

FINALS FLASHBACKS

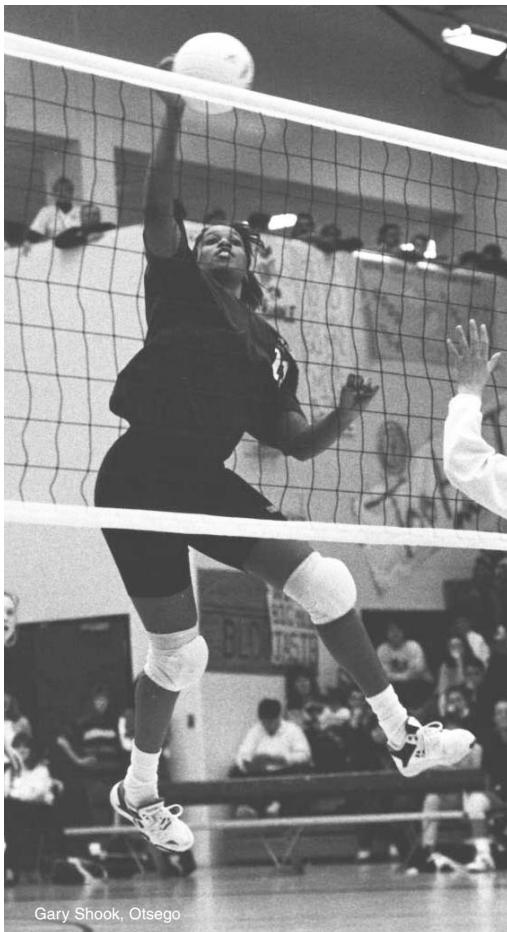
1977-78

Flint Kearsley grabbed its first MHSAA Girls Volleyball title and Coach Jo Lake earned her third as the Hornets downed defending Class A champ Warren Cousino, 15-8, 15-8. Lake led Flint Holy Rosary to the Class D honors in 1975 and 1976.

Livonia Clarenceville, led by a strong all-around effort by Lisa Redford, ended the year undefeated in 26 matches by downing Flint Ainsworth, 15-6, 15-13 for the Class B title.

In Class C, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern also finished the season with a perfect record. The Huskies won every game of 23 matches, including their championship contests with Center Line St. Clement, 15-9, 15-4. The title games were highlighted by a series of spikes by Northern's Karen Bakeman.

Strong serves by Laurie Glass helped Leland to a 15-11, 15-8 win over Ann Arbor Greenhills in Class D at Grand Rapids Junior College.



Gary Shook, Otsego

1988 – Chris Bruning and Heidi Brege help Rogers City raise a banner

1982-83

Twin sisters Lisa and Laura Hayes led Wayne Memorial to its third trip to the Finals and second MHSAA title in three seasons at the Zebras posted a 15-5, 15-4 win over East Kentwood at Howell High School.

In Class B at Linden, Richmond topped Fenton for the second time of the season, this one earning the Blue Devils a championship (See "Legends of the Game," page 22).

Led by Colleen Colles and Shannon Voss, who played in the finals with a broken thumb, top-ranked Burton Atherton survived a first-game loss to second-ranked Berrien Springs for the Class C title, played at Linden. Despite posting an 11-3 lead in the first contest, the Wolverines watched Berrien Springs reel off 12 straight points for a 15-11 win. Atherton rallied back from an 8-2 deficit in the second game for a 15-13 win, then sealed the match win with a 15-6 victory in the final game.

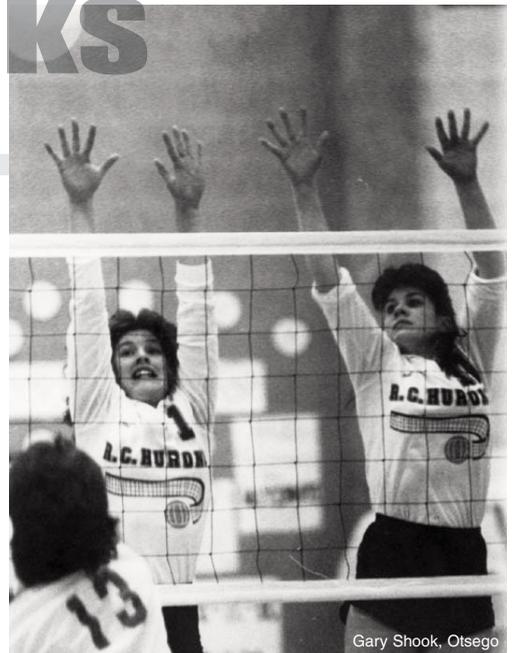
One point away from defeat, Battle Creek St. Philip rallied back to earn its second Class D championship in five years, with a 9-15, 16-14, 15-5 victory over Dryden at Howell. Trailing 14-8, the Tigers rattled off eight straight points for a win in game two. St. Philip all-state senior Angie Albrecht delivered seven spikes for points in the final game to wrap up the match.

