

Finals Flashbacks

1975

At East Kentwood, Detroit Northeastern closed out a perfect 21-0 season with a 67-62 win over Farmington Our Lady of Mercy for the Class A title. Helen Williams finished with 31 points and collected 16 rebounds for Northeastern, while her sister Sheila kicked in 20 points. Judeen Bartos paced Mercy with 21.

In Class B, Warren Woods slipped past defending champion Tecumseh, 46-43. Kathryn Bieniek clinched the game for Woods with a free throw with nine seconds remaining. It was the first loss for Tecumseh in 44 games, dating to the 1973 regional tournament.

Gladwin, under veteran coach Ruth Ann Joslin, defeated Hopkins, 48-33, for the Class C championship. Lisa Woods netted 18 points for the winners.

Sandra Histed and Patricia Bentoski each scored 12 points to lead Flint Holy Rosary to a 45-32 win over Allendale. It was the second consecutive Class D crown for the Flint squad.

1980

Flint Northern recorded its 74th victory in a row and third consecutive Class A title, a 52-46 victory against a tough Jackson squad at MSU's Jenison Field House. Led by Regina Pierce, Jackson built a 10-point margin midway through the second quarter and led by six at the half, but fell behind 42-40 as the teams entered the final quarter of play. Leteia Hughley had 14 points for the winners. Pierce finished with a game-high 16. The senior from Jackson ended her career as the state's all-time leading scorer, with 2,227 points in 88 games. The total now ranks fifth.

Flint Beecher's Diana Wiley finished with 18 points as the Bucs rallied from a 16-16 tie at the half to take a 44-35 decision over Livonia Ladywood in Class B. Melody

Letitia Bowen grabs one of her 16 rebounds in the 1990 Class C title game, a Buchanan victory over Detroit Country Day. Bowen also led the winners with 31 points.

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Bridges added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the winners, while Leslie Nadeau scored 13 points for Ladywood.

Trailing 35-28 with four minutes remaining, Battle Creek Pennfield scored the game's final eight points, including a thrilling basket by Angie Glenn with 12 seconds to play, to defeat Grand Rapids South Christian, 36-35, in Class C action. Kathy DeHaan led Christian with 14 points

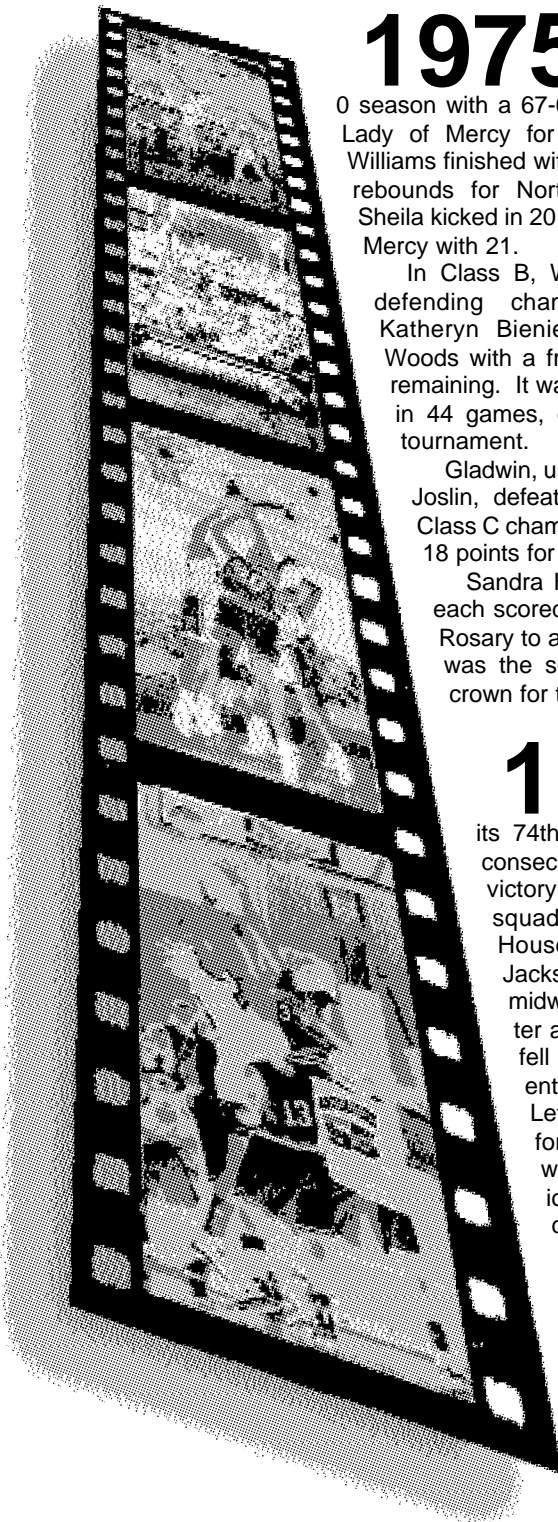
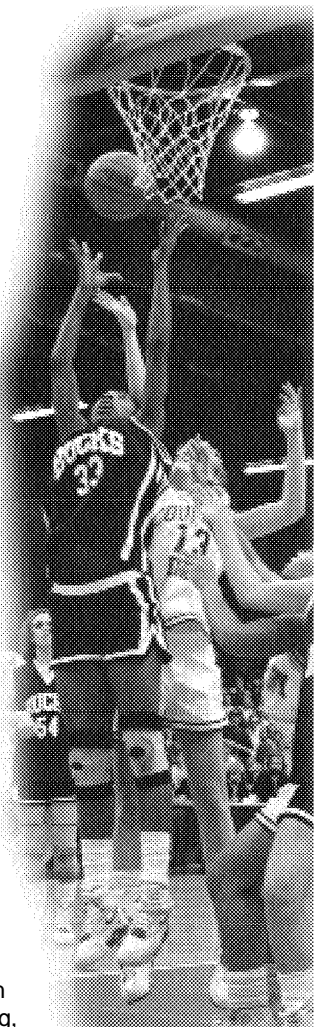
Leland jumped out to a 34-19 halftime lead, then coasted to a 65-36 win over Ashley in the Class D contest. Rebecca Glass topped the Lady Comets with 22 points, while teammate Julie Polakowski added 18.

