



The Finals

8-PLAYER FOOTBALL

Superior Dome, Marquette | Nov. 19, 2022

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2022 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL FINALS

NOVEMBER 19

Welcome

Welcome to the MHSAA Championships! This is a classroom like no other, and now is the time for the final exam. Like the academic classroom, some have had good fortune and smooth sailing along the way in getting here while others have overcome adversity during the season. Even today, a good bounce or a bad bounce will occur.

Your athletic skills are put to the test, but more importantly, your discipline will be challenged, as well. The knack for making the right move at the right moment is often the difference between winning and coming up just short.

Discipline also means testing your self-control and people skills. To embrace our diverse opponents as equals, and to employ common decency – every – single – moment. Win or lose.

That's the beauty of educational athletics. The takeaways today are not the trophies and medals, but the life lessons learned and applied over years of sports.

Congratulations for reaching the end of the tournament road. Good luck to all!

— Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director

MHSAA Programs and Scope

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Repeat Title for High-Flying Jets



The Jets of Powers North Central dominated the 2021 MHSAA 8-Player Division 2 title game from takeoff to landing with a 63-0 romp over Colon at the Superior Dome in Marquette.

INSIDE the mhsaa 8-player football finals

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JETS TAKE OFF IN REPEAT

In the end, the encore wasn't that much different than the first title run for the latest Powers North Central powerhouse team. The Jets got off to a fast start en route to a 63-0 win against Colon to repeat as MHSAA 8-player Division 2 champions last fall. In 2020, many of the same standouts led North Central to a 70-48 championship game win over Portland St. Patrick.

"Oh gosh, it just feels great," Powers North Central head coach Leo Gorzinski said. "Like I've been telling these guys all week, we come this far, we work this hard and let's finish it. And that's been the rallying point all week. They were in a weight room since February, two-a-days in August. So they weren't going to let this one slip away. But it's a great feeling."

The 2021 title was the Jets' (13-0) fourth in seven years. The most recent two came with Luke Gorzinski at quarterback. The Jets also won back-to-back championships in 2015 and 2016, led by quarterback Jason Whitens, with then-head coach Kevin Bellefeuille.

"I want to thank all the guys that came before us," Gorzinski said. "Once they showed it can be done, everybody started believing that it was possible. We've got a pretty good thing going right now."

The 2021 season will go down as one of the most dominant in MHSAA 8-player history. Through 13 games, the Jets outscored opponents 745-43, an average game score of 57 to 3.

The details of this win hinted at the athleticism and depth that spurred the Jets on. They had 520 yards of offense. Colon had 126.

Colon received the kickoff to start the game, and the Jets' defense set the tone with three straight tackles for loss and forced a three-and-out from Colon's 4-yard line.

The Jets' potent defense went on to hold the Magi rushing game to minus-14 yards on 20 carries.

The game also spelled the end to Colon's Cinderella run. The Magi had beaten undefeated teams in every round of the playoffs except the Final.

Junior quarterback Simon Vinson went down with an injury with 1:01 remaining in the first quarter. Magi head coach Robbie Hattan said Vinson's injury changed the mood on the sidelines.

"Losing Simon, when Simon went down, some kids put their heads down and they couldn't bounce back from that," Hattan said. "I'll give my kids credit. The second half they battled, we played much better in the second half defensively. A lot of the kids struggled getting used to the heat here. Right away they're cramping, and somehow our Gatorade was left on the bus and the kids couldn't refuel. It just was a weird day for us."

Powers North Central senior running back Wyatt Raab scored both touchdowns to open the game, from 15 and 30 yards out, respectively. He finished the day with 101 yards on five carries (20.2 yards per carry).

Luke Gorzinski led with a game-high 125 yards on 15 carries (8.3 yards per carry) and a touchdown.

Colon (11-2) started drives deep in its own territory early on, and were forced to punt. Their average field position to start a drive was their own 27-yard line.

Holding the Magi deep in their territory meant the Jets had a short field for most of the day, leading to a quick succession of scores. North Central had 369 yards of total offense in the first half alone.

Powers North Central rushed for 236 yards on 20 carries with four TDs in the first half and led 49-0.



Cara Kamps

Powers North Central QB Luke Gorzinski piloted the potent Jets attack in 2021.

DIVISION 1

It was a different stadium, but the same end result in 2021 as Adrian Lenawee Christian defeated Suttons Bay for the second consecutive season, this time 31-20, to repeat as MHSAA 8-player Division 1 champion.

But the 2021 game at Northern Michigan University's Superior Dome proved a much tougher test for the Cougars, who needed two fourth-quarter touchdowns to finally take down the Norsemen.

Lenawee Christian had won the 2020 championship game 47-0 at Legacy Center in Brighton.

The game couldn't have started better for the Cougars, as on the second play, Ashur Bryja intercepted a Suttons Bay pass and returned it 22 yards for the opening score.

Suttons Bay responded with big plays in the second quarter. First, Hugh Periard took a handoff 90 yards for a score, and then August Schaub returned an interception 99 yards for another TD to build a 12-7 lead with 4:58 to go in the half.

Lenawee Christian responded with a 6-play, 65-yard drive capped off with a Bryja 11-yard touchdown run to take the lead back. The Cougars led 14-12 at halftime.



Cara Kamps

Adrian Lenawee Christian QB Ashur Bryja.

Defense continued to carry the second half well into the fourth quarter, when the first touchdown of the half was scored with only 6:21 left in the game. Clay Ayers ran the ball in for the Cougars to extend the lead to 24-12.

Suttons Bay fired back just 1:06 later with a deep pass from quarterback Dylan Barnowski to Periard for a 55-yard touchdown to cut the Cougars' lead to 24-20 after Bramer's ensuing two-point run. Periard had 209 yards from scrimmage.

The game was put away with a 33-yard run from Bryja, who threw for 229 yards and ran for 161 and two touchdowns, in addition to his interception return.

