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THE FINALS



8-Player Football

November 21
Superior Dome, NMU
Marquette

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SUPERIOR DOME, MARQUETTE

2026 8-PLAYER FOOTBALL FINALS

NOVEMBER 21

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.

Recently, the MHSAA celebrated its 100th year. As we begin the second century of school sports in Michigan, let's remember and be thankful for the efforts of all those who have made this Final tournament experience so special.

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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Shamrocks Roll to Title



Portland St. Patrick rolled to its first MHSAA football championship since 1992, taking the Division 2 8-Player trophy last November.

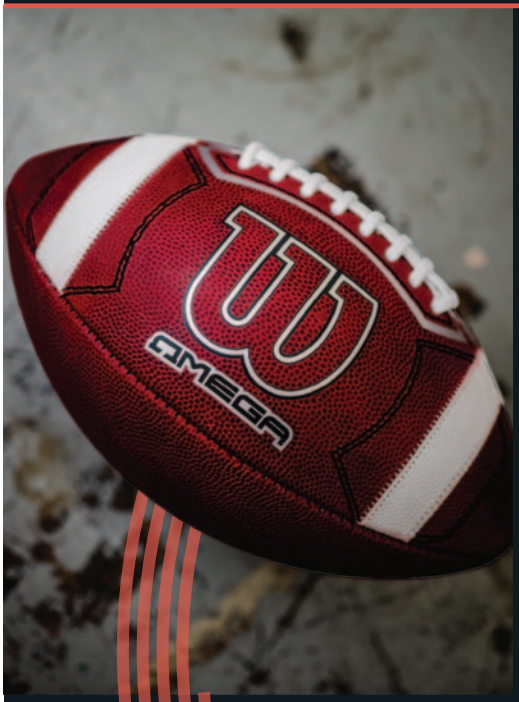
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MHSAA Finals programs are produced by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, Mich., Executive Director Mark Uyl. The Finals program series is designed by Rob Kaminski, and edited by Kaminski and Geoff Kimmerly. Printing by Spartan Printing, Lansing, Mich. Advertising sales by Royal Publishing, Peoria, Ill. The rest of the MHSAA staff includes: Kiersten Anstead, Wendy Baker, Tony Bihn, Brad Bush, Jordan Cobb, Sam Davis, Andy Frushour, Camala Gillette, Scott Helmic, Dan Hutcheson, Cody Inglis, Cole Malatinsky, William McKoy, Andrea Osters, Laura Roberts, Jon Ross, Adam Ryder, Lesli Schrauben, Jeff Spedoske, Jamie VanDerMoere, Tricia Wieferich, Kathy Vruggink Westdorp, and Paige Winne.

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— Jason Juno, Special for MHSAA.com

PORTLAND ST PATRICK SETS THE TONE FOR D2 TITLE

Portland St. Patrick has been no stranger to the MHSAA Finals since moving to 8-player football, but the Shamrocks had come up short of a title in three appearances since 2017.

They were back in the Division 2 championship game last fall, again facing a team from the Upper Peninsula, just like the other three times. But this time, St. Patrick made it clear from the opening kick it had no intention of going back below the Mackinac Bridge without the championship trophy.

The Shamrocks rode the momentum from a fast start and blanked Felch North Dickinson 53-0 at the Superior Dome.

"It means a lot," St. Patrick senior back Brady Leonard said with the trophy in his hand. "Having a couple classes before us come here and not be able to finish the job, it was not just for our team, but it was for everyone that came and wasn't able to finish it."

Aiden Fandel set the tone when he took the opening kick to the Nordics' 3-yard line. Jerryd Scheurer ran three yards on the first play from scrimmage, and Leonard ran in the conversion for an 8-0 lead just 20 seconds into the game.

"It was huge, just to flip the field position right away was a big deal," St. Patrick coach Patrick Russman said.

The Shamrocks scored two more times during the first quarter, taking advantage of excellent field position.

St. Patrick's Tyler Thelen blocked a punt to set up its next score. The Shamrocks took over at the North Dickinson 9, and Charlie Thelen caught a four-yard pass from Scheurer on the second play of the drive for a 14-0 lead.

The Nordics went for it on fourth-and-1 at their own 29 on the ensuing possession, but they were stuffed for no gain, giving St. Patrick the ball not far from the red zone.

Leonard ran eight yards for the touchdown and a 20-0 lead with 5:34 still left in the first quarter.

What a start.

The Shamrocks scored two more times in the first half, both on runs by Hudson King, who led with 120 yards on 10 carries. His 30-yarder came just seven seconds into the second quarter, and his 21-yard rush gave them a 33-0 lead that held until halftime.


Cara Kamps

The second half proved to be more of the same. St. Patrick reached the end zone three more times, on short runs by Caleb Pline and two players listed as linemen, Logan Krieger and Nick Pung.

St. Patrick finished a perfect 13-0, and went unbeaten even with a tough schedule. Russman said the Shamrocks started off with tough Mid-State Activities Conference foes Merrill and Morrice. They ended the regular season with a win over eventual Division 1 runner-up Blanchard Montabella. Their playoff run included wins over Mendon, ranked No. 1 in the final media poll of the season, and last year's Division 1 champion, Deckerville.

St. Patrick's last Finals win came when it was playing 11-player football in 1992, in Class D. North Dickinson was seeking its first championship but had to settle for its second runner-up finish (11-player, Class D, 1998).

The Nordics' 17-game winning streak came to an end. They finished at 12-1 after winning their final five games of 2024.

MARTIN RIGHTS THE SHIP WITH 2025 REDEMPTION TOUR


Martin quarterback Haylen Buell

Cara Kamps

Martin has gotten used to making the long but fruitful trip to the Superior Dome in the middle of the Upper Peninsula.

But after winning back-to-back 8-player Division 1 championships in 2022 and 2023, the Clippers didn't make it out of the Lower Peninsula in 2024, losing in the final second of the Regional Final.

That started the Redemption Tour.

The players coined it, the coaches went with it, a fan even painted it on his car windows. The Clippers completed the tour last November with a dominating 52-8 victory over Blanchard Montabella 435 miles away from their home south of Grand Rapids.

Senior quarterback Haylen Buell was a big part of the win; he ran for a game-high 179 yards on just nine carries and threw for another 134 during a four-touchdown championship day. That's two years after being one of the leading rushers and receivers in the 2023 Final.

"(This) means everything. This is what we strive for each and every year," Buell said. "The workouts to get here start each year in March. I think every senior was at every single workout."

A dozen seniors, some with experience in previous Finals like Buell, were key to the season and to this victory. Despite the final score, Blanchard Montabella proved up to the challenge early.

The Mustangs scored first, using 13 plays and nearly six minutes to go 90 yards as Brady Kieff put them on the scoreboard with a 3-yard run.

Martin (13-0) answered with a scoring drive to tie it, ending on a 3-yard touchdown rush by Buell. Montabella took the ball back and took another methodical drive right back into the red zone, before turning the ball over on a fumble.

