

# Finals Flashbacks



## 1974

Detroit Dominican grabbed its second consecutive Class A title with a thrilling 59-58 win over Farmington Our Lady of Mercy. Dominican came from five points down in the final two minutes to take a 57-56 lead with 39 seconds left. Freshman Betsie Essian netted a pair of free throws in the final 30 seconds of play to seal the victory. The two schools had met on three occasions during the regular season, with Mercy holding a 2-1 edge. In only its second year of existence, all four Finals of the girls tournament were held at East Kentwood High School.

In Class B, Tecumseh jumped out to a 29-12 lead at the half, then coasted to a 57-29 win over Harper Woods Regina. See the "Legends of the Game" article (page 30) for additional details on Tecumseh and Flint Holy Rosary, a 62-35 winner over defending MHSAA champion Ewen-Trout Creek for Class D honors.

Hamtramck St. Ladislaus extended its winning streak to 42 straight and earned its second consecutive state title with a 59-45 win over Ontonagon in Class C before 2,400 fans. Linda Balabuch led the winners with 28 points. Donna Travis, who scored 30 points in the team's 84-58 Semifinal win over Mason County Central, finished with 13 in the title game.

## 1979

Twins Pam and Paula McGee of Flint Northern closed out their stellar high school cage careers with a victory as the Vikings downed Harper Woods Regina, 62-34, in the Class A Final at Jenison Field House in East Lansing. Paula scored 25 points, and 24 rebounds, while Pam added 15 points and nine boards. The win marked the 38th consecutive victory for Northern coach Dorothy Kululka and the second of

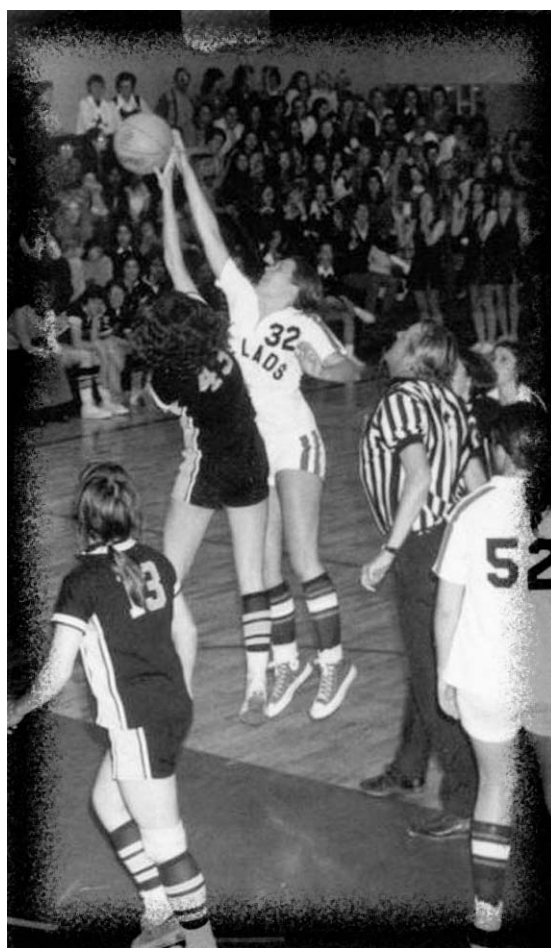


Photo Courtesy of Lynne Chadwick

***St. Ladislaus (light) and Detroit Dominican (dark) dominated the girls hoops scene in the early 1970s, as each won back-to-back titles in 1973 and 1974. Above, familiar foes Lynne Chadwick (43) of Detroit Dominican and Patty Bobryk of St. Ladislaus battle for a jump ball in 1974 action.***

four consecutive Class A titles for the Vikings.

Junior center Kathy Grzegorski poured in 24 points to lead Grand Rapids West Catholic past Frankenmuth, 53-38, in the Class B Final. Barb Ritter led the runner-up, with 13 points. The loss was only the third of the year for Frankenmuth – all to MHSAA champions. During the regular season, the Eagles dropped a pair to conference rivals Saginaw Carrollton, the Class C titlist.



Flint Journal

**Paula (32) and Pam (30) McGee helped Flint Northern rule Class A girls basketball in the late 1970s, closing their careers with titles in 1978 and 1979.**

Saginaw Carrollton exploded for 15 unanswered points in the second half en route to a 50-31 win over Royal Oak Shrine in Class C. Lori Gnatkowski dropped in six points during the run, and finished with 13. Sharon Sawyer led the winners with 15. Rachelle Bostic paced Shrine with 14 points.

Norway overcame a 14-point deficit to pull out a thrilling 62-61 win over Maple City Glen Lake for the Class D title. Trailing 22-16 after one quarter of play, and 58-46 at the end of three periods, Norway rallied for 10 straight in the first five minutes of the fourth quarter. Diana Milligan led the victors with 22 points. It was the second title in less than a month for the Upper Peninsula school, as Norway's football team grabbed the Class D gridiron crown at the Silverdome in November.

