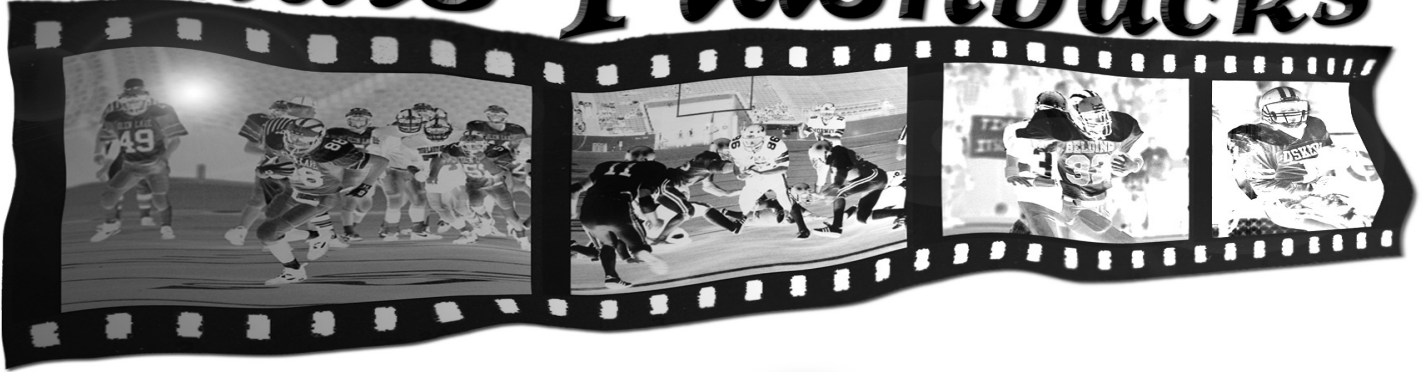


# Finals Flashbacks



## 1975

Although the Pontiac Silverdome opened in October of 1975, the four contests that comprised the first year MHSAA Football Finals were split between college campuses in Mt. Pleasant and Kalamazoo. A total of 16 teams (four in each classification) advanced to postseason play.

A crowd of 7,000 fans watched Hudson's national record of 72 consecutive victories come to an end in **Class C** playoff action. Played in Mt. Pleasant at Central Michigan University's Perry Shorts Stadium, strong wind and a 31-degree temperature made Upper Peninsula power Ishpeming feel right at home.

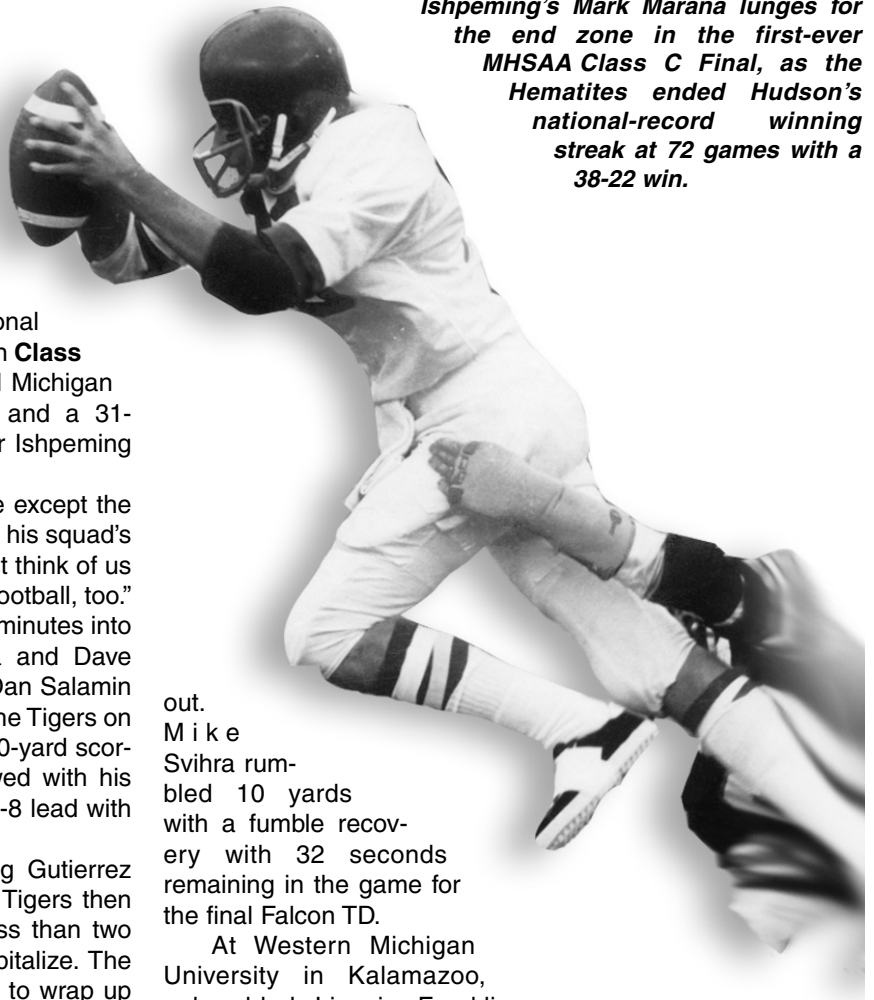
"This is typical UP weather. Everything is here except the snow," said Ishpeming coach Mike Mileski following his squad's 38-22 victory over the Tigers. "Downstate, they just think of us as snow and trees. We showed them we can play football, too."