Martin scored on the very first play of the ensuing drive, on an 81-yard touchdown run by Bryer Watson, and never looked back.

The Mustangs (11-2) went four-and-out. Martin scored on a 44-yard run by Buell. Montabella punted. Martin scored on a one-yard rush by Seth Toris. Montabella turned it over on downs near midfield. Martin scored on a 25-yard pass from Buell to Anderson Keeler.

It went from looking like a shootout to a 38-8 Martin lead at the half.

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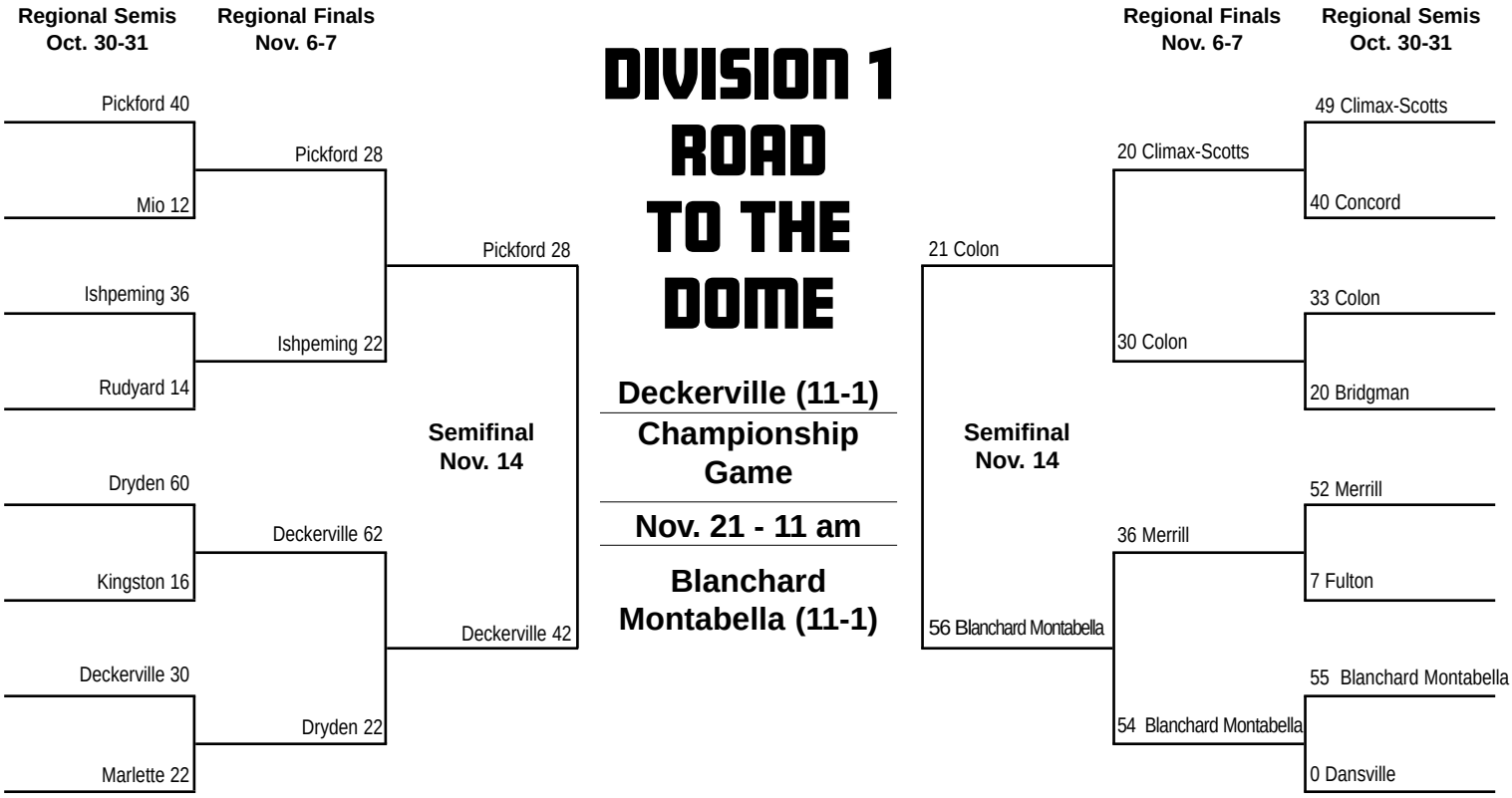
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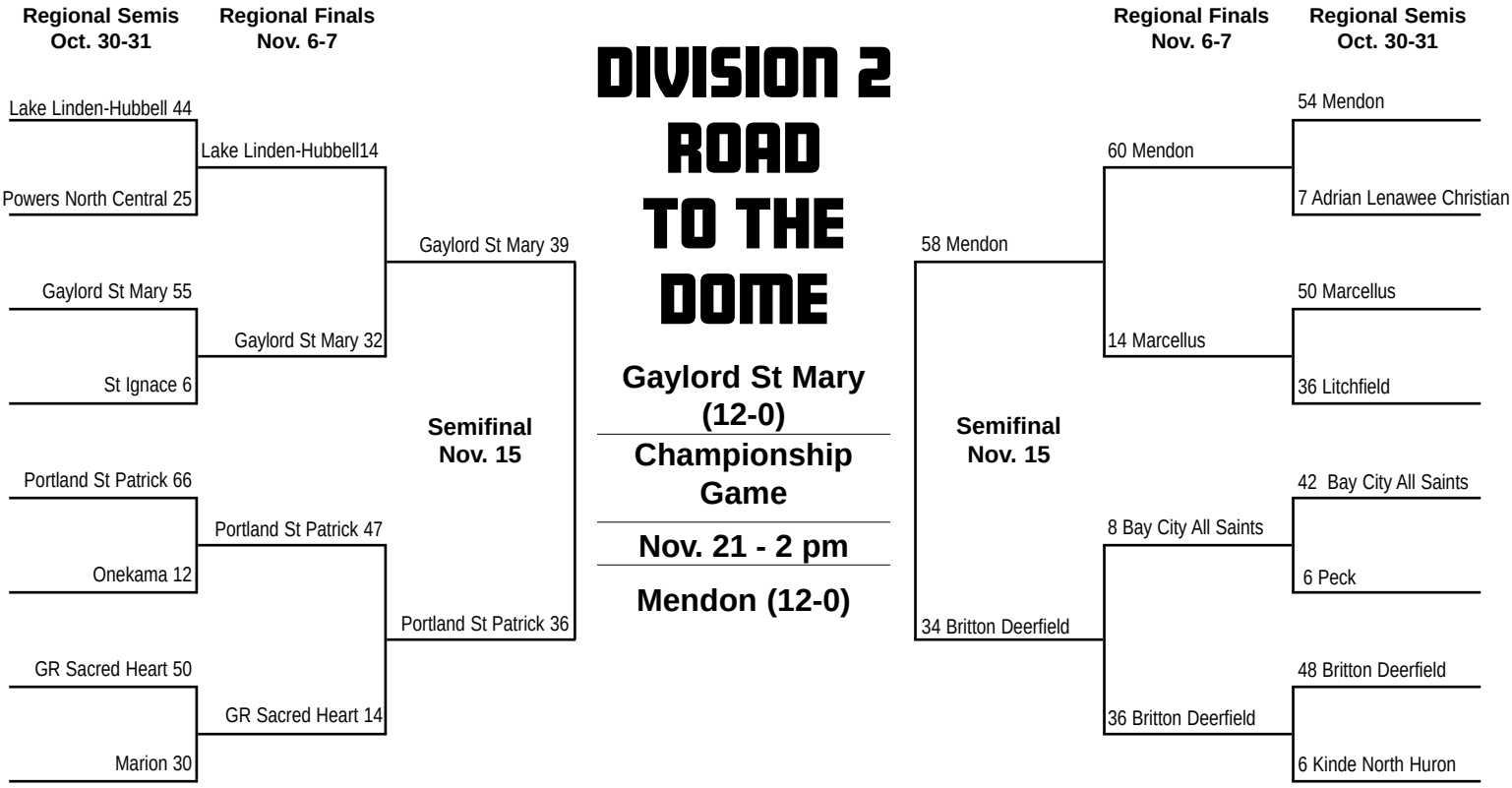
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DECKERVILLE (11-1)

