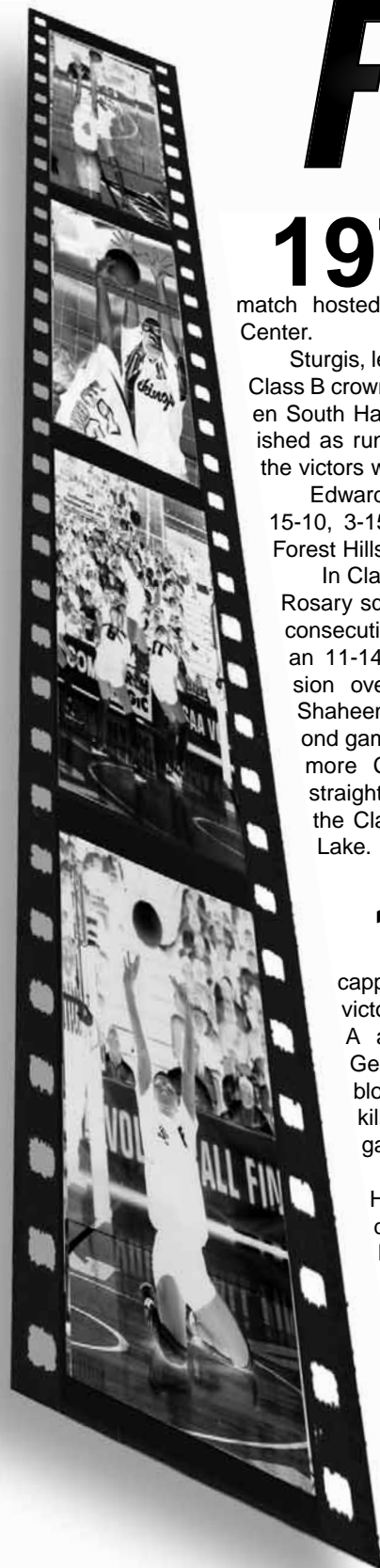


# Finals Flashbacks



## 1977

Warren Cousino downed Mt Clemens, 7-15, 15-9, 15-13, in the Class A title match hosted at Schoolcraft College's University Center.

Sturgis, led by Coach Carol Velasco, earned the Class B crown with a victory over previously unbeaten South Haven, 15-1, 15-8. The Trojans had finished as runners-up in 1976. Susan Wegner led the victors with 15 kills and one ace.

Edwardsburg grabbed Class C honors with a 15-10, 3-15, 15-10 triumph over Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern.

In Class D, Coach Bill Herrmann's Flint Holy Rosary squad extended its winning streak to 89 consecutive matches over three seasons with an 11-14, 13-5, 15-5 come-from-behind decision over Battle Creek St. Philip. Teresa Shaheen served five straight points in the second game to lead the comeback, while sophomore Colleen Shaheen served for seven straight points in the final contest. Rosary won the Class C-D title in 1976 under Coach Jo Lake.

## 1982

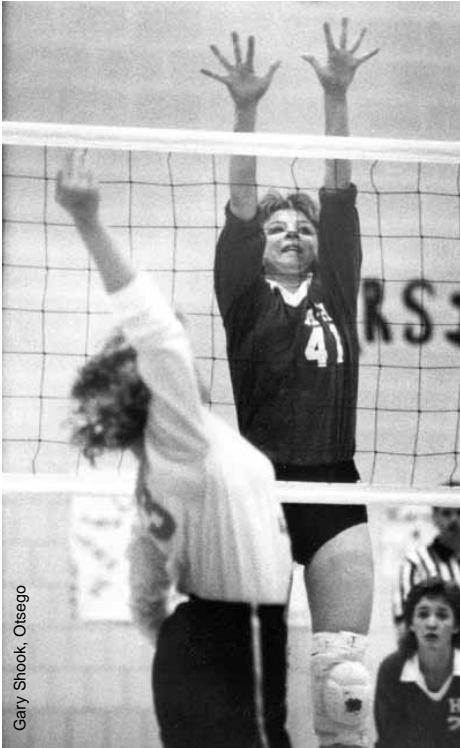
The Portage Northern Huskies capped a 54-5 season with a 15-11, 15-10 victory over Walled Lake Western in Class A action at Howell High School. Kim Gentry led Northern with 10 kills and five blocks. Teammate Lisa Fink totaled five kills and four blocks in the championship game.

