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Schools retreat from in-person learning

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Some area schools are retreating from in-person learning as COVID-19 cases rise again.

Huron Valley administrators announced Nov. 5, after nearly a week of

all-virtual learning for students, that most students throughout the district would not return to in-person learning until at least Nov. 16. Grades 6-12 will not return until Nov. 20.

In a letter to families, Superintendent Paul Salah wrote that the district's communities had had a four-fold increase in

COVID-19 cases since Oct. 19. Additionally, the district had seen an eight-fold increase in positive cases, and a 26-fold increase in quarantined individuals across school buildings in that same time frame.

He stressed that the board of education made a decision Oct. 19 to increase

face-to-face instruction with the caveat that they would continue to "follow data trends" and work with the health department to make decisions in the best interest of health and safety.

"It is still our goal to have all students

See SCHOOLS, Page 3A

Novi diver shows resilience after heart defect recovery

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In August 2019, Sarah Kerbrat stepped onto a diving board.

It had once been normal for her – it had been her stage, her place to shine – but as she prepared for her return, the incoming junior knew it was not the same as she had left it.

"It was a little hard getting off the board because I was off it for so long and I wasn't used to the way it moved," Kerbrat said.

Kerbrat returned after 22 months away from the diving board, recovering from a 10-millimeter atrial septal defect diagnosis – what she called "a hole in my heart" – after suffering migraines that kept her sidelined at the end of her freshman season with the Wildcats.

But while Kerbrat knew she was not jumping as high as she was used to, nor getting off the board like she was used to, relief washed over her when she hit the water again.

"I was finally able to return to something I loved doing and missed so much," Kerbrat said. "It made me realize I shouldn't take it for granted and go for everything I want now."

Kerbrat wants a chance at a state title, something she had been working toward since returning to the board. But the Novi senior already has one thing checked off her list: earning a scholarship to dive at the University of Indianapolis starting next season.

Over the past calendar year, Kerbrat has built herself up, setting goals and reaching them due to pure resilience and a determination to continue what she started when she first began to dive at age 9.

A different battle

Kerbrat liked to be in the air. She grew up competing in gymnastics and competitive cheer until she was removed after three concussions.

Her mother, Jennifer, moved Sarah to the pool, hoping she would continue what her older sister Katie had done since she was 5.

See DIVER, Page 2A



Sarah Kerbrat



Novi High School senior diver Sarah Kerbrat practices Oct. 27 in preparation for Thursday's regional competition. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

14 Mile closure delayed

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Road Commission for Oakland County announced last week that a detour for a water main installation project along 14 Mile Road between M-5 and Decker and Novi roads has been delayed.

Commission representatives said the contractor is Great Lakes Water Authority and did not know the reasons for the delay. Authority representatives said the road closure – and consequent detour – should happen Nov. 16 to accommodate all necessary approvals and finalized plans.

The water main installation is planned for the intersection of Welch Drive and 14 Mile Road.

When the detour starts, drivers traveling along 14 Mile Road will have to head north on Decker Road, east on Maple Road and south on M-5 before returning to 14 Mile Road and vice versa, affecting potentially 11,600 drivers a day.

The road work still is likely to last until early January.

Milford Skatepark ready to roll

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Milford Skatepark is finally here and ready to roll.

The park opened Oct. 28, after several weeks of construction and years of community fundraising.

The 6,000-square-foot concrete park is located near the village offices, 1100 Atlantic St., and was built by Spohn Ranch, a construction firm based in California, at a cost of about \$250,000. In-kind services and donations from local businesses as well as contributions from the village council

See SKATEPARK, Page 2A

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Skatepark

Continued from Page 1A

and township board made the skate park possible.

The park is open from dawn to dusk. In addition to skateboarders, the park welcomes those on scooters, BMX bikes, and roller skates.

No supervision is provided – the park is “skate at your own risk.”

Village officials urge park users to follow CDC guidelines related to the coronavirus pandemic, including wearing masks and social distancing.

A grand opening is planned for the spring “subject to COVID-related restrictions that may be in effect,” after final



Work continues Oct. 28 at the Milford Skatepark at Fairgrounds Park. The park opened that evening. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

additions are made including landscaping and permanent signage.

For more information,

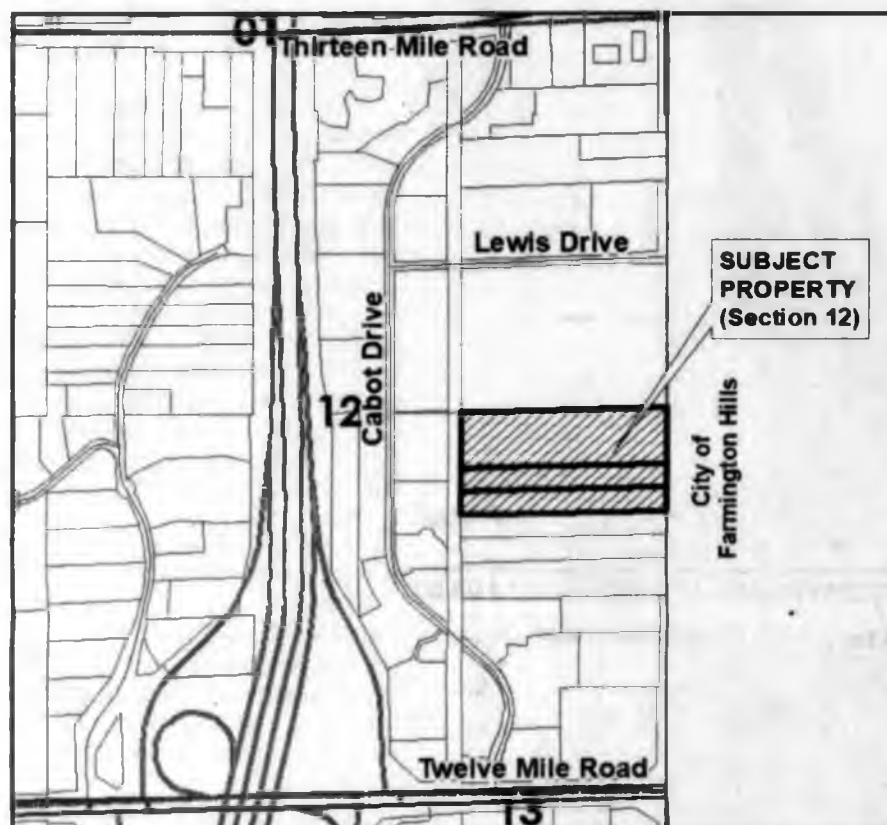
visit villageofmilford.org/skatepark.