EAGLES

School Colors: Maroon & Gold
Superintendent: Matthew Connelly
Principal: Joshua Stern

Athletic Director: Monica Spranger
Conference: Big Thumb Conference – Blue (4-1, 2nd)



First Row: Manager Matias Ibarra, Brayden Peruski, Cooper Brown, Braylon McLellan, Brandon Salowitz, Danny Kenny, Jaxen Peruski, Joseph Puzan, Owen Vogel, Alex Blaine, Orion Ozanich, Landen Noble, Trenton Garza, Daniel Ford, Cooper Loomis. Second Row: Coach Dan Woodard, Coach Ryan Puzan, Coach Erick Burns, Keagan Kubik, Ashton Wedge, Brayden Russell, Ashton Peruski, Charlie Rumble, Otis Kneffel, Parker Kirkpatrick, Andrew Augster, Joel McEachin, Tony Puzan, Jacob Schuman, Cody Theobald, Jason Riley, Carter Keinath, Alex Baynton, Coach Lou Garza, Coach Steve Blashill, Isaiah Stancliff, Asst. Coach Dan Brown, Head Coach Bill Brown.





TEAM STATS

D	OPP

Stats Not Provided

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LG	53 Andrew Eugster	SE	63 Trenton Garza
C	66/68 Joseph Puzan	QB	9 Cooper Brown
RG	50 Jaxen Peruski	RB	10 Ashton Wedge
TE	43 Keagan Kubik	FB	21 Owen Vogel

Defense

DE	50 Jaxen Peruski	LB	2 Brandon Salowitz
NG	21 Owen Vogel	DB	7 Ashton Peruski
DE	31 Tony Puzan	DB	10 Ashton Wedge
LB	8 Parker Kirkpatrick	DB	6 Braylon McLellan

Specialists

Punt Returns: 12 Landon Noble
Kickoff Returns: 12 Landon Noble, 62 Alex Blaine, 63 Trenton Garza, 2 Brandon Salowitz, 6 Braylon Mclellan.
Punter: 2 Brandon Salowitz
PAT-FG Kicker: 10 Ashton Wedge
Holder: 9 Cooper Brown
Long Snapper: 50 Jaxen Peruski

Head Coach: Bill Brown (281-93, 34 years)

RESULTS

D		OPP
40	Coleman	19
56	Bad Axe	0
36	Byron	8
58	New Haven Merritt Academy	6
38	Dryden	44
38	Kingston	20
52	Mayville	0
52	Brown City	24
42	Capac	24
	MHSAA REGIONALS	
30	Marlette	22
62	Dryden	22
	MHSAA SEMIFINAL	
42	Pickford	28

BLANCHARD MONTABELLA (11-1)

MUSTANGS

School Colors: Navy Blue & White
Superintendent: Andrew Alvesteffer
Principal: Shane Riley

Athletic Director: Tom Wilcox
Conference: Mid-State Activities Conference - Blue (4-0, 1st)







First Row: Julius Hudson, Matt Gotwalt, Davis Peterson, Ethan Greene, Gabe Kauffman, Cooper Kieff, Bryton Strohl, Kameron Keyes, Sullivan Mills. Second Row: Aiden Foust, Wade Hanshue, Kain Karcher, Tucker Evans, Bryce Willis, Mason Bogart, Austin Jensen, Josh Arganbright, Austin Gotwalt. Third Row: Shane Perkins, Ryan VanVlerah, Garrett Paulson, Noah Carlson, Kody Dalrymple, Brayden Foster, Carson Mayer, Gavin Aldrich. Fourth Row: Assistant Coach Matt Jensen, Assistant Coach Chris Kauffman, Head Coach Tim Webb, Assistant Coach Jeff Mortensen. Not Pictured: Shawn Walker, Kolton Mayer, Noah Barber, Ethan Snyder, Bowdie Blanzy.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LG	55 Kane Karcher	SE	10 Noah Carlson
C	53 Kody Darlymple	QB	9 Gabe Kauffman
RG	50 Carson Mayer	RB	2 Austin Jensen
TE	64 Brayden Foster	FL	5 Ethan Greene

Defense

DE	64 Brayden Foster	LB	3 Davis Peterson
DE	55 Kane Karcher	DB	10 Noah Carlson
LB	8 Bryton Strohl	DB	5 Ethan Greene
LB	13 Mason Bogart	DB	2 Austin Jensen

Specialists

Punt Returns: 2 Austin Jensen
Kickoff Returns: 2 Austin Jensen
Punters: 17 Wade Hanshue
PAT-FG Kickers: 17 Wade Hanshue
Holders: 9 Gabe Kauffman
Long Snappers: 53 Kody Darlymple

Head Coach: Tim Webb (43-25, 7 years)

RESULTS

M		*OPP*
62	Martin	12
0	Portland St. Patrick (Forfeit)	1
46	Breckenridge	30
65	Coleman	7
57	Dansville	6
70	St. Charles	0
60	Merrill	20
36	Morrice	0
73	Tekonsha	0
	MHSAA REGIONALS	
55	Dansville	0
54	Merrill	36
	MHSAA SEMIFINAL	
56	Colon	21

TEAM STATS

M		*OPP*
630	Points Scored	135
--	First Downs	--
372	Rushing Att	--
4,937	Rushing Yards	--
80	Rushing TDs	--
477	Passing Yards	--
29	Passes Att	--
17	Passes Comp	--
5	Passing TDs	--
2	Intercepted	--
--	Punting Avg	--
--	Penalties	--
--	Penalty Yards	--
--	Fumbles- Lost	--
--	Third Down%	--