1985

Detroit Martin Luther King downed Flint Northwestern, 45-36, in the Class A championship game at Western Michigan University's Read Field House in Kalamazoo. The Crusader defense held Northwestern star Tonya Edwards to 10 points from the field, and 14 points overall in the contest. Latonya Thomas tallied 15 points, and Denise Kirby chipped in 14 for the victors.

Making its third consecutive appearance in the Class B Final, Livonia Ladywood grabbed its second title in that span with a 45-41 win over Dearborn Divine Child. Sue Laliberte scored 12 points to lead Ladywood, but it was Jenny Nadeau's four free throws in the final minute that sealed the win. Divine Child center Sue Nissen led all scorers with 18.

Newaygo successfully defended its Class C crown, with a come-from-behind victory over Detroit



St. Martin dePorres, 46-43. Erica Thomas nailed a pair of free throws with seconds remaining to seal the victory. Erica's sister, Keri led the team with 21 points. Daedra Charles finished with 19 points for dePorres. (see Legends of the Game feature for more - page 7).

Georgina Fry's jumper with six second left in regulation boosted Potterville to a 43-41 win over Ewen-Trout Creek in Class D. Trailing by as many as 14 points, the Vikings shut down Ewen-Trout Creek on its final six possessions en route to victory. Shelli Nemeth led Potterville with 18 points, including 10 in the third quarter.



Carney-Nadeau made it two straight Class D crowns with a 56-31 win over Fowler in 1990. Jill Wetthuhn, left, topped the Wolves with 19 points.

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Catholic Central downed her squad, 51-46, in Class C. Havilah Cunningham tallied 23 points for winners, including a pair of free throws with 1:03 to play to give the Cougars a 47-46 lead.

Crystal Falls Forest Park established a finals game record with 10 three-pointers, but it was not enough as defending champ Portland St. Patrick downed the

Trojans, 49-39, in Class D action. Cindy Smith and Trisha Fedewa finished with 12 points apiece to led the Shamrocks.

— Ron Pesch

1990

Detroit Martin Luther King avenged two regular-season losses to Detroit Murray-Wright with a 53-48 win over the Pilots in an all-Detroit Public School League Class A Final played at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena. Led by Markita Aldridge, the Crusaders stopped Murray-Wright's strong three-point game cold, forcing the play to the baseline. Aldridge, Tiffany Mitchell and Gemetrice White each scored 13 points for the victors. For the Pilots, the Robinson twins, Markita and Nakita, ended with 16 and 12 points, respectively.