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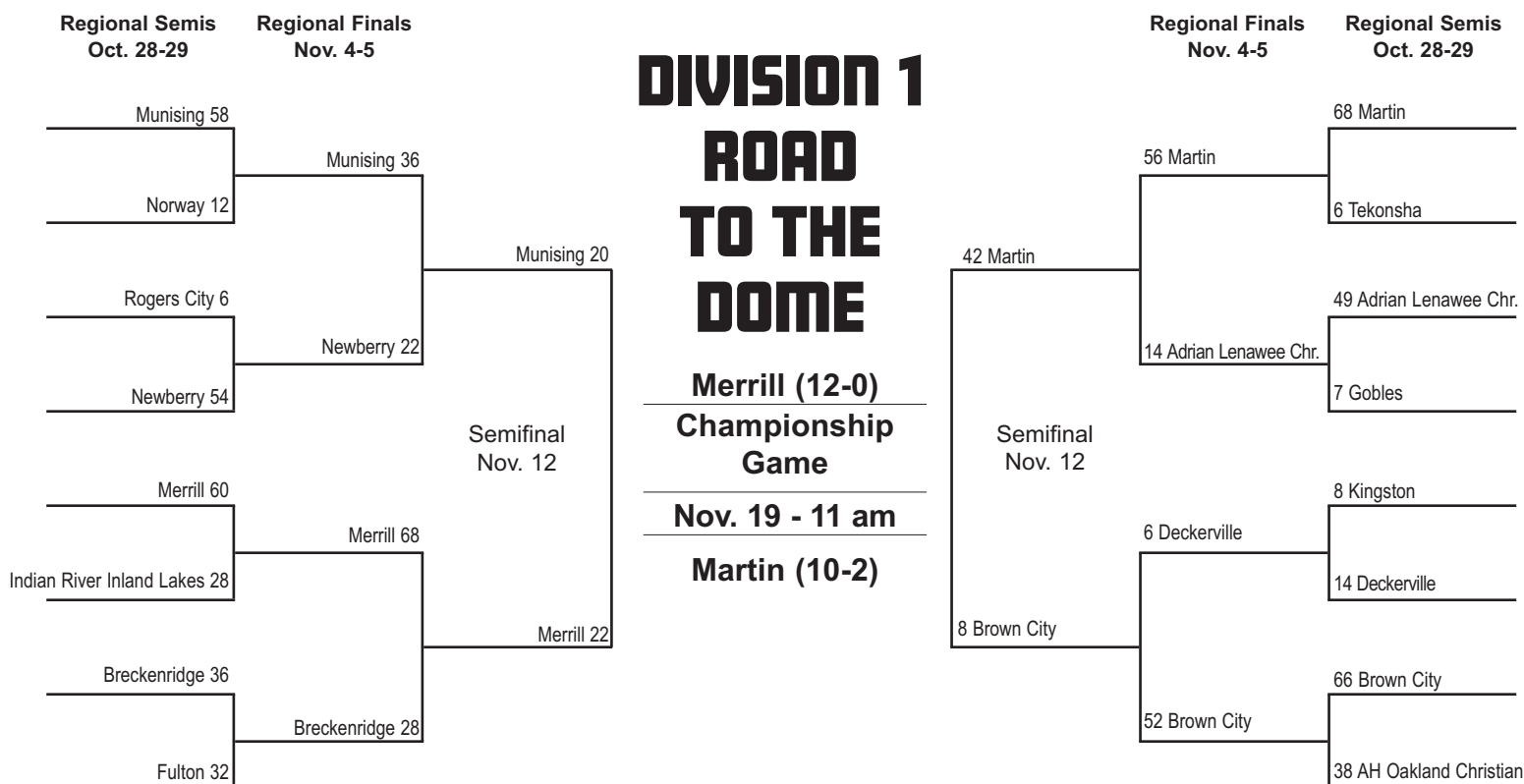
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DIVISION 1 FINALS ROSTERS

MARTIN

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Taegan Harris	Slot/CB	5-11	155	Jr.
2	JR Hildebrand	QB/LB	6-0	180	Sr.
3	Chris Tuinstra	OL/LB	5-6	180	Sr.
4	Abe Dykstra	OL/LB	5-11	180	Jr.
5	Jackson Robinson	OL/DL	6-1	185	Jr.
6	Bryce Robinson	RB/DL	6-1	180	Jr.
7	Drake Buell	WR/CB	5-11	130	Sr.
10	Braeden Shanley	RB/CB	6-0	175	Sr.
12	Gavin Meyers	QB/CB	6-2	155	So.
17	Mike Branch	WR/CB	5-6	130	Jr.
21	Haylen Buell	QB/S	5-7	140	Fr.
22	Karter Ribble	RB/CB	5-10	180	Sr.
24	Sam Jager	TE/LB	6-1	180	Sr.
40	James Jager	TE/DL	6-1	175	So.
44	Tanner Bird	DL	6-2	160	Sr.
50	Ben Jager	OL/DL	5-10	170	Jr.
52	Conner Dunklee	DL	5-4	190	Sr.
55	Geno Ramos	OL/DL	5-9	210	Sr.
62	Isaac Suk	RB/LB	5-6	165	Fr.
66	Weson Elkins	Slot/LB	5-9	140	Fr.
68	Matt Holmes	WR/LB	5-10	130	So.
70	Anderson Keeler	WR/CB	6-0	160	Fr.
72	Ben Romero	OL	5-6	210	Fr.
78	Carson Cameruci	OL	6-0	260	So.
80	James Blackburn	K/P	6-0	135	Sr.
99	Chase Boyer	DL	6-3	180	Sr.
--	Cameron Cameruci	OL	--	--	So.