Stats Through Regional Games

DIVISION 1 FINALS ROSTERS

DECKERVILLE

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Brayden Peruski	TB/	5-10	150	So.
2	Brandon Salowitz	FB/QB	5-10	180	Sr.
3	Danny Kenny	TE/DE	6-2	170	Jr.
4	Brayden Russell	DB/QB	6-0	160	So.
5	Alex Baynton	LB	5-10	150	So.
6	Braylon McLellan	DB	6-0	160	Jr.
7	Ashton Peruski	DB	6-0	150	So.
8	Parker Kirkpatrick	LB	5-10	160	Jr.
9	Cooper Brown	QB	5-10	180	So.
10	Ashton Wedge	RB/DB	6-0	140	Jr.
11	Charlie Rumble	LB	6-0	160	So.
12	Landon Noble	RB	5-10	155	Sr.
18	Cody Theobald	RB/DE	5-10	155	Fr.
21	Owen Vogel	FB/DL	5-8	160	Sr.
25	Isaiah Stancliff	DE	6-0	180	So.
30	Orion Ozanich	FB	5-6	150	So.
31	Anthony Puzan	LB	5-10	175	Jr.
32	Carter Keinath	OE/DE	5-10	150	So.
33	Cooper Loomis	RB/DB	5-10	150	So.
43	Keagan Kubik	TE	6-2	180	Jr.
47	Daniel Ford	LB/G	5-9	180	Sr.
49	Jacob Schuman	DL/TE	5-11	200	Sr.
50	Jaxen Peruski	G/DE	5-11	180	Sr.
52	Otis Kneffel	G/DL	6-2	220	So.
53	Andrew Eugster	G	6-0	200	Jr.
61	Joel McEachin	FB	5-10	180	Jr.
62	Alex Blaine	G/DL	6-0	200	Sr.
63	Trenton Garza	TE	6-1	220	Sr.
66/68	Joseph Puzan	C	6-1	250	Sr.
79	Jason Riley	DL	6-1	250	So.

Head Coach: Bill Brown (281-93, 34 years)
Assistant Coaches: Dan Brown, Steve Blashill, Lou Garza, Erick Burns, Ryan Puzan
Manager: Matais Ibarra

BLANCHARD MONTABELLA

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Josh Arganbright	QB/DB	6-2	185	Jr.
2	Austin Jensen	WR/DB	5-9	165	Sr.
3	Davis Peterson	RB/LB	5-9	165	Jr.
4	Bryce Willis	WR/DB	5-10	155	Sr.
5	Ethan Greene	WR/DB	5-10	170	Sr.
6	Shawn Walker	WR/DB	5-10	135	So.
7	Julius Hudson	WR/DB	5-10	150	Fr.
8	Bryton Strohl	RB/LB	5-10	185	Jr.
9	Gabe Kauffman	QB/DB	5-10	185	Sr.
10	Noah Carlson	TE/DB	6-3	200	Sr.
13	Mason Bogart	RB/LB	5-10	200	Sr.
14	Cooper Kieff	WR/LB	5-9	165	Jr.
16	Shane Perkins	TE/DL	6-4	200	Jr.
17	Wade Hanshue	K/LB	5-10	175	Sr.
22	Matt Gotwalt	TE/LB	5-9	160	Sr.
24	Tucker Evans	OL/DL	6-1	175	Jr.
44	Kolton Mayer	OL/DL	6-0	170	So.
50	Carson Mayer	OL/DL	6-2	210	Jr.
52	Noah Barber	OL/DL	5-8	190	So.
53	Kody Dalrymple	OL/DL	6-0	240	Sr.
54	Ethan Snyder	TE/DE	5-11	180	Jr.
55	Kain Karcher	OL/DL	6-1	230	Jr.
60	Sullivan Mills	OL/DL	6-2	215	Sr.
62	Gavin Aldrich	OL/DL	6-2	225	Jr.
64	Brayden Foster	TE/DL	6-5	235	Sr.
70	Ryan VanVlerah	OL/DL	6-1	220	Sr.
72	Aiden Foust	OL/DL	5-10	270	Jr.
74	Garrett Paulson	OL/DL	6-3	280	Jr.
85	Bowdie Blanzy	WR/DB	5-6	150	So.

Head Coach: Tim Webb (43-25, 7 years)
Assistant Coaches: Brady Carlson, Matt Jensen, Chris Kauffman, Jeff Mortensen, Billy Willis
Captains: Brayden Foster, Austin Jensen, Gabe Kauffman, Mason Bogart

DIVISION 2 FINALS ROSTERS

GAYLORD ST MARY

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Calvin Skowronski	LB/TE	--	--	Sr.
2	Joe Jacobson	WR/DB	--	--	Jr.
3	Teddy Prusakiewicz	WR/DB	--	--	Fr.
—	Mark Firman	TE/DE	--	--	Jr.
4	Cal Royce	RB/LB/K	--	--	Jr.
5	George Mertz	WR/DB	--	--	Sr.
6	Ryder Gallot	RB/LB	--	--	So.
7	Cash Wcisel	WR/DB	--	--	Sr.
8	Nathan O'Connell	QB/LB	--	--	Jr.
9	Eli Switalski	RB/DB	--	--	Jr.
11	Jackson Vernier	OL/DL	--	--	Jr.
12	Cooper McKinley	WR/DB	--	--	Jr.
13	Michael Murrell	WR/DB	--	--	So.
14	Hayden Mench	RB/LB	--	--	Jr.
15	Thomas Jacobson	QB/DB	--	--	So.
16	Hudson Catt	K	--	--	Jr.
18	Brayden Pudvan	WR/K	--	--	Jr.
19	Jackson Matts	RB/DB	--	--	So.
20	Aiden Croff	OL/LB	--	--	Fr.
21	Angelo Tomma	RB/LB	--	--	So.
22	Brennan Gould	RB/LB	--	--	Jr.
24	Haydon Byrd	OL/DL	--	--	Jr.
—	Cooper Lewis	WR/DB	--	--	Fr.
25	Sammy Kirk	WR/DB	--	--	So.
30	Logan Greenier	RB/DL	--	--	Jr.
34	Trenton Johnson	TE/LB	--	--	Jr.
—	Kelin Burger	RB/DB	--	--	Fr.
37	Mason Mench	RB/LB	--	--	So.
44	Adam Wahl	OL/DL/K	--	--	Jr.
50	Charlie Cameron	C/DE	--	--	Sr.
71	Greyson Byrd	OL/DL	--	--	So.
77	Lucas Greenier	OL/DL	--	--	Jr.

