



**INSIDE:**  
Phil Mickelson gets back into the swing of things — **7B**

## Bulldogs up for a fight with late goal



L'Anse Creuse North's Geoff Clanton takes a spill during the Crusaders' 1-0 loss to Romeo.

■ **Speck, Hooper come through with clutch plays for Romeo.**

**By John Hetzler**  
Macomb Daily Sports Staff

**MACOMB TOWNSHIP** — Together, Steven Hooper and Dan Speck showed Romeo's mettle. Hooper scored with four minutes and 46 seconds remaining, and Speck's clutch play in front of the net sparked Romeo to a 1-0 victory over Macomb Township L'Anse Creuse North in a MAC White Division hockey game at Suburban Ice — Macomb on Wednesday night. "We proved today what kind of team we are," Speck said. "It was a team effort."

Romeo improved to 4-2-1 in the

### High School Hockey

MAC White and 7-4-1 overall thanks in large part to the play of Hooper, a senior who scored his fifth goal of the season, and Speck, a junior who finished with 21 saves, including nine in the final period.

"Some pretty big ones," Romeo coach Rich Boggio said. "He got the game puck tonight."

Added L'Anse Creuse North coach Bernie Marini: "He was the difference. He was good. No rebounds, that's for sure."

Romeo needed a strong effort from Speck because his counterpart on L'Anse Creuse North, Kevin Lagerquist, also played well.

Lagerquist finished with 13 saves for the Crusaders, who fell to 4-3-1 in the MAC White and 7-5-1 overall.

"Kevin played really well," Marini said. "I thought our forwards did a nice job of pressuring them. We had quite a few chances around the net. We just didn't finish."

Both Lagerquist and Speck excelled in the first two periods as neither team could score, though both teams had chances.

Romeo gained a four-on-three advantage for 1:19 lat in the second period, but the Bulldogs could only muster one shot.

Lagerquist also made a sprawling save on a breakaway by Romeo's Rob Hutchinson with 10 seconds left in the second to keep the game scoreless.

The Bulldogs also shined on defense, killing off all six penalties — just as the Crusaders did — to set the stage for the final period.

See **ROME0**, Page **6B**

## Additions can't stop the bleeding

■ **Pistons lose for 8th time in 11 games with setback to Jazz.**

**By Dana Gauruder**  
Journal Register News Service

**AUBURN HILLS** — Chris Webber and Chauncey Billups couldn't cure all of the Pistons' recent ills.

Webber got as many standing ovations as points in his Pistons debut as the Utah Jazz sent the reeling Pistons to their eighth loss in 11 games Wednesday night. A trio of Jazz starters hit the 20-point mark in Detroit's 100-99 loss at The Palace.

Webber posted modest stats — two points, five rebounds and three assists — playing 17 minutes off the bench. He was greeted warmly by the sellout crowd and showed off his slick passing skills but was generally a non-factor.

Billups returned after missing eight consecutive games with a strained right calf. Though he didn't always move fluidly, Billups was the Pistons' best offensive option. He had a team-high 26 points - 16 in the

See **PISTONS**, Page **4B**

## Indiana joins trade frenzy

**By Dana Gauruder**  
Journal Register News Service

**AUBURN HILLS** — The Pistons were not the only Central Division team to make a big move this week.

Indiana pulled the trigger on a blockbuster eight-player trade with Golden State Wednesday. Al Harrington, Stephen Jackson, Mike Dunleavy and Troy Murphy are the most prominent players swapping uniforms.

Pistons coach Flip Saunders opined the Warriors got the better of the deal.

"Usually when you look at trades, you try to look at who's the best player in the trade and I think Harrington is the best player in the trade," he said. "I

See **PISTON NOTES**, Page **4B**



Newest Detroit Piston Chris Webber, left, defended by Utah Jazz center Mehmet Okur, looks for an opening to the basket during the second quarter at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

## Griffins, Red Wings talk deal

■ **Detroit's top minor-league affiliate hoping to be bolstered by a professional club.**

**By Bruce MacLeod**  
Macomb Daily Sports Writer

**DETROIT** — The relationship between the Detroit Red Wings and their top affiliate has been grand, no rapids of which to complain.