The Hematites jumped out to 16-0 lead seven minutes into the game on touchdown runs by Mark Marana and Dave Farragh. Hudson quarterback Chris Luma found Dan Salamin with a 28-yard scoring strike moments later to get the Tigers on the scoreboard, but Mike Dellangelo ripped off a 60-yard scoring run on Ishpeming's next drive. Farragh followed with his second TD of the day and the Hematites had a 30-8 lead with four minutes remaining.

Hudson pulled to within 14 points when Greg Gutierrez returned the kickoff 50 yards for the score. The Tigers then recovered a fumble on the Ishpeming 23 with less than two minutes to play in the first half, but could not capitalize. The teams exchanged touchdowns in the third quarter to wrap up the scoring.

In a side note, Luma, the starting quarterback for Hudson in 1975, returned to the MHSAA Final game in 2003 as head coach of the Tigers. His older brother Mark, a senior co-captain in 1975, served as an assistant.

Dearborn Divine Child used a pass interception and two fumble recoveries to score three touchdowns in its 21-0 win over Saginaw Douglas MacArthur in the **Class B** Final at CMU. Early in the second quarter, linebacker Pat Doyle picked off a pass and returned it 28 yards for the score. Two minutes later, Falcon linebacker Mike Wiacek pounced on a MacArthur fumble at the Generals' 24. Quarterback Dan Faletti wrapped up the nine-play drive with a bootleg right to score from 3 yards



*Ishpeming's Mark Marana lunges for the end zone in the first-ever MHSAA Class C Final, as the Hematites ended Hudson's national-record winning streak at 72 games with a 38-22 win.*

out. Mike Svihra rumbled 10 yards with a fumble recovery with 32 seconds remaining in the game for the final Falcon TD.

At Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, unheralded Livonia Franklin shocked top-ranked and previously unbeaten Traverse City, 21-7, in **Class A** play. A busted field-goal attempt turned into a 17-yard touchdown pass from Dennis Smith to Rick Lee to put Livonia up 7-0 early in the first quarter. Tim Hollandsworth's interception in the third quarter set up the Patriots' final score, and sealed a 10-1 record for first-year coach Armand Vigna.

Bill Santilli rolled for 179 yards and three touchdowns in 37 carries to lead the Trojans of Crystal Falls Forest Park to a stunning 50-0 win over Flint Holy Rosary in **Class D** before a crowd of 5,300 spectators at WMU. Santilli's TD pushed his single-season total to 226 points, shattering the previous scoring mark of 204 points set by John Waters of Hillsdale in 1972.

MHSAA Files

Quarterback Richard Mettlach added 140 yards through the air, including two TD passes, as the Trojans posted 375 yards in total offense. Defensively, Forest Park held the Wolverines to 46 yards on the day, including minus-32 yards on the ground. Both totals remain the top performances in the MHSAA championship game record book.

# 1985

Traverse City's Doug Lautner ran for 161 yards and two touchdowns in the first half as the Trojans rolled to a 29-3 victory over Troy in **Class A**. Working from a full-house backfield, TC kept Colts the guessing all afternoon. Tony

Olsen added 118 yards on 18 carries, including a 48-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter. A Chris Hathaway to Jeff Durocher TD pass with just over a minute to play wrapped things up. It was the second playoff title for Traverse City coach Jim Ooley, and the first time a Class A school finished the year with a perfect 13-0 record.

Dearborn Divine Child downed 1984 champion Wyoming Park, 21-0, in the **Class B** finale. Quarterback John Young completed 10-of-12 passes for 116 yards, including touchdown passes to 6-6 junior John Filiatraut and 6-7 senior Tom Dohring. Cesar

Roman ground out 90 yards on 17 carries for Divine Child. With the win, the Falcons became the first team to shut out four consecutive playoff opponents.

