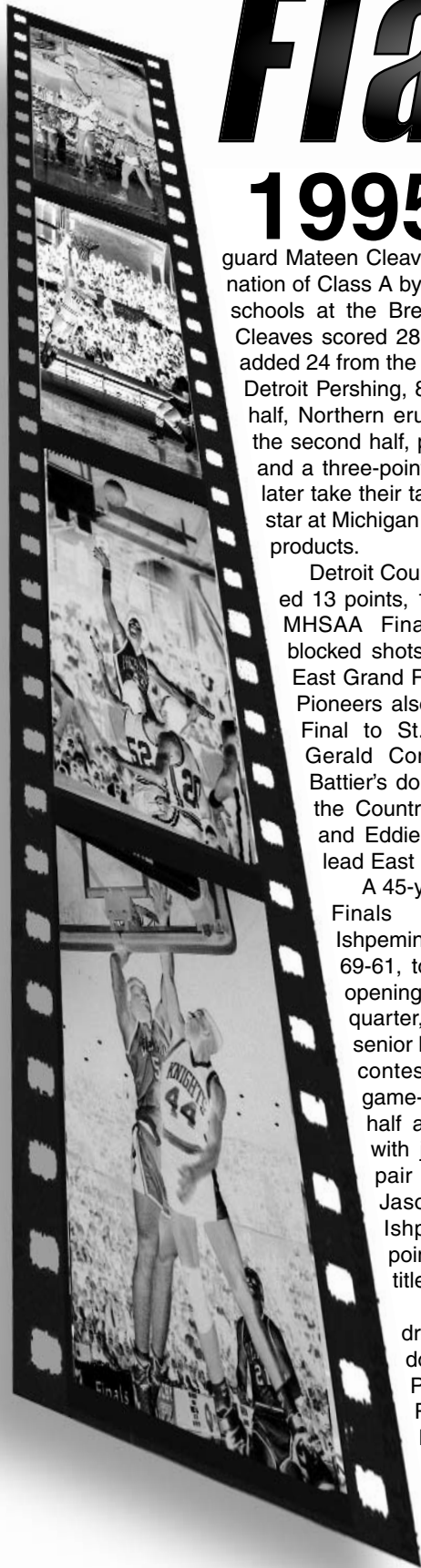


Finals Flashbacks



1995 Future "Flintstones" Antonio Smith and charismatic junior guard Mateen Cleaves ended an eight-year domination of Class A by Detroit Public School League schools at the Breslin Center in East Lansing. Cleaves scored 28 points while Smith, a senior, added 24 from the inside as the Vikings trounced Detroit Pershing, 86-64. Trailing by seven at the half, Northern erupted with a 16-1 run to start the second half, punctuated by a Cleaves dunk and a three-pointer. Smith and Cleaves would later take their talents back to East Lansing to star at Michigan State with a cast of other Flint products.

Detroit Country Day's Shane Battier posted 13 points, 12 rebounds and matched an MHSAA Final game record with eight blocked shots as the Yellowjackets topped East Grand Rapids, 53-43, in Class B. The Pioneers also lost a heartbreaker in 1994 Final to St. Clair Shores Lake Shore. Gerald Conoway added 16 points to Battier's dominating performance to lead the Country Day offense. Corbin Elsen and Eddie Lampton each scored 12 to lead East Grand Rapids.

A 45-year wait for a return trip to the Finals ended triumphantly for Ishpeming, which defeated Lakeview, 69-61, to earn Class C honors. After opening up a 22-point lead in the third quarter, the Hematites saw Lakeview senior Brock Place take control of the contest. Place scored 19 of his game-high 26 points in the second half as the gap was cut to 61-58 with just over a minute to play. A pair of critical steals by guard Jason Lawson, who also led Ishpeming in scoring with 19 points, sealed the Hematites' first title since 1950.