In Upper Peninsula play at St. Ignace, Coach Charles Compo's Brimley squad picked up its third consecutive U.P. Open Class trophy, downing Ironwood in the Final for the second straight year, 15-6, 15-7.

1987-88

Four new champions were crowned in the Finals, with the Class A and D games played at Flint Carman-Ainsworth High School and Class B and C contests staged at Corunna High School.

Livonia Ladywood, led by Jenny Belcher, Nancy Wagner and Mary Kelley, grabbed the Class A title with a 15-17, 15-



Gary Shook, Otsego

6, 15-1 victory over Sterling Heights Stevenson. Belcher finished with 12 kills and Wagner added eight, while Kelley led the winners with 34 assists. It was the second title for Ladywood coach Tom Teeters, who guided Livonia Clarenceville to the Class B crown a decade earlier.

Sturgis posted a school-record 59-4 mark, earning its first crown since 1977 with a 15-12, 15-11 win over Redford Bishop Borgess in Class B play.

Led by second-year coach Daniel Cox, Rogers City moved into the winner's circle with a 15-13, 15-8 victory over Battle Creek Pennfield in Class C after losing a heartbreaker in the Finals a year earlier.

Senior middle blocker Tammy Cairl led Pottersville past Battle Creek St. Philip, 15-10, 15-6, for the Class D title. Gina Harrington served five straight points in both contests to spark the Vikings.

Brimley continued its domination of the U.P. tournament, capturing its second consecutive title and seventh crown in eight years, defeating Cedarville 15-11, 15-9 in title match play at Escanaba.

1992-93

Coaches Jack Magelssen of Portage Northern, Jeff Borr of Comstock and Sheila Guerra of Battle Creek St. Philip each picked up their sixth MHSAA titles in the Finals at Kalamazoo Central High School. Portage Northern knocked off Birmingham Marian, 15-6, 15-9 to earn the

1993 – Comstock's Ayanna Wilson & company net No. 4



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1993 – Katie Baumbach and Burton Atherton tip Hanover-Horton

Escanaba, host of the U.P. Finals, grabbed the Class A-B-C title, topping two-time defending champ Ironwood, 15-9, 15-7. Nikki Puddy's serves, which included a pair of aces, helped lead the Eskymos to nine straight points and an 11-2 lead in the opening game. The senior finished with a combined 23 points and 14 kills in the Semifinal and Final matches. In Class D, Cedarville downed Bessemer, 15-4, 15-7.

1997-98

Playing to near perfection, Temperance Bedford earned its first MHSAA title in four attempts, upending perennial power Portage Northern, 15-12, 15-10, for Class A honors. The championships were held at University Arena on the campus of Western Michigan University. Finishing the year with an 89-3 mark, the Kicking Mules' Bree Hickman ended with 17 kills, while junior Shayna Munson added nine kills and the match-winning point on a one-armed dig. It was the ninth championship appearance for the second-ranked Huskies, who tasted defeat in a title match for the first time.

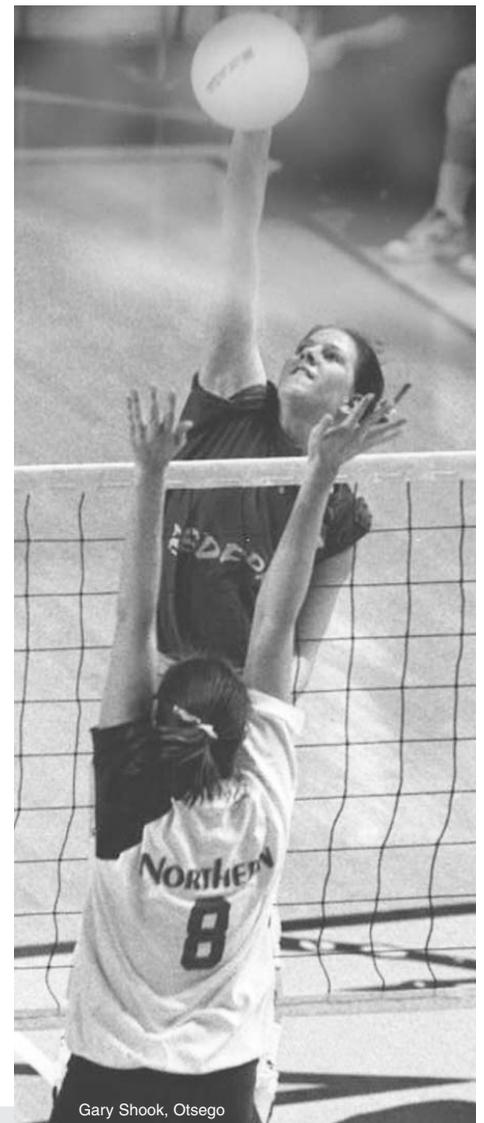
Defending Class B titlist Marysville earned its second in a row with a 15-7, 15-8 win over top-ranked Pinconning. Sophomore Kristen Fenton led the Vikings with 14 kills and five blocks. Senior Jennie Harrison added 10 kills and 17 digs. With the win, Marysville finished 59-0 on the year, and upped its MHSAA-record winning streak to 116 consecutive matches.

