

## The Macomb Daily/ Sunkist Athletes of the Week



### Jeff Monfils

**School:** Dakota  
**Sport:** Hockey

**Highlights:** A captain and three-year varsity player, Monfils scored a goal and assisted on two others in the Cougars' 5-2 victory over Walled Lake Central on Nov. 20.



### Kei Cze Prentis

**School:** Eisenhower  
**Sport:** Swimming

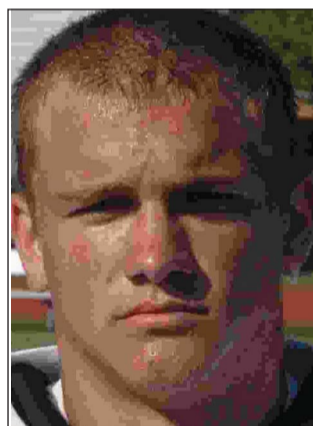
**Highlights:** Prentis finished eighth in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:00.25 at the Division 1 state finals on Saturday, becoming the first Eisenhower swimmer in 27 years to earn all-state honors.



### Brooke Will

**School:** L'Anse Creuse  
**Sport:** Swimming

**Highlights:** Will placed eighth in the 50 freestyle with a time of 25.20 seconds at the Division 1 state finals on Saturday, and she helped the Lancers' 200 medley relay team place eighth and the 400 freestyle team finish 11th.



### D.J. Mershman

**School:** Stevenson  
**Sport:** Football

**Highlights:** Mershman caught a 12-yard touchdown pass — his 20th of the season — in Stevenson's 37-35 victory over Clarkston in a Division 1 state semifinal on Saturday.



### Joe Biernat

**School:** De La Salle  
**Sport:** Football

**Highlights:** A two-year starter for De La Salle on both the offensive and defensive lines, Biernat helped the Pilots reach the state semifinals the past two seasons.



### Jacob Warwinsky

**School:** Warren Woods-Tower  
**Sport:** Soccer

**Highlights:** After missing last season with a sprained ACL, Warwinsky scored a team-high 23 goals for the Titans this year.



Submitted photo  
Stevenson senior Ashley Hardy, left, stands on the podium to receive her second-place medal in diving at the Division 1 state finals. Hardy finished as the runner-up behind three-time champion Cheyenne Cousineau of Temperance-Bedford, center. At right is third-place finisher Carla McNamara of Livonia Stevenson.

## Hardy shines at state finals

### 'Everything' went well for Stevenson senior diver

By John Hetzler  
Macomb Daily Sports Writer

For Ashley Hardy, it was as good as it gets.

Hardy, a senior at Stevenson, capped a stellar high-school career — and a record-breaking senior season — by finishing second in the diving competition at the Division 1 state finals last weekend in Holland.

Hardy met her pre-meet objectives by improving her score (432.50) and her place from last season, when she placed fifth with a 398.45.

"Everything" went well, Stevenson diving coach Adam

Wadie said. "She didn't miss a single dive. We couldn't have peaked at a more perfect time."

After setting meet records at both the Macomb County Swimming and Diving Championships and the MAC White Division meet, Hardy saved her best performance for last.

She also saved her best dive for last, nailing a front two-and-one-half pike on her final dive of the meet.

"It's a huge dive," Wadie said. "It's really difficult. We decided to stick with it because she was riding the board really well."

She received scores of 6.5s and 7s for the dive to sew up second place, part of a terrific overall showing by Macomb County competitors at the finals.

In addition to Hardy, Dakota junior Hannah Pugh (sixth, 200 freestyle; sixth, 500 freestyle); L'Anse Creuse junior Nichole Contesti (seventh, 200 freestyle); L'Anse Creuse sophomore Ni-

cole Hranchook (eighth, 200 IM); L'Anse Creuse senior Brooke Will (eighth, 50 free); and Eisenhower junior Kei Cze Prentis (eighth, 100 backstroke) all finished in the top eight to earn all-state honors.

Also, the L'Anse Creuse 200 medley relay team of Contesti, Hranchook, Will and Allie Starnes placed eighth and the Lancers finished 11th overall as a team.

"We had a really good showing," Wadie said.

It was also a good showing for Wadie, who was named the diving coach of the year by the Michigan Intercollegiate Swim Coaches Association.

Wadie also coached Stevenson sophomore Chelsea Evans, who competed in the Division 1 finals, and Sterling Heights' Emily Goldston, who competed in the Division 2 finals.

"It was one of the greatest years I've ever had," Wadie said.

## Roseville seeks banner season

Another in a series of girls high school basketball previews. Today, county teams from the Macomb Area Conference Gold Division: Lake Shore, L'Anse Creuse North and Roseville.

By Tom Lang  
Special to The Macomb Daily

### Lake Shore

**Coach:** Jim Roehm  
**2008-09 record:** 4-6 MAC Gold, 9-12 overall

**Outlook:** The Lake Shore squad came oh so close to a winning season last year that the Shorians hope to jump over that hump in coach Jim Roehm's third season. "We'd like to get back to our winning ways," he said. "We lost four games by less than five points so our record could have been a lot better. We graduated six girls, so we're going to be really young. We're going to work hard; they know we have a lot to make up for with the loss of so many players."