Contact reporter Susan Bromley at sbromley@hometownlife.com

or 517-281-2412. Follow her on Twitter @SusanBromley10.

CITY OF NOVI
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:00 P.M., on the Zoom Video Conference electronic meeting platform to consider **INNOVA APARTMENTS JSP19-24 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, PHASING PLAN, WETLAND PERMIT, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY ZONED RM-2 (HIGH-DENSITY MID-RISE MULTIPLE FAMILY) WITH AN ASSOCIATED PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY (PRO) AGREEMENT.** The subject property is located on the west side of Haggerty Road, north of Twelve Mile Road in Section 12 of the City of Novi. The property totals about 22 acres. The applicant is proposing to develop a 272-unit multiple-family residential development. The development consists of two attached townhouse style buildings and seven apartment-style buildings. The development is served by a private street network with two entrances off Haggerty Road. On-site and off-site wetland mitigation is proposed.



The off-site location for 0.59 acres of wetland creation is located south of Grand River Avenue and west of Providence Parkway on parcel 22-17-101-010, in Section 17 of the City.



Plans are available for review at the Community Development Department in the Novi Civic Center, or by contacting the Community Development Department at the following email address: bmcbeth@cityofnovi.org.

Subject Property Parcel ID's: 50-22-12-400-009, 50-22-12-400-010 and 50-22-12-400-011; and 50-22-17-101-010

Special Instructions for Remote Meeting Procedure:

NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, MCL 16.261, ET SEQ., AS AMENDED. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE ELECTRONICALLY, AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

In order to connect to the meeting through ZOOM a member of the public needs to do the following:

- Install Zoom App on mobile device or phone. A link to download the Zoom App may be found online at CityofNovi.org
- Click the link provided to join the meeting

Members of the public participating in the public comment via ZOOM will wait in a virtual queue until called during the public comment period.

When public comment is permitted, members of the public will be called one at a time, as would happen during an in-person meeting. A meeting coordinator will determine the order of public speakers. If you want to speak, you must use the “Raise Hand” feature in order for our moderator to know they need to be unmuted. When you are unmuted you will have three (3) minutes to share your comments to the public body. At the conclusion of your comments or your three (3) minutes, you will be re-muted and then removed from the queue.

Participants may also choose to submit comments that can be read into the record. Comments can be submitted via an electronic form on www.cityofnovi.org. Comments shall be done prior to 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The electronic form can be found at: www.cityofnovi.org/pcomment

Novi Planning Commission
Michael Lynch, Secretary

Publish: November 12, 2020

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Diver

Continued from Page 1A

To Sarah's mother, it was the safest competitive sport possible. But as Sarah swam, she could not help but notice the divers practicing near her.

“I thought it was cool with all the flips they were doing,” Sarah said. “I was always more interested in that than being in swimming.”

Sarah later joined the Novi High School diving team as a freshman, catching the attention of head coach Don Mason, who said it's rare to have divers come into his program with any level of experience.

Sarah Kerbrat made an impression right away, qualifying for regionals in her first year with the Wildcats, bringing her methodical approach to diving – not learning a new dive until the previous one was mastered – to the roster.

But migraines, which Kerbrat had dealt with since she was a child, ground that freshman-year momentum to a halt.

Preparing for her regional meet, Kerbrat knew something was not right.

“All of a sudden, I couldn't see,” Kerbrat said. “After that, I don't really remember what happened. I just remember not being able to go to the meet and waking up in the hospital and being really upset because I had worked so hard for something and to have it all be taken away right there was very tough.”

As the migraines returned intermittently over the course of the next few months, Kerbrat saw a neurologist, who suggested a heart check. The check proved to be more serious than Jennifer Kerbrat expected.

“They didn't understand why or how she was walking,” Jennifer said.

Sarah was diagnosed with an atrial septal defect and referred to a doctor at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, where she was quickly prepped for surgery.

“When she got

wheeled away from us, they didn't know what they were going to do with her,” Jennifer said. “It was the worst two hours of my life.”

While initial recovery time was expected to be three to six months, Sarah's recovery took a bit longer after health issues arose from the nickel plating used to pin the defect.

Instead of returning to life as normal, Sarah was forced to do homebound schooling for nine weeks, unable to see her friends from her club team, and missing both her sophomore and club diving seasons.

Mason said he talked to Sarah's mother from time to time about the diver's status, hoping for her return prior to the start of her junior year.

“There was something very persistent about her in her character that has allowed her to deal with some of these hardships, and she has had to learn from scratch how to do these things,” Mason said.

Return to form

Jennifer Kerbrat knows what kind of toll diving takes on her daughter's body. She knows what could go wrong: from bruising to concussions to a damaged ACL or meniscus.

When Sarah returned to practice, Jennifer saw how weak she was. Over the course of Sarah's recovery, her mother knew she would have to put forth effort to make it back to the level she was at prior to her surgery.

But then Sarah started to compete.

During her junior season, Sarah consistently placed in the top half of competitions, surpassing her own expectations of what she was capable of doing and coming extremely close to making the state meet in 2019.

Mason said the first third of the season was Sarah getting her feet wet.

And when her strength returned and her diving improved, confidence ensued.

Mason described Sarah as a different person. “Just going through

the normal season, she picked up a lot of strength,” Mason said. “Her coordination came back real quick. I don't know if she ever lost it, but as she gained her confidence and she felt good on the diving boards, her confidence helped her to dive better.”