**1984** Flint Northwestern grabbed its second consecutive Class A title with a 48-38 victory over Benton Harbor at Western Michigan University's Read Field House in Kalamazoo. Wildcat junior Tonya Edwards notched a game-high 17 points despite early foul trouble. Tiger guard Lisa

Harvey, who entered the game averaging 23 points, was held to just three. Veronica Holton led the Benton Harbor attack with 14 points.

Inspired by the outstanding play of Franthea Price, River Rouge rallied from 10 points down to defeat Livonia Ladywood, 47-46. Price led Rouge with 19 points, including nine in the final frame. With 19 seconds remaining, the junior stole the ball and drilled a 13-foot jump shot from the baseline to give the Panthers the lead. Char Govan led Ladywood with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Pewamo-Westphalia's strong inside attack and superior size could not stop the team speed and outside shooting of the Newaygo Lions, none of whom was taller than 5-7. Dawn Bulk and Kari Thomas led the Lions with 20 and 15 points, respectively, as Newaygo upset the favored Pirates, 57-52. Lynda Rademacher led the Class C runner-up with 22 points.

McBain held off a late rally by Ottawa Lake Whiteford to claim the Class D title, 48-43. Ottawa Lake cut the lead to one with 1:20 left in the game, as senior Sandy Long sank two of her game-high 15 points. Jane Keen led McBain with 12 points.

**1989** At Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills juniors Rausheda Hickman and Evelyn Baskin led the Indians to a 61-32 win over West Bloomfield. Hickman scored 22 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and blocked two shots, while Baskin had 13 points, 15 rebounds and three blocks for the Class A champion.

Dearborn Divine Child grabbed its second crown in four years with a 44-36 win over the St. Joseph Bears in Class B. Trailing by 14 points late in the first quarter, Dearborn Divine Child cut the margin to four, 24-20 at the half. Three consecutive three-pointers by senior Shawn Bannon converted a 28-26 deficit to a 35-30 lead. Bannon ended her prep career with 18 points including four three-pointers. Tracey Bloodworth paced the Bears with 14 points.

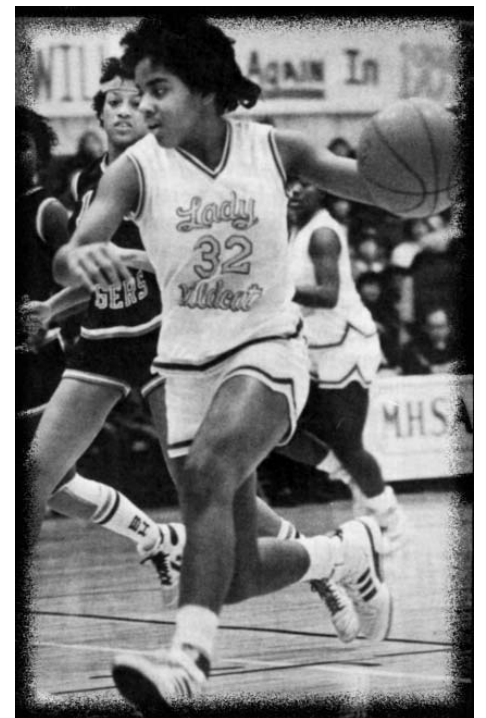
Peggy Evans shattered the Final round (Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final) single-game scoring record with a 47-point performance, as Detroit Country Day grabbed the Class C crown with a 71-59 win over Saginaw Valley Lutheran. Evans also dominated the boards for the

Yellowjackets, grabbing 17 of the team's 44 rebounds.

A 33-point performance by Potterville's Gina Harrington was not enough as Carney-Nadeau topped the Vikings, 73-59, for the Class D title. Trailing by as many as 27 points in the second quarter, Harrington's basket with 3:08 remaining pulled Potterville within seven, 64-57. Seconds later, however, Nadeau's Connie Berger hit her fourth three-pointer, then followed with a pass to Michelle Charlier for an easy basket and a 69-57 lead. Berger finished with 22 to lead the Wolves.

**1994** Flint Northern returned to the basketball spotlight with an impressive 46-32 defeat of 1993 runner-up Detroit Martin Luther King at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Led by 6-4 freshman Tawana McDonald, who finished with five points, seven assists, 13 rebounds and 10 blocked shots (including seven in the first half), the Vikings sported an all-underclass lineup. LaShawn Grays and Ladel Lewis each finished with 12 points to lead the victors. Courtney Anthony led King with five points. With the win, Leteia Hughley became the second woman to win an

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Gary Shook, Otsego

**Tanya Edwards directed Flint Northwestern to its second straight Class A title in 1984, a 48-32 win over Benton Harbor.**

MHSAA basketball title as a player, then return to coach their alma mater to a title. Northern won four consecutive championships from 1978-81 when Hughley was in uniform. One year earlier, Tonya Edwards, coach of crosstown rival Flint Northwestern, became the first.

In Class B, defending champ Dearborn Divine Child exacted revenge for an early season loss to Flint Powers by downing the Chargers, 57-54. Tara Overaitis led the Falcons with 14 caroms and 33 points. Powers erased Divine Child's eight-point third quarter lead and tied the game at 53 with 3:07 to play, but free throws by Anne Yoches and Carrie Carpenter sealed the win for the Falcons. Katie Cushman and Elizabeth Hallman each scored 18 for Powers.

