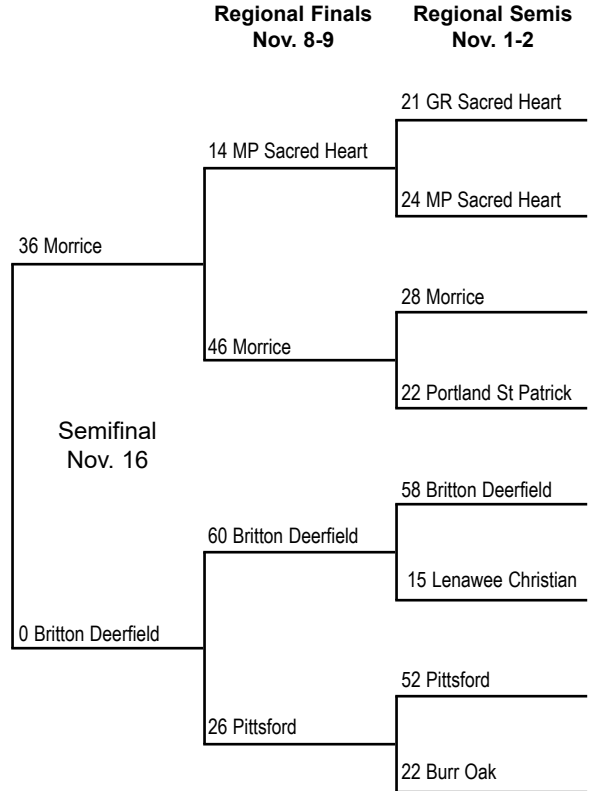
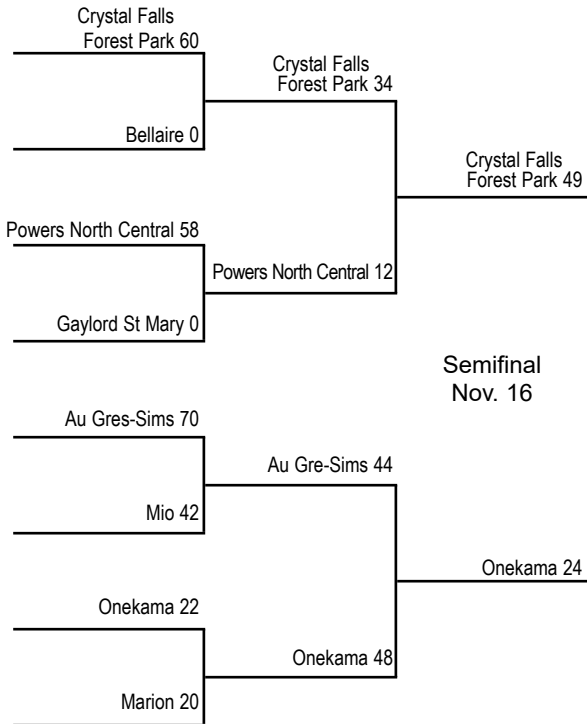


**Regional Semis
Nov. 1-2**

**Regional Finals
Nov. 8-9**

**Regional Finals
Nov. 8-9**

**Regional Semis
Nov. 1-2**





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DIVISION 1 FINALS ROSTERS

PICKFORD

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
3	Dawson Tominac	TE/DB	5-8	155	Jr.
8	Tommy Storey	QB/DE	5-9	175	Sr.
15	Carter Rye	QB/LB	5-11	170	So.
20	Gunner Bennin	RB/DB	6-0	165	Jr.
21	Mason Andrzejak	RB/DB	5-9	150	So.
22	Seth Miller	RB/DL	5-9	200	Sr.
24	Caden Chromy	G/LB	6-1	175	So.
25	Mason Kersten	G/DE	6-1	205	Jr.
32	Kaden Wilffong	RB/DB	6-0	165	Jr.
33	Jonas Rivers	G/DL	5-7	192	So.
34	Owen McConkey	TE/DB	6-1	150	Sr.
42	Ian Browne	TE/DE	6-3	175	Sr.
44	John Anderson	TE/DB	6-4	170	Jr.
50	Luke Koben	C/LB	5-10	170	Jr.
54	Hunter Weston	RB/DB	5-8	140	So.
55	Haydn Rader	G/DG	6-1	210	Sr.
58	Eli MacDonald	C/LB	6-1	185	Sr.
60	Eli McDowell	G/DG	6-2	230	Sr.
61	Adan Taylor	G/LB	5-11	160	Sr.
65	Dakota Beamish	G/DL	6-2	185	Sr.
69	John Hoolsema	G/DG	5-6	185	So.
70	Brock Nixon	G/DG	6-1	245	Jr.
74	Alex Zimmerman	G/DG	5-9	195	Jr.
77	Tryge Rader	G/DG	6-3	210	Fr.
81	Ethan Caldwell	TE/DE	5-9	160	So.
83	Jacob Mitchell	RB/DB	5-4	110	So.
86	Dane Rouble	G/DG	6-0	255	So.
89	Oliver Brzuchalski	TE/DE	6-5	185	Jr.