During the course of the coronavirus pandemic, Sarah became even stronger, working on an outside diving board while building up strength with consistent training throughout the summer.

Heading into her senior year at Novi, Sarah said she felt 100% back to where she had been before her heart surgery.

With her ability restored, Sarah soon shifted her focus to finding a home for the next four years.

The senior said she had researched the University of Indianapolis for years, following head coach Dave McKown on social media after a teammate at Legacy had joined the team.

After connecting with the team in September, Sarah and her family soon made their way to campus, where she felt its impact right away.

“The second I walked onto the campus before meeting anyone, I knew that was where I wanted to go,” she said. “When I walked on it, I felt an instant connection. I didn't want to go to a huge school with a giant campus. I wanted to go to a smaller school where you almost know everyone and people will recognize you just walking or at the library or something.”

“When we met the team, it just got even better because I just had an instant connection with everybody.”

Now knowing where she will go to college, Sarah has shifted her focus to the state meet. She believes she has a good shot, since she really has nothing to lose, knowing what she has gone through in her four years of high school.

To Jennifer, her daughter has a story to tell.

“These kids at this age think they are invincible, and Sarah learned that she is not,” Jennifer said.

“Sarah learned that she could die.”

“That was the biggest thing: my child, at 14, learned mortality, and she came back from that.”

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com



Due to the holiday, our office hours and obituary placement times may vary.

Please contact us at 800-926-8237 or detroitobits@gannett.com for further details.

Local votes for U.S. President

	Donald Trump	Joe Biden
Commerce Township	15257	12119
Highland Township	7974	4523
Lyon Township	7523	5612
Milford Township	6323	4939
Northville City	1906	2378
Northville Township	9555	11001
Novi	14,623	20465
Novi Township	54	63
South Lyon	3758	3532
Walled Lake	2056	2006
Wixom	3748	4308
White Lake	11657	7827

CHART BY PHILIP ALLEN
USA TODAY NETWORK

How metro Detroit communities voted for president

Philip Allen HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There were a lot of voters this year. Roughly 3.23 million Michigan residents sent in their votes through absentee ballots and more than 5.5 million votes in total were cast, passing the previous record of 5 million votes during President Barack Obama's historic 2008 election.

Here are the unofficial vote totals for Hometown Life area communities in the presidential election.



President Donald Trump, left, and former Vice President Joe Biden.
USA TODAY NETWORK

County commissioner race results for Oakland County

David Veselenak HometownLife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The county commission races joined many other races on the ballot Nov. 3. Here are the results for local districts in Oakland County in the Hometown Life coverage area.

Elected officials on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners each serve for two years.

Oakland County

District 2 (Highland Township, Rose Township, Holly Township, Groveland Township and Springfield Township)

Robert Hoffman, R-Highland, will continue as county commissioner for this northwest Oakland County seat after he defeated Democratic challenger Jim Williams of Highland. Hoffman received 22,897 votes, while Williams received 11,152 votes.

District 8 (South Lyon, Wixom, Lyon Township, Milford Township, Milford village)

Incumbent commissioner Phil Weipert will remain the county commissioner for southwest Oakland County. The South Lyon Republican defeated Wixom Democrat Toni Nagy 22,560-14,519.

District 9 (Novi, Northville and Novi Township)

Incumbent Gwen Markham, D-Nov, appears to have held off Republican challenger David Staudt to continue representing Novi on the board of commissioners. Markham received 19,454 votes while Staudt, Novi's mayor pro-tem, received 15,847 votes.

District 12 (Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, part of Bloomfield Township)

Republican Chuck Moss appears to have kept this seat for the GOP on the commission, defeating Democrat Kelly Dillaha. Moss received 21,498 votes while Dillaha received 19,891 votes. Moss will replace Commissioner Shel-



A voter fills out a ballot application card at the Westland Library on Nov. 3.
JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ley Goodman Taub, who did not run for reelection.

District 13 (part of Farmington Hills, part of West Bloomfield Township, part of Bloomfield Township)

Marcia Gershenson, D-Bloomfield Hills, will continue representing this district on the board of commissioners. She defeated Republican challenger Max Rohtbart of West Bloomfield 23,339-12,327.

District 14 (Farmington, Southfield Township, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin, part of Farmington Hills)

Commissioner William Miller, D-Farmington, will remain in this south-central Oakland County seat after defeating Farmington Hills Republican Theresa Noseworthy. Miller received 22,018 votes while Noseworthy picked up 13,454 votes.

District 21 (part of Farmington Hills, part of Southfield)

It was an overwhelming victory for Commissioner Janet Jackson, D-Southfield, who defeated Republican challenger Bill Smith of Farmington Hills. Jackson received 27,111 votes to Smith's 5,347 votes to continue to represent eastern Farmington Hills and western Southfield on the Board of Commissioners.

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Stevens holds off Esshaki in U.S. House 11th District

Todd Spangler Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, a Democrat from Rochester Hills, has defeated Republican newcomer Eric Esshaki in Michigan's 11th Congressional District race, winning election to a second two-year term.

The Associated Press called the race at 11:10 a.m. Thursday, with Stevens leading Esshaki 50%-48% and all of the votes counted.

"I am honored and humbled to represent Michigan's 11th District in Congress for a second term," Stevens said. "We face significant challenges in the

months to come, from the COVID-19 pandemic to an extended period of economic recovery.

"I intend to work with Republicans and Democrats alike to stand up for Michigan workers and small businesses, and protect the health and safety of everyone to get our economy back on track."

Stevens, who had previously served as the de facto chief of staff to former President Barack Obama's auto task force, won election in 2018, flipping what had previously been a Republican-leaning district covering western Wayne and southeastern Oakland counties. Republican U.S. Rep. Dave Trott of Birmingham, did not run for reelection to a third two-year term that year.

But President Donald Trump won the district in 2016, though it was by the smallest margin of any congressional district he won in Michigan, at 4.4 percentage points.