Grand Rapids West Catholic took advantage of three straight Frankenmuth turnovers, converting a 40-38 fourth quarter lead into a 47-38 victory in the Class B contest. The game featured three sophomore starters on each side of the court. Junior Stacey Dobrygoski led the Falcons

in scoring with 12 points. Michelle Mueller dropped in 13 points for Frankenmuth.

Letitia Bowen scored a game high 31 points, including 20 in the second half, to push Buchanan past defending champion Detroit Country Day, 42-34, for the Class C crown. Bowen also dominated on the boards, finishing with 16 rebounds. Kelley Mires tallied 14 points for the Yellowjackets.

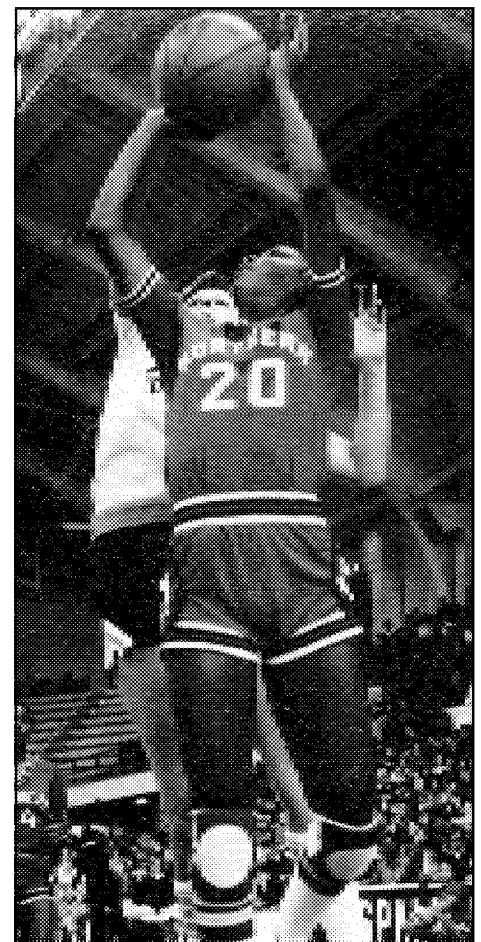
Carney-Nadeau successfully defended its Class D crown, with a 56-31 win over Fowler. Senior Jill Wetthuhn scored 14 points in the first half, and finished with 19 for the Wolves. The victory was the 55th consecutive for coach Paul Polfus' squad. The streak grew to 78 in a row (still a state record), until Nov. 28, 1991, when it was snapped with a loss to the Baraga Vikettes, 54-49, in the Class D regional.

1995

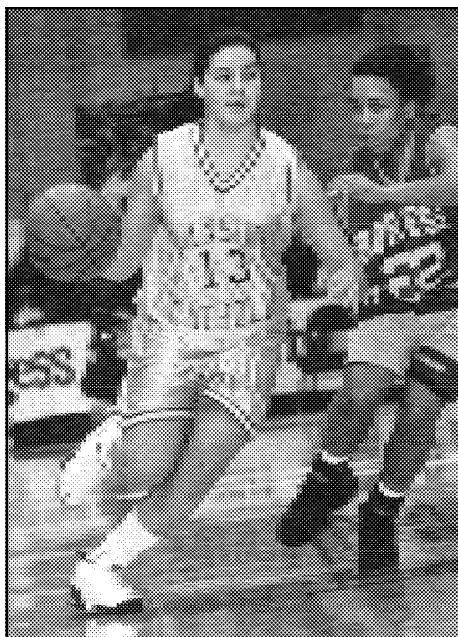
In Class A at Battle Creek, Deana Nolan notched 16 points, while teammate Sheree Bates added 13 to lead defending champ Flint Northern to a 59-40 win over Walled Lake Central. It was the sixth crown for Northern, which ended the year unbeaten in 28 games. Becky Cummings led Central with 15 points and 10 caroms.

Detroit Country Day earned its first Class B title, and second MHSAA crown overall with a 44-32 win over Grand Rapids West Catholic. The Yellowjackets opened up a 21-13 lead at the half, as Kerry Duggan pumped in seven points. Freshman center Jennifer Thomas finished with 12 points for Country Day, while Carrie Roys paced West Catholic with 13 markers.

Redford Bishop Borgess star Maxann Reese was held to nine points as Lansing



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At left, Lansing Catholic Central's Christel Rocha drives past a Bishop Borgess defender in the 1995 Class C contest. Rocha contributed three points, six assists and two steals in LCC's triumph. Above, Leteia Hughley helped Flint Northern to its third straight Class A crown in 1980, scoring 14 points in the title game vs. Jackson.