Head Coach: Josh Rader
Assistant Coaches: Garde Kangas, Jimmy Storey, Caleb Rader, Dan Rye, Davis Rye
Captains: Tommy Storey, Hadyn Rader, Eli MacDonald, Owen McConkey, Seth Miller
Managers: Wyatt Rader, Kelsey Rader, Ben Rairigh, August Taylor, Adrik Taylor

DECKERVILLE

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Chayse Lamont	FB/LB	5-5	--	Sr.
2	Brandon Salowitz	RB/LB	5-10	--	So.
3	Logan Martin	DB	6-3	--	Sr.
4	Corbin Sharbowski	FB/LB	5-10	--	Sr.
5	Isaac Beaver	QB	5-10	--	Jr.
6	Mark Donker	K	6-0	--	Jr.
7	Hunter Garza	QB	6-1	--	Sr.
8	Jesse Kubacki	DB	5-10	--	Jr.
9	Ian Flanagan	SE/DB	6-1	--	Jr.
10	Evan Benjey	DE/NG	5-10	--	Jr.
11	Matthew Bowlin	RG/TE	5-10	--	Jr.
12	Konnor Shuck	NG	5-8	--	Sr.
13	Parker Merriman	RB/DB	5-10	--	Sr.
18	Logan Shanks	TE/DB	6-1	--	Jr.
21	Trenten Park	SE/DE	6-0	--	Jr.
25	Parker McCoy	DB	5-10	--	Jr.
28	Andrew Bowlin	LG/LB	5-10	--	Jr.
30	Preston Holman	RG/DE	6-0	--	Sr.
47	Daniel Ford	LB	5-10	--	So.
49	Alex Blaine	LB	5-10	--	So.
50	Jaxen Peruski	C	5-10	--	So.
55	Caden Franzel	LG	5-10	--	Jr.
61	Owen Vogel	LG	5-5	--	So.
65	Keagan Kubik	DB	6-0	--	Fr.
68	Joe Puzan	C	5-10	--	So.
80	Braylon McLellan	DB	5-10	--	Fr.
99	Trenton Mausolf	LB	5-8	--	So.

Head Coach: Bill Brown
Assistant Coaches: Dan Brown, Steve Blashill, Lou Garza, Erick Burns, Ryan Puzan
Captains: Hunter Garza, Ian Flanagan, Preston Holman, Corbin Sharbowski
Manager: Cooper Brown

DIVISION 2 FINALS ROSTERS

CRYSTAL FALLS FOREST PARK

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
2	James Smith	RB / DB	5-8	150	Jr.
5	Brody Starr	G / LB	5-9	165	Sr.
8	Dietrich Rasner	K / DB	5-7	140	So.
9	Grayson Sundell	RB / DE	6-1	190	Sr.
10	Noah Starr	QB / LB	5-8	145	So.
12	Vic Giuliani	QB / DB	6-2	165	So.
13	Dax Huuki	RB / DB	6-0	175	So.
20	Matthew Showers	TE / DE	6-2	205	Sr.
22	Nik Stephens	RB / LB	6-0	150	Sr.
27	Gabriel Quevedo	Punter	5-9	155	Sr.
31	Brody McBee	TE / DE	6-3	170	Fr.
32	Hayden Smith	TE / DB	5-11	155	Fr.
33	Will Hoffman	TE / DB	5-11	145	Jr.
40	Clayton Williams	C / DT	5-8	210	Fr.
42	Kevin Giuliani	TE / DT	6-5	270	Sr.
45	Eli Brzoznowski	C / DE	6-0	205	So.
55	Trent Kannich	FB / DE	5-10	215	Jr.
61	Collin Alexa	G / DT	5-9	280	Fr.
66	Nate Bradish	G / DT	5-10	230	Sr.
68	Nickolas Stachowicz	FB / DT	5-10	200	Fr.
71	Cooper Hill	TE / DT	6-0	225	Jr.
74	Owen Brozak	G / DT	5-11	270	Jr.
78	Ted Dwyer	G / DT	5-11	290	Jr.

Head Coach: Brian Fabbri
Assistant Coaches: Gerard Valesano, Dan Nocerini
Captains: Grayson Sundell, Matthew Showers, Nik Stephens, Gabriel Quevedo, Kevin Giuliani
Managers: Jon Giuliani, Brody Cahill, Isaac Williams, Mack Anderson
Video: Nikolaos Kapeles

MORRICE

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
2	Joel Fisher	RB/DB	5-7	139	Sr.
3	Braden Hart	OT/N	6-0	325	So.
4	Wyatt Valentine	WR/DB	5-10	163	So.
5	Griffin Long	QB/OLB	5-11	165	So.
7	Jacob Quinn	C/N	5-8	194	Fr.
8	Wyatt Cartier	RB/OLB	5-7	150	Sr.
9	Austin Gutting	FB/MLB	5-10	200	Jr.
10	Oliver Long	TE/DE	6-3	215	Jr.
12	Connor McGahey	TE	5-9	175	So.
14	Zander Robu	TE/MLB	5-10	158	Fr.
15	Tyler Austin	G/DB	5-9	150	So.
21	Travis Smith	G/DE	6-0	215	Sr.
38	Joe Galloway	C/MLB	6-0	195	So.
42	Jacob Clafin	TE/DB	5-8	150	So.
44	Evan Noble	TE/DE	5-9	170	So.
50	Tyler Ash	TE/DE	5-10	170	So.
54	Keigan Edington	C/N	5-5	230	So.
55	Cody Fisher	FB/MLB	5-8	181	So.
67	Dominick Beckwith	G/N	5-8	194	So.
77	Ethen Cole	C/N	5-11	155	So.