Esshaki, a Birmingham lawyer and former nurse, was making his first run for public office. The two have tangled throughout the fall over health care. Esshaki has argued Stevens' support of a Medicare-like public option for people on individual health insurance exchanges could lead to further government control of health care. Stevens has claimed Esshaki had not been clear

enough about how he would protect people with preexisting conditions.

Meanwhile, Stevens had maintained a large financial edge in the race, having raised \$5.3 million to Esshaki's \$1.2 million as of Oct. 15.

Outside groups poured money into the race as well: The Republican-backed Congressional Leadership Fund spent some \$2.4 million on ads against Stevens and, in recent weeks, both former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg's Independence USA political action committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee have hit Esshaki with more than \$2 million in ads.

State House races: Pohutsky wins re-election in 19th District

Susan Vela Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Democrat state Rep. Laurie Pohutsky was able to hold onto her state Capitol seat in a close race.

Unofficial results from the Livonia City Clerk show the incumbent candidate with 29,479 votes. Republican contender Martha Ptashnik, a Livonia Public Schools math teacher, received 29,221 votes.

That's a difference of a mere 258 votes.

"It was a relief," said Pohutsky, who had expected a narrow margin. "We certainly weren't taking anything for granted or getting comfortable over the last two years."

While COVID-19 is an immediate issue for politicians, Pohutsky, 32, is also hoping to sponsor and support legislation that would curb human trafficking, protect the environment and make affordable healthcare accessible.

Ptashnik continued teaching Wednesday morning but shared these comments: "I am very proud of our campaign and humbled by all of the support we received. Throughout the campaign I met a lot of great people, built a lot of new friendships and I will continue to be a strong advocate for our Livonia students, seniors and public safety officers."



Democrat state Rep. Laurie Pohutsky held on to her state Capitol seat.
COURTESY OF LAURIE POHUTSKY

work started when she was elected in 2018. As a scientist, she has called for evidence-based policies.

Ptashnik is a lifelong Livonia resident who wanted to fight for seniors and safe and healthy schools. She also wanted to support the Livonia Police Department.

Ray Majkowski voted by mail but, on Tuesday, stood outside Clarenceville High School, one of the city's polling places, to support Democrat candidates, including Pohutsky.

"I met her a couple of times, and she seems to know her business," he said. "I haven't heard any negatives about her."

Brenda Norberg didn't elaborate much on the 19th District race since she cast a straight Republican ticket. She said President Trump needs all the support possible if he's re-elected.

"I like the stance that he takes," Norberg said of the president "He's for this country. He's for the people of this country. When he says something, I trust him. "He needs more respect."

Votes are still being tabulated across metro Detroit. Those districts with 100% voting reported are included. All results are unofficial until certified.

Contact reporter Susan Vela at svela@hometownlife.com or 248-303-8432. Follow her on Twitter @susan-vela.

Other local races

38th District

- Dem Kelly Breen, Novi31,217
- Rep Chase Turner, Northville29,263

16th District

- Dem Kevin Coleman, Westland 28,224
- Rep Emily Bauman, Westland16,937

40th District

- Dem Mari Manoogian, Birmingham38,148
- Rep Kendra Cleary, Bloomfield Hills27,890

44th District

- Dem Denise Forrest, Milford24,065
- Rep Matt Maddock, Milford35,414

35th District

- Dem Kyra Harris Bolden, Southfield49,076
- Rep Daniela Davis, Beverly Hills...9,407
- Lib Tim Yow, Southfield693

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ALL FOR YOU

Voters speak their minds in 'historic election'

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters had a lot to say as they cast their ballots in an election that was described as "historic," "crazy" and "the most important ever" on "Epiphany Tuesday."

Voting was obviously a priority for Ryan Weisberg, 41, who was first in line Nov. 3 at Pierce Elementary, his precinct location in Birmingham.

Weisberg had arrived at 5:10 a.m. to get his spot, nearly two hours before the polls opened. It was his third presidential election in a row being "Voter #1."

"I view this election in the modern era as the most important one for my family's future," said Weisberg, a father of three and Quicken Loans mortgage banker.

He was voting for Joe Biden for president, which he said was not out of the ordinary as he consistently votes for Democrats, and social issues are most important to him.

"What I like about Biden is he is looking to unify the country and bring everyone together to heal our country," he said.

Directly across from Weisberg, waiting third in line at Pierce, was Greg Smith, 58, who represented the opposition.

Smith said he was voting for the incumbent, President Donald Trump, cit-

ing reasons including tax reform and deregulation policies, which he called his "two biggest issues."

The election didn't feel different to Smith, but he noted there "sure is a lot more exuberance. There are a lot of issues at hand that people are passionate about and engaged in."

He said he arrived at Pierce about 6:20 a.m. in order to make sure that when he fed his ballot into the tabulator machine that there were no errors.

On Monday, however, absentee voting was proving popular in communities such as Novi and South Lyon, with lines at the clerk's office as residents requested ballots and voted them before leaving the municipal building, or as already voted ballots were dropped off.

Tammi Porter, 52, was voting for the second time in her life, the first being four years ago when she voted for Hillary Clinton for president.

"I was never into politics, but because I dislike a certain candidate — Trump to be exact — I need to vote," she said. "Enough is enough. Get your butt out and vote."

Tami Lenoir, 60, visited the Novi Civic Center to cast an absentee ballot, too. She has never missed an election since she was 18, and this time she brought along her 4-year-old granddaughter, Caroline Jasinski.

She called this election one that "could be life-changing," although she

wasn't sure if it would be better or worse.

While Lenoir usually votes Republican, with minor deviations on the ticket, she said she did not vote Republican at the top of the ticket this time and the pandemic is playing a role in the respiratory therapist's vote, "probably the biggest role."

Matt Goodman, 50, said he would be sticking with Trump despite some misgivings.

"He's very transparent," Goodman, a military veteran, said. "I may not like him or what he says, in fact, he can't keep his mouth shut, but he does what he says and I tend to agree with his policies. He's gotten us out of the Middle East."

Biden also seemed to draw some lukewarm reactions.

