

Finals Flashbacks

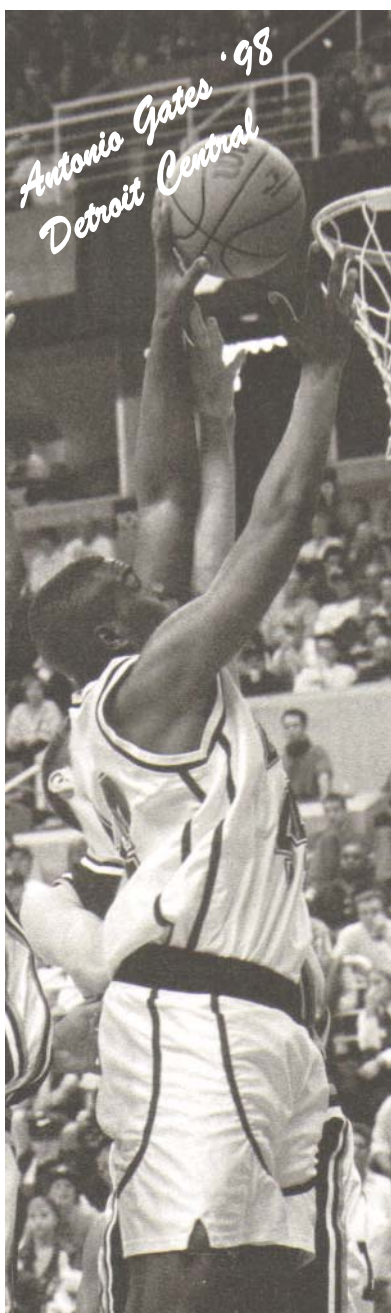


1998 *Breslin Center East Lansing*

For the first time in tournament history, the metro Motor City claimed hoops hardware in all four of the MHSAA classifications.

One of the state's oldest high schools, the Trailblazers of Detroit Central scored their first-ever cage title with a 63-47 win over Belleville in **Class A**. Dante Darling led Central with 24 points followed by Antonio Gates with 17 points and nine rebounds.

After dominating **Class B** for years under the guidance of the legendary Lofton Greene, River Rouge returned to the winner's circle after a 26-year absence with a 60-54 win over Marshall. Junior Brent Darby led the triumphant charge with 20 points. After opening up a 34-22 lead at the half, 13 second half turnovers by Rouge gave Marshall a chance to come-back. Trailing by 13 to open the fourth quarter, Marshall pulled within a point, 55-54 on a three-point jumper by Ryan Vandyke. Vandyke finished with a game-high 24 points, including 13 in the final frame.



Gary Shook, Otsego

Detroit St. Martin dePorres grabbed a 58-46 win over Scottville Mason County Central to secure **Class C** honors. Senior Teremun Johnson concentrated on defense and rebounding during the title march, and focused on limiting the effectiveness of Scottville's 6-7 center Chad Pleiness in the championship match. Averaging 16 points in the regular season, Johnson finished with six points, 10 rebounds, four assists and two blocks. David Denham and Calvin Hughes led dePorres with 17 and 13 points respectively. Pleiness paced the Spartans with 23 points

Dan Horvath, an all-stater in baseball, football and basketball for Southgate Aquinas, delivered a thunderous dunk on a steal with 0.8 seconds remaining to seal a 54-45 victory over Mio in **Class D** play. The 6-6 senior took control of the contest at the 3:24 mark of the fourth quarter with a slam dunk that tied game at 44-44. Horvath scored six points during the Raiders 10-1 run to the finish. He ended the day with a game-high 20 points, and racked up 13 rebounds. Greg Sidebottom led Mio with 18 points.

1983 *Crisler Arena Ann Arbor*

Antoine Joubert shattered the MHSAA championship single-game scoring mark with a 47-point performance for Detroit Southwestern, but his individual effort could not offset the team play of Flint Central. The Indians became only the second team in tournament history to win three consecutive **Class A** titles with an 84-80 victory over the Prospectors.