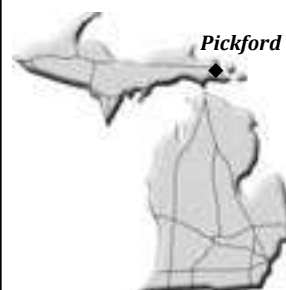
Head Coach: Kendall Crockett
Assistant Coaches: Brad Long, Keith Edington, Jake Rivers, Brad Beckwith, Justin Cole, Shane Cole
Captains: Wyatt Cartier, Travis Smith, Oliver Long
Trainer: Jake Rivers

PICKFORD (12-0)

PANTHERS

School Colors: Purple & White
 Superintendent: Angela Nettleton
 Principal: Matt Johnson

Athletic Director: Susan Edington
 Conference: Great Lakes 8 - East (9-0, 1st)



First Row: Eli McDowell, Dakota Beamish, Haydn Rader, Owen McConkey, Tommy Storey, Seth Miller, Eli MacDonald, Ian Browne, Adan Taylor. **Second Row:** Mason Kersten, Kaden Wiltfong, Luke Koben, Brock Nixon, Caden Chromy, Gunner Bennin, John Anderson, Oliver Brzuchalski, Dawson Tominac, Alex Zimmerman. **Third Row:** John Hoolsema, Dane Rouble, Ethan Caldwell, Jacob Mitchell, Carter Rye, Tryge Rader, Mason Andrzejak, Hunter Weston, Jonas Rivers.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LG 24 Caden Chromy	SE 34 Owen McConkey
C 58 Eli MacDonald	QB 8 Tommy Storey
RG 55 Haydn Rader	RB 20 Gunner Bennin
TE 42 Ian Browne	FB 22 Seth Miller

Defense

DE 42 Ian Browne	LB 58 Eli MacDonald
DT 55 Haydn Rader	LB 24 Caden Chromy
DT 22 Seth Miller	DB 34 Owen McConkey
DE 8 Tommy Storey	DB 20 Gunner Bennin

Specialists

Punt Returns: 20 Gunner Bennin
 Kickoff Returns: 20 Gunner Bennin
 Punter: 58 Eli MacDonald
 PAT-FG Kicker: 89 Oliver Brzuchalski
 Long Snapper: 61 Adan Taylor

Head Coach: Josh Rader (153-66, 21 years)

RESULTS

P		OPP
40	Powers-North Central	12
61	Brimley	6
68	Carney-Nadeau	0
65	Ishpeming	14
43	Rudyard	0
44	Newberry	14
58	St. Ignace	0
51	Norway	6
64	Munising	8
MHSAA REGIONALS		
67	Munising	12
44	Ishpeming	6
MHSAA SEMIFINAL		
34	Indian River Inland Lakes	18

TEAM STATS

P		OPP
605	Points Scored	78
184	First Downs	103
323	Rushing Att	326
3413	Rushing Yards	917
63	Rushing TDs	5
898	Passing Yards	903
53	Passes Att	195
40	Passes Comp	80
16	Passing TDs	4
1	Intercepted	12
36.7	Punting Avg	29.0
47	Penalties	28
391	Penalty Yards	218
9-5	Fumbles- Lost	19-13
48.8	Third Down%	23.0

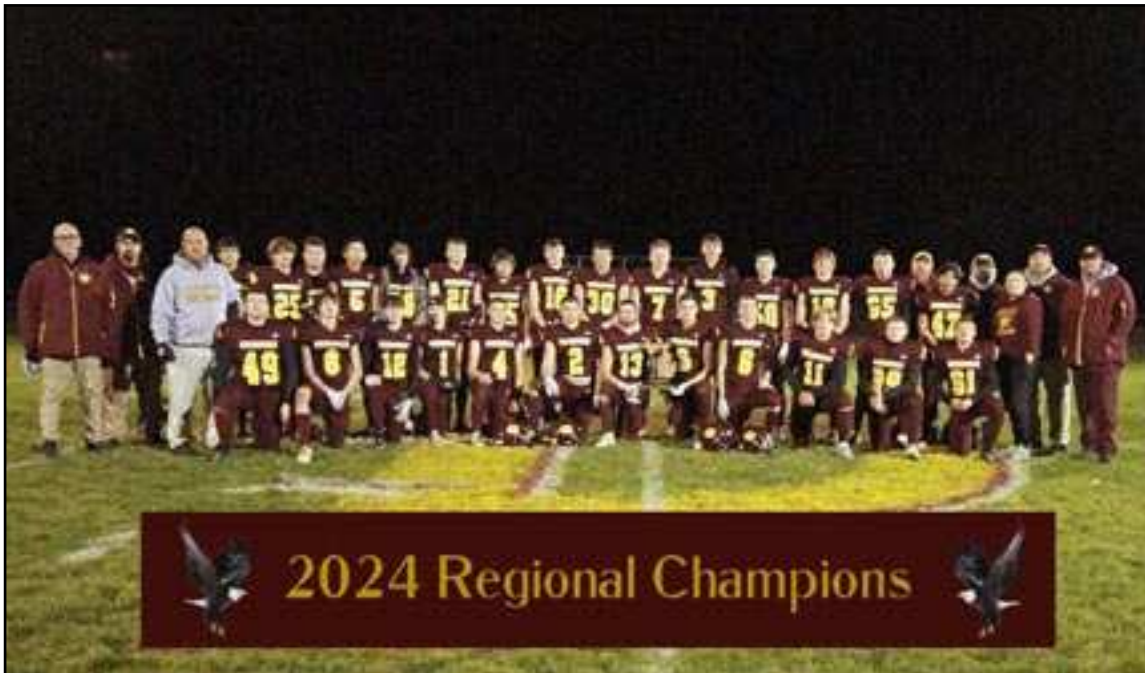
Stats Through Regional Games

DECKERVILLE (12-0)

