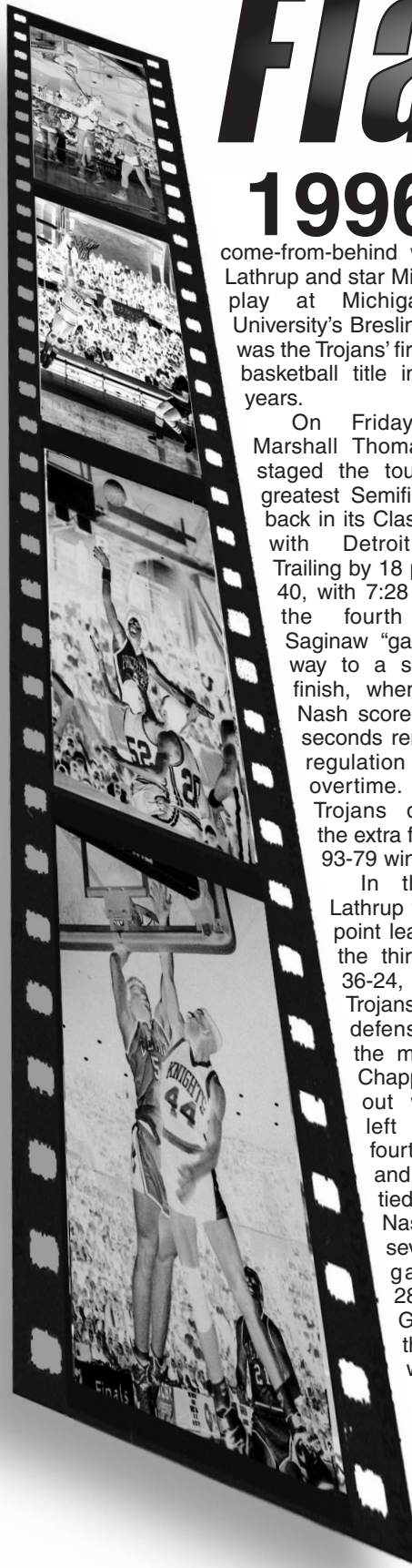


Finals Flashbacks



1996 Leading a charmed tournament life, Saginaw scored another dramatic come-from-behind win, this one over Southfield Lathrup and star Mike Chappell, 67-60, in Class A play at Michigan State University's Breslin Center. It was the Trojans' first MHSAA basketball title in over 30 years.

On Friday, Coach Marshall Thomas' squad staged the tournament's greatest Semifinal comeback in its Class A game with Detroit Denby. Trailing by 18 points, 58-40, with 7:28 to play in the fourth quarter, Saginaw "gambled" its way to a spectacular finish, when Dwayne Nash scored with 0.2 seconds remaining in regulation to force overtime. The Trojans dominated the extra frame for a 93-79 win.

In the Final, Lathrup took a 12-point lead early in the third quarter, 36-24, before the Trojans' pressure defense turned the momentum. Chappell fouled out with 4:20 left in the fourth quarter and the game tied at 52-52. Nash scored seven of his game-high 28 points to lead the winners. Greg Grays and Chappell were the top point getters for Lathrup, with 21 and 18 points.

In Class B, Detroit Country Day defeated East Grand Rapids, 57-43, in a rematch of the 1995 Final. It was the second consecutive title for the Yellowjackets, and the third straight trip to the championship game for

East and star Corbett Elsen. Javin Hunter led the victors with 19 points, followed by Shane Battier with 14 and David Webber with 12.

After grabbing a 36-32 halftime lead, Detroit St. Martin dePorres took control of the second half of action to tally a 79-54 victory over Manton in Class C. It was the fourth basketball championship for the dePorres. The Eagles also won the Class CC football crown in the fall. Coming off the bench, Andre DeWalt scored 20 points to lead dePorres. Manton's Ryan Hiller led all scorers with 24 points.

Three-point field goals rained down in Wyoming Tri-unity Christian's 59-53 Class D win over Maple City Glen Lake. The Defenders established a new Finals record for threes with 10, while the two teams combined for a final game record of 19. John Lanser tallied 21 points and three treys and Bryan Foltice, added 19 and three triples to lead Tri-unity. Eric Everson and Jamie Mazurek each scored 11 points to pace Glen Lake.