Aja Johnson said she wasn't "particularly elated" with the Democratic choice, but her feelings against Trump were much stronger.

"Not that Biden won't be a great president, but Trump is repulsive with the way he degrades women and the things he says. For four years he has been unchecked, he postures, sits on his box and spews what he wants."

In Farmington Hills, at East Middle School, Nathan Bedford sounded a similar sentiment, but on the opposite side of the fence. His vote was "more against liberal policies than a vote for Trump,"

and even then, he had not made up his mind to vote for Trump until Tuesday.

"I wish there was a reset for primaries," he said.

His wife, Jenny Bedford, agreed. "The political climate in America is a bit unsettling," she said. "I voted for Trump, but it's more for the Republican Party than for him. The elections reach farther than one person, even if it's the president of the United States."

Voting an absentee ballot at the South Lyon municipal building on Monday was not Nancy Richter's ideal scenario, but the one she found herself in this year.

"I was hellbent on going to the polls, but my four progressive adult children were worried about me," she sighed.

Not because of COVID-19, Richter clarified, but about possible violence at the polls from far-right groups such as "the Proud Boys."

"We believe in science, kindness and wearing masks and we are heartbroken over the division and hoping for change," she said.

Who will get their wish remains to be seen.

After arriving earliest at the polls, Weisberg expected to complete his ballot in just a few minutes Tuesday after the doors opened and then, with his important task completed, wait for all that followed him to complete their votes before the final tally comes in.

Incumbents win seats on Wayne County Commission

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Voters in western Wayne County kept their incumbents on the county commission after the Nov. 3 election.

The county commissioners all serve two-year terms. Here are the results from across the Hometown Life coverage area for the Wayne County Commission.

District 8 (Redford Township, Dearborn Heights, part of Livonia)

David Knezek was elected to his first term on the commission after being ap-

pointed to the seat. The Dearborn Heights Democrat won handily over his challenger, U.S. Taxpayers Party member Marc Joseph Sosnowski. Knezek received 40,422 votes while Sosnowski received 7,861 votes.

District 9 (Northville, Northville Township, part of Livonia)

The commission's lone Republican will continue her service after defeating her opponent in the closest election for a seat on the board. Terry Marecki, R-Livonia, defeated Democratic challenger Nancy Darga to remain on the commission. Marecki received 39,394 votes

and Darga, the former Northville mayor pro-tem, received 34,228 votes.

District 10 (Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township)

Commissioner Melissa Daub will continue representing the district after she topped Republican challenger Joe Smith. Daub, D-Canton, received 44,442 votes to Smith's 31,906 votes.

District 11 (Belleville, Romulus, Wayne, Huron Township, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Townships, part of Westland)

Commissioner Al Haidous will return to his seat in Detroit after defeating Lib-

ertarian Jami VanAlstine in Tuesday's election. Haidous, D-Wayne, received 37,725 votes to VanAlstine's 10,390 votes.

District 12 (Garden City, Inkster, part of Westland)

Commissioner Glenn Anderson returns to the commission after defeating Libertarian Andrew Chadderdon to represent this part of western Wayne County. Anderson received 39,495 votes to Chadderdon's 7,582 votes.

Contact reporter David Veselenak at dveselenak@hometownlife.com or 734-678-6728. Twitter: @davidveselenak.

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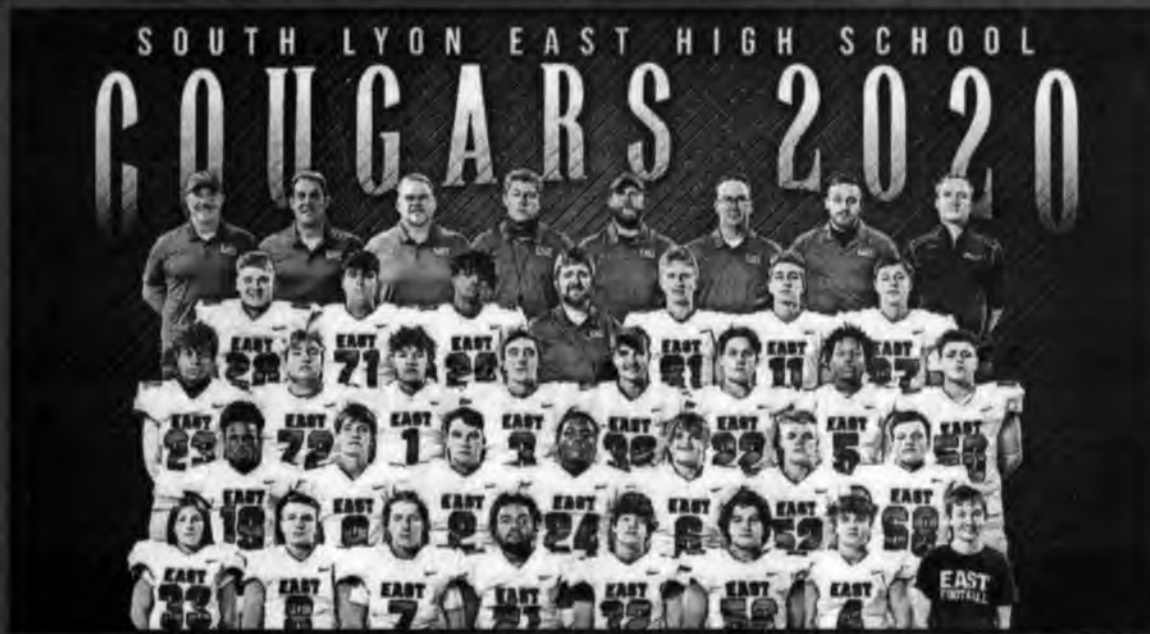
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4 Caden Basch	20 Bryce Lambeth	33 Hannah Becker	71 Grant Roslinski
5 Braedan Tillman Jones	21 Willie Johnson	36 Jayden Laperne	72 Jonah Westlund
6 Joey Bartozek	22 James Patrick	50 Hakim Perry	81 Drake Willenbor
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Meet six first-time voters, ages 18 to 52

Susan Bromley Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Gwen Pinger stood in a long line outside Pierce Elementary School in Birmingham before the sun rose Nov. 3, waiting patiently to cast her first ballot ever.