EAGLES

School Colors: Maroon & Gold
 Superintendent: Matthew Connelly
 Principal: Joshua Stern

Athletic Director: Monica Spranger
 Conference: Big Thumb Conference -
 Blue (9-0, 1st)



First Row: Alex Blaine, Jesse Kubacki, Konnor Shuck, Chayse Lamont, Corbin Sharbowski, Brandon Salowitz, Parker Merriman, Ian Flanagan, Mark Donker, Matthew Bowlin, Trenton Mausolf, Owen Vogel. **Second Row:** Asst Coach Dan Woodard, Asst Coach Ryan Puzan, Head Coach Bill Brown, Braylon McClellan, Parker McCoy, Joe Puzan, Isaac Beaver, Andrew Bowlin, Trenten Park, Caden Franzel, Logan Shanks, Preston Holman, Hunter Garza, Logan Martin, Jaxen Peruski, Evan Benjey, Kegan Kubik, Asst. Coach Lou Garza, Daniel Ford, Asst. Coach Eric Burns, Cooper Brown, Asst. Coach Dan Brown, Asst. Coach Steve Blashill.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LG 55 Caden Franzel	SE 9 Ian Flanagan
C 50 Jackson Peruski	QB 7 Hunter Garza
RG 30 Preston Holman	RB 13 Parker Merriman
TE 18 Logan Shanks	FB 1 Chayse Lamont

Defense

DE 30 Preston Holman	LB 4 Corbin Sharbowski
NG 10 Evan Benjey	DB 9 Ian Flanagan
DE 21 Trenton Park	DB 8 Jesse Kubacki
LB 2 Brandon Salowitz	DB 13 Parker Merriman

Specialists

Punt Returns: 7 Hunter Garza
 Kickoff Returns: 7 Hunter Garza, 13 Parker Merriman
 Punter: 7 Hunter Garza
 PAT-FG Kicker: 6 Mark Donker
 Holder: 8 Jesse Kubacki
 Long Snapper: 50 Jaxsen Peruski

Head Coach: Bill Brown (259-90, 32 years)

RESULTS

D	OPP
50 Bay City All Saints	16
68 Dryden	20
58 Auburn Hills Oakland Christian	0
30 Brown City	28
66 Mayville	12
46 Memphis	0
44 Kingston	0
34 Capac	6
50 Alcona	42
MHSAA REGIONALS	
54 Bay City All Saints	34
40 Kingston	6
MHSAA SEMIFINAL	
49 Mendon	32

TEAM STATS

D	OPP
540 Points Scored	164
-- First Downs	--
413 Rushing Att	--
3371 Rushing Yards	--
50 Rushing TDs	--
848 Passing Yards	--
87 Passes Att	--
51 Passes Comp	--
11 Passing TDs	--
4 Intercepted	--
30 Punting Avg	--
-- Penalties	--
-- Penalty Yards	--
-- Fumbles- Lost	--
-- Third Down%	--

Stats Through Regional Games



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CRYSTAL FALLS FOREST PARK (11-1)

TROJANS

School Colors: Red & Black
 Superintendent: Michelle Thomson
 Principal: Jackie Giuliani

Athletic Director: Lisa Olson
 Conference: Great Lakes Eight Conference -
 West (4-1, 2nd)



First Row: Manager Isaac Williams, Nickolas Stachowicz, Brody McBee, Hayden Smith, Clayton Williams, Collin Alexa, Manager Brody Cahill. **Second Row:** Manager Jon Giuliani, Trent Kannich, James Smith, Eli Brzoznowski, Dietrich Rasner, Noah Starr, Vic Giuliani, Dax Huuki, Owen Brozak, Manager Mack Anderson. **Third Row:** Assistant Coach Gerard Valesano, Nate Bradish, Ted Dwyer, Nik Stephens, Gabriel Quevedo, Brody Starr, Cooper Hill, Matthew Showers, Grayson Sundell, Kevin Giuliani, Will Hoffman, Head Coach Brian Fabbri, Assistant Coach Dan Nocerini. **Not Pictured:** Videographer Nikolaos Kapeles.

TEAM STATS

FP		OPP
523	Points Scored	156
126	First Downs	93
404	Rushing Att	323
3293	RushingYards	999
56	Rushing TDs	13
967	Passing Yards	1176
69	Passes Att	204
39	Passes Comp	92
15	Passing TDs	8
3	Intercepted	10
36	Punting Avg	—
67	Penalties	45
517	Penalty Yards	356
11	Fumbles Lost	10
51.0	Third Down%	19.0
41.0	Fourth Down%	30.0

Stats Through Regional Games

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LT	20 Matthew Showers	RT	42 Kevin Giuliani
LG	5 Brody Starr	QB	12 Vic Giuliani
C	45 Eli Brzoznowski	RB	13 Dax Huuki
RG	66 Nate Bradish	FB	55 Trent Kannich