Head Coach: Kevin O'Connell
Assistant Coaches: Adam Korson, Justin Cherwinski, Matt Wilt, Brian Pudvan, Phil Dandy, Jasson Cherry, Jesse Mench, Matt McComb, Blake Stevens, Rich Rice, Devin Rice, Andy Budzinski
Captains: Charlie Cameron, Cal Royce, Nathan O'Connell, Logan Greenier
Managers: Payton Greenier, Omanii Switalski **Ball Boy:** Jack Korson

MENDON

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class
1	Logan Stuart	RB/DB	5-10	155	Jr.
2	Ky Truckey	WR/DB	5-8	140	Sr.
4	Jonas Koepcke	TE/DE	6-1	175	So.
6	Tucker Allen	RB/LB	5-9	150	Fr.
8	Graycen Haigh	RB/DB	5-7	120	So.
9	Zak Iobe	RB/LB	5-10	170	Sr.
10	Owen Klinger	QB/DB	6-0	145	So.
11	Liam Smith	OL/DL	6-3	200	So.
14	Brayden Reinbold	RB/LB	5-10	160	So.
21	Jaxson Lear	WR/DB	5-4	130	So.
22	Charles Heivilin	RB/DB	5-7	145	Fr.
25	Jaiden Moyer	FB/LB	5-8	180	So.
28	Bryce Zagon	OG/LB	5-10	170	Jr.
29	Nathan Johncock	OL/DL	5-9	120	Jr.
31	Xavior Zinsmaster	RB/DB	5-10	165	Sr.
37	Conner Doehring	TE/DL	6-4	205	Sr.
44	Lucas Gerth	OG/DL	5-10	170	So.
45	Stanley Mroczek	TE/DE	6-0	125	Fr.
52	Sam Clark	OL/DL	5-4	150	Fr.
54	Brayden Yeomans	OG/DL	5-7	145	Fr.
56	Ethan Copeland	OL/DL	6-1	180	Jr.
57	Tristin Wood	OL/DL	6-1	210	Sr.
62	Phoenix Dunson	OL/DL	5-8	200	Sr.
64	Aron Wendt	TE/LB	6-1	170	Jr.
65	Jorden Palmer	OL/DL	6-1	270	Jr.

Head Coach: Robert Kretschman (97-26, 11 years)
Assistant Coaches: Glen Samson, Zach Higgins, Mitch Ulrich, Braxton Samson, Brandon Wenzel, Chris Nightingale
Captains: Zak Iobe, Conner Doehring, Tristin Wood, Phoenix Dunson, Xavior Zinsmaster
Managers: Noah Gerth, Jakson Iobe, Connor Kretschman, Merrick Kretschman, Graham McGlothlen, Finn McGlothlen, Jake Walters, Miles Klinger

GAYLORD ST MARY (12-0)

SNOWBIRDS

School Colors: Navy Blue & White
Superintendent: Father Matthew Wigton
Principal: Heather Glasby

Athletic Director: Bob DeLong
Conference: Bridge Alliance - Valley (5-0, 1st)







First Row: Calvin Skowronski, Cash Wcisel, Charlie Cameron, George Mertz. Second Row: Hudson Catt, Brayden Pudvan, Hayden Mench, Cooper McKinley, Cal Royce, Eli Switalski, Nathan O'Connell, Joe Jacobson. Third Row: Brennan Gould, Lucas Greenier, Logan Greenier, Jackson Vernier, Trenton Johsnson, Mark Firman, Adam Wahl, Haydon Byrd. Fourth Row: Coaches Brian Pudvan, Jason Cherry, Adam Korson, Rich Rice, Kevin O'Connell, Keith McVannel, Jesse Mench, Matt Wilt, Andy Budzinski, Blake Stevens, Matt McComb, Justin Cherwinski

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LG	11 Jackson Vernier	QB	8 Nathan O'Connell
C	50 Charlie Cameron	RB	4 Cal Royce
RG	77 Lucas Greenier	FB	30 Logan Greenier
SE	2 Joe Jacobson	FL	7 Cash Wcisel

Defense

DT	30 Logan Greenier	LB	4 Cal Royce
NG	11 Jackson Vernier	DB	7 Cash Wcisel
DT	50 Charlie Cameron	DB	2 Joe Jacobson
LB	77 Lucas Greenier	DB	34 Trenton Johnson

Specialists

Punt Returns: 4 Cal Royce
Kickoff Returns: 2 Joe Jacobson 7 Cash Wcisel
Punters: 4 Cal Royce
PAT-FG Kickers: 4 Cal Royce 44 Adam Wahl
Holders: 2 Joe Jacobson 5 George Mertz
Long Snappers: 50 Charlie Cameron

Head Coach: Kevin O'Connell (85-54, 14 years)

RESULTS

GSM		*OPP*
68	Pellston	0
54	Central Lake-Ellsworth	0
67	Forest Area	0
60	Bellaire	0
57	Cedarville	0
2	Engadine (Forfeit)	0
15	Calumet Copper Island	8
42	Pickford	0
54	Indian River Inland Lakes	6
	MHSAA REGIONALS	
55	St. Ignace	6
32	Lake Linden-Hubbel	14
	MHSAA SEMIFINAL	
39	Portland St patrick	36

TEAM STATS

GSM		*OPP*
504	Points Scored	34
102	First Downs	65
450	Rushing Att	321
2,127	Rushing Yards	493
41	Rushing TDs	4
1,545	Passing Yards	447
126	Passes Att	125
91	Passes Comp	43
25	Passing TDs	1
1	Intercepted	14
38.0	Punting Avg	26.7
59	Penalties	45
455	Penalty Yards	317
1	Fumbles- Lost	5
—	Third Down%	—

Stats Through Regional Games

MENDON (12-0)

HORNETS

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

Athletic Director: Glen Samson
Conference: Southern Central Athletic Association – Red (4-0, 1st)







First Row: Manager Merrick Kretschman, Phoenix Dunson, Ky Truckey, Zak Iobe, Conner Doehring, Xavier Zinsmaster, Tristin Wood, Connor Kretschman. Second Row: Manager Miles Klinger, Jaxson Lear, Bryce Zagon, Jorden Palmer, Aron Wendt, Logan Stuart, Owen Klinger, Noah Gerth. Third Row: Manager Jake Walters, Graycen Haigh, Tucker Allen, Lucas Gerth, Liam Smith, Jaiden Moyer, Brayden Reinbold, Jackson Iobe. Fourth Row: Sam Clark, Nathan Johncock, Stanley Mroczek, Jonas Koepcke, Ethan Copeland, Brayden Yeomans. Fifth Row: Coaches Mitch Ulrich, Robert Kretschman, Braxton Samson. Not Pictured: Coaches Glen Samson, Chris Nightingale, Brandon Wenzel, Zach Higgins.