"It's quite an election to be a first time voter," Pinger said, adding that she would mark Biden on her ballot, citing reasons including healthcare, LGBT rights and climate change. "I'm nervous about the outcome and I've been staring at the moon to calm me. I feel lucky to be participating and it feels like this election is just more important."

This is the first time Pinger, 18, could vote, but several other voters this election had passed up many previous opportunities and were inspired to cast their ballots for the first time in their 30s, 40s, and 50s.

Vicki Lobdell is among them. "This is my first time voting," the 52-year-old said. "I've been registered for years, but my kids are the ones who finally got me to vote."

She was given encouragement by Ari Bryant, 21, who joined her at the City of



Mike Gibson, 44, voted for the first time in his life Nov. 2. He cast his absentee ballot at the South Lyon municipal offices.
SUSAN BROMLEY/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

South Lyon municipal offices Monday to cast absentee ballots.

"It wasn't that hard to get her to vote," Bryant said. "If you're marginalized, your future depends on it."

Mike Gibson, 44, was also voting for the first time in his life Monday in South Lyon and wasn't sure what drove him to finally make his voice heard with a ballot.

"I feel like it's a mess, more so than ever," he said. "I feel like voting for once, but both (presidential candidates) are equally worthless. I'm voting for Trump,

at least I know what I have with him. I don't know what I have with the others. They all lie, so it really doesn't matter."

Jason Liu, 21, of Novi, was excited to vote in his first presidential election. He is a senior at the University of Southern California, studying urban planning and public policy remotely and hopes to go into public service after graduation.

While he would have preferred Andrew Yang as the Democratic candidate, he said he was excited to cast his first vote for president for Joe Biden, who aligns with the issues Liu believes are

important.

He was also anxious. "It's important to turn out our generation to vote," he said. "The current administration is chaotic and dangerous for American democracy."

South Lyon resident Emily Wilson, 38, was not proud that Monday was her first time voting, but said she was driven to finally vote 20 years after she became legally eligible because she is unhappy with the current leadership.

"The way I voted, I would like to see things go in a different direction," she said. "It's time to make a change."

Julia Palushaj, 24, was old enough to vote four years ago, but skipped it because she said she didn't feel informed. This go around, she knows a lot more and said she had done her research. Issues that are important to her include racial injustice, women's rights, the economy and affordable healthcare.

"With everything going on, I've learned a lot being home these last eight months," she said. "I'm voting for Biden. It's also a vote against Trump. I'm kind of nervous, but either way, we will live our daily lives tomorrow and this will all pass."

Local school board race results

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

School board members were elected in multiple districts in the Hometown Life area Nov. 3. Here are the results of those races, unofficial until certified by the board of canvassers.

Livonia Public Schools

Voters welcomed newcomer Madeline Acosta to a 4-year term on the school board with 23,577 votes, while also reelecting Karen Bradford with 27,566 votes; Dan Centers with 23,257 votes, and Tammy Bonifield with 21,279 votes.

Missing the cut were incumbent Crystal Frank, 21,115 votes and Nichole Hoskins-Goudreau, 14,876.

Birmingham Public Schools

Lori Ajlouny won another to a 6-year term easily, garnering 16,561 votes. Winning the other available seat was Luke Joseph with 9,853 votes, narrowly beating Nash Salami, who came in third with 9,812 votes.

Samuel Oh also missed the cut with 7,768 votes. William Clifford Jr ran as a write-in candidate. Unassigned write-in votes were tallied at 3,844.

Bloomfield Hills Public Schools

In a close race, voters elected three newcomers to four year-terms on the school board. Winning seats were Siva Kumar, with 8,048 votes; Michelle Southward with 7,869 votes and squeaking in for the third seat was Jonathan VanGemert with 6,664 votes.

Missing out by just seven votes was Dima El-Gamal, with 6,657. Also not making the cut were Samuel Walker, Nicholas Haugen and Renita James, with 6,324; Samuel Walker with 4,415; and Nicholas Haugen with 2,928.

Huron Valley Schools

Voters in the Huron Valley district elected Laura Dodd, 14,795 votes, and incumbent Jeffrey Long, 13,283 votes, to four-year terms on the school board. Missing out was Mark Gatesman with 9,694 votes.

For the 6-year terms, incumbent Denise Pistana was reelected with 16,162 votes and Tom Wiseman also retained his seat with 15,481 votes.

Incumbent Lindsay Cotter, was elected with 18,454 votes for a term ending Dec. 31, 2022.

Write-in candidates ran against the incumbents in every race, but unassigned write-in votes for those races totaled less than 500 votes apiece.

South Lyon Schools

Incumbents Anthony Abbatte, 12,628 votes, and Daniel Schwegler, 10,714 votes, were easily reelected to 6-year terms on the South Lyon School Board and will be joined by newcomer Martin Leftwich, who received 9,971 votes.

Unassigned write-in candidates received less than 2,000 votes.

The outcome of the race for a partial term on the South Lyon Board ending Dec. 31, 2024 is pending. Bridgett McDowell and Ann Rimanelli were competing for the seat as write-in candidates. About 3,000 votes were cast for write-ins, but they are unassigned as of yet.

Winners in that race won't be known until those votes are counted manually.

Novi Community Schools

Danielle Ruskin, 9,831 votes, Paul Cook, 8,441 votes, and Willy Mena, 7,869 votes, were all reelected to the Novi Board of Education, without opposition for their seats.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

First-time candidates Lauren Christenson and Shawn H. Wilson earned six-year terms on the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education after placing first and third, respectively, in the 10-candidate race for three positions. Incumbent Patrick Kehoe earned the third seat.

Christenson garnered 14,368 votes (17.11%), Kehoe 12,804 (15.24%) and Wilson 11,631 (13.85%).