Defense

DE	20 Matthew Showers	LB	22 Nik Stephens
DT	66 Nate Bradish	LB	5 Brody Starr
DT	42 Kevin Giuliani	DB	12 Vic Giuliani
DE	55 Trent Kannich	DB	13 Dax Huuki

Specialists

PuntReturns: 13 Dax Huuki
 KickoffReturns: 12 Vic Giuliani, 13 Dax Huuki
 Punters: 8 Dietrich Rasner
 PAT-FG Kickers: 8 Dietrich Rasner
 Holders: 12 Vic Giuliani
 LongSnappers: 22 Nik Stephens

Head Coach: Brian Fabbri (36-11, 5 years)

RESULTS

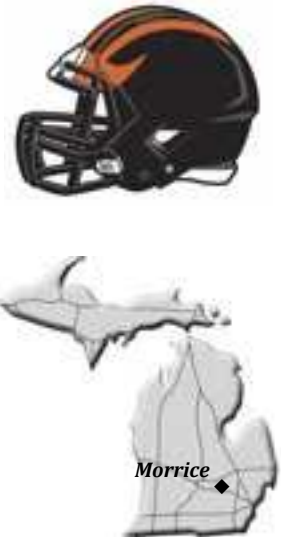
FP		OPP
37	Newberry	6
50	Stephenson	8
42	Norway	20
53	Felch North Dickinson	32
59	Lake Linden-Hubbell	6
33	Gogebic	13
58	Ironwood	8
63	Ontonagon	6
34	Powers North Central	45
MHSAA REGIONALS		
60	Bellaire	0
34	Powers North Central	12
MHSAA SEMIFINAL		
49	Onekama	24

MORRICE (11-1)

ORIOLES

School Colors: Black & Orange
 Superintendent: Rob Pouch
 Principal: Daniel Nolen

Athletic Director: Elizabeth Bontekoe
 Conference: Mid-State Activities Conference
 (5-1, 1st)



First Row: Tyler Ash, Dominick Beckwith, Zander Robu, Jacob Clafin, Jacob Quinn, Derek Gordon (no longer on team). **Second Row:** Connor McGahey, Wyatt Valentine, Cody Fisher, Griffin Long, Wyatt Cartier, Joel Flsher, Austin Gutting, Keigan Edington. **Thrid Row:** Tyler Austin, Joe Galloway, Braden Hart, Oliver Long, Travis Smith, Ethen Cole, Evan Noble.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LG 21 Travis Smith	RB 2 Joel Fisher
C 38 Joe Galloway	RB 8 Wyatt Cartier
RG 3 Braden Hart	FB 9 Austin Gutting
TE 10 Oliver Long	FL 4 Wyatt Valentine

Defense

DE 21 Travis Smith	LB 9 Austin Gutting
NG 3 Braden Hart	LB 38 Joe Galloway
DE 10 Oliver Long	DB 4 Wyatt Valentine
LB 8 Wyatt Valentine	DB 2 Joel Fisher

Specialists

Punt Returns: 2 Joel Fisher
 Kickoff Returns: 2 Joel Fisher, 8 Wyatt Cartier, 4 Wyatt Valentine
 Punter: 2 Joel Fisher

Head Coach: Kendall Crockett (96-25, 11 years)

RESULTS

M	OPP
50 Breckenridge	28
44 Merrill	0
54 Byron	6
12 Portland St Patrick	29
22 Fulton	0
58 Webberville	0
38 Mt Pleasant Sacred Heart	6
54 Vestaburg	0
48 Blanchard Montabella	20
MHSAA REGIONALS	
28 Portland St Patrick	22
46 Mt Pleasant Sacred Heart	14
MHSAA SEMIFINAL	
36 Britton Deerfield	0

TEAM STATS

M	OPP
454 Points Scored	125
-- First Downs	--
419 Rushing Att	--
3212 Rushing Yards	--
51 Rushing TDs	--
641 Passing Yards	--
57 Passes Att	--
28 Passes Comp	--
8 Passing TDs	--
4 Intercepted	--
30 Punting Avg	--
-- Penalties	--
-- Penalty Yards	--
31-8 Fumbles- Lost	--
-- Third Down%	--

Stats Through Regional Games



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Sportsmanship Extends to Online Behavior

With the changes that have occurred in college sports the past couple of years, high school sports is truly the last level of pure amateur competition in our country – and the NFHS and its member state associations want it to remain that way.

As football, volleyball, soccer, cross country and other sports begin this fall, high school coaches and athletic/activity directors will be involved in preseason meetings to emphasize the expected outcomes of education-based sports, as well as speech, debate, music, theatre and other programs.

Among those fundamental values of education-based activities that must be discussed is sportsmanship, or good sporting behavior. More than winning, more than learning the skills of a sport, a focus on sportsmanship has been one of the defining elements of high school sports and other activities for more than 100 years.

Along with maintaining the sound traditions of sports and minimizing the risk of injury, NFHS playing rules encourage sportsmanship, and the first page in all NFHS rules publications includes a statement noting that “each athlete is responsible for exercising caution and good sportsmanship.”

In the past, with an emphasis on conduct on the playing field or court – or in the auditorium or rehearsal hall – sportsmanship has been defined as those qualities of behavior that are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. More so than preparing students to play sports or another activity at the next level, one of the significant goals of education-based high school sports and activities is helping the 12 million-plus individuals in these programs to become responsible citizens.