A fourth-quarter scoring drought that lasted 5:47 spelled doom for Crystal Falls Forest Park, as Detroit Holy Redeemer grabbed the Class D crown, 55-46. The Lions' 6-7 center Bobby Brand delivered four blocks, 10 rebounds and 16 points, including a breakaway dunk with just under six minutes

to play that broke a 42-42 tie. The Lions opened up a 10-point lead before Forest Park returned to the scoring column. Darrin Kudwa finished with 15 points leading Forest Park.

1985 The Finals at University of Michigan's Crisler Arena offered a Who's Who of standout prep cagers. In Class A, an outstanding Flint Northwestern team that included Glen Rice (25 points), Anthony Pendleton (20 points), and Andre Rison defeated Detroit Southwestern, 69-55.

Flint Beecher required two overtime periods to shut down a stubborn Saginaw Buena Vista squad, 74-72, in the Class B title game. Roy Marble dropped in 25 points and Maurice Hughes added 23 to lead Beecher. The Bucs fished with a perfect 27-0 record on the year. Buena Vista sophomore Mark Macon scored four points in the final minute-and-a-half of regulation to force the first overtime and finished with 30 points.

Negele Knight and Willie Burton led Detroit St. Martin dePorres to an undefeated season (including a victory over Class A Finalist Detroit Southwestern in a battle for the city title), capped with a 48-36 victory over West Iron County in the Class C Final. Knight led the winners with 20 points, including 12 in the second half, while Burton added six points and 10 rebounds for the Eagles. Sophomore Mike Nelson paced the Wykons scoring attack with 12 points.

In Class D, Allen Park Inter-City Baptist rolled past Bridgman, 70-60. Brad Soucie scored 22 points for Inter-City, while Ryan Pschigoda led the Bees with a game-high 24.

1975 Highland Park grabbed its first title since 1952 with an 85-76 win over Flint Northwestern in Class A at Crisler Arena. Despite an injury midway through the second quarter, Terry Duerod sank 25 points to lead the victorious Polar Bears. Teammate Morris Wright added 23, including eight in the final three minutes of the first half. James Person tallied 34 points for the Wildcats.

Al Westendorp and Greg Colegrove each scored 17 points as Lake Odessa Lakewood topped Mt. Pleasant, 69-47, in Class B. Strong defense was the key to victory as the Vikings held Oiler all-stater Kim Tillotson to 10 points in the contest.

Bill Harris notched 36 points to become the first player to score more than 30 points in two MHSAA championship contests, as Bay City All Saints beat Cassopolis, 79-69. The win meant back-to-back Class C titles for the Cougars. Harris scored 33 the



Gary Shook, Otsego

Ishpeming's Bret Meyer's rejects a shot in the 1995 Class C Final vs. Lakeview.

year before against Detroit Servite. Bill Dungey led the Cassopolis attack with 17 points.

In Class D, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart beat Allendale, 66-55, behind the second-half shooting of Bill Myler. A junior, Myler hit 21 of his game-high 26 points in the last two frames. Sophomore Robert Jackson led Allendale with 16 points.

1965

At Michigan State's Jenison Field House, basketball fans witnessed a superb display of teamwork as Coach Don Farnum's unbeaten Benton Harbor squad cruised to a 94-68 win over Southfield. With the victory the Tigers celebrated their second Class A title in a row, and sealed their reputation as one of the greatest team in tournament history. L.C. Bowen (28 points), John Rudley (21), Perry Dodd (13) and Ellis Hull (nine) helped Benton Harbor establish the all-time high point total for an MHSAA Final. Bowen and Dodd combined for 37 rebounds for the unbeaten "scoot-and-shoot" Tigers.

Lofton Greene's River Rouge Panthers posted their fifth consecutive title with an 87-65 victory over South Haven in Class B. Frank Price led the winners with 28 points,

while center Sam Campbell added 16. South Haven's Dave Guminski led all scorers with 29 markers, including 9 of 13 shooting from the free throw line. The crown was the eighth for Greene, allowing the legendary coach to surpass Gus Cohrs' total of seven, accumulated as coach of Grand Haven from 1924-35. Price's daughter, Franthea, led Rouge to its first girls basketball crown in 1984.