Well into the fifth season of a five-year affiliate contract, the Grand Rapids Griffins submitted a proposal last week to continue their relationship with the Red Wings past this season.

The proposal is the first stage of a negotiation between the two franchises.

"We've been very happy," said Detroit general manager Ken Holland. "It's a great place for a young player to play. They get people out watching games. They have a nice facility. It's a nice community. And ownership takes care of the players."

The agreement reached five years ago called for the Red Wings to supply 13 players to the Griffins. It also called for the Griffins to pay the salaries of the coaching staff and training staff, doing the hiring and firing.

The current proposal calls for the Red Wings to do more in all areas. Holland would not say at this stage of the negotiations how many players and how much of the payroll that the Griffins are asking the Red Wings to provide.

"Five years ago, they wanted to have a certain amount of spots for veteran players," said Holland. "They didn't want to become just a development team. They were concerned with the healthy of their own franchise and I don't blame them."

"I'm an old minor-league goalie. I know that in order to develop players, you have to have a real positive environment. You need good veteran leadership."

And veterans are not the players that the Red Wings will supply the Griffins. The goal for an NHL franchise is to stock its top affiliate with young talent on its way up to the NHL.

What bodes well for a continued relationship is proximity. The drive time between Detroit and Grand Rapids is two and a half hours.

That means that if the Red Wings

See **NOTES**, Page **4B**

## Wolverines beat Nittany Lions in a blowout

■ **Harris, Coleman, Abram lead Michigan to 20-point victory.**

The Associated Press

**ANN ARBOR** — Dion Harris, Ron Coleman and Lester Abram each scored 13 points, leading Michigan to a 77-57 victory over Penn State on Wednesday night.

The Wolverines (15-4, 3-1 Big Ten) led by as many as 25 points, thanks mainly to their success from the perimeter. Michigan connected on a season-high 12 3-point field goals, including back-to-back treys from Abram and Reed Baker



**U-M 77**  
**Penn St. 57**

that gave the Wolverines a 58-40 lead. Michigan finished 12-for-21 from beyond the arc.

The Nittany Lions (10-7, 1-3 Big Ten) trailed by double digits over the final 25 minutes of their fourth straight road loss. Jamelle Cornley led Penn State with 15 points and Geary Claxton had 13.

Michigan, which led 38-25 at halftime, built a double-digit lead with 5:03 remaining in the first half on Baker's 3-point field goal. Penn State trailed by only one earlier in the half before the Wolverines used an 8-0 run to pull away.



Penn State guard Geary Claxton, left, and Michigan forward Courtney Sims (44) chase a loose ball in the first half at Chrisher Arena in Ann Arbor.

AP photo

### SPORTS INSIDER

#### Blockbuster trade

Pacers unload Stephen Jackson and Al Harrington to Golden State in eight-player deal.

Page 2B



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# Family tradition

■ Gruenberg wants to cap off stellar career with 200 wins and state title.

— EASTPOINTE

When entering Eastpointe East Detroit's gymnasium and look up at the wrestling banner on the wall, you tend to notice one last name that continuously shows up — Gruenberg.



**Chuck Pleiness**  
ON THE MAT

er sixth-place finish his junior year at 125 before capping up of high school career with a state title at 130 after pinning Davison's Kyle Kidder at 1:59 of the first period.

Jon is now wrestling at Central Michigan University.

During this time, the youngest boy in the Gruenberg household, Chris, continued to get better under the shadow of his older brothers.

As a freshman, Chris placed eighth at 145 pounds. His sophomore year, the same year Jon won a state title, Chris fell in the semifinals and then fought his way back to place fourth at 152. Last year, Chris improved on his state placing once again, taking home third at 160.

"(My two brothers) got better quicker," Chris said. "I don't know why. My brothers have always beat on me. That's how it's supposed to be when you're the youngest. It's starting to pay off now. I owe that to my brothers."