And in today’s online world dominated by hand-held devices, that goal has become more challenging. Now, messages to students in high school sports and other activities about sportsmanship must be communicated before they hit the practice field or court because one inappropriate post, tweet or message could alter their lives forever.

At the recent virtual National Student Leadership Summit hosted by the NFHS, Christina Jontra of Neptune Navigate, one of the newest NFHS corporate partners, discussed the need for good sportsmanship online as much or more so than on the court or field.

In the digital age in which we live, participants in high school activity programs need to be aware that their character and respect for others should be the same, whether in the sport or activity itself, or online.

As the popularity and influence of social media continues to surge, it is imperative that student-athletes, as well as coaches, administrators, parents and everyone involved in education-based athletics, are aware of the ways they can endanger themselves with their online behavior and understand the techniques they can employ to prevent that from happening.

In her recent presentation, Jontra noted five characteristics of good sportsmanship online – honesty, compassion, respect, responsibility and courage. Just as a student would respect an opponent on the field or in the debate room, the same must occur online.

At preseason meetings this fall, coaches and athletic/activity directors should encourage students in their programs to be mindful of online contact with individuals on opposing teams – particularly any bantering that could be perceived as cyberbullying. As Jontra mentioned in her message during the NSLS, hurtful words can ruin a person’s life forever.

Fortunately, during the season, the millions of high school students involved in sports and performing arts have less free time to spend online on a daily basis, but the time spent must be done in a positive manner. Not only could damaging words on social media affect a student’s chances for an athletic scholarship, inappropriate messages could also negatively impact future job possibilities as employers are more actively auditing social media.

Whether the setting is before hundreds of people at an actual game or event, or a private experience alone online, positive and respectful behavior should be the choice every time.



KARISSA NIEHOFF



— Karissa Niehoff
NFHS Executive Director



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Scholar-Athlete Award in 36th Year Awarding Scholarships to Students

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 right 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.



The annual MHSAA Scholar-Athlete ceremony is one of the highlights of the winter season. More information about the awards may be obtained by contacting your local school principal, athletic director or guidance counselor. The online application form can be found at MHSAA.com/scholarship.



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Student Advisory Council Aids MHSAA

Eight 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



2024-25 Student Advisory Council

First Row: Diamond Cook, Southfield Christian; Trey LaValley, Romeo; Itzel Albarran, Bronson; Henry Ewles, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep; Frannie Keeley, Jenison; Cole Haist, Big Rapids; Harper Barnhart, Brownstown Woodhaven; Ethan Stine, Bridgman. **Second Row:** Joey Spada, Kalamazoo Central; Ella Knudsen, Leland; Isaiah Kabban, Harbor Beach; Anna Zoet, Grandville Calvin Christian; Drew Cady, Oxford; Kaylee Kranz, Clinton; and Cale Bell, Sault Ste Marie. **Not Pictured:** Macy Jenkins, Milford.

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.

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.

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MHSAA Representative Council

The Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association is the body assembled to carry out the wishes of member schools. The Council meets several times annually to discuss and pass legislation concerning interscholastic athletics in Michigan.

The Representative Council is made up of 19 members, with all but five elected by a vote of MHSAA-member schools to represent different geographic regions, different sizes of schools, non-public schools, and junior and middle schools. Two members are elected to statewide at-large positions. Four members are appointed by the Council to facilitate representation of females and minorities, and the 19th position is occupied by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his/her designee.

The officers and two other representatives form the MHSAA's Executive Committee, which meets on a monthly basis during the school year to review eligibility appeals and other current business.



First Row: Vic Michaels, John Thompson, Scott Grimes, Mark Uyl. **Second Row:** Jennifer Thunberg, Chris Riker, Dr. Arnetta Thompson, Alex Tiseo. **Third Row:** Eric Albright, Adam Stefanski, Jeff Kline, Fred Smith, Chris Miller, Jay Alexander, Jason Malloy, Anna Rigby, Ross Fort, Judy Cox, Sean Jacques, Chris Adams.

Photo taken May 2024

Representative Council Members

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

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2023 CHAMPIONS

MARTIN — Division 1



ADRIAN LENAWEE CHR — Division 2



Division 1 Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2023	Martin (Brad Blauvelt)	Indian River Inland Lakes	30-26
2022	Martin (Brad Blauvelt)	Merrill	74-24
2021	Adrian Lenawee Christian (Bill Wilhams)	Suttons Bay	31-20
2020	Adrian Lenawee Christian (Bill Wilhams)	Suttons Bay	47-0
2019	Colon (Robbie Hattan)	Suttons Bay	26-14
2018	Morrice (Kendall Crockett)	Pickford	44-16
2017	Central Lake (Robert Heeke)	Deckerville	32-30

Division 2 Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2023	Adrian Lenawee Christian (William Wilhams)	Marion	36-18
2022	Powers North Central (Leo Gorzinski)	Mendon	66-26
2021	Powers North Central (Leo Gorzinski)	Colon	63-0
2020	Powers North Central (Leo Gorzinski)	Portland St. Patrick	70-48
2019	Pickford (Joshua Rader)	Portland St. Patrick	48-15
2018	Rapid River (Steve Ostrenga)	Onkama	30-18
2017	Crystal Falls Forest Park (Dave Graff)	Portland St. Patrick	54-12

Single-Division Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score	Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2016	Powers North Central (Kevin Bellefeuille)	Deckerville	58-22	2013	Peck (Rob McDaniel)	Rapid River	67-32
2015	Powers North Central (Kevin Bellefeuille)	Battle Creek St. Philip	58-33	2012	Deckerville (Bill Brown)	Bellaire	14-12
2014	Lawrence (Cody Caswell)	Cedarville	56-12	2011	Carsonville-Port Sanilac (Tim Brabant)	Rapid River	49-13



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Get in the Games

Visit the Officials page of MHSAA.com for more information or scan this code.



