

# Finals

# Flashbacks

## 1975

In the first year of the M H S A A

Playoffs, a total of 16 teams, four in each of four classes, advanced to postseason play.

A crowd of 7,000 fans gathered at Central Michigan's Perry Shorts Stadium (now known as Kelly-Shorts) in Mt. Pleasant as Hudson High School put its national record of 72 consecutive victories on the line in the Class C Final against the Hematites of Ishpeming.

Hudson fell behind early, as touchdowns by Mark Marana, Mike Dellangelo and a pair by Dave Farragh gave Hematites a 30-8 lead with four minutes to play in the second quarter. The Tigers pulled to within 14 thanks to a 50-yard kickoff return by Greg Gutierrez, 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 traded touchdowns in the second half as Ishpeming held on for a 38-22 win, ending Hudson's win streak. The mark remained the national standard until 1997, when Concord DeLaSalle High in California surpassed the total.

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 Mt. Pleasant. Pat Doyle picked off a Generals pass and returned it 28 yards for a score to put the Falcons up early in the second quarter of play. Two minutes later, linebacker Mike Wiacek pounced on a Saginaw fumble at the MacArthur 24. Quarterback Dan Faletti

ran a bootleg right to score from the 3, capping a nine-play drive. Mike Svihra rumbled 10 yards with a fumble recovery with 32 seconds to play for the final Falcon TD.

At Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, unheralded Livonia Franklin shocked top-ranked Traverse City, 21-7, in Class A action. A 17-yard touchdown pass from Dennis Smith to Rick Lee on a busted field-goal attempt put Franklin up 7-0 early in the first quarter. The Patriots added another TD early in the second frame, on a 3-yard dash by Jim Casey. Just before the half, Traverse City

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

narrowed the led to 14-7, as

Bruce McLachlan capped a 72-yard, 12-play drive with a 3-yard scoring run. Three interceptions by the Livonia Franklin defense helped stifle the Trojans' potent attack, including one by Tim Hollandsworth late in the game to set up the Patriots final score and ice the title for first-year coach Armand Vigna.

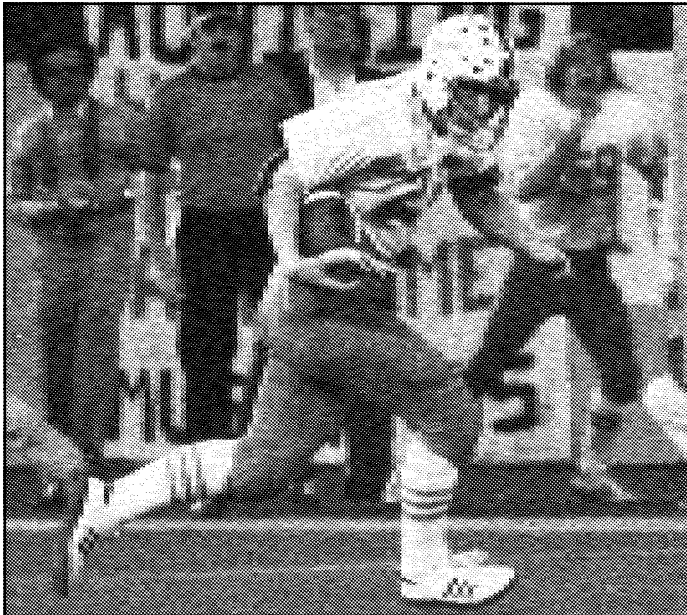
Bill Santilli rushed for 179 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Trojans of Crystal Falls Forest Park to a stunning 50-0 win over Flint Holy Rosary in Class D at Kalamazoo. Quarterback Richard Mettlach added 140 yards through the air, including two TD passes, as the Trojans posted 375 yards in total offense to 46 for the Wolverines.