For the school board seat that will have a term ending Dec. 31, 2022, incumbent Anupam Chugh Sidhu collected 18,016 votes to defeat Sebastian Ostertag (14,066).

Northville Public Schools

Incumbent Sarah Prescott and three newcomers won four-year-term positions on the Northville School Board.

Prescott paced all vote-getters with 11,066, followed by Lisa McIntyre (8,245), Lindsey Wilson (7,475) and James Mazurek (7,359). Sherrie Winfield (7,158 votes) and Kimberly Campbell-Voytal (7,046) fell just short.

Voters pass millages, proposals

David Veselenak Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

In addition to candidates, voters across the region decided on a myriad of proposals and millages across several communities Nov. 3. Here are the results for proposals in the Hometown Life communities that are seemingly decided with 100% percent of the unofficial vote.

Birmingham parks proposal

Voters in Birmingham overwhelmingly approved an \$11.2 million parks proposal that will see bonds issued to help improve the city's parks.

With 100% of precincts reporting, the unofficial total shows the proposal passing with 9,538 "yes" votes and 4,048 "no" votes. With the passage, the city expects to spend the money on items such as the city's ice arena, a new splash pad and a pickleball court added to a park in the city. The passage means the average homeowner with a home valued at \$250,000 will pay about \$51 a year.

South Lyon charter amendment

Voters have decided to clean up South Lyon's city charter and require a majority of city council members be present for a quorum.

The proposal changed the quorum number from three to a majority of the council and was approved by voters, with 5,574 voting "yes" and 673 voting "no." The proposal cleans up language that remained from when South Lyon only had five city council members. The city now has seven council members and will require a majority of them be present for meetings to establish a quorum.

Plymouth Township fire millage renewal

A millage for fire services has been renewed by voters in Plymouth Township for another 20 years.

Voters decided overwhelmingly to renew the millage, first levied in 1981 and renewed in 2001. The 0.9866-mill levy will fund fire services for the township. It was approved with 14,860 "yes" votes to 3,030 "no" votes. It's expected the millage, which will run through 2040, will generate roughly \$1.9 million in its first year.

Wayne RESA enhancement millage

Homeowners will continue sending 2 mills to the Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies for local education after the millage renewal was approved by voters.

The millage, which was renewed for six years, was approved with 502,932 "yes" votes and received 237,222 "no" votes. The millage was voted on by citizens residing within Wayne RESA school districts, which included most of Wayne County and small portions of Oakland, Washtenaw and Monroe counties.

Local township, village election results

From Staff Reports Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Election Day 2020 has come and gone. Voters came out in huge numbers, both voting absentee and in person. Check back regularly with Hometown Life to find the latest election results.

Results come from the Oakland County, Wayne County and local clerks offices. All results are unofficial until certified by their respective board of canvassers.

Northville Township

In Northville Township, Republican Mark Abbo appears to have been elected the township's next supervisor. He received 11,285 votes and will serve a four-year term.

Current supervisor, Republican Robert Nix, ran as a write-in candidate after losing to Abbo in the primary.

The township's unofficial election results show 2,649 votes going to unassigned write-in candidates, which would include Nix.

In the clerk's office race, Republican Roger Lundberg received 11,542 votes and looks poised to serve in the four-year position. Incumbent Marjorie Banner, also a Republican, ran as a write-in candidate. The township's unofficial results show 1,783 votes going to unassigned write-ins.

signed write-ins.

Republican Jason Rhines garnered 11,706 votes in the race for township treasurer, another four-year job. Incumbent Fred Shadko ran as a write-in. According to unofficial results, 1,225 votes went to unassigned write-in candidates.

Northville Township voters also chose four people to serve four-year terms on the township board of trustees. Republican Mindy Herrmann earned the most votes with 10,990. The other three seats will go to Republican Cynthia Jankowski, who earned 10,755 votes; Republican Scott Frush, who received 10,300 votes as an incumbent and incumbent Republican Chris Roosen, who finished with 9,945 votes. Democrats Tanya Lundberg and M. Aslam fell short with 9,301 and 8,655 votes, respectively.

Village of Milford

The Village of Milford decided to keep the current leadership on the village council with Jerry Aubry earning another 2-year term as Village Council President.

Aubry was challenged by village councilman Dave Pehrson. Aubry received 1,689 votes, or about 57% to 1,228 for Pehrson.

Three candidates ran for three Mil-

ford Village Council seats, meaning all three candidates won. Steven Burke tallied 1,622 votes. James Kovach garnered 1,676 votes. Kevin Ziegler received 1,658 votes.

Lyon Township

None of the Lyon Township races were contested in the general election. Supervisor John Dolan was reelected with 8,859 votes, Clerk Michele Cash was reelected with 8,911 votes and Treasurer Patricia Carcone was reelected with 8,835 votes.

On the board of trustees, newcomer Robert Swain, 7,594 votes, will join incumbents Lise Blades, 8,099 votes; Sean O'Neil, 7,997; and Kristofer Enlow, 7,776.

Milford Township

Like Lyon, Milford Township races were also uncontested in the general election. Supervisor Don Green was reelected with 7,622 votes, Clerk Holly Brandt was reelected with 7,798 votes and Treasurer Cynthia Dagenhardt was reelected with 7,625 votes.

On the board of trustees, newcomer Toni Vulaj, 6,625 votes, joins incumbents Randal Busick, 6,594 votes; William Mazzara, 6,504 votes; and Dale Wiltse, 6,561 votes.



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Shamrock Jack Leuker points toward the CC student fan section after scoring his second penalty kick goal of the game.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Catholic Central earns D1 state soccer championship

Collin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

As Detroit Catholic Central headed to Comstock Park to play in the 2020 Division 1 state final against Traverse City West, many thought back to the Shamrocks' first-ever state title just over three years ago.

Facing Walled Lake Central, Catholic Central then-senior Ryan Pierson hit a penalty kick, giving the Shamrocks its first championship in 2017. None of the 2020 roster was on that team, but many were in attendance.