Freshman Aiysha Smith notched 17 points and eight rebounds, and junior Adriane Bryant added 14 points, to lead Redford Bishop Borgess to a 58-39 win over a Cinderella squad from Grandville Calvin Christian. It was the second consecutive Class C crown for Borgess. The youthful Spartans opened up a 13-0 lead en route to the win. Christian, which entered the tournament with an 8-12 regular-season mark, became the first team to play for a title with a losing record in the



Gary Shook, Otsego

**Utica downed Lansing Everett in the 1999 Class A Final behind 26 points from Lindsey Pasquinzo.**

regular season.

Portland St Patrick rallied from 10 points down to defeat Upper Peninsula entry Painesdale-Jeffers, 43-30, in the Class D contest. Led by 6-foot senior Kelli Fedewa, the Shamrocks broke Jeffers' tenacious full-court press and took advantage of a definite height advantage to dominate the glass. Christie Smith and Sara Meyers finished with 11 and eight rebounds, respectively, while Fedewa ended the day with 26 points and nine boards. Amy Aittama led the Jets with nine points, and teammate Janie Wesa pitched in with seven points.

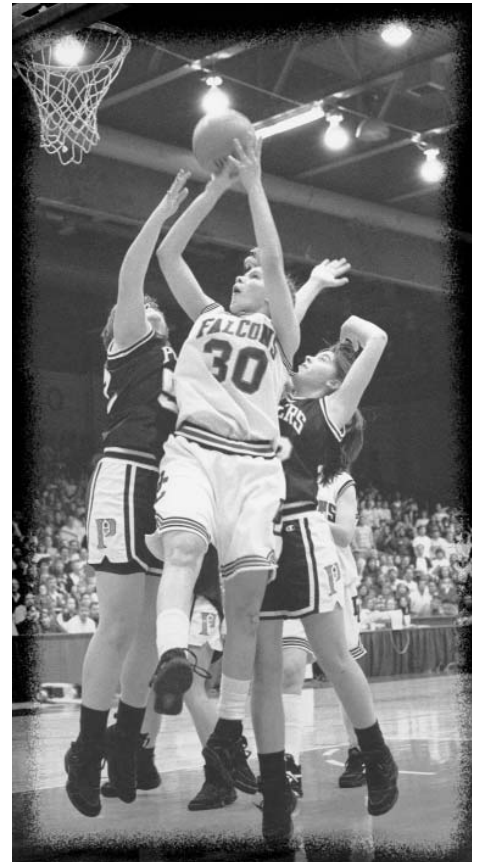
# 1999

Junior forward Lindsey Pasquinzo hit

10-of-18 from the field including 3-for-4 shooting from three-point territory, to lead Utica past Lansing Everett, 62-48, in a battle of the undefeated in the Class A game played before 5,548 fans at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena. Taking full advantage of the height of the front court, the Chieftians combined Pasquinzo's 26 points with outstanding play at both ends of the court by senior forward Lori Wild (14 points, 13 rebounds) and senior center Julie Pagel (13 points, 14 rebounds) to contain the potent Everett squad. Sophomore Sheena Moore finished with 21 points to lead the Vikings.

Deadlocked at the half, but trailing 38-31 at the end of three quarters, Detroit Country Day stormed back for a 49-47 win over Flint Powers Catholic in a thriller in the Class B title game. Suzanne Morrison's layup with just over a minute to play capped a 12-3 run by the Yellowjackets that tied the game, 47-47. With time expiring, Country Day sophomore guard Kim Wilburn drove to the basket and sank the game winner at the buzzer for the win. Wilburn ended the day with 21 points to lead all scorers, while Kelly Koerber topped Powers with 18. Beginning with a 1997 meeting in the Semifinal round, also won by the Yellowjackets, this game was in the middle of a classy five-game postseason rivalry between the schools and veteran coaches Frank Orlando of Country Day and Kathy McGee of Powers.

St. Ignace joined Utica as first-time champions with a 65-40 victory over Sandusky in the Class C matchup. Randi Johnson, a dazzling 5-6 senior guard, wowed the crowd with 30 points and



Gary Shook, Otsego

**Tara Overaitis had 33 points and 14 rebounds in a dominant effort in the 1994 Class B win over Flint Powers Catholic.**

seven steals to lead the Saints. Johnson also scored 30 points in St. Ignace's Quarterfinal contest, to insure the team's trip to Mt. Pleasant.

Two representatives from the powerful Central Michigan Athletic Conference squared off in the Class D game. It was the third meeting of the year for Portland St. Patrick and Fowler. The teams had split the regular-season matchups, but St. Pat claimed the deciding game and the title with a 47-36 victory. It was the fourth MHSAA crown in six seasons for the Shamrocks. Janet Russman paced the winners with 14 points and 13 rebounds while teammate Mandy Fox chipped in with 10 points. Guard Emily Pohl finished with 12 points for Fowler.

The 10,958 in attendance throughout the day established a record crowd for the MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals, as did the three-day total of 21,606.

— Ron Pesch