1986 Crisler Arena in Ann

Arbor was the site, as Romulus downed Detroit Southwestern, 72-65, in its first-ever appearance in the Class A Final. Terry Mills and Stevie Glenn led the Eagles with 19 points apiece. Romulus hit 76 percent of its second half shots (13-17). Tarence Wheeler and Anderson Hunt paced the Prospectors with 20 and 16 points. The loss was Southwestern's fifth consecutive defeat in the Class A Final.

"The Shot" – a 54-foot rainbow launched at the final buzzer by Saginaw Buena Vista's Chris Coles – miraculously found the mark and gave the Knights a 33-32 win over defending champion Flint Beecher in a rematch of 1985's Class B double overtime thriller. Tied at 31 with three seconds to play, Beecher sophomore Ernest Steward hit the first shot of a one-and-one situation to put the Bucs on top, 32-31. Stewart missed on the second attempt, allowing the Knight's Michael Jackson to grab the rebound and pass to Coles. The shot was Coles' first attempt of the second half, and the senior's only points in the

contest. Shoun Randolph led the Knights in scoring with 19 points. Ricky Jackson paced Beecher with 18.

Chris Wooley tallied 20 points and teammate Willie Burton added 17 as Detroit St. Martin dePorres turned a 33-30 halftime lead into a 65-49 win over Saginaw Nouvel in Class C. It was the second consecutive Class C crown for the Eagles.

For the fifth time in eight years, Detroit East Catholic, under the guidance of Coach Dave Soules, earned the Class D crown. The Chargers never trailed en route to a 59-39 win over DeTour. The Red Raiders' Richard Ledy led all scorers, with 17 points. Marion Tinnon tallied 16 for the victors.

1976

After surprising top-ranked Lansing Everett and its star junior, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, in the Semifinal round, Detroit Catholic Central hung on to defeat Saginaw, 59-57, for the Class A title. Guard Mike Prince, who scored 26 points in the Semifinal, again led the attack with 25. Paul Roby led the Trojans with 21 points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

In Class B, Byron Rison scored 24 of his 27 points in the second half as Flint Beecher defeated River Rouge, 80-76. The loss marked only the fifth defeat for legendary Coach Lofton Greene and his Panthers in 17 appearances in the MHSAA Finals.

Buchanan capped a perfect season with a 57-50 decision over Negaunee in Class C. Ken Garrett controlled the boards for the victorious Bucks, finishing with 13 rebounds and a game-high 16 points. Dean Ellis and John Vercoe led Negaunee with 15 points each.

Ranked No. 1 throughout the season, Detroit St. Martin dePorres ran the fast break to perfection, pounding a previously unbeaten Harbor Springs squad, 81-64, in Class D. Tony Fuller finished with 23 points to lead a balanced dePorres attack

1966

Sam Dunlap fired in game-high 31 points, including six in overtime, as Ferndale grabbed its second Class A title in four years with a 65-60 win over the Ann Arbor Pioneers at East Lansing's Jenison Field House. Trailing 44-37 as the teams entered the final quarter, Ann Arbor forced overtime as Tim Wadhams poured in four points in the final 1:20 of regulation. His field goal with 44 second remaining knotted the score at 58. Earle Higgins led the Pioneer attack with 30 points and 14 rebounds.

For the first time in 48 tournament games, River Rouge was defeated in Class B play. In only its second year of existence as a high school, Coach Cornelius Bykerk's Grand Rapids East Christian squad pulled off the unthinkable with a 76-66 win over the Panthers. Bill VanderWoude led the

powerful Christian squad, with a Class B record 36 points. The win ended a streak of five consecutive crowns by Rouge.

L'Anse grabbed its first MHSAA basketball crown with an 89-70 win over Flint Holy Redeemer in Class C. Gerry Gerard scored 23 points and Deane Kent kicked in 22 for the Upper Peninsula squad.

Trout Creek's 6-6 center Bob Gale fired in a Class D tournament-high 40 points before fouling out with 1:08 to play. However, it was not enough, as defending champion Covert rolled to an 84-70 win. It marked the 48th consecutive victory for the Bulldogs. See the "Legends of the Game" article on page 6 for more on Covert.