In **Class C**, Lansing Catholic Central ended the year with a perfect 13-0 record with a 33-6 victory over St. Ignace. Junior running back Joe Joseph led the winners with a pair of touchdowns in the first half, while teammates Jim McCloy, Bob Fata and quarterback Steve Booth each scored once. The top-ranked Cougars were making their first appearance in the championship game.

Bumped and bruised, Battle Creek St. Philip's band of warriors hammered out an impressive 31-8 victory over Bessemer in the **Class D** title contest. The Speedboys had not allowed a point in the playoffs prior to the loss.

Paul Hurst, lost to an ankle injury in the season opener, returned to the lineup for St. Philip. The senior running back caught a 22-yard pass and rushed for 59 yards on 10 carries, including a 25-yard TD on a reverse on the first play of the second quarter which gave the Tigers a 6-0 lead.

Quarterback Tim Hayes, playing with a separated shoulder, completed only five of eight passes for 143 yards, but three

completions were backbreakers. A 51-yard bomb to Mike Reece set up the score by Hurst.

A 43-yard completion to wideout Joe Campbell was followed by a 9-yard touchdown pass by Hayes to Campbell to up the lead to 12-0 midway through the second. Rushing TDs by Devin Sherrod and Reece, and a fumble recovery by Tom McManus completed the scoring by the Tigers.

# 1995

A combined crowd of 71,156 attended the two-day event at the Pontiac Silverdome, an MHSAA Finals attendance record yet to be surpassed.

Sophomore Jason Lehotan kicked a 27-yard field goal in the second overtime to give Lapeer West a 24-21 win over previously unbeaten South Lyon in the **Class A** game on Friday at the Pontiac Silverdome. Trailing 14-7 late in the fourth quarter, Lapeer West drove 80 yards in eight plays, highlighted by a 40-yard pass from quarterback Kevin Gay to Mike Milliken. The completion set up Dan Dreyer's 6-yard touchdown run with 1:21 remaining, sending the game to overtime. A starter on the junior varsity, Dreyer joined the Panthers for the playoffs, replacing leading rusher Steve Wills who went down with a knee injury in South Lyon's Regional Final. He finished with a game-high 121 yards on 21 carries.

Quarterback Josh Collins scored once and completed nine of 16 passes for 140 yards in piloting Detroit Country Day to a 28-14 win over Muskegon Orchard View in **Class B**. Collins, who completed 6-of-7 passes in the first half, scored from 1 yard out on the opening possession. The TD was set-up by a 28-yard pass to Brett Imsland and a 14-yard completion to Alex Gregor. In the second quarter, Collins engineered a 97-yard drive by the Yellowjackets, sealed by Omari

Jett's 12-yard scoring dash. Two plays later, Country Day's Jim Imsland scooped up an Orchard View fumble and scampered 42-yards for a 21-0 lead before the intermission. Steve Mitchell and Kevin Fitzgerald scored for the Cardinals.

In **Class C**, Muskegon Catholic Central jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead on their opening drive. Morenci rebounded with a 14-yard pass from quarterback Ryan Speiser to tight end Jason Schiermyer to tie the game, but the Bulldogs could not hold off the Crusaders as Catholic Central rolled to its third



photo courtesy of Lansing Catholic Central HS

**Lansing Catholic Central running back Joe Joseph scored a pair of TDs in the Cougars' 33-6 win over St. Ignace in the 1985 Class C Final. The win gave LCC a perfect 13-0 season.**



photo courtesy of the Battle Creek Enquirer

**Devin Sherrod of Battle Creek St. Philip found the going a bit warmer in the Silverdome than in this earlier playoff game, scoring a TD to help the Tigers to the 1985 Class D crown.**



**Lapeer West and its supporters exult after Jason Lehotan's (28, arrow) 27-yard field goal in the second overtime sails through the uprights to give the Panthers a 24-21 win over South Lyon in the 1995 Class A Final.**

crown in six years, 19-7. The Crusaders, who attempted only one pass on the day, a 19-yard completion, racked up 267 yards on the ground. Jeremie Buday, Paul Bauer and Eric Mason all scored TDs for Catholic.