In the Class B contest, also at Howell, Battle Creek Lakeview dumped defending champ Stevensville Lakeshore. 14-16, 15-4, 15-11 (See Legends of the Game article on page 22).

Berrien Springs earned its third MHSAA title in four years with a 15-10, 16-14 win over Battle Creek Pennfield in the Class C title match-up played at Battle Creek Central High School. Trailing 14-12 in the second game, the Panthers rallied back, highlighted by a pair of ace serves by Vicki Backus and a point by Rhonda Thran following a furious volley and sideout save.



1987 – Susan Franssen (10) and Angela Salvatore (14), Concord



Gary Shook, Otsego

**1987 – Chris Tasker, Hanover-Horton**

Berrien Springs ended the year with a 55-6 record.

In Class D at Battle Creek, Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary earned its first and only volleyball title with a 15-7, 15-12 victory over traditional power Leland (See Legends of the Game article on page 22).

In Upper Peninsula action at Watersmeet High School, Robin Burton served 12 straight points in the Final as Brimley defeated Ironwood, 16-14, 8-15, 15-4, for the U.P. open class crown.

# 1987

Portage Northern Coach Jack

Magelssen returned to his alma mater – Flint Carmen-Ainsworth High School – the

site of the Class A and Class D Finals, and emerged with a third consecutive Class A title. The Huskies, 75-1 on the season, downed a senior dominated squad from Birmingham Marian, 15-6, 15-13. Marian ended the year at 49-2, both losses coming against Northern.

Overpowering opponents along the way, Comstock became the first Class B team to repeat, earning its second straight championship under Coach Jeff Boor with a 15-5, 15-3 defeat of Grand Rapids Forest Central at Corunna High School.

Hanover-Horton rallied back from an opening game loss to defeat a scrappy squad from Rogers City, 10-15, 15-6, 15-13 at Corunna. Behind the solid play of Bridget Bialczyk, the Comets opened up a 6-0 lead in the final game. Rogers City battled back to knot the score at 13-13 before a pair of Chris Pasker's spikes scored the game's final points in dramatic fashion.

Led by all-state selections Susan Franssen, Penny Loveless and Ginger Bilaski, Concord topped Suttons Bay, 15-6, 15-3, for back-to-back titles in Class D. The Yellow Jackets finished the season with a 45-4 mark, including regular-season victories over Class B champion Comstock and Class C champion Hanover-Horton.

Coach Charles Compo and his Brimley Bays scored their sixth title in eight seasons of Upper Peninsula open class competition, overwhelming Escanaba, 15-3, 15-5, in a match played at Escanaba High School. Brimley finished with a 51-5 record, with each loss coming against state-ranked squads.

# 1992

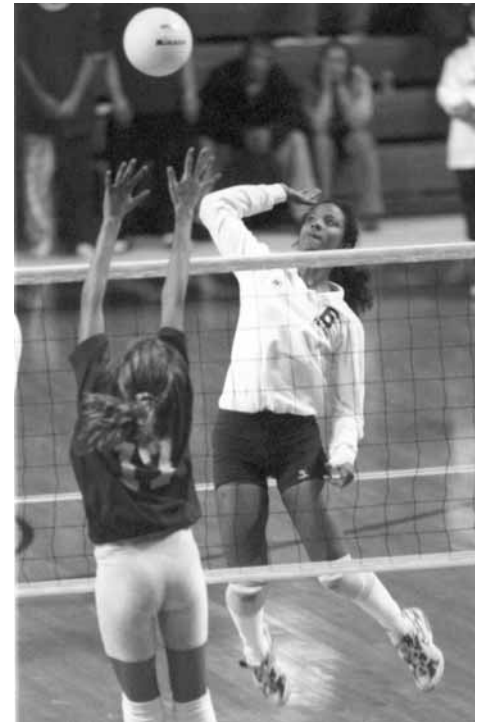
At Kalamazoo Central High School,

Portage Northern picked up its fifth Lower Peninsula Class A title. The Huskies, featuring only one senior, Katie Bekker, and Coach Jack Magelssen's daughters (sophomore Heather and freshman Jennifer) took a mere 34 minutes to down Temperance Bedford, 15-3, 15-7. Northern, thought to be a year or two away from a championship appearance, defeated West Bloomfield in a thrilling Quarterfinal and Port Huron Northern in the Semifinals to gain the Finals birth.