Head Coach: Brad Blauvelt

Assistant Coaches: Keith Snyder, Ben Page, Randy Hunt, Garrett Dill, Tanner Curry

Captains: JR Hildebrand, Sam Jager, Chris Tuinstra, Karter Ribble

Trainer: Tina Keeler

Managers: Lucas Totten, Zaiden Buell, Jace Brinkhuis, Hunter Hettinger

MERRILL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Antonio Jimenez	QB/ DB	5-10	150	Jr.
3	Braden Buckley	QB/ DB	5-9	145	So.
9	Hayden Ayotte	WR/ LB	5-11	154	Jr.
10	Joel Tack	QB/ DB	6-0	145	Sr.
11	Denver Coty	WR/ DB	6-0	155	Sr.
14	Raven Chobod	WR/ LB	5-11	153	Jr.
15	Darrell Filipiak	WR/ LB	6-0	195	Jr.
16	Ethan Mattson	WR/ DB	5-10	153	So.
18	Braydon Frasier	WR/DB	5-7	135	Fr.
20	Logan Cassiday	RB/L B	5/9	163	So.
21	Bryley Wachowicz	RB/L B	6-0	165	Jr.
23	Sawyer Jordan	RB/L B	5-9	140	Sr.
26	Carter Feith	RB/L B	5-7	160	Jr.
30/36	Kaleb Walker	WR/DB	5-7	145	Sr.
33	Garrett Frost	WR/ DB	5-8	130	Sr.
42	Owen Marlow	OL/D L	5-7	165	Sr.
50	Cameron Raftery	OL/L B	5-11	210	Sr.
55	Caden Fleming	OL/D L	6-1	270	Sr.
66	Mason Ordway	OL/D L	6-0	265	Sr.
71	Jacob Kroll	OL/D L	6-1	227	Jr.
73	Tyler Smith	OL/D L	6-0	150	Jr.
80	Grant Vedrode	TE/D E	6-3	220	Jr.
85	Lukas Fischer	TE/D E	6-4	240	Sr.
88	Landin Lajoice	TE/D E	6-3	205	So.

Head Coach: Christian Wiley

Assistant Coaches: Tony Monk, Phil Fletcher, Kyle Weisenberger, John Seno, Pete Theisen

Captains: Joel Tack, Cameron Raftery, Kaleb Walker, Caden Fleming

Managers: Hunter Wiley, Walker Coty

DIVISION 2 FINALS ROSTERS

POWERS NORTH CENTRAL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Aidin Burton	WR/LB	5-9	150	So.
3	Adrian Mercier	K/ RB	5-10	170	Jr.
5	Jordan Walters	RB/WR	5-8	160	So.
6	Lane Gorzinski	RB/ LB	6-0	170	So.
7	Drew Allgeyer	RB/ LB	6"1	210	Sr.
9	Jaden Walters	K/DL	5-10	200	Sr.
10	Dylan Plunger	WR/DB	6-4	190	Sr.
11	Luke Gorzinski	QB/DB	6-0	185	Sr.
12	Ben Stage	WR	5-10	170	Fr.
14	Owen Eichmeier	DE/ TE	6-2	195	Sr.
16	Jordan Messenger	DL/ TE	6-4	210	Sr.
18	Jacob Gorzinski	WR/DB	5-7	155	Jr.
20	Elijah Gorzinski	WR/DB	5-10	165	Sr.
21	Andrew Webber	DL/ TE	6-2	210	Sr.
22	Conner Florenski	QB/DB	6-4	190	Sr.
23	Brody Mercier	WR/LB	5-8	170	Fr.
26	Austin Farley	RB/DB	5-10	180	So.
28	Dillon Raab	RB/ LB	5-8	170	Sr.
32	Spencer Willa	OL/ DL	5-11	190	So.
49	Collin Cordy	OL/ DL	6-3	210	Sr.
56	Owen Chartier	DL/ OL	6-0	265	Sr.
58	Hunter Robinson	OL/ DL	6-3	200	Jr.
60	Robbie Maus	OL/ DL	5-8	210	Fr.
77	Max Nason	OL/ DL	6-0	255	Jr.
80	Ashton Fleetwood	RB/ LB	5-11	160	Sr.
81	Evan Hanchek	TE/ DL	5-11	165	Jr.

Head Coach: Leo Gorzinski

Assistant Coaches: Jeff Nason, Noah Gorzinski, Jon Gorzinski, Chris Gorzinski, Jason Mercier

Captains: Luke Gorzinski, Andrew Webber, Dillon Raab, Dylan Plunger, Max Nason

Trainer: Amber Dombrowski

Managers: Kaden Malone, Trevan McLeod

MENDON

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Evan Lukeman	RB/DB	5-9	155	Sr.
2	Jaden Behrends	WR/DB	5-9	130	Jr.
3	Dylan Cupp	WR/DB	5-11	155	Jr.
5	Carter Huston	TE/DB	5-10	140	Fr.
6	Brayden Crites	TE/LB	6-0	145	Fr.
7	Luke Schinker	QB/DB	6-0	160	Sr.
9	Caleb King	RB/DB	5-8	135	So.
10	Nathan Vergauwen	FB/LB	5-8	145	Sr.
11	Ryder Gorham	QB/DB	5-7	140	Fr.
12	Mason Wilczynski	QB/DB	5-9	150	So.
13	Nic Stiver	TE/LB	5-11	150	So.
20	Owen Gorham	RB/LB	5-11	170	Fr.
21	Jack McCaw	QB/DB	5-8	165	Jr.
22	Cam Bingaman	WR/DB	5-6	130	So.
23	James Lux	FB/LB	5-9	175	Fr.
24	Grant Crotser	FB/LB	5-10	170	So.
26	Adain McCall	OL/DL	5-11	180	Fr.
28	Alex Zagen	OL/LB	5-8	140	So.
29	Ethan Bovee	WR/DB	5-7	140	Sr.
36	Gabe Haigh	TE/DB	6-2	205	Sr.
37	Alex Smith	TE/DB	5-11	155	Jr.
44	Jorge Casanova	K	5-9	125	So.
50	Marcus Hodges	OG/DL	5-9	150	So.
51	Jaxson Rose	OG/DL	6-1	170	So.
54	Bailey Griffith	OL/LB	5-10	160	So.
55	Jayden Haigh	TE/DL	5-11	195	Fr.
56	Andrew McClain	OL/DL	5-8	150	Jr.
58	Noah Iobe	OL/DL	5-11	275	Sr.
65	Matt Bakeman	OL/DL	5-9	170	Jr.
70	Khayvien Brown	OL/DL	6-3	270	Sr.
77	Kace Gonser	OC/DL	6-2	350	Sr.
78	Talan Buchanan	OL/DL	6-0	250	So.