Chris was the first of his brothers to start wrestling, but it was only because his other two brothers came down with chicken pox.

"He's got like a month on us,"

Richard laughed. "Wrestling started for me because I didn't make the basketball team. And Jon thought wrestling was for sissies because of the uniforms. I thought we'd just be playing soccer and football all our lives. I never thought I'd see the day where all three of us were in a row on a banner."

The three started wrestling for the Roseville Wrestling Club. That lasted all of a year before their dad, Jon, got the East Detroit Wrestling Club up and running again.

"That was so great," Chris said. "I knew I would be able to wrestle everyday if I wanted."

The wrestling club, which the eldest Gruenberg is still the president of, started out with roughly 10 kids, Chris recalled, three of which were Gruenbergs. Now the club has about 60 wrestlers.

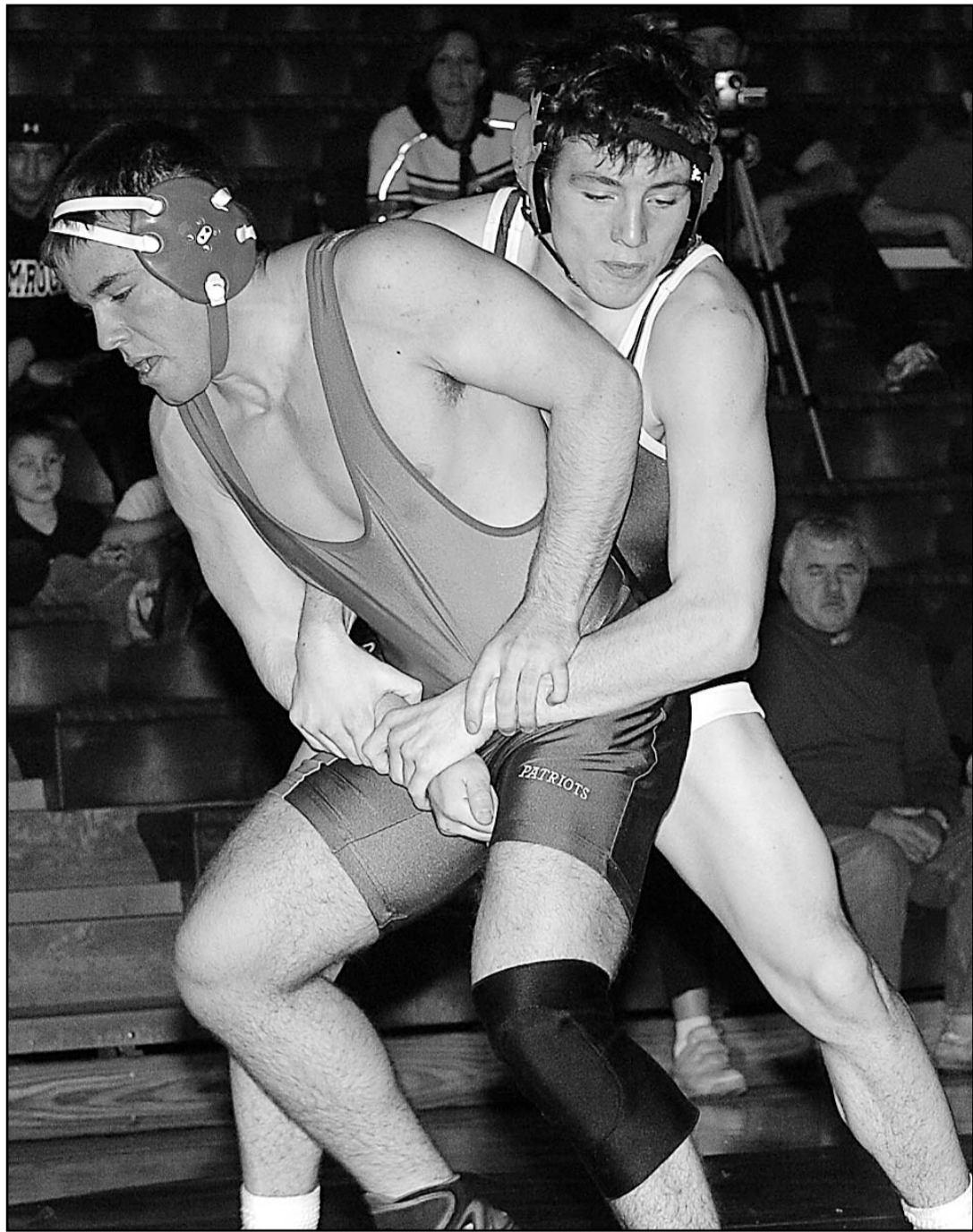
"Our mom and dad have been everywhere supporting us," Richard said. "I kind of feel bad for my (younger) sister because they love watching us and they love the sport of wrestling. They've been a huge influence on us."