1956

"U.P. Power" was on glorious display at Jenison Field House as the Straits took three of the MHSAA's four classifications. Of the more than 700 teams competing for MHSAA crowns, less than 90 were located in the Upper Peninsula. A combined afternoon and evening crowd of 23,885 attended the event.

In Class B, "Marvelous" Mel Peterson's bank shot bucket on the first possession of "sudden death" gave Stephenson a 73-71 victory over Detroit St. Andrew in one of the all-time classic contests of the MHSAA tournaments. Under the rules of the time, if the score remained tied after one overtime period, the first team to score in the next period was declared the victor. Trailing by as many as six points late in the fourth quarter, St. Andrew tied the contest at 61 on a Jim Glodzik tip-in with five seconds left in regulation. Peterson scored eight in the overtime period, but a free throw by the Flyers Joe Lack knotted the game at 71-71 with 14 seconds to play in the extra period. Peterson, whose game winner came 35

seconds into sudden death, finished with 35 points - a Class B Finals record.

In a wild contest that saw 14 lead changes and three ties, Crystal Falls rallied for a 71-69 win over Berrien Springs in Class C. Trailing 67-64 with less than two minutes to play, Fred Woelffer and Glenn Westin each scored vital free throws in the comeback. Westin's put back of his second charity shot gave Crystal Falls a 68-67 lead. Jack Kivimaki was accurate on three of four foul shots to boost the lead to 71-67 with 20 seconds left. Westin lead the winners with 27 points followed by Woelffer with 26. All-stater Casey Clark, who fouled out, led Springs with 24.

Trailing by 15 points, 68-53 with three minutes and 47 seconds to play, Chassell scored 18 unanswered points to defeat Portland St. Patrick, 71-68, for the Class D crown in one of the most incredible rallies in Finals history. Don Mattson, who scored 21 of Chassell's 42 second-half points including a basket and three clutch free throws in the waning seconds of the contest, finished with a game high of 27.

In Class A - the only class in which the U.P. did not have an entry - Muskegon Heights downed Hamtramck, 63-53, for its second crown in three years. Trailing 55-45, the Cosmos rallied to within four points, 55-51, with 1:15 to play. However two free throws by Kennedy Howell and Ronnie Robinson and a field goal by Howell in the final seconds sealed the triumph for the Tigers.

Trout Creek downed Hermansville, 86-68, in play in Class E action played one week earlier at Negaunee. Big Don Mackey was the difference, scoring 30 points and controlling the backboards for the Anglers. The Class E tournament featured only Upper Peninsula teams with enrollments of 75 or less students.



Gary Shook, Otsego



Saginaw Buena Vista's Chris Coles gathers in a pass (1), launches the miracle shot (2) at Crisler Arena to beat the buzzer and the Flint Beecher Bucs for the 1986 Class C title (3), and send his team and the BV fans into a frenzy (4)



WJBK-TV, Detroit



Chris Coles '86 - Saginaw Buena Vista

1946 In Lower Peninsula play, outstanding shooting by a Cinderella squad from Holland allowed the Dutchmen to slip past heavily favored Saginaw Arthur Hill, 43-40, in the Class A contest at Jenison Field House. Jack VanDarple scorched the nets for Holland in the second half, hitting on five long field goals to finish with 12 points. Teammate Austin Chamberlain led the team with 13 points. The Dutch had finished the regular season with a 9-6 mark before catching fire in the tournament.

Trailing 16-13 at the half, St. Joseph rallied to a 33-26 win over Fenton in Class B action. St. Joseph center Dave Ankil paced the Bears, with nine points. The win was the 21st straight for the Bears, and was their first crown since 1931.

Clinging to a 34-33 lead, Manton fans celebrated when a pair of missed free throws in the final five seconds proved to be the difference, as the Rangers held on for the Class C victory over Saginaw SS Peter and Paul. Bob Cunningham scored the game winner for the Rangers with 45 seconds remaining in the day's most exciting contest. Danny Cook led Manton with 14 points, while sophomore Art McColgan paced Saginaw with 13.

