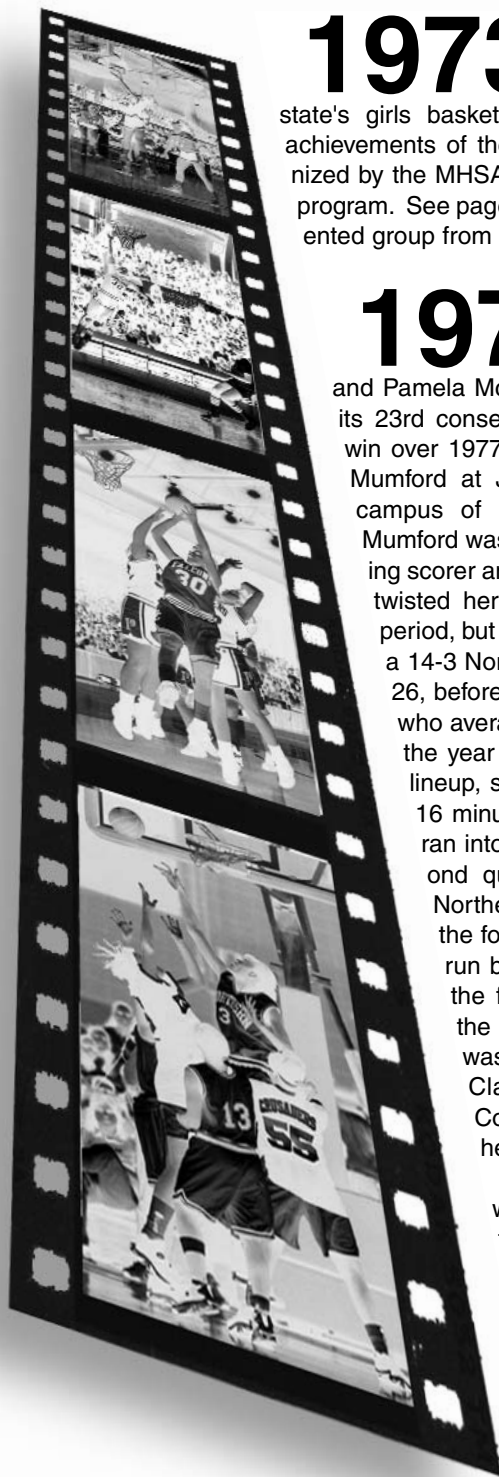


# Finals Flashbacks



## 1973

This marked the first year of MHSAA tournament action for the state's girls basketball teams. This year, the achievements of the Class of 1973 are recognized by the MHSAA's "Legends of the Game" program. See page 6 for a look back at this talented group from 30 years ago.

## 1978

Behind the play of junior twin sisters Paula and Pamela McGee, Flint Northern posted its 23rd consecutive victory with a 60-48 win over 1977 **Class A** runner-up Detroit Mumford at Jenison Fieldhouse on the campus of Michigan State University. Mumford was dealt a blow when its leading scorer and rebounder, Debra Walker, twisted her ankle early in the second period, but the team was still able to cut a 14-3 Northern lead to one point, 27-26, before the half. Although Walker – who averaged 27 points per game for the year – was able to return to the lineup, she was held to 14 points in 16 minutes of play. Pamela McGee ran into foul trouble late in the second quarter, but returned to the Northern lineup midway through the fourth quarter to spark a 16-3 run by the Vikings. The loss was the first setback of the year for the Mumford squad. The title was the first of four consecutive Class A championships for Coach Dorothy Kukulka and her Vikings

A Tammy Brehen basket with 38 seconds left in overtime capped a 59-56 comeback victory for Mt. Clemens L'Anse Creuse in the **Class B** title game with Flint Beecher. Down by seven points with less than a minute to play in regulation, the Lancers rebounded with four