## 1980

Head coach Al Fracassa's Birmingham

Brother Rice squad captured its second MHSAA title with a 6-0 triumph over Dearborn Fordson in Class A. A 38-yard scoring pass from Dave Yarema to Paul Jokisch highlighted this defensive struggle.

In Class B, Gary Allore scored 14



Gary Shook, Otsego

*Munising's Mike Stimac ran for 207 yards and two scores to lead the Mustangs to the 1980 Class C title over White Pigeon.*

points to lead Muskegon Catholic Central past Okemos, 29-0. The win was the first of two MHSAA championships for Coach Pete Kutches at Catholic Central. After 25 years of gridiron championship contests, Kutches is the only coach in MHSAA playoff history to win titles at two different schools. His Muskegon Reeths-Puffer squad grabbed the Class A crown in 1992.

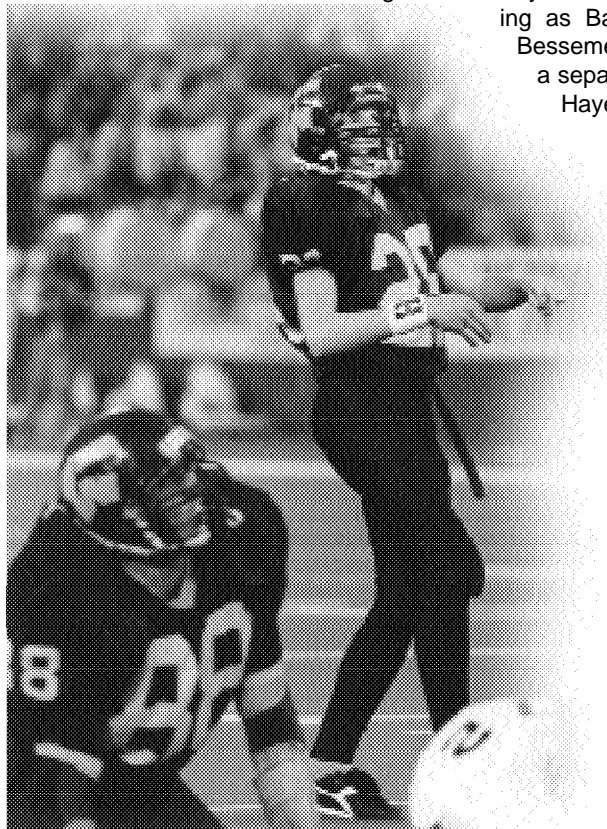
Mike Stimac scored twice and rushed for 207 yards in 15 carries to lead the Munising Mustangs to a 19-7 win over White Pigeon in Class C. A Keith Cast to Tim Wilson touchdown pass was the highlight for the Chiefs.

Gregg Noordhoff (175 yards) scored three touchdowns on runs of 6, 3 and 54 yards in leading Norway to a 25-0 win over Fowler in Class D.

# 1985

Traverse City's offense rolled up 396 yards on the ground, including 161 and two first-half touchdowns by Doug Lautner to defeat Troy, 29-3. Teammate Tony Olson added 118 yards and a TD as the Trojans and head coach Jim Ooley earned their second Class A crown in three appearances.

With a 21-0 win over defending Class



Gary Shook, Otsego

**Lapeer West's Jason Lehotan watches his 27-yard field goal go through the uprights in the second overtime to give Lapeer West a 24-21 win over South Lyon in the 1995 Class A Final.**

B champion Wyoming Park, Dearborn Divine Child became the first team in history to shut out four consecutive playoff opponents. Falcon quarterback John Young completed 10-of-12 passes for 116 yards, including touchdown strikes to John Filtraut and Tom Dohring.

In Class C, Lansing Catholic Central ended a perfect 13-0 season with a 33-6 victory over St. Ignace. Junior running back Joe Joseph led the winners with a pair of touchdowns, while teammates Jim McCloy, Bob Fata and Steve Booth each added one.