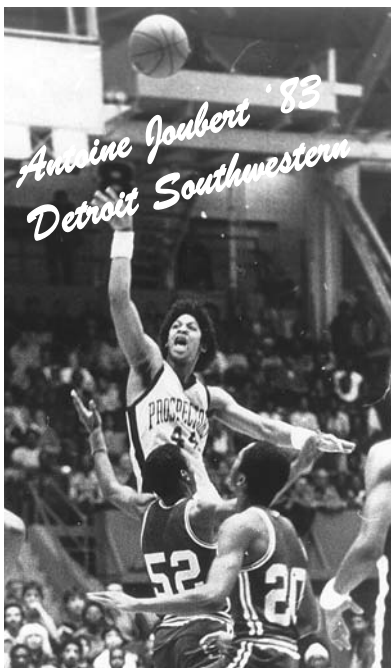
Trailing by as many as 11 points in the first half, Joubert pulled the Prospectors even, 53-53, with a bomb to end the third quarter. But Central, led by lone returning starter Darryl Johnson, took command in the final moments. The senior scored 30 points, including all eight of his free throw attempts, to lead the Indians offense.

Phil Zielinski scored 16 points,

including a field goal and a pair of free throws in the final 20 seconds, to lead Corunna to a 52-49 upset of Oak Park in **Class B**. The win negated an outstanding shooting day for Fred Marshall, who hit 9-of-13 attempts from the field in the first half, leading Oak Park to a 31-23 lead at intermission. Marshall ended the day with 29 points.

In **Class C**, Kalamazoo Christian trounced Flint Hamady, 81-60. Christian's Kevin Dungy opened the third quarter with eight points as the Comets extended a 21-12 halftime lead to 33-18. Dungy ended with 10 rebounds and 24 points on 10-of-11 shooting from the floor.

An off night by Detroit East Catholic still was not enough to derail its title hopes, as the Chargers earned a fifth title under Coach Dave Soules with a 54-43 win over St. Ignace in **Class D**. East Catholic hit only 40 percent of its shots, but St. Ignace shot just 27 percent. Clayton Hendley led the Chargers with 14 while all-stater Anthony Sands helped East Catholic control the boards with 19.



MHSAA File Photo

45-35 victory over Highland St. Benedict in **Class C**. The Ravens cut the margin to eight points on the strong shooting of Larry Gacki (17 points) before running out of steam. Junior Norm Vanderwel scored 20 for the Warriors. It was the first crown for Christian and head coach Elmer Walcott.

Chassell notched its third consecutive **Class D** crown, and its 65th straight win, with a 66-61 defeat of Owosso St Paul. The Blue Wave rallied to within three points, 62-59, before

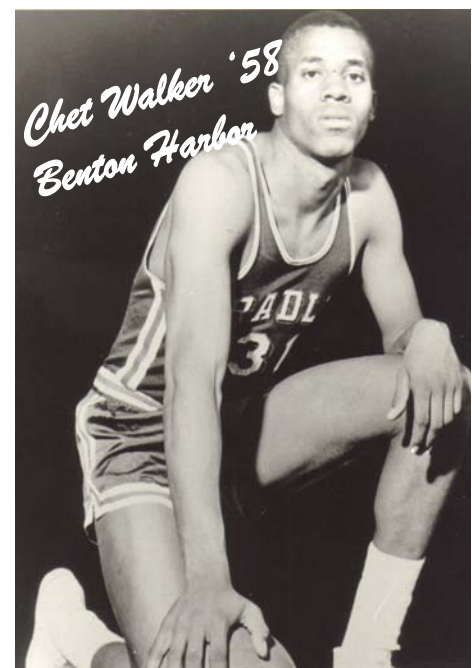
Chassell's Don Mattson fed a perfect pass to teammate Ken Tormala, who converted. Alden Tormala increased the lead to seven points with another bucket, ending St. Paul's chances. Mattson ended with 27 points--a Class D record at the time.