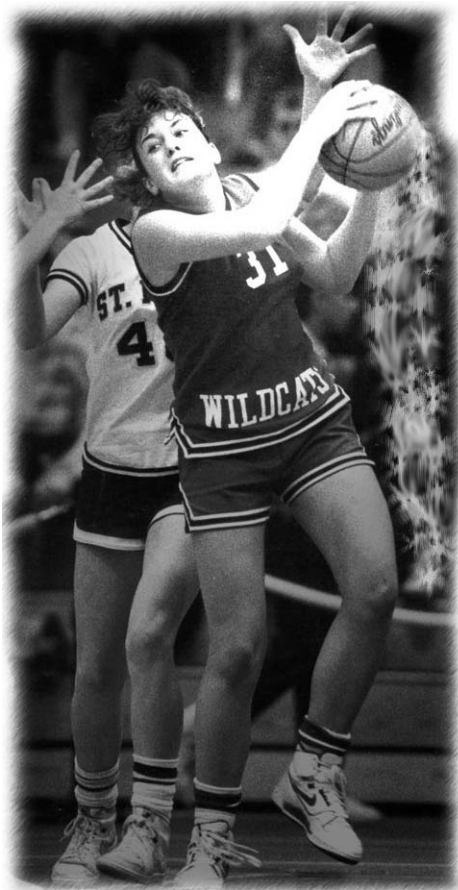


The Flint Journal

*Flint Northern's Paula McGee pulls down a rebound in the Vikings' 60-48 win over Detroit Mumford in the 1978 Class A Final.*

points from Julie Peltier, a free throw from Nancy Valliere, and a bucket from Brehen to send the game into overtime. Ann DeLoder led the winners with 22 points. Janice Sparks scored 19 points for Beecher while teammate Vennette Watkins finished with 18 points and 15 rebounds.

Sue Sommerville's basket with 40 seconds remaining in the third quarter gave Allen Park Cabrini a lead it would never relinquish, as the Monarchs downed previously unbeaten Norway, 50-43, in **Class C**. Led by the strong outside shooting of Dianna Milligan (18 points), Norway



Gary Shook, Otsego

**Debbie Bettys of Walkerville led the Wildcats to the 1988 Class D title over Portland St. Patrick, netting 30 points in the contest.**

led throughout the first half and much of the third quarter. The Knights then went scoreless on 11 straight possessions while Anita Shea and Debbie Syer, a pair of talented Cabrini freshmen who entered the game in the third period, fired up the Monarch offense. Jane Shaffer paced the winners with 17 points and 18 rebounds. Sommerville ended the day with 12 points.

Freshman Laura Wiesen came off the bench in the second quarter and combined with Kim Kaiser to spark the Maple City Glen Lake Lakers to a 26-17 halftime lead and a 52-32 triumph over Portland St. Patrick in **Class D**. Kaiser topped the Lakers with 14 points and 18 boards. Terri Hoppes led the Shamrock attack with 10 points.

**1983** For the sixth consecutive year, the city of Flint was represented in the **Class A** finals, as the Wildcats of Flint Northwestern squeaked past a tough

Harper Woods Regina squad, 50-47, at Western Michigan University's Read Field House. With the game deadlocked at 47, the Wildcats slowed the pace for the final minutes of play. A free throw by Cynthia Lyons and a layup by Shanta Burks proved to be the margin in the game. Northwestern, which played in the shadow of Saginaw Valley Conference rival and five-year finalist Flint Northern, downed the crosstown-rival Vikings twice during the regular season and again in the Regionals en route to the school's first MHSAA title.

Junior forward Char Govan grabbed 16 rebounds and scored 24 points to lead the Blue Blazers of Livonia Ladywood to a 52-34 win over River Rouge in **Class B**.

Strong defense and a 30-point performance by sophomore Lisa Horne gave Flint Hamady a 60-48 come-from-behind win over Pewamo-Westphalia in the **Class C** Final. Hamady's press accounted for a 25-8 scoring advantage in the third quarter of action. Pewamo-Westphalia's Lynda Rademacher led the Pirates with 20.

DeTour jumped out to a 16-1 lead and never looked back as the Red Raiders grabbed a 49-37 win over Wyandotte Mt. Carmel in **Class D**.