The youngest Gruenberg, Erica, is a sophomore at East Detroit and is on the junior varsity volleyball team. Erica tried wrestling out for half a year. According to her brothers, she won just one match, which was against another girl, and then hung up her wrestling shoes. "Once Chris graduates, I'm sure it'll be all volleyball from here on out for my parents," Richard said. "(My sister) has been to enough of these things to know how much time goes into them. And I'm sure she likes the time away from us."

The Gruenbergs have always had the flare for the dramatics.

During Jon's run at the 130-pound title his senior year, he had to knock off two-time defending state champ Anthony Biondo (Clinton Township Chippewa Valley) in the semifinals to advance.

"It was unbelievable," said Richard, who was in the corner for the match against Biondo that his brother pulled out 5-4. "I still sit down to watch the tape sometime. It was so exciting watching that match come down



Macomb Daily staff photo by Craig Gaffield

East Detroit's Chris Gruenberg, right, comes from a wrestling family yet he actually thought about quitting at one time. He's now closing in on his older brother's record for career wins as a Shamrock.

## County rankings

1. Richmond
  2. L'Anse Creuse
  3. Chippewa Valley
  4. Stevenson
  5. Roseville
- Honorable Mention:** Romeo; Sterling Heights; Memphis; Warren-Mott.

to the last three or four seconds. I don't know how to describe it, but it's a feeling you only get once in a lifetime. Hopefully, I'll get to feel it twice."

There is a very good chance Richard will be able to relive those same emotions when the second weekend in March rolls around this year.

When Chris was a sophomore he was in the state semifinals along with his brother Jon, but made a critical mistake during his match. He thought there was more time on the clock than there actually was and eventually lost to Howell's Mike Mixon, 3-2.

"I was so mad, but I had to get back and focus to take third or fourth," Chris said.

Chris was faced with more adversity last year, getting pinned in the first period by Davison's Jon Reader in the quarterfinals.

"After you lose that one you're so down," Chris said. "But if I lose my next match I'm out. It was a do-or-die match."

He went on to outscore his next four opponents at the tournament 34-6 to place third.

"I placed fourth the year before, so not placing (last year) would have made me really upset," Chris said. "I wanted to be a four-time placer."

This year, Chris, who thought about quitting wrestling when he was younger, is undefeated and close to breaking Jon's record for career wins at East Detroit.

He would like to finish his high school career with 200 wins and, yes, a state title.

"If I had to rank us right now,

Jon would be the first, Chris would be second and I would be third," Richard said. "But actual potential, Chris has it. He's a natural. He's got the genes and he's just a big strong guy. Jon and me are skinny little dudes."

"If he wins that state championship it'll just be like Jon all over again," Richard added. "I wanted to be better than him, but I'm glad he's better than me because I've got something to look forward to."

## Match of the week

**Clinton Township Chippewa Valley at Roseville, tonight:** The Panthers aren't accustomed to getting out to such quick starts in the MAC Red, but they find themselves tied atop the division with Chippewa Valley and Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse with 2-0 records. Roseville also takes on Romeo, which was a preseason

See PLEINESS, Page 7B

## ROMEO: Late goal lifts Bulldogs

Continued from Page 1B

LCN opened the third on the power play, and the Crusaders had at least a man advantage for 4:40 of the first six minutes of the period — including a five-on-three for 19 seconds.