Strong defense propelled Muskegon West Michigan Christian past defending state champion Grosse Pointe St. Paul, 54-51, in Class C action. Jim Portenga scored 13 points and snagged 14 rebounds for the winning Warriors, while teammates Vern Palsrok and Wes VanDyke received credit from Coach Elmer Walcott for their strong defensive play. Bill Bigham finished with 27 points fro the Lakers.

A 12-point surge in the final 2:30 allowed Covert to defeat Pickford, 76-72, in the day's most exciting contest. Jim Sarno, 6-8 center, led the Class D champions with 27 points. Chuck Bennin tallied 29 points, while teammate Roger Hewer added 26 for Pickford.

1955

Jackson's Larry Bicy and Bob Zimmerman combined for 50 points as the Vikings roared past favored Benton Harbor, 74-61, in Class A at Jenison Field House. Bicy's 32 points set an all-class record for points by an individual in a championship game at that time.

River Rouge captured its second consecutive Class B title behind the play of Herb Wood and teammate Blanche Martin. Wood's pair of free throws with four seconds to play sealed a 51-48 win over Buchanan. Martin ended with a game-high 21 points, while Woods, who missed all but three regular-season games due to surgery, chipped in 16.

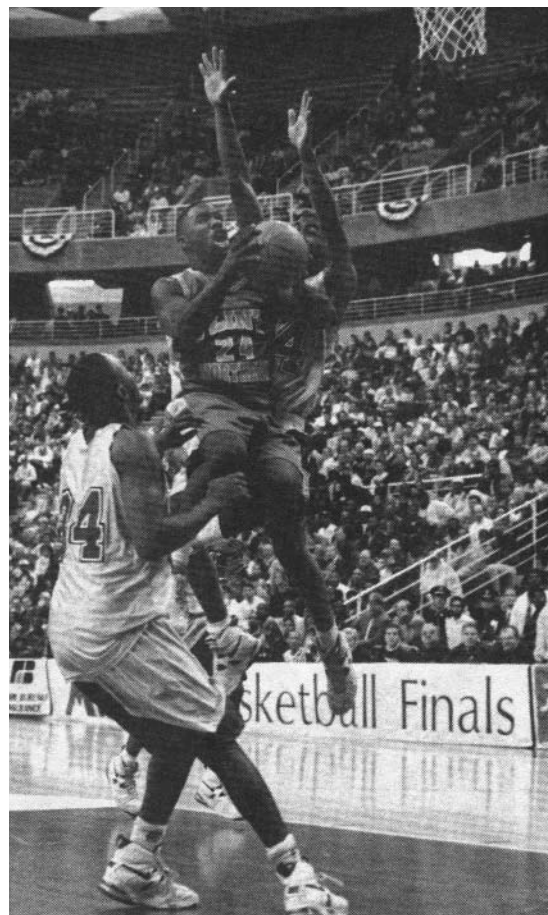
Future major league baseball star Phil Regan of Wayland scored 23 points, however it was not enough to stop the speed, passing ability and shooting of Houghton,

which grabbed the Class C crown. The 65-62 victory sealed an undefeated season for the Upper Peninsula school.

The UP grabbed a second crown as Mass routed Ashley, 73-46. Dale Blake notched a Class D scoring mark with 26 points for the champs, while Jerry Hoffer scored 19 for Ashley.

In Class E play, Trout Creek won the first of back-to-back crowns with a thrilling 84-83 victory over defending champion from Alpha. Trailing 61-53 in the third, Alpha rallied to knot the score in the fourth at 80-80. Trout Creek's Don Mackey hit a field goal to boost the Anglers into the lead with 45 seconds remaining. A pair of free throws by McLaughlin with 19 seconds to play provided Trout Creek's final score, but a foul with 10 seconds to play added drama to the closing moments.