**1988** Birmingham Marian set a **Class A** Final scoring record with a 71-49 win over Flint Powers Catholic at the Grand Valley State College Fieldhouse in Allendale. The Mustangs, led by Jennifer Shasky's 30-points, grabbed an early 24-10 lead and were never threatened. Defense was the key according to Marian coach Mary Lillie-Cicerone, as the Mustangs held Powers' all-stater Nikki Beaudry to 10 points in the contest.

Averaging more than 20 points per game, Carla Sterk erupted for 19 points in the first half and finished with 31, as Grand Rapids South Christian topped defending champion Flint Beecher in **Class B**. The win marked the second big victory over Beecher in 1988 for South Christian High School. In March, the boys basketball team downed Flint Beecher in overtime in the Semifinal on their way to the **Class B** championship.

With 34 second remaining, Tirzah Wilson nailed both ends of a bonus situation to give St. Joseph Lake Michigan Catholic a 41-39 victory over Ontonagon in **Class C**. Catholic's Kelly Rose led all scores with 17 points, and a Finals record

25 rebounds. Jill Mattson paced Ontonagon, with 13 points.

Walkerville cruised to its second consecutive MHSAA title in **Class D** with a 70-52 win over Portland St. Patrick in the day's first contest. Debbie Bettys scored 30 points to become the eighth player in Finals history to reach the 30-point plateau, setting a trend for the day that was later followed up by Birmingham Marian's Shasky and Grand Rapids South Christian's Sterk. Teammate Angie Bond added a triple double, with 14 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Terri Boos and Mary Schrauben paced St. Patrick with 18 and 17 points, respectively.

**1993** A pair of lay-ups by Nicole Massey gave the Wildcats of Flint Northwestern a 44-43 comeback victory over Detroit Martin Luther King in the **Class A** contest at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek. Trailing 43-38 with a minute left, Northwestern's Larecha Jones pulled the team within three points on a putback with 46 seconds left. After a missed free throw by the Crusaders, the 5-4 Massey added a lay-up with 36 seconds to play making the score 43-42. King missed another free throw with 19 seconds left, but retained possession when the Wildcats knocked

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Gary Shook, Otsego

**Frankenmuth's Ann Lemire drives past Dearborn Divine Child's Carrie Carpenter in the 1993 Class B Final. Lemire had 15 points, but Divine Child came away with a 50-43 victory.**



Gary Shook, Otsego

***Tonya Steele came up big for Freeland in the 1998 Class C Final, scoring 25 points and grabbing 10 rebounds to lead the Falcons to their first MHSAA cage crown.***

the rebound out of bounds. Massey then stole the inbounds pass and scored the game-winner on another layup. Center Tennille Caruthers was 6-of-9 from the field and finished with 13 points to lead King. With the victory, Northwestern's Tonya Edwards became the first girls coach in MHSAA history to play on an MHSAA championship squad, then return to coach her team to a title. Edwards won prep titles as a player in 1983 and 1984, and also was a freshman starter on the University of Tennessee's 1987 national championship squad.

Dearborn Divine Child shot an impressive 67 percent in the second half en route to a 50-43 victory over defending **Class B** champion Frankenmuth before a crowd of 2,155. Frankenmuth, led by Ann Lemire's 15 points, made a 9-0 run late in the game to pull within two points, 41-39, with 3:34 left to play. A three-pointer by Lemire two minutes earlier had touched off the rally. But, strong defense by the Falcons in the final minutes of play preserved the victory

and gave Divine Child its third MHSAA title. Mary Murray scored 14 points while teammate Carrie Carpenter finished with eight for the Falcons.

Maxann Reese scored 24 points, including a tournament record six three-pointers on nine attempts, as Redford Bishop Borgess grabbed its first-ever MHSAA girls hoop crown, 64-41, over Iron Mountain in the **Class C** contest. Janell Schupp led the Mountaineers with 11 points.