But Speck and the Romeo defense stood tall to keep the game scoreless.

"You just have to stay focused," Speck said. "The goalie is the most important player on the penalty kill. You almost have to be extra focused because one mistake can cost you game."

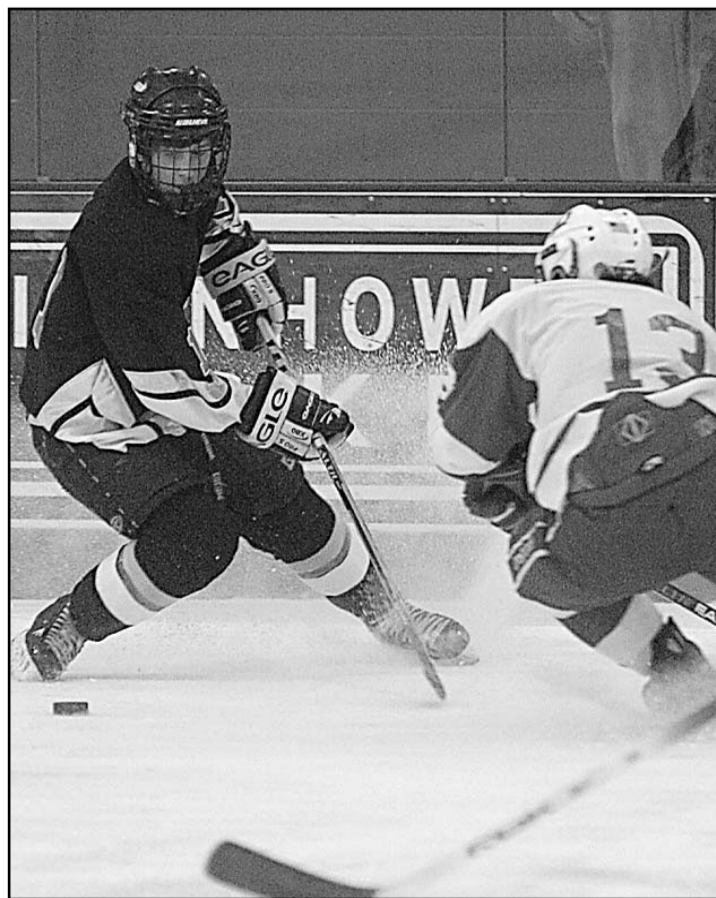
After more than 40 minutes of scoreless hockey, Romeo finally broke through during a four-on-four situation when Hooper redirected Jordan Sirhan's blast to give the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead.

"He carried it in," Hooper said. "And I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time." Added Boggio: "He had a nice tip at an opportune time."

Time, though, started to run out for LCN, and the Crusaders increased the pressure on the Romeo defense.

But Speck again stonewalled them, turning away a blast by the Crusaders Casey Klein with 1:10 left in the game.

LCN then pulled Lagerquist in the final minute, but the Cru-



Macomb Daily staff photo by Ray J. Skowronek

L'Anse Creuse North's Geoff Clanton (9) tries to carry the puck past Romeo's Rob Hutchinson in the Bulldogs' 1-0 victory.

saders could not come up with the equalizer as Romeo hung on for the victory.

"It was evenly played," Marini said. "We both had our chances."

With the victory, Romeo moved into a second-place tie in the MAC White with Romeo and Warren-Sterling United with nine points and kept pace

with first-place Stevenson. The Titans entered Wednesday with 14 points and a 6-1-2 league record.

"This win," Hooper said, "actually has motivated us a lot."

Romeo 1, L'Anse Creuse North 0				
LCN	0	0	0	0
Romeo	0	0	1	0
Goals:	R — Steven Hooper, Assists: R — Jordan Sirhan, Goalkeepers: LCN — Kevin Lagerquist (13 saves); R — Dan Speck (21 saves). Records: LCN — 4-3-1 MAC White, 7-5-1 overall; R — 4-2-1, 7-4-1.			