Walt Briney's Bridgeman squad successfully defended its Class D crown and extended its winning streak to 41 consecutive contests with a 42-27 win over Detroit Country Day in Class D. The Bees jumped out to a 21-11 lead as all 11 Bridgeman ballplayers saw action in the contest. John Kamp led the winners with 19 points.

In Upper Peninsula action at Ironwood, Escanaba defeated Sault Ste. Marie, 52-38, in Class B. Don Scott tallied 14 points for the Eskymos, followed by teammates Don Ohman with 13 and John Finn with 12.

Norway downed Newberry, 48-44, in Class C. Center Don DeBakker led the Vikings in scoring with 13 points. Don Kujala, held to only a single point in the first half, topped Newberry with 14.

Rock jumped out to a 12-3 lead in the first quarter of action, then rolled past Cedarville, 41-36, in Class D. Marvin Kivekas led Rock with 15 points.

In Class E, teammates Andrew Hoholck and Lester Treankler combined for 27 points as Alpha scored a 48-28 win over Champion.

1936 Tied at 25 at the end of regulation, and at 27-27 at end of overtime, Flint Northern was awarded the Class A title over Kalamazoo Central by a final score of 28-27 in Lower Peninsula action at Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids. According to tournament rules of the time, the team which had the most points based on a system of field goals made, free throw percentage, and fewest personal fouls, was declared the winner by a single point. Each team scored 11 field goals in the contest. Kalamazoo held an advantage by committing 10 personal fouls to Northern's total of 14, however Northern hit on 45.4 percent of its free throws while Kalamazoo made 33 percent of its charity shots. Northern's advantage at the foul line was the determining factor. It was announced, however, that a duplicate trophy and medals were to be awarded to Kalamazoo, with appropriate engraving added to indicate the outcome of the game.

Brothers Bob and Ralph Ostermann combined for 18 points as the Detroit St. Theresa Pirates topped Petoskey, 29-25, in Class B. It was the second consecutive trip to the championships for the Pirates.

Lansing St. Mary's defeated Zeeland, 24-14, in Class C to earn its first MHSAA cage crown. The Big Blues stepped up the pace in the second half, opening up a 17-7 lead early in the fourth quarter. High-scoring Herb Brogan, the captain of the St. Mary's squad, finished with 16 points. He delivered the top performance of the tournament according to many in attendance.

Stevensville held Horton to five points in the first half en route to a 20-13 win and its second consecutive Class D title. Jerry "Canary" Howard led the Cardinals with seven points followed by his brother Mark Howard with six.

In the Upper Peninsula tourney at Marquette, Iron River defeated Calumet, 51-34, in Class B action. Harry Pociopa of Iron River and Jack Mugford of Calumet tied for scoring honors with 17 points each.

Class C provided fans with a wild finish

Channing downed Trenary, 37-15, in Class D. Royce Christian, captain of the Channing squad, finished with 18 points. The Railroaders opened up a 15-2 lead at halftime and never looked back.

1926 The championship contests were played at split locations, with the Class A and D games at Waterman Gymnasium on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and the Class B and C games at College Gymnasium in East Lansing.

Detroit Southeastern defeated Muskegon, 26-20, in the Class A title match, played before the largest crowd of the tournament. The game was described by an Associated Press writer as "one of the most sizzling games ever played on a Michigan court." Shaw of Southeastern and Norm MacDonald of Muskegon tied for top scoring honors, with eight points apiece. Due to "the furious play" Muskegon was whistled for fouls on 13 occasions, while Southeastern was called for 11 in the tightly called contest. Two players were dismissed from the game after "collecting four fouls each."

In Class B action, St. Joseph defeated Sturgis, 30-22. Carl Norberg, St. Joseph's outstanding forward, scored eight points and was named to the Class B all-tournament team.

E. Johnson finished with 11 points as Newberry downed Bay City St. James, 31-14, for the Class C crown. Leading start to finish, the lanky U.P. squad seldom put the ball on the floor as their attack featured crisp passing thrown a foot or more above the heads of their shorter opponents.

Michigamme returned to the Upper Peninsula with the Class D championship cup, and the ball used in the final game after overpowering Alpena St. Bernard, 27-15. Treado led the winners with 10 points.

— Ron Pesch
MHSAA Historian