In Class B, Pinconning was a surprise finalist after upsetting top-ranked Comstock, the defend-

ing champion, in the Semifinal round. The Spartans continued their success in the Finals, knocking off Fenton, 15-5, 15-10. Sarah Swallow and Jill Lebourdais each tallied nine kills for the victors, while teammate Christie Gruszynski, a junior, added eight. Pinconning had advanced to the quarterfinal round in each of the previous five seasons.

Concord, unable to escape the district round of the tournament since winning the Class D title in 1987, returned to the finals in fine fashion with a dominating 15-6, 15-6 performance over Burton Atherton to win the Class C crown. April Widener scored the title-winning kill with a light tap over the net to end the game. Teammate Stephanie Friedlund led the Concord with 10 kills in 18 total attacks.



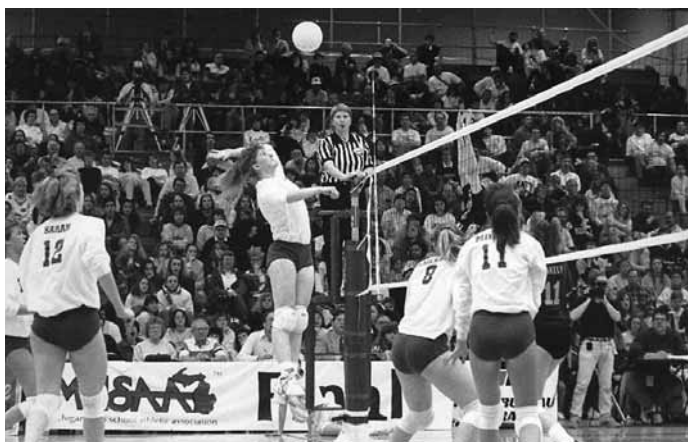
Gary Shook, Otsego

**1997 – Shyann Robinson, Portage Northern**

Battle Creek St. Philip, a semifinalist 13 times since the beginning of the volleyball championships in 1977, picked up its sixth MHSAA title with a 16-14, 15-12 victory over Dryden. The Tigers ended the season with a 66-7-4 mark. It was the second consecutive runner-up for Dryden.

In U.P. play at Escanaba High School, seniors Angie Jenko and Laura Newberry combined for 22 points on serves to lead Ironwood to the Class A-B-C title with a 15-13, 15-2 win over the host Escanaba squad. It was the second consecutive crown for the Red Devils, who overcame a 7-2 deficit in the opening game.

Always a bridesmaid, Cedarville shed the role with a 15-6, 15-5 defeat of defending champion Brimley in Class D. It was the



Gary Shook, Otsego

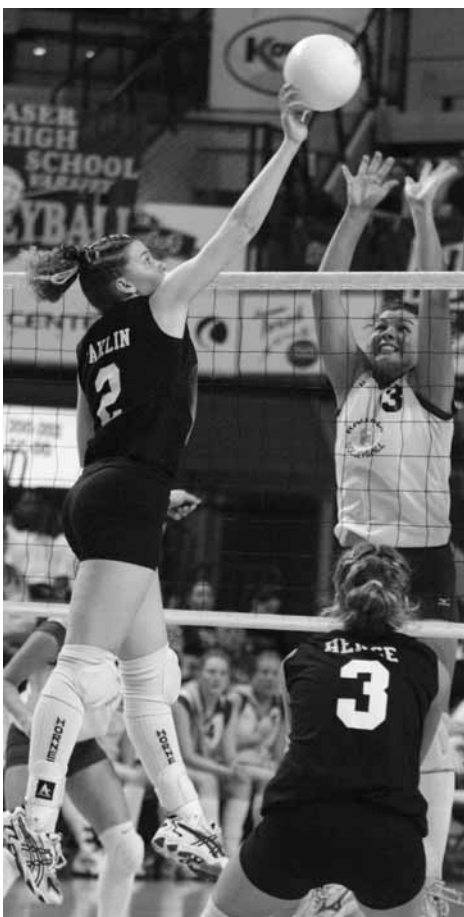
**1992 – Becky Chubb & Teammates, Pinconning**

school's first volleyball title after finishing second the previous four years.