# Dakota rallies to top GPS

The Macomb Daily Sports Staff

Sometimes going five games can be a good thing.

Just two days after taking out Warren Cousino in a five-game match, Macomb Township Dakota decided to give it another try. The Cougars worked their way out of a two-game hole, knocking off Grosse Pointe

South 24-26, 23-25, 27-25, 25-14, 15-7 on the road to improve

## Volleyball

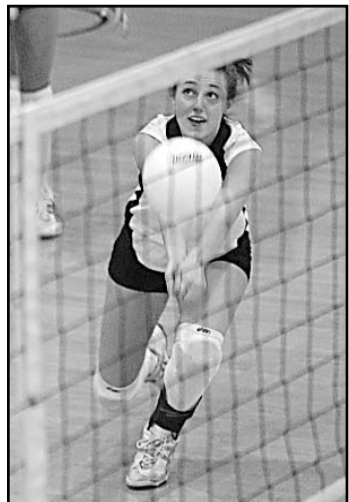
to 3-0 in the MAC White.

"I told the girls that the team with the faster arms, the quicker feet and the stronger legs was going to win the match," Dakota coach Kari Drogosh said. "We took the momentum in that third game and ran with it. It was a big win for us."

Senior middle blocker Nichole Wouters had seven blocks and 22 digs for the Cougars. Junior middle blocker Brigitte Neumayer had 16 digs and 15 kills in the victory.

Grosse Pointe South sophomore middle blocker Nicole Stratelak had 15 kills for the Blue Devils.

Dakota is 7-4-2 overall. Grosse Pointe South is now 2-2 in league play.



Macomb Daily staff photo by Ray J. Skowronek

Utica's Jessica Pomaranski digs the ball in the Chieftains' loss to Warren Woods-Tower.

## CATHOLIC LEAGUE

**WARREN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 25-25-25, WATFORD OUR LADY OF THE LAKES 23-22-22:** Co-captains and fellow junior outside hitters Oksana Blowytsky and Maria Lawrin teamed up to help the Bengals dispatch Our Lady of Lakes. Blowytsky had 16 kills and one ace, and Lawrin added

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 7B

## Schedule

THURSDAY, JAN. 18

- Basketball**  
Immaculate Conception at Huron Valley Lutheran
- Swimming**  
East Detroit at Roseville  
Ford at Chippewa Valley  
Fitzgerald at Clawson  
De La Salle at Fraser  
Lakeview at Marine City  
Lake Shore at Sterling Heights
- Volleyball**  
Algonac at Armada  
Immaculate Conception at Cardinal Mooney  
Macomb Christian at Franklin Road Baptist  
Parkway Christian at Inter-City Baptist  
Utica at St. Clair  
Richmond at Imley City  
Lutheran North at Harper Woods
- Wrestling**  
Anchor Bay, Lincoln, Utica at Warren Woods-Tower  
Chippewa Valley, Lamphire, Romeo at Roseville  
Fraser, Cousino, Marysville at Dakota  
Lakeview and Stevenson at East Detroit  
Lake Shore, Port Huron Northern and Center Line at Madison  
Utica Quad  
Eisenhower, L'Anse Creuse and Ford at Port Huron  
Fitzgerald, L'Anse Creuse North, Sterling Heights at Warren-Mott
- Grosse Pointe South, De La Salle, Memphis and Mount Clemens at New Haven**