PROBABLE STARTERS

Offense

LG	57 Tristin Wood	SE	37 Conner Doehring
C	65 Jordan Palmer	QB	10 Owen Klinger
RG	62 Phoenix Dunson	RB	31 Xavior Zinsmaster
TE	64 Aron Wendt	FB	9 Zak Iobe

Defense

DE	57 Tristin Wood	LB	25 Jaiden Moyer
DT	37 Conner Doehring	DB	9 Zak Iobe
LB	28 Bryce Zagon	DB	1 Logan Stuart
LB	31 Xavior Zinsmaster	DB	8 Graycen Haigh

Specialists

Punt Returns: 31 Xavior Zinsmaster, 1 Logan Stuart
Kickoff Returns: 31 Xavior Zinsmaster, 1 Logan Stuart
Punters: 10 Owen Klinger, 25 Jaiden Moyer
PAT-FG Kicker: 4 Jonas Koepcke
Holder: 10 Owen Klinger
Long Snapper: 62 Phoenix Dunson

Head Coach: Robert Kretschman (97-26, 11 years)

RESULTS

M		*OPP*
46	Marlette	8
58	Morenci	6
50	Concord	22
50	Mio-Ausable	34
38	Colon	16
58	Bellevue	12
50	Battle Creek St. Philip	0
28	Climax-Scotts	24
96	Adrian Lenawee Christian	57
	MHSAA REGIONALS	
54	Adrian Lenawee Christian	7
60	Marcellus	14
	MHSAA SEMIFINAL	
58	Britton Deerfield	34

TEAM STATS

M		*OPP*
588	Points Scored	200
205	First Downs	115
425	Rushing Att	300
3837	Rushing Yards	1,219
71	Rushing TDs	14
712	Passing Yards	1,351
42	Passes Att	197
27	Passes Comp	94
7	Passing TDs	14
0	Intercepted	9
21.67	Punting Avg	31.65
27	Penalties	33
200	Penalty Yards	173
10-6	Fumbles- Lost	15-9
--	Third Down%	--

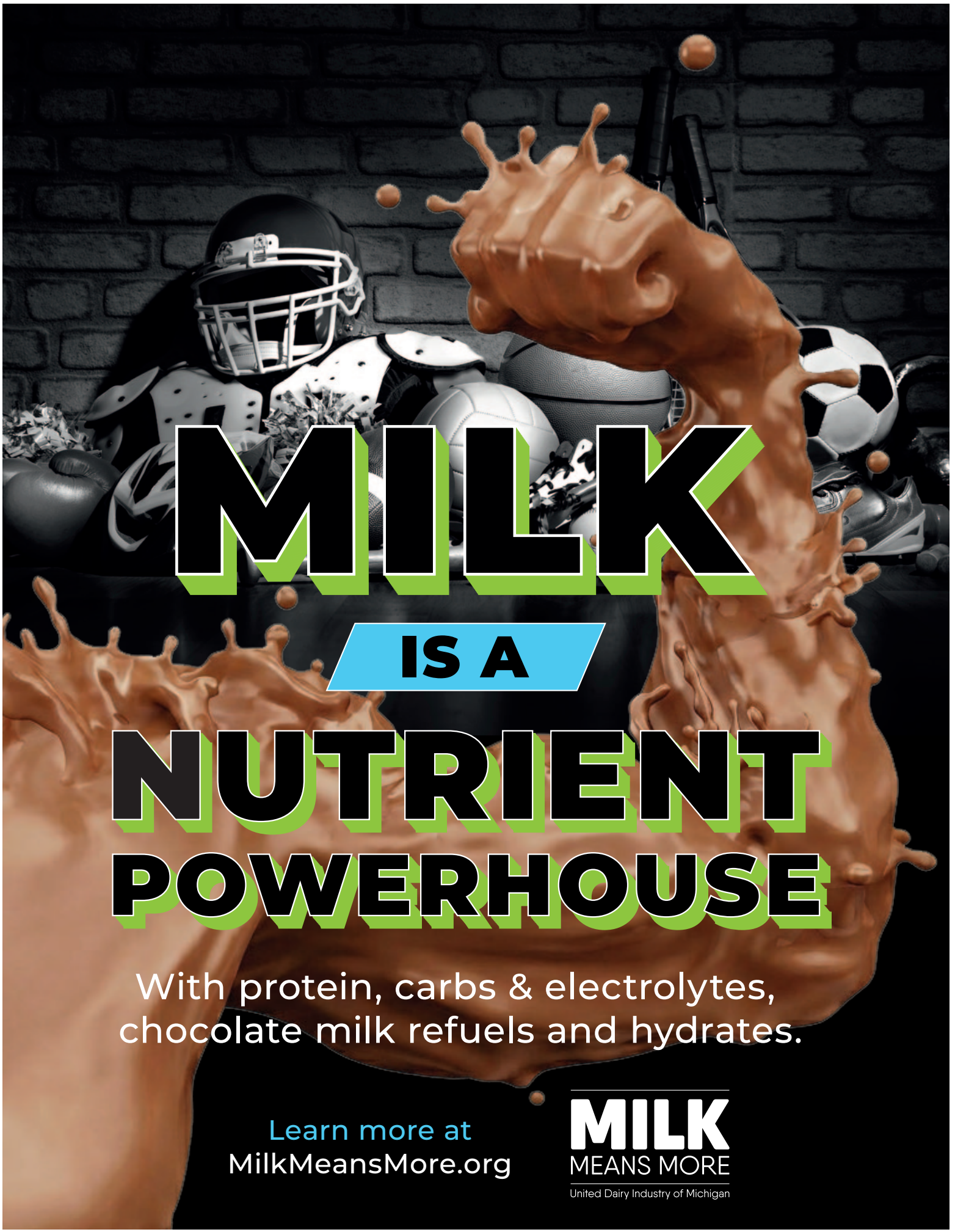
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Protecting What Makes High School Sports Different

In a changing sports landscape, one question matters more than ever: What do we want high school sports to be?

College athletics is having a national conversation about its future and what it wants to become. Those debates are a good reminder that high school sports are unlike any other level of athletics, and that distinction is worth protecting.

The scoreboard matters, but the purpose of education-based athletics and activities extends far beyond wins and losses. High school athletics gives students the opportunity to compete, grow, learn valuable life lessons and develop the character and skills that will prepare them for success long after their playing days are over.

In a time when many Americans feel increasingly disconnected from one another, schools remain places where people come together.

Change is inevitable, and high school athletics must continue to evolve to meet the needs of today's students. But as the landscape changes, we must make sure the experience remains recognizable for what it has always been: designed to serve high school students as a supplement to the educational experience.

That responsibility becomes even more important as outside forces continue to shape the sports landscape, and leaders in high school athletics have an opportunity to be intentional about preserving the distinct identity of high school sports.

That is where the 51 NFHS-member state high school athletics and activities associations play such an important role.

Across the country, these state associations work every day to create opportunities for students to participate while establishing the guardrails necessary to protect student-athletes and their schools.



Those guardrails are not restrictions; they are protections designed to promote competitive equity, establish consistent eligibility standards, protect the well-being of students and keep athletics connected to the educational mission of schools.

The decisions being made at the collegiate level today could shape expectations for athletics at every level tomorrow, and the best time to decide what high school athletics should be is now – before someone else makes that decision.

High school athletics is more than a collection of games and competitions. Every week during the school year, thousands of communities across the country come together around high school athletics and activities. In a time when many Americans feel increasingly disconnected from one another, schools remain places where people come together.

A Friday night football game, a basketball tournament, a state championship, a concert or a theater performance can bring students, families, educators and entire communities together around a shared experience.