# 1997

Led by sophomores Kim Maskey and Kaitlyn Martin, Portage Northern picked up its fifth Class A title in six seasons with a 15-4, 15-5 triumph over Romeo at Western Michigan University's Read Fieldhouse. Maskey notched 12 kills in the contest while Martin added six kills and five aces in the championship contests. It was the ninth of 10 state crowns for Coach Jack Magelssen and the Huskies. Magelssen, now coach at Delton Kellogg, leads the state in all-time coaching victories.

Coach John Knuth and his Marysville Vikings grabbed the first of eight straight Class B titles with a 15-10, 15-12 victory over Charlotte. Jennie Williams, out with injury for a month during the regular season, finished with five kills and eight assisted blocks, while Jenny Conger led the team with seven kills. Ending the year with a flawless 57-0 record, Marysville joined the 1985 Portage Northern Huskies (82-0)



20-20 Photographic

**2002 Bethanie Yaklin, New Lothrop**

as one of only two teams to finish the season undefeated. The Vikings unbeaten streak would ultimately span two more full seasons, and a total of 192 games, shattering the previous mark of 98 set by Flint Kearsley during the 1984 and 1985 seasons.

In Class C, the Comets of Hanover-Horton topped Lake Fenton 15-13, 15-9 to pick up its second title in a row. Tahny Dean led the team with 15-kills followed by Rille Sping, with 14.

Coach Sheila Guerra, who retired from coaching following the contest, picked up her 862nd varsity victory as Battle Creek St. Philip beat Center Line St. Clement 15-6, 15-9. It was the school's 10th title overall and ninth in Class D under Guerra. The senior-dominated Tigers were led by Sarah Reetz, who ended the day with 15 kills and a .565 hitting percentage.

In U.P. play, Ironwood collected its third Class A-B-C crown with a 15-5, 15-3 victory over Rudyard. Cedarville captured its sixth straight Class D title, downing Iron Mountain North Dickinson, 15-3, 15-10.

# 2002

In one of the top matchups in tournament history, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern emerged from a 90-minute seesaw marathon with a thrilling 15-10, 8-15, 15-9 victory over Fraser for the Class A championship at WMU's University Arena. Defense ruled the day as the teams combined for 126 digs and 21 blocks. Junior Linsey Taatjes led Northern with 14 kills, while junior Keri Fairchild added 12 kills and four blocks. Courtney Williams finished with 21 digs. Fraser sophomore Katie Price posted 25 kills, followed by senior Kristie Pieper with 10. Angie McGinnis added 40 assists and 17 digs. Northern was held to a .177 hitting percentage, while Fraser finished with a .137 kills/errors to attempts ratio.

Marysville grabbed its sixth straight Class B title with a 15-6, 15-7 win over Fruitport in a rematch of the 2001 state title game. Four-time champions Mary Czarnecki and Brittny Godlewski paced the victors with 14 and 12 kills respectively. Ashley Feutz led Fruitport with 16 kills, 12 digs and two blocks.



20-20 Photographic

**2002 – Linsey Taatjes, GR Forest Hills Northern**

Trailing 13-7 in the opening game with Ravenna, New Lothrop rallied to a 15-13, 15-11 victory for the Class C crown. Bethanie Yaklin led the Hornets with 20 kills, including the game-winner in the opener while teammate Sara Warner added 16 kills. Megan Helsen led Ravenna with 16 kills, followed by Jenny Maleski with 15. Maleski added three blocks. It was the second title in three years for New Lothrop. The Hornets won Class D in 2000.

A semifinalist in four of the previous five years, Leland returned to the final round for the first time since 1982 and emerged with a 15-12, 15-10 victory over perennial power Battle Creek St. Philip in Class D. It was Leland's third title overall, having won the Class D crown in 1978 and 1980. Ashley Boucdkart led the Hornets with 18 kills while Ellen Price added 14. Liza Davenport finished with 41 assists. Allyson Riley turned in an outstanding performance for St. Philip, notching 17 kills, 17 digs and four blocks.

— Ron Pesch

Ron Pesch is the historian for the MHSAA