8-PLAYER FINALS RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Rushing Yards

352 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville (17 attempts), 2016
299 - Luke Gorzinski, Powers North Central vs. Portland St. Patrick (32 attempts), 2020 Division 2

Rushing Touchdowns

6 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville, 2016
5 - Bobby Kleiman, Powers North Central vs. Battle Creek St. Philip, 2015

Passing Yards

379 - Tristen Haener, Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013 (12 of 16, 7 TDs, 0 interceptions)
374 - Connor Cross, Portland St. Patrick vs. Powers North Central (25 of 38, 6 TDs, 1 interception), 2020 Division 2

Passing Touchdowns

7 - Tristen Haener, Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013
6 - Connor Cross, Portland St. Patrick vs. Powers North Central, 2020 Division 2

Receiving Yards

236 - Kyle Abrego, Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013 (6 receptions)
170 - Jacob Berglund, Rapid River vs. Carsonville-Port Sanilac, 2011 (4 receptions)

Total Offense Yards

455 - Luke Gorzinski, Powers North Central vs. Portland St. Patrick (299 rushing, 156 passing), 2020 Division 2
454 - Hayden Adams, Carsonville-Port Sanilac vs. Rapid River (130 rushing, 324 passing), 2011
452 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville (352 rushing, 100 passing), 2016

Touchdown Receptions

4 - Kyle Abrego, Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013
3 - Easton Boggs, Adrian Lenawee Christian vs. Marion, 2023 Division 2
3 - Shane Cook, Portland St. Patrick vs. Powers North Central, 2020 Division 2
3 - Trevor Adams, Carsonville-Port Sanilac vs. Rapid River, 2011

Touchdowns

6 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville (6 rushing), 2016
6 - Bobby Kleiman, Powers North Central vs. Battle Creek St. Philip (5 rushing/1 receiving), 2015

Points Scored

46 - Bobby Kleiman, Powers North Central vs. Battle Creek St. Philip (6 touchdowns/5 2-point conversions), 2015
40 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville (6 touchdowns, 2 2-point conversions), 2016

Points After Touchdown - Kicking

7 - Jaden Walters, Powers North Central vs. Colon (7 of 7), 2021 Division 2

TEAM RECORDS

Rushing Offense

481 - Crystal Falls Forest Park vs. Portland St. Patrick (52 attempts), 2017 Division 2

Rushing Touchdowns

8 - Martin vs. Merrill, 2022 Division 1
8 - Crystal Falls Forest Park vs. Portland St. Patrick, 2017 Division 2

Passing Offense

379 - Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013 (12 of 16, 7 TDs, 0 interceptions)

Passing Touchdowns

7 - Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013

Total Offense

597 - Lawrence vs. Cedarville, 2014 (341 rushing, 256 passing)
584 - Carsonville-Port Sanilac vs. Rapid River, 2011 (260 rushing, 324 passing)

Total Offense - Two Teams

971 - Powers North Central (569) vs. Deckerville (402), 2016

First Downs

27 - Martin vs. Indian River Inland Lakes, 2023 Division 1

Most Points Scored - Team

74 - Martin vs. Merrill (24), 2022 Division 1
70 - Powers North Central vs. Portland St. Patrick, 2020 Division 2

Most Points Scored - Two Teams

118 - Powers North Central (70) vs. Portland St. Patrick (48), 2020 Division 2
99 - Peck (67) vs. Rapid River (32), 2013

FINALS NOTES

WELCOME TO THE SUPERIOR DOME

The Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette is the perfect host for the MHSAA 8-Player Football Finals.

The Superior Dome has been a favorite spot on the MHSAA Football Playoff trail for years, from Semifinal weekends of the 11-player game, to the inaugural 8-Player title game in 2011, and the two inaugural divisional title games in 2017. Today, the 8-Player game again takes center stage beneath the roof, with a pair of championship tilts.

The Superior Dome has been home to the Wildcat football team since its construction in 1991 and is now also home to the Wildcat soccer team and the Wildcat track teams. The Dome stands 14 stories high and encompasses 5.1 acres under its roof. Constructed of 781 Douglas Fir beams and 108.5 miles of fir decking, the Dome has a permanent seating capacity of 8,000, although the building can hold as many as 16,000 people.

In the *Book of World Records-2010*, the Superior Dome is listed as the fifth-largest dome structure in the world (largest being measured by diameter). The four other structures that are larger are made of steel, making it the largest wooden dome structure. The facility has a diameter of 536 feet. It has the ability to withstand 60 pounds per square foot of snow and 80-mile-per-hour winds.

The Superior Dome is also home of the NMU Olympic Training Site offices, as well as special training areas for the NMU-OTS boxing, weightlifting and wrestling teams.



Your Officials Today

Just as the participants on the teams at this year's Finals are realizing a dream of vying for top honors, another group of individuals are also reaching a goal for the hard work they have put in by being assigned to officiate the action.