Head Coach: Robert Kretschman

Assistant Coaches: Glen Samson, Mitch Ulrich, Lincoln Klinger, Zach Higgins, Micky Malmberg, Chris Nightingale, Brandon Wenzel, Lincoln Crotser, Braxton Samson

Captains: Luke Schinker, Noah Iobe, Khayvien Brown, Evan Lukeman

Managers: Zakari Iobe, Xavier Zinsmaster, Owen Klinger, Jadyn Samson, Logan Stuart, Tristin Wood, Bryce Zagen, Cienna Nightingale

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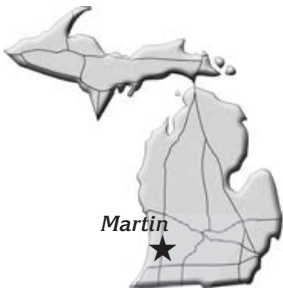
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MARTIN (10-2)

CLIPPERS

School Colors: Maroon & White
Superintendent: Samantha Ball
Principal: Rebecca Lynema

Athletic Director: Mitchell Gabriele
Conference: Southwest Michigan 8-Man
Football League - Tier 1 (5-0, 1st)



First Row: Taegan Harris, JR Hildebrand, Chris Tuinstra, Abe Dykstra, Jackson Robinson, Bryce Robinson. **Second Row:** Drake Buell, Braeden Shanley, Gavin Meyers, Mike Branch, Haylen Buell, Karter Ribble. **Third Row:** Sam Jager, James Jager, Tanner Bird, Ben Jager, Conner Dunklee, Geno Ramos, Isaac Suk, Fourth Row: Weson Elkins, Matt Holmes, Anderson Keeler, Ben Romero, Carson Cameruci, James Blackburn, Chase Boyer.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense			
LG	5 Jackson Robinson	WR	7 Drake Buell
C	4 Abe Dykstra	QB	2 JR Hildebrand
RG	78 Carson Cameruci	RB	22 Karter Ribble
TE	24 Sam Jager	Z	1 Taegan Harris
Defense			
DT	5 Jackson Robinson	LB	3 Chris Tuinstra
DT	6 Bryce Robinson	DB	12 Gavin Meyers
LB	2 JR Hildebrand	DB	10 Braeden Shanley
LB	24 Sam Jager	S	7 Drake Buell

Specialists

Punt Returns: 22 Karter Ribble
Kickoff Returns: 22 Karter Ribble, 21 Haylen Buell
Punters: 22 Karter Ribble, 80 James Blackburn
PAT-FG Kickers: 22 Karter Ribble, 80 James Blackburn
Holder: 7 Drake Buell
Long Snappers: 2 JR Hildebrand, 7 Drake Buell

Head Coach: Brad Blauvelt (45-10, 5 years)

RESULTS

M		OPP
30	Mendon	28
50	Gobles	6
60	Marcellus	0
76	Bangor	0
49	Brown City	6
19	GR NorthPointe Christian	35
67	Wyoming Tri-unity Christian	0
80	Fennville	26
34	Bridgman	35
MHSAA REGIONALS		
68	Tekonsha	6
56	Adrian Lenawee Christian	14
MHSAA SEMIFINAL		
42	Brown City	8

TEAM STATS

M		OPP
589	Points Scored	156
—	First Downs	—
296	Rushing Att	—
2,948	Rushing Yards	—
49	Rushing TDs	—
1,362	Passing Yards	—
112	Passes Att	—
67	Passes Comp	—
28	Passing TDs	—
4	Intercepted	—
—	Punting Avg	—
—	Penalties	—
—	Penalty Yards	—
—	Fumbles- Lost	—
—	Third Down%	—

Stats Through Regional Games

MERRILL (12-0)

VANDALS

School Colors: Orange & Black
Superintendent: Gwen Glazier
Principal: Christian Wiley

Athletic Director: Jason Buckley
Conference: Central Michigan 8-Man
Conference (9-0, 1st)



First Row: Garrett Frost,Lukas Fischer, Mason Ordway, Sawyer Jordan, Cameron Raftery, Kaleb Walker, Denver Coty, Caden Fleming, Joel Tack. **Second Row:** Coach Christian Wiley, Tyler Smith, Antonio Jimenez, Braden Buckley, Bryley Wachowicz, Darrell Filipiak, Carter Feith, Logan Cassiday, Braydon Frasier, Coach Tony Monk. **Third Row:** Landin Lajolce, Raven Chobod, Hayden Ayotte, Ethan Mattson, Jacob Kroll, Grant Vedrode, Coach Phil Fletcher, Owen Marlow.

TEAM STATS

M	OPP
Team stats not provided	
Stats Through Regional Games	

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense			
LG	85 Lukas Fischer	SE	11 Denver Coty
C	66 Mason Ordway	QB	10 Joel Tack
RG	80 Grant Vedrode/ 50 Cameron Raftery	RB	23 Sawyer Jordan
TE	80 Grant Vedrode	FL	30 Kaleb Walker
Defense			
DE	80 Grant Vedrode	LB	26 Carter Feith
NG	55 Caden Fleming	LB	11 Denver Coty
DE	23 Sawyer Jordan	DB	30 Caleb Walker
LB	50 Cameron Raftery	DB	33 Garrett Frost
Specialists			
Punt Returns: 30 Caleb Walker			
Kickoff Returns: 23 Sawyer Jordan			
Punter: 10 Joel Tack			
Long Snapper: 66 Mason Ordway			

RESULTS

M		OPP
56	Webberville	0
36	Breckenridge	14
44	Fulton	12
50	Montabella	6
38	Portland St. Patrick	13
52	Morrice	12
60	Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart	28
1	Vestaburg	0
50	Coleman	0
MHSAA REGIONALS		
60	Indian River Inland Lakes	28
68	Breckenridge	28
MHSAA SEMIFINAL		
22	Munising	20