Following in the footsteps of his brother Greg, who quarterbacked Fowler to a playoff title two years earlier, Bruce Hungerford, now the starting QB for the Eagles, rushed for one touchdown, threw for another and added four PATs to lead Fowler to a 28-6 win over Baraga in **Class D** play. Hungerford opened the scoring with a 16-yard run in the first frame, then added a 5-yard toss to senior Ross Feldpausch for a 14-0 halftime lead. Jake McKean and Derek Koenigsknecht added the second half scores for the Eagles. Defensively, Fowler held Baraga to a single first down in the first half, and a total five for the contest.

On Saturday, Detroit Catholic Central earned its fourth MHSAA crown with a 24-0 win over Holt in the **Class AA** contest. The Shamrocks controlled the clock as they racked up 300 yards on the ground, including 109 on 22 carries by fullback John Spolsky. Defensively, Catholic Central held the Rams to six first downs and 49 yards in total offense.

Making their third consecutive appearance in the **Class BB** Final, the Pioneers of East Grand Rapids upended Allen Park, 14-7. Trailing 7-

0, the Jaguars pieced together a 62-yard scoring drive, capped by quarterback Shawn Grant's 21-yard touchdown pass to Kevin Bozek with 6:31 left in the game. Kicker Scott Nolan added the conversion to knot the score at seven. On the ensuing kickoff, Pioneer Brian Lovell returned the ball to the 50. Four plays later, Brian Nash scored the gamewinner from a yard out.

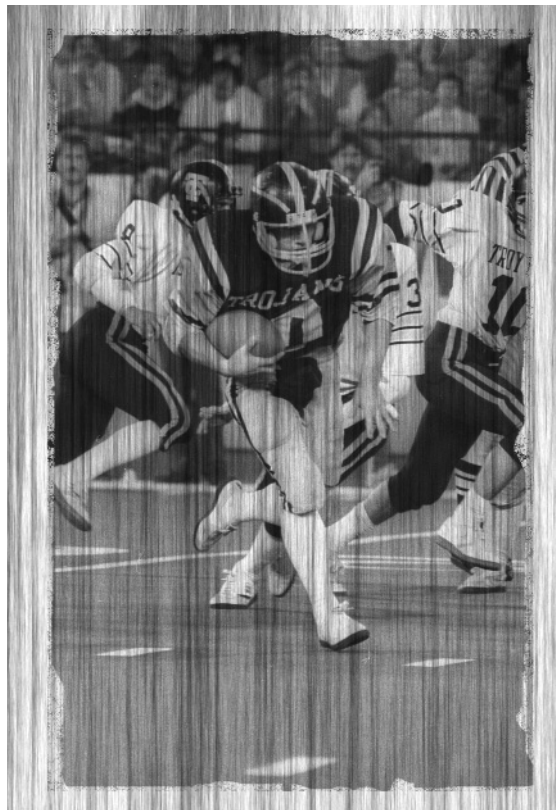
Replacing the legendary Ron Thompson, who died in 1994, Coach Greg Carter guided Detroit St. Martin dePorres to a 14-6 win over Whittemore-Prescott in **Class CC** action. The win preserved the Eagles' perfect mark of nine championship victories against zero defeats in MHSAA Finals action. DePorres opened up an 8-0 lead, as Kevin Glenn scored from 20 yards out, following a Cardinal fumble in the first quarter. Sophomore Martez Johnson added the two-point conversion. Glenn featured his strong arm on the next scoring drive, hitting Terrance Holland and Teremun Johnson for long gains. His 5-yard strike to Holland increased the lead to 14-0 at the half.

While dePorres kept Cardinals all-state running back Tom Tyson in check for much of the game, Prescott was able to pull within striking distance late in the fourth quarter as quarterback

Craig Lomason scored on a keeper with 3:40 to play. The Cardinals recovered the onside kick, but lost the ball two plays later, as the Eagles' John Shackelford picked off a Lomason pass, ending the comeback threat.

For the third time in seven years, Mendon defeated Lake Linden-Hubbell for the MHSAA title, this time 19-8 in **Class DD**. Ryan Schwartz, the son of Mendon coach John Schwartz, scored a pair of touchdowns to give the Hornets a 13-0 lead at the half. On Hubbell's first possession of the second half, Steven Koskela scored from one yard out to cap a 76-yard drive, then ran in the two-point conversion to pull the Lakes within six, 13-7. However Mendon's Rock Alexander added a TD early in the fourth quarter to seal the Class DD victory.

— Ron Pesch



Gary Shook, Otsego

**Traverse City quarterback Chris Hathaway churns upfield during the Trojans' 29-3 win over Troy in the 1985 Class A Final.**

*Ron Pesch is the historian for the MHSAA. To submit story ideas and potential statistical records, write to Pesch at 1317 Lakeshore Drive, Muskegon, MI 49441*