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

- Basketball**  
Anchor Bay at Roseville  
Armada at Almont  
Center Line at Lamphire  
Chippewa Valley at Dakota  
Clintondale at Lakeview  
Old Redford at Conner Creek West  
Cousino at L'Anse Creuse North  
De La Salle at Notre Dame Prep  
Lake Shore at East Detroit  
L'Anse Creuse at Eisenhower  
Port Huron at Ford  
Sterling Heights at Fitzgerald  
Fraser at South Lake  
Mount Carmel at Immaculate Conception  
New Haven at Lincoln  
Harper Woods at Lutheran North  
Baptist Park at Macomb Christian  
Memphis at Akron-Fairgrove  
Parkway Christian at Plymouth Christian  
Croswell-Lexington at Richmond  
Utica at Romeo  
Port Huron Northern at Stevenson  
Madison at Warren-Mott  
Warren Woods-Tower at Marine City
- Hockey**  
Eisenhower at Utica (@ Suburban Ice — Macomb)  
Lamphire at L'Anse Creuse (@ Mount Clemens Ice Arena)  
Romeo at Warren-Sterling United (@ Viking Arena)  
Dakota at Ford (@ Great Lakes Sports City)
- Swimming**  
Dakota, L'Anse Creuse, Eisenhower, Utica, Ford, L'Anse Creuse North, Stevenson, Warren Woods-Tower at Romeo Relays

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

- Bowling**  
Macomb County Championship
- Gymnastics**  
Fraser at Farmington Invitational
- Hockey**  
St. Clair at Eisenhower (@ Suburban Ice — Macomb)  
Lamphire at L'Anse Creuse North (@ Mount Clemens Ice Arena)  
Divine Child at De La Salle  
Grand Rapids South Christian at Warren-Sterling United (@ Viking Arena)  
Anchor Bay at Port Huron Northern (@ McMoran Ice Arena)  
Chippewa Valley at St. Clair Shores Unified (@ St. Clair Shores Civic Arena)  
Dakota at Utica (@ Suburban Ice — Macomb)
- Swimming**  
Warren-Mott and Fitzgerald at Hazel Park Relays
- Volleyball**  
Dakota and Cousino at Madonna Tournament  
Lutheran North, Ford and Stevenson at Northwood Timberwolf Tournament  
Auburn Hills Christian at Macomb Christian  
Mount Clemens at Madison Invitational  
Eisenhower, Lake Shore, Roseville, South Lake and Grosse Pointe North at Fraser Invitational  
Warren Woods-Tower at Ortonville Brandon Invitational  
Warren-Mott at Varsity Bear Classic
- Wrestling**  
Richmond and Anchor Bay at Hudson Invitational  
Armada, Chippewa Valley at Jackson Northwest Tournament  
De La Salle, Lutheran North, Warren-Mott and Eisenhower at Grosse Pointe North  
Fraser and Romeo at Hartland Duals  
New Haven at Woodhaven Invitational  
Lincoln at Fenton Tournament  
Dakota at Sparta Tournament  
Memphis at Mayville Tournament  
L'Anse Creuse at Chelsea Team Tournament  
Sterling Heights at Williamston Mooney Classic  
Roseville, Berkley, Brighton, Farmington, Lake Shore, Lincoln Park, Pontiac Central, Port Huron, Seaholm, Southfield, U-D Jesuit, West Bloomfield at Warren Woods-Tower's Clash of the Titans

SUNDAY, JAN. 21

No games scheduled

## Results

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

- Hockey**  
Romeo 1, L'Anse Creuse North 0  
Anchor Bay 5, L'Anse Creuse 2
- Volleyball**  
Clintondale 25-26-25, Madison 19-24-20  
Cousino 26-25-25, Romeo 24-22-22  
Dakota 24-23-27-25-15, Grosse Pointe South 26-25-25-14-7  
Grosse Pointe North 25-25-25, Chippewa Valley 21-19-19  
Immaculate Conception 25-25-25, Our Lady of the Lakes 23-22-22  
Lakeview 25-25-25, Lake Shore 20-19-14  
L'Anse Creuse 25-25-25, Port Huron Northern 19-21-13  
Lamphire 25-25-25, New Haven 7-20-16  
South Lake 14-25-25, East Detroit 25-21-14-23  
Stevenson 25-25-24-25, Port Huron 17-21-26-22  
Warren Woods-Tower 25-25-25, Utica 22-21-21

**Coaches: Call in your scores at (586) 469-4771.**