Head Coach: Christian Wiley (50-28, 8 years)

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POWERS NORTH CENTRAL (12-0)

JETS

School Colors: Red, Black & White
Superintendent: Jennifer Eichmeier
Principal: Dave Florenski

Athletic Director: Randall McLeod
Conference: Great Lakes 8 Conference - West
(9-0, 1st)



First Row: Luke Gorzinski, Elijah Gorzinski, Jacob Gorzinski, Aidyn Burton, Adrian Mercier, Dillon Raab, Jordan Walters, Robbie Maus, Mgr Trevan McLeod, Mgr Kaden Malone. **Second Row:** Head Coach Leo Gorzinski, Mgr Eric Selken, Jaden Walters, Evan Hanchek, Max Nason, Lane Gorzinski, Brody Mercier, Austin Farley, Ashton Fleetwood, Ben Stage, Owen Chartier, Asst Coach Jason Mercier. **Third Row:** Conner Florenski, Hunter Robinson, Andrew Webber, Jordan Messenger, Dylan Plunger, Collin Cordy, Owen Eichmeier, Drew Allgeyer, Spencer Willa, Asst Coach Jeff Nason.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LG	49 Collin Cordy	QB	11 Luke Gorzinski
C	77 Max Nason	RB	28 Dillon Raab
RG	16 Jordan Messenger	FL	10 Dylan Plunger
FL	6 Lane Gorzinski	FL	20 Elijah Gorzinski

Defense

DE	21 Andrew Webber	LB	6 Lane Gorzinski
NG	77 Max Nason	LB	14 Owen Eichmeier
DE	16 Jordan Messenger	DB	11 Luke Gorzinski
LB	28 Dillon Raab	DB	10 Dylan Plunger

Specialists

Punt Returns: Jacob Gorzinski
Kickoff Returns: Jacob Gorzinski
Punter: Luke Gorzinski
PAT-FG Kicker: Adrian Mercier
Holder: Dillon Raab
Long Snapper: Max Nason

Head Coach: Leo Gorzinski (54-3, 5 years)

RESULTS

PNC		OPP
76	Ironwood	0
1	Carney-Nadeau (Forfeit)	0
63	Bessemer	3
67	Ontonagon	0
50	Lake Linden-Hubbell	0
69	Stephenson	6
55	Felch North Dickinson	0
68	Norway	8
42	Crystal Falls Forest Park	0
MHSAA REGIONALS		
54	Stephenson	6
45	Lake Linden-Hubbell	6
MHSAA SEMIFINAL		
36	Marion	12

TEAM STATS

PNC		OPP
626	Points Scored	41
190	First Downs	77
260	Rushing Att	308
3048	Rushing Yards	345
52	Rushing TDs	4
1477	Passing Yards	692
112	Passes Att	137
78	Passes Comp	47
24	Passing TDs	2
2	Intercepted	13
25	Punting Avg	13.6
84	Penalties	44
720	Penalty Yards	315
9-9	Fumbles- Lost	10-10
54.2%	Third Down%	12.7%

Stats Through Semifinal Game

MENDON (10-2)

HORNETS

School Colors: Green & White
Superintendent: Leasa Griffith
Principal: Robert Kretschman

Athletic Director: Glen Samson
Conference: Southwest 10 (4-0, 1st)



First Row: Jaxson Rose, Alex Zagon, Caleb King, Bailey Griffith, Ryder Gorham, Cam Bingaman, Carter Huston. **Second Row:** Andrew McClain, Nate Vergauwen, Gabe Haigh, Noah Iobe, Kace Gonser, Khayvien Brown, Evan Lukeman, Matt Bakeman. **Third Row:** Aiden McCall, Grant Crotser, Jack McCaw, Alex Smith, Luke Schinker, Dylan Cupp, Nic Stiver, Jaden Behrends. **Fourth Row:** Marcus Hodges, Mason Wilczynski, Owen Gorham, Talan Buchanan, James Lux, Brayden Crites, Jayden Haigh.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LE	13	Nic Stiver	RE	36	Gabe Haigh
LG	58	Noah Iobe	RB	1	Evan Lukeman
C	77	Kace Gonser	FB	21	Jack McCaw
RG	70	Khayvien Brown	QB	7	Luke Schinker

Defense

DE	36	Gabe Haigh	LB	24	Grant Croster
DT	70	Khayvien Brown	LB	1	Evan Lukeman
LB	10	Nate Vergauwen	DB	3	Dylan Cupp
LB	13	Nic Stiver	DB	7	Luke Schinker

Specialists

Punt Returns: 1 Evan Lukeman
Kickoff Returns: 21 Jack McCaw, 1 Evan Lukeman
Punter: 3 Dylan Cupp
PAT-FG Kicker: 44 Jorge Casanova
Holder: 7 Luke Schinker
Long Snappers: 21 Jack McCaw, 77 Kace Gonser
Head Coach: Robert Kretschman (58-19, 7 years)

RESULTS

M		OPP
28	Martin	30
76	Wyoming Lee	12
50	Bridgman	56
54	Bloomington	0
36	Gables	6
44	Fennville	8
53	Bangor	0
66	Marcellus	17
2	Lawrence	0
MHSAA REGIONALS		
44	Climax-Scotts	18
46	Colon	44
MHSAA SEMIFINAL		
30	Morrice	14

TEAM STATS

M		OPP
527	Points Scored	205
204	First Downs	124
481	Rushing Att	265
4068	Rushing Yards	1206
62	Rushing TDs	10
776	Passing Yards	1482
52	Passes Att	188
28	Passes Comp	82
10	Passing TDs	16
2	Intercepted	8
29.9	Punting Avg	30.7
35	Penalties	58
210	Penalty Yards	405
11-5	Fumbles- Lost	15-9
—	Third Down%	—

Stats Through Semifinal Game



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Sportsmanship Extends to Online Behavior

With the changes that have occurred in college sports the past couple of years, high school sports is truly the last level of pure amateur competition in our country – and the NFHS and its member state associations want it to remain that way.