Al Ball missed on his first toss from the charity stripe then hit on his second chance to pull Alpha with three, 84-81. After tying up the Angler's player on the inbounds pass, John Kocinski broke free for a break-away layup following a steal with four seconds left to cut the margin to one before time ran out.



Gary Shook, Otsego

Mateen Cleaves led a second-half Flint Northern surge for the 1995 Class A title.

1945

After pulling within a point of Lansing Sexton

on four separate occasions during the final quarter, Benton Harbor's Jack Forestieri slammed in a basket to knot the score at 30 apiece with 30 seconds remaining in the contest between the two Class A schools. Ten seconds later however, Sexton's Jim Green, who had shot just 2-for-10 from the line earlier in the game, sank a free throw to give the Big Reds the crown, 31-30, in a major upset. Forestieri and Ed Klum each scored 12 for the previously unbeaten Tigers.

According to Dick Kishpaugh, longtime historian for the MHSAA, the game also featured "one of the greatest shows of sportsmanship ever seen in the state tournament. Near the end, with the game hanging in the balance, a Benton Harbor player was called for his fifth foul. That was the official scorer's version. Sexton Coach Al Bovard went to the scorer's table and told him he had made a mistake – his book as well as the Sexton book showed the player with only four fouls. He said the boy should stay in the game, even if it might cost his own team the title. The scorer would have none of it and sent the boy to the bench. Bovard said to Benton Harbor Coach Bill Perigo: 'I'm sorry Bill, I tried.' As it turned out, the boy's replacement made a costly mistake, and Benton Harbor lost its first game of the season along with the title."

In Class B, Tom Tober scored 14 points to lead Sturgis from 10 points down to a 33-26 win over East Lansing. It was the first crown for the Trojans since 1925.

Michigan Center grabbed its first title with a 33-24 victory over Reed City in Class C. John Chalfont paced the winners with 13 points.

Bridgman held A.E. Smith High School of Wyandotte to four second-half points en route to a 29-14 victory. The win marked Bridgman's first title since 1931, and its fourth Class D crown overall.

In the UP tournaments held on the same weekend in Ishpeming, Marquette Graveraet slipped past a tough Ironwood squad, 36-28 for Class B honors. Bill Doyle led the winners with 15 points followed by 13 points by Nystrom.

L'Anse downed a stubborn Norway squad in Class C, 39-33. The underdog, Norway jumped out to a 19-14 lead at half-time before falling behind, 25-23 at the end of three quarters of play. Center B. Emblad led the winners with 16 points.

Forwards Alexander and Butler each scored 12 points as Vulcan defeated Rudyard 43-20 in Class D play.

In Class E, Bergland grabbed a 23-17 halftime lead and then rolled to a 49-39 win over Trenary.

1935

Bob Morse scored

a game-high 11 points to lead Lansing Central to a thrilling 25-24 triumph over Flint Northern before a near-capacity crowd of 5,000 at Flint's Industrial Mutual Association Auditorium. Solid ball control by guard Edwin Abraham allowed Lansing to run out the clock and stave off a Northern rally. The Vikings had pulled within a point after trailing 25-20 with five minutes to play. The victory was the 19th straight for the Class A champions.

Captain Lester Runk's lone basket, a long arching field goal that dropped through the net as the final gun sounded, gave Grand Haven a 22-21 win over an outstanding squad from Detroit St. Theresa in Class B. By all accounts, the Pirates outplayed Grand Haven for three quarters, with their lone breakdown coming near the end of the third, when the defending champs scored three baskets to take a 20-14 lead. St. Theresa battled back with seven unanswered points including a pivot shot by the game's leading scorer, center Bob Osterman, to take a 21-20 lead. Osterman finished with 10 points. It was the third consecutive Class B crown for Grand Haven and the last of seven championships for Buccaneer coach Gus Cohrs.