In **Class D**, Emily Carr's three-point play with nine seconds remaining gave Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard a 43-42 double overtime victory over Mio AuSable. With her team trailing 42-40, Carr drove to the basket and scored the tying bucket. Following a Mio timeout, she stepped to the line and calmly sank the game-winner. Gabriel Richard had built a 31-26 lead in the fourth quarter, but watched it disappear when Mio's Joslyn Hemingway scored off a steal with two seconds left, knotting the game at 35 and forcing overtime. The teams remained deadlocked, 37-37, after the first OT. Hemingway finished with 12 points, while Michelle Johnson led the Thunderbolts with a game-high 10 rebounds. Richard's Shauna Sikorski led all scorers with 16 points.

# 1998

Size stopped speed as Birmingham

Marian picked up its second **Class A** crown in three years with a 59-45 triumph over Saginaw Arthur Hill at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena. Mustang center Nicole Anaejionu was held to four points in the first half, but exploded for 18 after the intermission as Marian toppled the Lumberjacks' 28-26 halftime lead. Arthur Hills all-state guard Nakia Woods was 5-for-5 from the field with 5 points in the first half, but faced constant traps in the second half and was held to a total of 19 points for the afternoon. The Mustangs finished with a 36-16 advantage on the boards, including nine rebounds for Anaejionu.

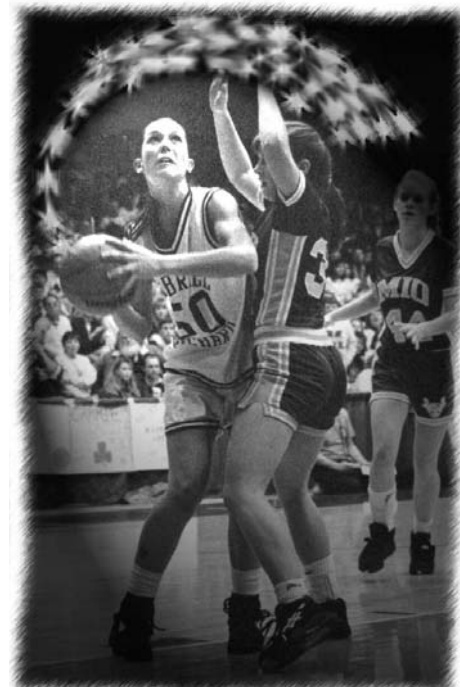
Detroit Country Day ended the evening with back-to-back **Class B** titles, as the Yellow Jackets thumped Grandville Calvin Christian, 57-23. Katharine Hanks (14 points) scored the first eight points for the winners, as Country Day opened up an early 20-point lead. Forward Jennifer Thomas capped a stellar career at Country Day with 20 points and 15

rebounds.

Kalamazoo Christian focused on stopping Freeland's two-time all-state center Becca McCann, allowing the Falcons' Tonya Steele to scorch the nets for a career-high 25 points, and a 59-36 victory in the **Class C** title contest. Steele pulled down 10 caroms while the Freeland defenders limited the Comets' outstanding three-point shooting. Guard Tessa Taylor chipped in with 10 point and four assists for the winners.

Defeated in the waning seconds of the **Class D** Final a year earlier, Rapid River fell just short again, as Morrice topped the Rockets for its first MHSAA title, 55-54 in overtime. Trailing 47-42 with 39.7 seconds remaining, Rapid River senior guard Sarah Boyer nailed a three-pointer to pull the Rockets within two, then grabbed a rebound and drove the length of the court for a layup as time expired to send the game to overtime. Morrice senior forward Candi Kollek finished with 20 points for the Orioles, but her biggest contribution might have been a pass to teammate Sarah DiPonio for the game-winning bucket with 42 seconds left in the extra frame. Boyer, who had 26 points for the Rockets, nearly won the game at the buzzer of overtime, but her 18-footer bounced off the rim.

— Ron Pesch



Gary Shook, Otsego

***Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard's Shauna Sikorski scored a game-high 16 points en route to the 1993 Class D crown.***