As football, volleyball, soccer, cross country and other sports begin this fall, high school coaches and athletic/activity directors will be involved in preseason meetings to emphasize the expected outcomes of education-based sports, as well as speech, debate, music, theatre and other programs.

Among those fundamental values of education-based activities that must be discussed is sportsmanship, or good sporting behavior. More than winning, more than learning the skills of a sport, a focus on sportsmanship has been one of the defining elements of high school sports and other activities for more than 100 years.

Along with maintaining the sound traditions of sports and minimizing the risk of injury, NFHS playing rules encourage sportsmanship, and the first page in all NFHS rules publications includes a statement noting that “each athlete is responsible for exercising caution and good sportsmanship.”

In the past, with an emphasis on conduct on the playing field or court – or in the auditorium or rehearsal hall – sportsmanship has been defined as those qualities of behavior that are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. More so than preparing students to play sports or another activity at the next level, one of the significant goals of education-based high school sports and activities is helping the 12 million-plus individuals in these programs to become responsible citizens.

And in today’s online world dominated by hand-held devices, that goal has become more challenging. Now, messages to students in high school sports and other activities about sportsmanship must be communicated before they hit the practice field or court because one inappropriate post, tweet or message could alter their lives forever.

At the recent virtual National Student Leadership Summit hosted by the NFHS, Christina Jontra of Neptune Navigate, one of the newest NFHS corporate partners, discussed the need for good sportsmanship online as much or more so than on the court or field.

In the digital age in which we live, participants in high school activity programs need to be aware that

their character and respect for others should be the same, whether in the sport or activity itself, or online.

As the popularity and influence of social media continues to surge, it is imperative that student-athletes, as well as coaches, administrators, parents and everyone involved in education-based athletics, are aware of the ways they can endanger themselves with their online behavior and understand the techniques they can employ to prevent that from happening.

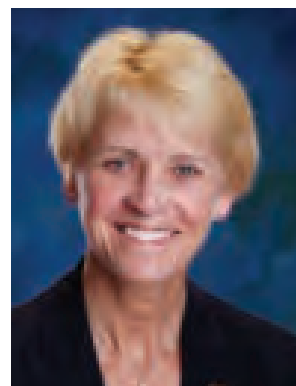
In her recent presentation, Jontra noted five characteristics of good sportsmanship online – honesty, compassion, respect, responsibility and courage. Just as a student would respect an opponent on the field or in the debate room, the same must occur online.

At preseason meetings this fall, coaches and athletic/activity directors should encourage students in their programs to be mindful of online contact with individuals on opposing teams – particularly any bantering that could be perceived as cyberbullying. As Jontra mentioned in her message during the NSLS, hurtful words can ruin a person’s life forever.

Fortunately, during the season, the millions of high school students involved in sports and performing arts have less free time to spend online on a daily basis, but the time spent must be done in a positive manner. Not only could damaging words on social media affect a student’s chances for an athletic scholarship, inappropriate messages could also negatively impact future job possibilities as employers are more actively auditing social media.

Whether the setting is before hundreds of people at an actual game or event, or a private experience alone online, positive and respectful behavior should be the choice every time.

— *Karissa Niehoff, NFHS Executive Director*



KARISSA NIEHOFF



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Scholar-Athlete Award in 34th Year Awarding Scholarships to Students

Thousands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extracurricular activities, often improving their academic achievements in the process. The value that such programs play in the total education of a high school student is highlighted through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$2,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2022-23.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 34th year, and presents scholarships to students in every MHSAA enrollment classification. The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning.

"It is amazing to see the number of young people who are proven achievers in academics and activities," said Mark Uyl, executive director of the MHSAA. "At a time when our educational system is coming under fire, the Scholar-Athlete

Award is something that proves how important athletics are to the development of a well-rounded person."

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must be graduating during the 2022-23 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors postseason competition.



Applicants will also be required to show involvement in other school- community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Application materials can be found on [MHSAA.com](https://mhsaa.com). Scan the code at right to access the page.

Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships will be awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.

A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select regional and statewide winners.

Farm Bureau Insurance, a long-time supporter of MHSAA activities, also sponsors other educationally oriented programs.

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing in March 2023.



The annual scholar-athlete ceremony is one of the highlights of the winter season. More information about the awards may be obtained by contacting your local school principal, athletic director or guidance counselor. The online application form can be found at [MHSAA.com/scholarship](https://mhsaa.com/scholarship).



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Student Advisory Council Aids MHSA

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2022-23 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's perspective, and also is involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2022-23 are: **Kannon Duffing**, Manchester; **Claire Gorno**, Gaylord; **M'Khi Guy**, Muskegon; **Dawson Lehigh**, Marcellus; **Christian Sanders**, Detroit Renaissance; **Ben Sytsma**, Grand Rapids Christian; **Madeline Werner**, Bay City All Saints; and **DaNia Womack**, Dearborn Advanced Tech Academy.

Those eight new members were selected from 115 applicants. That applicant total was the second-most ever, with the last three years featuring the three highest totals.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented 129 schools from 48 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in nine MHSA sports, and seven will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council generally meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the Council discusses issues dealing with the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic



2022-23 Student Advisory Council

First Row: M'Khi Guy, Muskegon; DaNia Womack, Dearborn Advanced Tech Academy; Claire Gorno, Gaylord; Ben Sytsma, Grand Rapids Christian; Madeline Werner, Bay City All Saints; Dawson Lehigh, Marcellus; Kannon Duffing, Manchester; and Christian Sanders, Detroit Renaissance. **Second Row:** Zar'ria Mitchell, Saginaw Heritage; Keira Tolmie, Clarkston; Brandon Thompson, Petersburg Summerfield; Brady Leistra, East Grand Rapids; Sam Gibson, Plainwell; Caroline Li, Okemos; and Sam Matias, Lansing Catholic. **Not Pictured:** Carney Salo, Escanaba.

Student Advisory Council Belief Statement

As the voice of Michigan's student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council's role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.