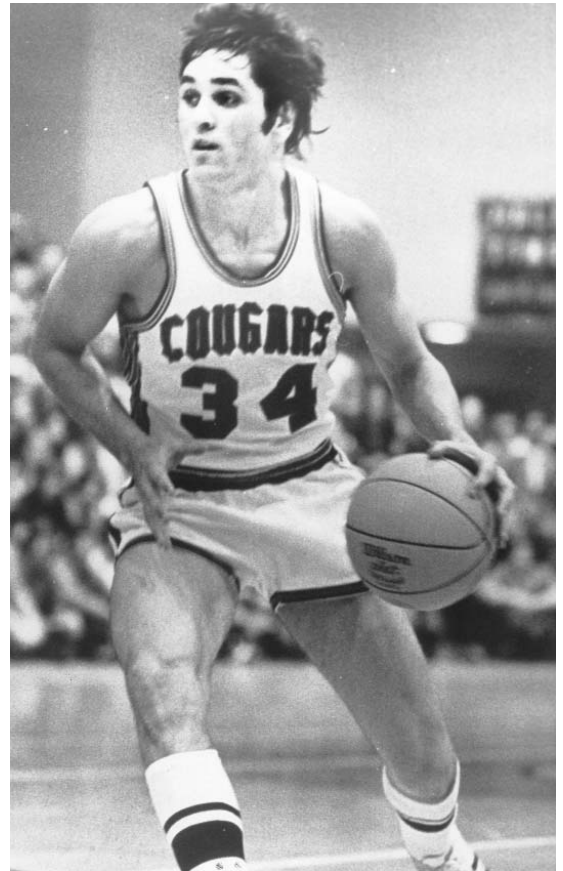
Holland Christian repeated in Class C by downing Cass City, 49-17. The win marked Christian's 37th consecutive victory spanning two seasons. Led by 6-6 center John Zwier, (21 points in the Final) Christian dominated the competition throughout the final round of the tournaments, outscoring their three opponents by a 62-point margin, 125-63.

In Class D, Stevensville's Gerald "Canary" Howard scored four field goals, including a long shot with 30 seconds to play, to grab a 27-25 come-from-behind win over Pellston.

In UP tournament action at Ironwood, Ishpeming slipped past an inspired Ironwood aggregation, 25-23, to repeat as champion in Class B. Trailing throughout the contest, the Hematites rallied to tie the contest at 23, on a Munson free throw. The Ishpeming forward then sank a shot with seven seconds remaining for the victory.

Defending U.P. Class C champion Gwinn outscored Gwinn, 15-1, in the final frame to seal a 34-13 victory. Soyryng paced the winners with 13 points.

In the opening game of the championships, V. Mitchell rallied Champion from a 21-15 third-quarter deficit to grab a 24-23



Bay City Times

Bay City All Saints' Billy Harris topped his 1974 title game performance with 36 points in the 1975 Class C Final.

lead over Trout Creek with over a minute to play. However, the comeback was not to be, as a pair of free throws spelled victory for Trout Creek. Rudolph Saari led the winners with 14 points.

1925

In the first year of MHSAA-sponsored

tournaments, Detroit Southwestern upended defending Class A champion Jackson, 44-22, at Michigan Agricultural College in East Lansing. Trailing 11-7 at the end of one quarter, Southwestern regrouped and scored 13 unanswered points in the second period of play for a 20-11 lead. Captain Putnam was credited with revamping the defense that shutdown the Jackson squad, while Hedricks and Daniels score eight and six points to the offense.

At Ann Arbor, team speed allowed Sturgis to defeat Upper Peninsula champion Lake Linden, 36-25, in Class B.

In Class C at Ann Arbor, Jackson St. Mary nosed out a one-point victory over Three Oaks, 23-22.

There were no Class D tournaments until the spring of 1926.

— Ron Pesch