That is the power of education-based athletics and activities. They not only benefit the participants, but society as well, and it's why protecting the purpose of high school sports matters and why the work of our 51-member state associations matters.

The NFHS will continue to support our state associations as they work to ensure that students across the country have meaningful opportunities to play, perform and compete – together.

Sports will continue to change, and it's our responsibility to ensure that, through that change, high school athletics remains true to its purpose and focuses on the students it serves.

— Davis Whitfield
NFHS Executive Director

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Scholar-Athlete Award in 38th 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 2026-27.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 38th 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 2026-27 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. Scan the QR code 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.

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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 2027.



The annual MHSAA 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.



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Student Advisory Council Aids MHSAA

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2026-27 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 MHSAA 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 MHSAA 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 2026-27 are **Addi Diepenbrock**, Ada Forest Hills Eastern; **Avery Edwards**, Kingsford; **Maci Godfrey**, Hudson; **Karly Grant**, St Ignace; **Liam Arnold**, Macomb Dakota; **Kyle Hunter**, Detroit Voyageur College Prep; **Rahul Prasanna**, Novi; and **Eli Wolters**, Holland.

Those eight new members were selected from 127 applicants, the second-largest group of applicants during the 20 years of the council. 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 155 schools from 53 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 12 MHSAA sports, and six will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council generally meets eight 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 programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group – student leadership.

This school year, the Council handed out championship trophies at Finals events, led sessions during four Sportsmanship Summits, provided feedback to the MHSAA Representative Council on proposed rule changes, and provided behind-the-scenes social media coverage at MHSAA championship events. They also were featured in public service announcement videos broadcast throughout the last school year.



2026-27 Student Advisory Council
First Row: Camryn Siegers, Holland Christian; Lucy Weber, Fenton; Brody Hammer, Middleville Thornapple Kellogg; Sam Bentley, Ypsilanti Lincoln; Mason Mireles, Hartford; Joey Smokevitch, Johannesburg-Lewiston; Nichole James, Detroit Edison; Mia McGregor, Mio. **Second Row: Rahul** Prasanna, Novi; Liam Arnold, Macomb Dakota; Avery Edwards, Kingsford; Karly Grant, St Ignace; Maci Godfrey, Hudson; Addi Diepenbrock, Ada Forest Hills Eastern; Eli Wolters, Holland; Kyle Hunter, Detroit Voyageur College Prep.

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 MHSAA 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.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2027 members who were selected a year ago: **Nichole James**, Detroit Edison; **Mia McGregor**, Mio; **Camryn Siegers**, Holland Christian; **Lucy Weber**, Fenton; **Brody Hammer**, Middleville Thornapple Kellogg; **Sam Bentley**, Ypsilanti Lincoln; **Mason Mireles**, Hartford; and **Joey Smokevitch**, Johannesburg-Lewiston.


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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.



First Row: Mark Uyl, Jay Alexander, John Thompson, Sean Jacques, Chris Adams. **Second Row:** Aaron Gafney, Arnetta Thompson, Jennifer Thunberg, Karyn Furlong. **Third Row:** Fred Bryant, Monica Merritt, Chris Hartman, Chris Miller. **Fourth Row:** Jerry DeGroot, Adam Stefanski, Jason Malloy, Mike Bakker, Jeff Kline.

Photo taken May 2026

Representative Council Members

Chris Adams*, Secretary-Treasurer
Superintendent
Camden-Frontier High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

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

Mike Bakker**
Athletic Director
Petoskey Public Shools
Statewide At-Large

Fred Bryant**
Athletic Director
Cadillac High School
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

Jerry DeGroot**
CEO and Principal
Hudsonville Unity Christian High School
Private and Parochial Schools

Ross Fort (ex-officio)
Special Assistant to Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing
Designee

Karyn Furlong**
Athletic Director
Richland Gull Lake High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

Aaron Gaffney**
Superintendent
Ellsworth Community School
Class C-D — Northern Michigan

Chris Hartman*
Athletic Director
Kingsford High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

Sean Jacques, Vice President**
Teacher
Calumet High School
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Jeff Kline*
Athletic Director
Mt. Morris High School
Statewide At-Large

Jason Malloy**
Athletic Director
Westland John Glenn High School
Appointee

Dr. Monica Merritt**
Superintendent
Plymouth-Canton Schools
Appointee

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

Fred Smith**
Athletic Director
Bangor Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

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

Dr. Arnetta Thompson*
Superintendent
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools
Appointee

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

Jennifer Thunberg*
Principal
Freeland Middle School
Appointee

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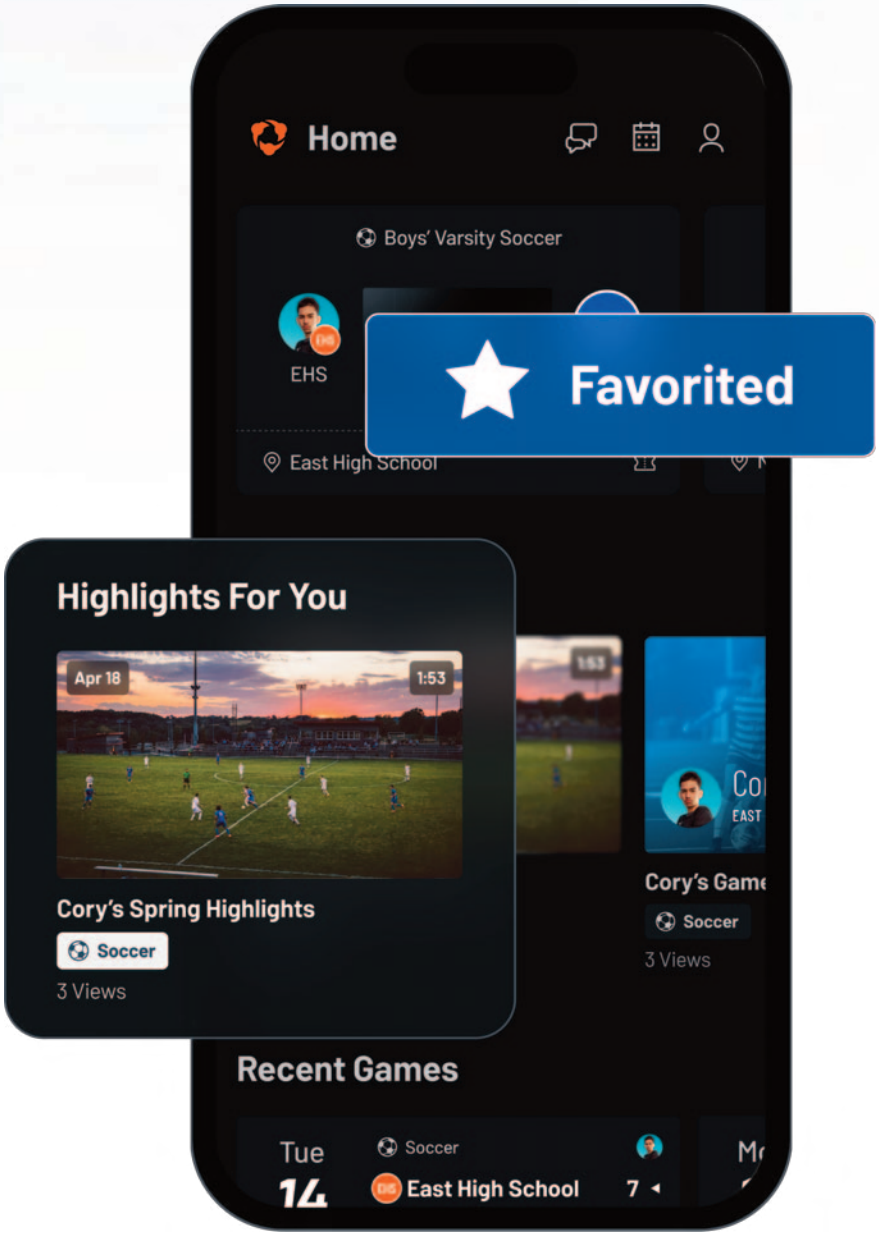
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Learn more about the center's **Concussion Navigator tool** and other helpful resources: **myumi.ch/concussioncenter**