*We believe **athletes** should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe **students** in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe **coaches** should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that **parents** should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child's decisions. We believe **officials** commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.*

The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.

programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group – student leadership.

This school year, the Council selected the 2021-22 "Battle of the Fans X" champion, handed out championship trophies at Finals events, continued discussions about COVID-related issues and provided feedback to the MHSA Representative Council on proposed rule changes.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2023 members who were selected a year ago: **Sam Gibson**, Plainwell; **Brady Leistra**, East Grand Rapids; **Caroline Li**, Okemos; **Sam Matias**, Lansing Catholic; **Zar'ria Mitchell**, Saginaw Heritage; **Carney Salo**, Escanaba; **Brandon Thompson**, Petersburg Summerfield; and **Keira Tolmie**, Clarkston.



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The MHSAA Representative Council

The Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association is the body assembled to carry out the wishes of member schools. The Council meets several times annually to discuss and pass legislation concerning interscholastic athletics in Michigan.

The Representative Council is made up of 19 members, with all but five elected by a vote of MHSAA-member schools to represent different geographic regions, different sizes of schools, nonpublic schools, and junior and middle schools. Two members are elected to statewide at-large positions. Four members are appointed by the Council to facilitate representation of females and minorities, and the 19th position is occupied by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or his/her designee.

The officers and two other representatives form the MHSAA's Executive Committee, which meets on a monthly basis during the school year to review eligibility appeals and other current business.



Representative Council Members

Eric Albright**
Athletic Director
Midland High School
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

Jay Alexander**
Executive Director of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
Detroit Public Schools Position

Brad Bush**
Athletic Director
Chelsea High School
Statewide At-Large

Nicole Carter*, Vice President
Principal
Novi High School
Appointee

Judy Cox*
Principal
Auburn-Bay City Western High School
Appointee

Scott Grimes*, President
Superintendent of Human Services
Grand Haven Public Schools
Statewide At-Large

Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)
Deputy Superintendent, Finance Operations
Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing
Designee

Kris Isom**
Athletic Director
Adrian Madison High School
Appointee

Sean Jacques*
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Calumet High School
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Jason Malloy*
Athletic Director
Westland John Glenn High School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Mark Mattson*
Superintendent
Glen Lake Schools
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

Jason Mensing**
Athletic Director
Ottawa Lake Whiteford High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

Vic Michaels*, Secretary-Treasurer
Director of Physical Education & Athletics
Archdiocese of Detroit
Private and Parochial Schools

Chris Miller**
Athletic Director
Gobles High School
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

Chris Riker*
Athletic Director
Portage Northern High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

Meg Seng**
Athletic Director
Ann Arbor Greenhills High School
Appointee

Adam Stefanski**
Athletic Director
Boyme City High School
Junior High/Middle Schools

John Thompson*
Athletic Director
Brighton High School
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

Alex Tiseo**
Athletic Director
Marquette High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

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AMP

YEARLY CHAMPIONS

ADRIAN LENAWEE CHRISTIAN — 2021 Division 1 Champion



Division 1 Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2021	Adrian Lenawee Christian (Bill Wilharms)	Suttons Bay	31-20
2020	Adrian Lenawee Christian (Bill Wilharms)	Suttons Bay	47-0
2019	Colon (Robbie Hattan)	Suttons Bay	26-14
2018	Morrice (Kendall Crockett)	Pickford	44-16
2017	Central Lake (Robert Heeke)	Deckerville	32-30

POWERS NORTH CENTRAL — 2021 Division 2 Champion



Division 2 Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2021	Powers North Central (Leo Gorzinski)	Colon	63-0
2020	Powers North Central (Leo Gorzinski)	Portland St. Patrick	70-48
2019	Pickford (Joshua Rader)	Portland St. Patrick	48-15
2018	Rapid River (Steve Ostrenga)	Onkama	30-18
2017	Crystal Falls Forest Park (Dave Graff)	Portland St. Patrick	54-12

Single-Division Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score	Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2016	Powers North Central (Kevin Bellefeuille)	Deckerville	58-22	2013	Peck (Rob McDaniel)	Rapid River	67-32
2015	Powers North Central (Kevin Bellefeuille)	Battle Creek St. Philip	58-33	2012	Deckerville (Bill Brown)	Bellaire	14-12
2014	Lawrence (Cody Caswell)	Cedarville	56-12	2011	Carsonville-Port Sanilac (Tim Brabant)	Rapid River	49-13



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8-PLAYER FINALS RECORDS

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Rushing Yards

352 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville (17 attempts), 2016
299 - Luke Gorzinski, Powers North Central vs. Portland St. Patrick (32 attempts), 2020 Division 2

Rushing Touchdowns

6 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville, 2016
5 - Bobby Kleiman, Powers North Central vs. Battle Creek St. Philip, 2015

Passing Yards

379 - Tristen Haener, Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013 (12 of 16, 7 TDs, 0 interceptions)
374 - Connor Cross, Portland St. Patrick vs. Powers North Central (25 of 38, 6 TDs, 1 interception), 2020 Division 2

Passing Touchdowns

7 - Tristen Haener, Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013
6 - Connor Cross, Portland St. Patrick vs. Powers North Central, 2020 Division 2

Receiving Yards

236 - Kyle Abrego, Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013 (6 receptions)
170 - Jacob Berglund, Rapid River vs. Carsonville-Port Sanilac, 2011 (4 receptions)

Total Offense Yards

455 - Luke Gorzinski, Powers North Central vs. Portland St. Patrick (299 rushing, 156 passing), 2020 Division 2
454 - Hayden Adams, Carsonville-Port Sanilac vs. Rapid River (130 rushing, 324 passing), 2011
452 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville (352 rushing, 100 passing), 2016

Touchdown Receptions

4 - Kyle Abrego, Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013
3 - Trevor Adams, Carsonville-Port Sanilac vs. Rapid River, 2011

Touchdowns

6 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville (6 rushing), 2016
6 - Bobby Kleiman, Powers North Central vs. Battle Creek St. Philip (5 rushing/1 receiving), 2015