Paul Hurst, missing from the lineup since suffering an injury in the season opener, dashed

25 yards for a touchdown to open the scoring as Battle Creek St. Phillip defeated Bessemer, 31-8, in Class D. Playing with a separated shoulder, quarterback Tim

Hayes completed 6-of-9 passes for 152 yards, including a touchdown toss to Joe Campbell.

Tom McManus ended the scoring for St. Phillip with a fumble recovery in the end zone early in the fourth quarter.

# 1990

With the arrival of the 1990 season, the MHSAA expanded eight classes for the football playoffs, with the Finals spread over two days

In Class A on Friday, Birmingham Brother Rice snapped a 10-10 tie with two Jon Burtraw touchdowns in the fourth quarter, giving the Warriors a 24-10 victory over Midland. It was the fourth playoff title for the Warriors.

Tyrone Wheatley ran for 168 yards and a touchdown as Dearborn Heights Robichaud downed Kingsford, 21-7, for the Class B crown.

In Class C, Muskegon Catholic Central scored a 21-



Gary Shook, Otsego

**John Schindler powers for some of his 199 yards in the 1990 Class D title game. Schindler also scored two TDs for Frankfort in its 33-6 win over Lawrence.**

6 win over sentimental favorite Bill Maskill and his Galesburg-Augusta squad. Maskill began his coaching career at Sheridan in 1951, moving to Galesburg-Augusta in 1957. He retired from coaching following the 1991 season, with a 273-84-2 record – the tops in Michigan at the time.

Frankfort rolled past Lawrence, 33-6, for the Class D championship, as John Schindler rushed for 199 yards and two touchdowns for the winners.

On Saturday, Detroit Catholic Central avenged an earlier loss to Detroit Martin Luther King with a 21-0 decision in the Class AA finals. The contest was highlighted by a 58-yard punt return for a touchdown by Frank Yoakam.

Dowagiac's Abel Young scored three times in the first half and rolled up 122 yards on 17 carries as the high-scoring Chieftains downed Oxford in Class BB, 35-14. Dowagiac ended the season with 590 points in 13 games.

Detroit St. Martin dePorres rebounded from a 13-0 deficit to defeat Muskegon Oakridge, 22-13. Charles Winters scored on a 20-yard run, and a 45-yard pass interception to lead the Class CC Eagles to their seventh MHSAA title in as many attempts.

Ross Richards scored 24 points on four touchdowns – two running and two receiving – as Marion defeated Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes, 33-7, in Class DD. Richards' point total tied the MHSAA Finals mark established by Bill Santilli of Crystal Falls Forest Park in the 1975 Class C title contest.

# 1995

In the Class A game on Friday, 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. 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 the regional final. He finished with a game-high 121 yards on 21 carries.

Quarterback Josh Collins scored once and completed 9-of-16 passes for 140 yards in piloting Detroit Country Day to a 28-14 win over Muskegon Orchard View in Class B. Collins opened the scoring with a 1-yard run on the Yellowjackets' opening drive. 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 on a 21-0 lead before the intermission.

In Class C, Muskegon Catholic Central jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead on its opening drive en route to a 19-7 win over Morenci. 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 Class C crown in six years. 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 Muskegon CC.

Quarterback Bruce Hungerford rushed for one touchdown and threw for another to lead Fowler to a 28-6 win over Baraga in Class D play. Defensively, the Eagles held Baraga to a single first-down in the first half, and 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 amassed 300 yards on the

ground, including 109 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 Ascott 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 game-winner, bowling over from 1 yard out.

In his first full season as coach, Greg Carter – replacing the legendary Ron Thompson, who died in 1994 – guided Detroit St. Martin dePorres to a 14-6 win over Whittemore-Prescott in Class CC action. The win moved the Eagles' perfect mark to 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 the 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 the 1 to cap a 76-yard drive, then ran in the two-point conversion to pull the Lakes within six, 13-7. Mendon's Rock Alexander added a TD early in the fourth quarter to seal the Class DD victory.

—Ron Pesch

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