2025 CHAMPIONS

MARTIN — Division 1



PORTLAND ST PATRICK — Division 2



Division 1 Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2025	Martin (Brad Blauvelt)	Blanchard Montabella	52-8
2024	Deckerville (Bill Brown)	Pickford	30-28
2023	Martin (Brad Blauvelt)	Indian River Inland Lakes	30-26
2022	Martin (Brad Blauvelt)	Merrill	74-24
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

Division 2 Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2025	Portland St. Patrick (Pat Russman)	North Dickinson	53-0
2024	Crystal Falls Forest Park (Brian Fabbri)	Morrice	42-20
2023	Adrian Lenawee Christian (William Wilharms)	Marion	36-18
2022	Powers North Central (Leo Gorzinski)	Mendon	66-26
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)	Onekama	30-18
2017	Crystal Falls Forest Park (Dave Graff)	Portland St. Patrick	54-12

Single-Division Yearly Champions

Year	Champion (Coach)	Runner-Up	Score
2016	Powers North Central (Kevin Bellefeuil)	Deckerville	58-22
2015	Powers North Central (Kevin Bellefeuil)	Battle Creek St. Philip	58-33
2014	Lawrence (Cody Caswell)	Cedarville	56-12
2013	Peck (Rob McDaniel)	Rapid River	67-32
2012	Deckerville (Bill Brown)	Bellaire	14-12
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
304 - Tommy Storey, Pickford vs. Deckerville (21 attempts), 2024 Division 1

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 (12 of 16, 7 TDs, 0 interceptions), 2013
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 (6 receptions), 2013
213 - Kaleb Walker, Merrill vs. Martin (11 receptions), 2022 Division 1

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 - Easton Boggs, Adrian Lenawee Christian vs. Marion, 2023 Division 2
3 - Shane Cook, Portland St. Patrick vs. Powers North Central, 2020 Division 2
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
7 - Jaden Walters, Powers North Central vs. Colon (7 of 7), 2021 Division 2

TEAM RECORDS

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

Rushing Touchdowns
8 - Martin vs. Merrill, 2022 Division 1
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
27 - Martin vs. Indian River Inland Lakes, 2023 Division 1

Most Points Scored - Team
74 - Martin vs. Merrill (24), 2022 Division 1
70 - Powers North Central vs. Portland St. Patrick, 2020 Division 2

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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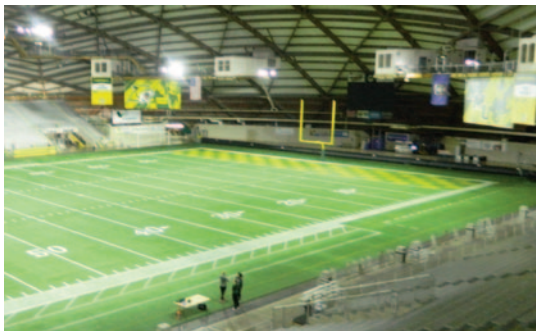
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WELCOME TO THE SUPERIOR DOME



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 team and the Wildcat 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: **David Cuthrell**, Bath; **Mark Dellangelo**, Marquette; **Barry James**, Marquette; **Charlie Morrison**, Marquette; **Matt Olson**, Traverse City; **David Paananen**, Negaunee; **Roark Pargeon**, Beulah; **George Pond**, Iron Mountain; **Cade Walsh**, Ubly; **Pete Zapata**, Battle Creek.

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, approximately 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 2026 8-Player Football Finals, Northern Michigan University Director of Ticketing, Promotions and Events **Joanna Emigh**.

Coordinating the Finals from the MHSAA office are Assistant Director **Brad Bush**; Senior Assistant Director **Andy Frushour**, and Director of Communications **Geoff Kimmerly**.

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 Presenters

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 **Sean Jacques**, Calumet High School.

Finals on the Air

The Finals can be watched live on the NFHSNetwork. 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. 27-28, for eight games in two days at Ford Field. Tickets are $20 per day, good for all four games each day!

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- Up to $2,000 for career training

*TUITION IS COVERED AT THE IN-DISTRICT TUITION RATE

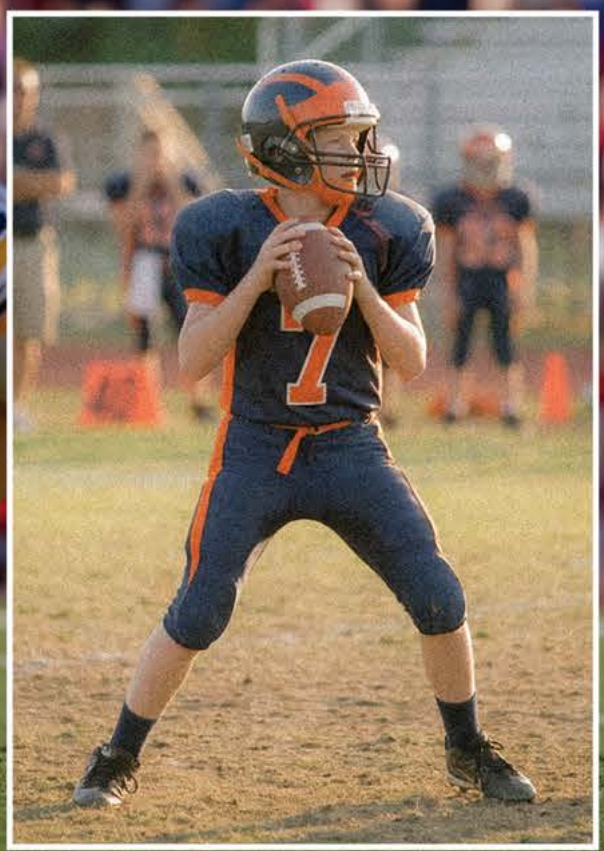
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