A runner-up in Class C in 1997, Lake Fenton earned title honors by beating Maple City Glen Lake, 15-9, 12-15, 15-8. Appearing for the first time in Class C, Glen Lake had finished as runner-up in Class D in two of the three previous championships.

In Class D, Mendon topped defending champion Battle Creek St. Philip, 15-12, 10-15, 15-13, in a thriller. Trailing 4-1 in the third match, Mendon knotted the score at 4-4. The teams were deadlocked again at 8-8, then yet again at 13-all as top-ranked St. Philip rallied back from a 13-10 deficit. After regaining control of the ball, Hornets junior Traci Skrzypek served out the final two points as St.

Philip's attempted kills sailed just long. Skrzypek ended with 23 kills while senior teammate Kylee Baker contributed 21 digs and nine kills.

Houghton overpowered Marquette en route to the Class A-B-C championship, 15-7, 15-5, in the U.P. Finals hosted at Escanaba High School. Houghton setter Anna Scott finished with 14 assists, while Sara Rukkila totaled six kills. Bessemer shocked the U.P. with a 10-15, 16-14, 15-6 defeat of six-time defending champion Cedarville for Class D honors. After winning the first game, it appeared that Cedarville might earn yet another title, pulling to within match point 14-13 in game two. But stellar play by Bessemer's Rhonda Roberts gave the Speed Girls a



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1998 – Bree Hickman and Temperance Bedford rise up

school a second consecutive title and sixth overall. Magelssen's daughter Heather posted 28 assists for the Huskies, while teammate Kerry Ginter added nine kills and Jennifer Magelssen pitched-in with eight for the Huskies, who finished with a 72-1 mark on the year.

After dropping the first game to Marysville, 6-15, Comstock roared back to 15-1, 15-5 wins to grab the Class B crown for the fourth time in five years. Jen Bell led the senior-dominated Colts with 12 kills and 10 digs and setter Tracy Parker tallied 31 assists. Jennifer Briggs, who added 11 kills, was a four-year starter, and a member of three of the title teams.

In Class C, Burton Atherton downed Holton, 15-5, 16-14 earning a crown for departing coach Tracey Berry. After being tied at 14-14 in game two, server Ashleigh Foutch won the championship for Atherton with an ace. Atherton finished as runner-up in 1992.

Guerra's Tigers again bested Dryden in a rematch of the 1992 Class D finale, this time with 15-5, 15-6 victories. It was Dryden's third consecutive Finals appearance, and fifth runner-up finish. Senior middle blocker Megan Reetz starred for Battle Creek St. Philip with 11 kills, six blocks and an ace. Coming of the bench, senior Emily Lindow served the final five points in the second game to seal the win.

2003— Lenewee Christian's Katie Psaute digs one out



2003— First for Fraser and Coach Kim Argiri



at Western Michigan University. Unbeaten with an 81-0 mark, a 93-match winning streak, and led by standout Linsey Taatjes, the Huskies had defeated Fraser twice during the regular season. Junior Angie McGinnis led the Ramblers with 36 assists and 11 kills.

Marysville grabbed its seventh straight Class B crown, and third consecutive Finals victory against Fruitport, 11-15, 15-10, 15-7, setting the foundation for one of the top rivalries in MHSAA volleyball Finals history. Trailing 11-6 in the opener, Fruitport battled back to take the first game in the match. Marysville quickly adjusted, focused on blocking, and prevented the Trojans from grabbing a lead in the final two contests. Allison Mattox led the winners with 20 kills, while Megan Harrison added 16 and Kristin Smith chipped in with nine. Junior Ashley Futz recorded 25 kills for the Trojans.

The Kestrels of Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central scored a 15-11, 15-8 win over North Muskegon in Class C play. The Norse jumped out to a quick 9-0 lead in the opener, however the Kestrels slowly battled back, using six servers and numerous sideouts to pull within a point, 9-8.

The run took its toll on North Muskegon, as Monroe St. Mary scored seven of the next eight points for the win. Led by Vanessa Cheatham, who finished with 15 kills and Chelsey Myers who ended with nine kills and three blocks, the Kestrels took a 7-0 lead never trailed in game two. Senior Kristen Buter led the Norse with 13 kills and 14 digs.

Meghan Faust totaled 12 kills and five digs as Adrian Lenawee Christian topped perennial powerhouse Battle Creek St. Philip, 15-8, 15-13 for the Class D title.

— Ron Pesch

Ron Pesch is historian for the MHSAA.

15-14 lead, followed by the game-winning point by Megan McVey. Bessemer opened up a 7-1 lead in the match game and then held on for its first title.

2002 - 03

Fraser earned its first-ever volleyball title, stunning top-ranked Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern, 9-15, 15-11, 15-4 in the Class A before a crowd of 3,000 fans



1998— Mendon's Hornets are buzzing with Class D title