Those who do return include two starters. Senior F/C Christine Hardy has earned all-league twice, last year averaging 13 points and 10 rebounds when she was a Macomb County Class A all-star.

"She's our unquestioned leader on and off the floor," Roehm said. "She was voted team MVP as a junior and two of her teammates ended up playing college ball (Katie D'Hondt and Lindsey Swarthout)."

The other returning starter is junior G Sara Coppola (6 point average), plus junior Alicia Huerta came up half way through last season and played well off the bench. Senior F Leslie Klenner and senior G Dani Reveley also return.

"We made a lot of turnovers

### Girls Basketball

last year so a goal of the girls this year is taking better care of the ball and being smarter with it," Roehm added. "They're very willing to learn and that's good and there's a lot of basketball ahead of them."

### L'Anse Creuse North

**Coach:** Bob Johnston  
**2008-09 record:** 3-7 MAC Gold, 5-16 overall

**Outlook:** If there's one thing that needs to change for the Crusaders in 2009-10, it's scoring.

"We have to score more than 36 points a game, that's number one," said coach Bob Johnston. "To do that we need to do two things. First is getting physically stronger, and two, shooting better."

"We've done a lot of extra work on that in the off season, which is not what they did the year before I came in. The girls have done a lot of shooting since March, but only time will tell if we've improved on that."

Four key players return that hope to turn around last season's disappointment: senior G Katarina Bartley, junior G Stephanie Garland, junior F Jessica Finegan and sophomore G Ashley Dunford.

Johnston said Bartley started scoring about eight points per game the second half of the season.

"She gained a little confidence late and started shooting the ball good for us," he added.

"Because we're fairly young, we need to work on the ability to see the floor, to recognize opportunities offensively. And like all areas that will take some time. It's something we talked about a lot but we need to rep that more to know how it will work out."

"We're more athletic than we were last year and probably better equipped to handle ourselves in the league."

This is a fun group to be around. They have a good relationship and work hard. It's fun to go to practice. I like our rebounding and passing. We play at any tempo, but we prefer to run a lot. Hopefully, the other teams will play our tempo.

— Roseville coach Cliff Piper

Five players graduated last season, leaving on varsity a total of two freshmen, four sophomores, five juniors and the lone senior Bartley.

"I really like the team's camaraderie," Johnston said. "They seem to get along really well and the older kids have taken it upon themselves to bring along the younger kids and make them part of the program. That's very important to their success."

### Roseville

**Coach:** Cliff Piper  
**2008-09 record:** 8-2 MAC Gold, 14-7 overall

**Outlook:** There is an important piece of material missing for the Roseville gymnasium.

"We don't have a girls basketball league championship banner in the gym and want to change that," said 13-year coach Cliff Piper. "I think we can be a very good team again. Our goal is to win the league" after finishing second last season.

"We have a very balanced team; most of the starters can score 10 points a game each."

Those returning starters are: senior C Shelby Saikowski, (all-conference, 12 points, 10 rebound average), senior F DaJanae Wilson (all-conference, 10 point average), and senior point guard Erica Martin.

"I call her the Peyton Manning of the team," Piper said. "Hopefully she knows what I'm thinking before I do. I'm so thrilled to

### Briefs

#### Delore steps down as Richmond coach

Ed Delore has resigned as the head baseball coach at Richmond High School. "It's for good reasons," said Delore, who has two sons ages 9 and 7. "I've missed too much over the years." In 13 years as the head coach at Richmond, Delore has posted a 251-88 overall record. Delore led the Blue Devils to nine league championships, five district titles and the program's only regional championship in 2003.

#### All-Star dinner tickets available

Tickets for the annual Macomb Daily Football Awards Dinner are available at the newspaper office on North River Road in Mount Clemens. Tickets are \$20 for the event that starts at 7 p.m. on Monday at Mirage in Clinton Township. At the dinner, players named to the Tier 1 and Tier 2 all-star teams will be honored. The Macomb Daily offices are closed today, but tickets can be purchased Friday and Monday. Call the sports department evenings at (586) 469-4771 for more information.

### Football

#### STATE FINALS

**ALL GAMES AT FORD FIELD**  
**DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Detroit Catholic Central (13-0) 109.333 vs. Stevenson (13-0) 120.889 - S 1:00 PM  
**DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Lowell (12-1) 96.889 vs. Inkster (9-3) 65.111 - F 1:00 PM  
**DIVISION 3 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
East Grand Rapids (13-0) 112.444 vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's (8-4) 59.222 - S 7:30 PM  
**DIVISION 4 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Three Rivers (13-0) 96.000 vs. Marshall (12-1) 91.444 - F 7:30 PM  
**DIVISION 5 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Clare (13-0) 91.556 vs. Jackson Lumen Christi (12-1) 90.444 - S 4:30 PM  
**DIVISION 6 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Montague (13-0) 96.889 vs. Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central (12-1) 91.444 - F 4:30 PM  
**DIVISION 7 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Traverse City St. Francis (13-0) 83.556 vs. Hudson (13-0) 96.000 - S 10:00 AM  
**DIVISION 8 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Crystal Falls Forest Park (11-2) 54.556 vs. Beal City (12-1) 71.111 - F 10:00 AM

Coaches and athletic directors may nominate athletes from any sport. E-mail biographical information and a head shot in .jpg format to sports@macombdaily.com.