Points Scored

46 - Bobby Kleiman, Powers North Central vs. Battle Creek St. Philip (6 touchdowns/5 2-point conversions), 2015
40 - Jason Whitens, Powers North Central vs. Deckerville (6 touchdowns, 2 2-point conversions), 2016

Points After Touchdown - Kicking

5 - Tristen Haener, Peck vs. Rapids River, 2013 (5 of 6)

TEAM RECORDS

Rushing Offense

481 - Crystal Falls Forest Park vs. Portland St. Patrick (52 attempts), 2017 Division 2

Rushing Touchdowns

8 - Crystal Falls Forest Park vs. Portland St. Patrick, 2017 Division 2

Passing Offense

379 - Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013 (12 of 16, 7 TDs, 0 interceptions)

Passing Touchdowns

7 - Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013

Total Offense

597 - Lawrence vs. Cedarville, 2014 (341 rushing, 256 passing)
584 - Carsonville-Port Sanilac vs. Rapid River, 2011 (260 rushing, 324 passing)

Total Offense - Two Teams

971 - Powers North Central (569) vs. Deckerville (402), 2016

First Downs

24 - Adrian Lenawee Christian vs. Suttons Bay, 2021 Division 1

Most Points Scored - Team

70 - Powers North Central vs. Portland St. Patrick, 2020 Division 2
67 - Peck vs. Rapid River, 2013

Most Points Scored - Two Teams

118 - Powers North Central (70) vs. Portland St. Patrick (48), 2020 Division 2
99 - Peck (67) vs. Rapid River (32), 2013

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FINALS NOTES

WELCOME TO THE SUPERIOR DOME

The Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette is the perfect host for the MHSAA 8-Player Football Finals.

The Superior Dome has been a favorite spot on the MHSAA Football Playoff trail for years, from Semifinal weekends of the 11-player game, to the inaugural 8-Player title game in 2011, and the two inaugural divisional title games in 2017. Today, the 8-Player game again takes center stage beneath the roof, with a pair of championship tilts.

The Superior Dome has been home to the Wildcat football team since its construction in 1991 and is now also home to the Wildcat soccer teams, lacrosse teams and track teams. The Dome stands 14 stories high and encompasses 5.1 acres under its roof. Constructed of 781 Douglas Fir beams and 108.5 miles of fir decking, the Dome has a permanent seating capacity of 8,000, although the building can hold as many as 16,000 people.

In the *Book of World Records-2010*, the Superior Dome is listed as the fifth-largest dome structure in the world (largest being measured by diameter). The four other structures that are larger are made of steel, making it the largest wooden dome structure. The facility has a diameter of 536 feet. It has the ability to withstand 60 pounds per square foot of snow and 80 mile per hour winds.

The Superior Dome is also home of the NMU Olympic Training Site offices, as well as special training areas for the NMU-OTS boxing, weightlifting and wrestling teams.



Your Officials Today

Just as the participants on the teams at this year's Finals are realizing a dream of vying for top honors, another group of individuals are also reaching a goal for the hard work they have put in by being assigned to officiate the action.

Officials for MHSAA Finals are selected based on the recommendations and ratings by schools, as well as from input from local officials associations.

These officials believe that interscholastic athletics are truly educational in nature, and work to uphold that standard. Like the athletes in the Finals, officials come from all corners of Michigan.

Selected to work the Finals are: **Dee Jay Paquette**, Munising; **Blaine Barabas**, Marquette; **Anthony Immel**, McMillan; **Guy Trier**, Ironwood; **Elmer Albright**, Naubinway; **David Kuznicki**, Alpena; **Joel Barnes**, Birch Run; **David Cuthrell**, Bath; **Ted Kelly**, Carson City; **Paul Krick**, Three Rivers.

Congratulations to this year's Finals officials. If you are interested in becoming a registered game official in any sport, contact the MHSAA at 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823, or register online at mhsaa.com.

Behind The Scenes

The hallmark of a strong association is its ability to work together for the common good. Every year, over 8,000 game officials and 50,000-plus administrators and coaches at over 1,300 middle, junior and senior high schools voluntarily pool their efforts daily for the operations of the MHSAA's competitive extracurricular interscholastic athletic program.

An important responsibility of membership in the Association is the operation of the hundreds of District, Regional and Final level tournaments by school administrators who serve as the site managers for these games. The behind-the-scenes work of these individuals ensures a memorable experience for the participants.

The MHSAA would like to thank the tournament manager for the 2022 8-Player Football Finals, Northern Michigan University Events Manager **Joanna Emigh**.

Coordinating the Finals from the MHSAA office are Assistant Director **Will McKoy**; Senior Assistant Director **Andy Frushour**, and Director of Communications **Geoff Kimmerly**. Statistical Coordinator for today's Finals is **Patrick Stewart**.

The MHSAA would like to recognize the efforts of these individuals and others who have donated their time and talents to make the Finals a success.

Thank You

The MHSAA would like to thank **Wilson Sporting Goods** for providing the teams participating in today's Finals with commemorative autographable footballs.

Awards Presentors

At the completion of each championship game, trophies and medals will be awarded to the competing teams. Making the awards presentations will be MHSAA Representative Council Members **Fred Smith**, Bangor, and **Alex Tiseo**, Marquette.

Finals on the Air

The Finals can be watched live on the NFHSNetwork and will be televised on a delayed basis by Bally Sports Detroit. Playback dates and times are: Division 1 - Thursday, Nov. 24, 8 p.m.; Division 2 - Thursday, Nov. 24, 11 p.m. Archived video can be found following the event on MHSAA.tv. Live and archived audio of the Final can be heard at MHSAANetwork.com. Consult MHSAA.com for further details and playback schedules.

Results on the Web

Statistical summaries of the Finals may be found on MHSAA Website, **MHSAA.com**.

Motor City for the Holiday

Today's MHSAA 8-Player Football Final kicks off the holiday season and a feast of football. Make plans to travel to Detroit for the 11-Player extravaganza next weekend, Nov. 25-26, for eight games in two days at Ford Field. Tickets are \$20 per day, good for all four games each day!



michigan high school athletic association

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