Officials for MHSAA Finals are selected based on the recommendations and ratings by schools, as well as from input from local officials associations.

These officials believe that interscholastic athletics are truly educational in nature, and work to uphold that standard. Like the athletes in the Finals, officials come from all corners of Michigan.

Selected to work the Finals are: **John Vaara**, Hancock; **Douglas Hodges**, Lake Linden; **Gregg Richards**, Houghton; **Bucky Beach**, Atlantic Mine; **Joseph Panijan**, Calumet; **John Carideo**, Akron; **John Woiderski**, Cheboygan; **Jeffrey Bretzke**, Beulah; **William DeBeau**, Coldwater; **John Sandlin**, Owosso.

Congratulations to this year's Finals officials. If you are interested in becoming a registered game official in any sport, contact the MHSAA at 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823, or register online at mhsaa.com.

Behind The Scenes

The hallmark of a strong association is its ability to work together for the common good. Every year, approximately 8,000 game officials and 50,000-plus administrators and coaches at over 1,300 middle, junior and senior high schools voluntarily pool their efforts daily for the operations of the MHSAA's competitive extracurricular interscholastic athletic program.

An important responsibility of membership in the Association is the operation of the hundreds of District, Regional and Final level tournaments by school administrators who serve as the site managers for these games. The behind-the-scenes work of these individuals ensures a memorable experience for the participants.

The MHSAA would like to thank the tournament manager for the 2024 8-Player Football Finals, Northern Michigan University Director of Ticketing, Promotions and Events **Joanna Emigh**.

Coordinating the Finals from the MHSAA office are Assistant Director **Brad Bush**; Senior Assistant Director **Andy Frushour**, and Director of Communications **Geoff Kimmerly**.

The MHSAA would like to recognize the efforts of these individuals and others who have donated their time and talents to make the Finals a success.

Thank You

The MHSAA would like to thank **Wilson Sporting Goods** for providing the teams participating in today's Finals with commemorative autographable footballs.

Awards Presentors

At the completion of each championship game, trophies and medals will be awarded to the competing teams. Making the awards presentations will be MHSAA Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee Member **Vince Gross**, Whitefish Township.

Finals on the Air

The Finals can be watched live on the NFHSNetwork. Archived video can be found following the event on MHSAA.tv. Live and archived audio of the Final can be heard at MHSAANetwork.com. Consult MHSAA.com for further details and playback schedules.

Results on the Web

Statistical summaries of the Finals may be found on MHSAA Website, **MHSAA.com**.

Motor City for the Holiday

Today's MHSAA 8-Player Football Final kicks off the holiday season and a feast of football. Make plans to travel to Detroit for the 11-Player extravaganza next weekend, Nov. 29-30, for eight games in two days at Ford Field. Tickets are \$20 per day, good for all four games each day!



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Michigan high school seniors and students who recently graduated from high school may be eligible for the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.

Community College Guarantee

All students are eligible for the Community College Guarantee (regardless of family income), which includes:

- Earning a skills certificate or associate degree tuition-free at their in-district community college!*
- An additional \$1,000 Michigan Achievement Bonus for Pell-eligible students to use toward additional college costs.

Public or Private University

Students may be eligible to receive the Michigan Achievement Scholarship at a Public or Private University.

- Up to \$27,500 to earn a bachelor's degree—that's \$5,500 per year for up to five years.
- 7 in 10 high school graduates are eligible.
- Find out if you are eligible by completing the FAFSA.

Career Training

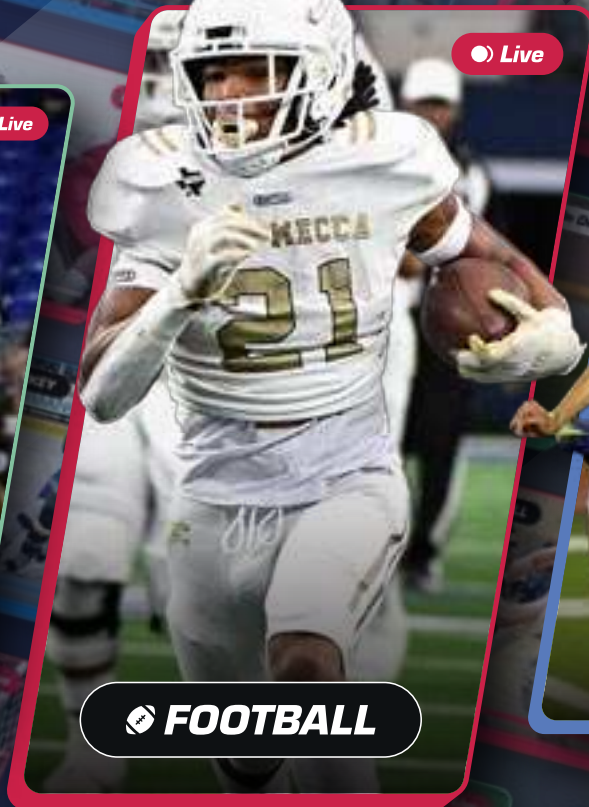
Students may be eligible to receive the Michigan Achievement Scholarship at a career training program.

- Up to \$4,000 to earn a skill certificate—that's \$2,000 per year for up to two years.
- Find out if your program is eligible by visiting michigan.gov/careertraining.

*Students would receive a significant tuition discount if they attend an out-of-district community college.

Visit mi.gov/achievement to get started.

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