In **Class E** at Houghton one week earlier, Bruce Knivila scored eight from the field and eight from the free throw line to lead Trout Creek to a 61-41 thumping of Perkins. To the delight of fans in attendance, Perkins' 5-4 center, Eddie Jacker, kept his team in the game before fouling out with 3:20 left in the third quarter. Following his exit, the Anglers went on a 27-11 run to ice the contest. Jacker finished with 11 points for Perkins.

with a 24-11 victory over Mt. Pleasant in **Class B**. Coach Gus Cohrs' squad busted open a 14-2 lead at the intermission, then coasted to victory. Charles Dirkse led the winners with seven points.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's defeated a squad of giant-killers from Boyne City, 32-8, to earn its first MHSAA crown. One night before, Boyne City delivered a shocking 16-15 win over three-time defending **Class C** champion Kalamazoo St. Augustine in the Semifinals.

The third time was the charm as Ann Arbor St. Thomas topped Kent City, 17-16, in an overtime thriller for its first **Class D** title. Deadlocked at 16 following a Kent City bucket with less than two minutes remaining in regulation, the squads were forced to play a three-minute overtime. Team captain Jimmy Walsh emerged as the hero, sinking a free throw in the extra frame to secure the win. Kent City had four opportunities from the charity stripe but failed on each before Walsh found the mark.



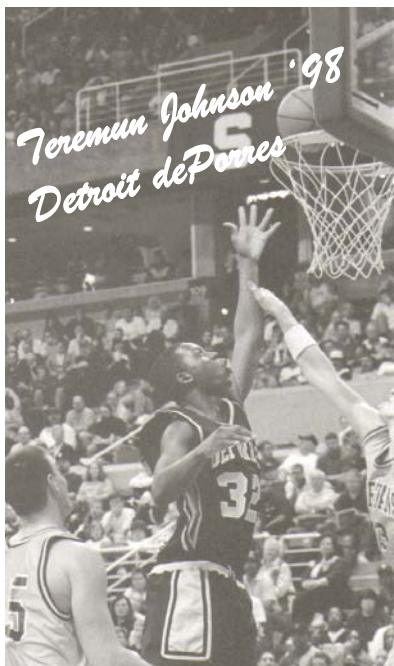
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1958 *Jenison Fieldhouse East Lansing*

Dave DeBusschere scored 32 points for Detroit Austin, to lead his team to a 71-68 victory over the Benton Harbor Tigers and Chet Walker in **Class A** play. Both teams are being honored this year as MHSAA "Legends of the Game" (see page 6 for additional details)

Led by the Brandstatter brothers, Art and John, East Lansing rolled to a 62-51 win over River Rouge for the **Class B** crown. Art finished with 12 points including 10-of-11 shooting from the free throw line, while his younger brother ended with 15 points. The victory marked the first title for East Lansing, after losses in the final round in 1932 and 1945.

Muskegon Western Michigan Christian controlled the backboards and jumped out to a 19-point lead at the half en route to a



MHSAA File Photo

ly capture the crown. Truss led Northern with 12 points.

Grand Haven picked up its fifth crown

1933

Lansing's Boys Vocational School

A stunning rally in the final quarter of the **Class A** contest allowed Flint Northern to steal the win from Grosse Pointe, 22-16. In perhaps the greatest comeback in tournament play up to that point, Northern opened the fourth quarter trailing, 14-8. Led by Dodson Truss, the Flint cagers roared to 14 unanswered points to surge into the lead and eventual-

ly capture the crown. Truss led Northern with 12 points.

For the second year in a row, Michigan's Upper Peninsula held a separate basketball tournament, crowning champions in Class B, C and D. This arrangement continued through the 1947 season. Iron Mountain captured the **Class B** crown, defeating Stambaugh, 22-19. Stambaugh had won two previous regular-season contests between the schools.

In **Class C** play, Newberry and its high-powered offense built a 24-5 lead by half-time, then coasted to a 44-16 drubbing of Amasa. A free throw by Alpha center LaCount with under three minutes to play in the **Class D** Final snapped a 28-28 tie to edge Bergland, 29-28.

— Ron Pesch