"I was thinking about that moment," sophomore defensive specialist and midfielder Drew Pierson, Ryan's brother, said. "You think about it on the bus ride here. You think about what's going to happen in that situation."

See SOCCER, Page 2B



The Detroit Catholic Central varsity soccer team poses with its state title trophy Nov. 7 after defeating Traverse City West 2-1 in overtime.

Pick-six, Badger lead Canton over Stevenson

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

On the surface, a race between a Badger and a thoroughbred doesn't seem very appealing.

But Zack Badger-led Canton's 35-28 triumph Friday night over Livonia Stevenson, which featured a Herculean effort from Caden Woodall (What's new?), was entertaining down to the very last victory-formation kneel down.

After nearly letting a 35-14 second-half lead slip from its grasp, Canton improved to 8-0 and earned a district semifinal encounter on Friday, Nov. 13, with No. 1-ranked Belleville, which steamrolled Northville, 34-0.

"We knew it was going to be a shoot-out because they had that really good running back," said Badger, when asked if his team felt an urgency to score on every possession. "We knew we had to keep running the ball, running down the clock and we needed our defense to get a couple of stops, which it did."

Friday night's game at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park stadium was unique for what it did include — two running backs who eclipsed the 250-yard mark (Badger ran for 262 on 26 carries while Woodall galloped for 282 on 25 hauls) — and what it didn't: Canton quarterback Kaleb Burg's first-quarter 15-yard touchdown pass to John Levine was the game's only completed pass.

Woodall, who epitomized the football term "Beast", had two runs of 70 yards or more, while Badger's biggest gainer was an 86-yard non-TD.

The only Stevenson pass that didn't hit the turf came with 7:33 left in the second quarter when Chief defensive back Wesley Faulkner stepped in front of a Kyle Brown pass and took it 45 yards to the house to put Canton ahead for good, 21-7.

"When they were in a three-receiver set like they were, our keys tell us that when the third receiver goes, we crash on that," said Faulkner, walking through his game-changing play. "The quarterback looked a little frustrated when he was rolling out, like he just wanted to get rid of it. I guess he didn't see me."

Faulkner said the sight of opponent-less green turf in front of him was "a wonderful feeling."

"Zack knows exactly how it feels," Faulkner said, nodding toward Badger.

Stats-wise, Canton's only other significant offensive contributor besides Badger was senior running back Marco Johnson, who picked up 48 hard-earned yards on nine carries.

See CANTON, Page 2B

Lakeland remains unbeaten with playoff victory

Bill Khan Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Grant Porter rubbed his hands together and awaited a second chance to be a hero.

The 305-pound offensive tackle had already scored a 2-point conversion on a direct snap to give Howell a fourth-quarter lead in what was ultimately a

loss to Brighton on Oct. 16.

Taking a gamble in overtime that could've sent the Highlanders to the third round of the state playoffs, coach Brian Lewis again counted on the momentum of Porter running downhill to get the ball in the end zone.

Lakeland was ready.

When Porter took the snap from the 3-yard line, he was immediately hit

around the ankles by defensive back Mike Sherrill at the 5 and began to fall forward, landing face down, one yard short of the game-winning conversion.

Howell's season ended one yard and one point short Friday night in a 41-40 loss to unbeaten Lakeland in a Division 1 district semifinal game.

The Highlanders could have won the game with 1:55 left in the fourth quarter,

but missed an extra point following a 33-yard touchdown catch by Ashton Hill, leaving the score tied 34-34.

"After missing the extra point, we just felt that would be best for us right there, giving it to Porter," Lewis said. "He had a little bit of a lane and got tripped up. That's the way it goes."

See LAKELAND, Page 3B



District final high school football games to watch

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The district semifinals are complete. The district finals are here.

Eleven teams from the Hometown Life coverage area remain in the hunt for a state title. Here's a look at five game to watch heading into the final round of districts in the Michigan high school football postseason.

Livonia Churchill vs. Livonia Franklin

The area rivals meet again.

After Livonia Churchill earned the 47-36 win against Livonia Franklin Oct. 2, the teams will meet in the playoffs for the first time since 2017 when the Patriots beat the Chargers in the district final, 21-19.

Earning a first-round bye in the 2020 playoffs, Churchill seemed to get back on track after losing two of its three final regular-season games.

Chargers quarterback Gavin Brooks threw four touchdown passes for 295 yards and adding a touchdown on the ground, while two turnovers kept Churchill at arm's length from Dexter in the district semifinal.

Since losing to Belleville, 56-0, Oct. 16, Franklin has been on a roll outscoring teams, 108-32, in its last three games and are coming off a 45-8 district-semifinal victory against Ypsilanti, helped by a defense allowing 76 yards on 50 plays.

Since 2015, Franklin is 13-5 in playoff games, but has lost in two of its past three district finals appearances. Churchill, on the other hand, has won only

one district final in its history: a 47-7 win against Lakeview in 2019.

Churchill will host Franklin in the Division 2 district final 7 p.m. Friday.

South Lyon vs. North Farmington

Meeting for the first time since 1995, South Lyon and North Farmington are both teams that are, seemingly, back on track.

After starting the season 2-2, failing to score more than 24 points in a game, South Lyon has won four straight, scoring 42 points in the district semifinal against Walled Lake Western. Against the Warriors, the Lions recorded 428 yards of offense and six touchdowns, including four by quarterback Dawson Skupin.

North Farmington started the season losing two of its first three games, but has won four of its last five — forfeiting the final game of the regular season against Seaholm.

The Raiders have scored more than 30 points in three of their past four wins, including two-straight 44-point performances in their two playoff games.

In past meetings South Lyon has won four-of-six games against the Raiders. This is their first meeting in the playoffs.

South Lyon will take on North Farmington at home in the district final 7 p.m. Friday.

Canton vs. Belleville

Canton holds a three-game win streak against Belleville, last beating the Tigers, 28-25, in the 2017 district fi-

nal. But this is not the same Belleville team that the Chiefs had faced in the past.

Coming into the 2020 district final, the Tigers are undefeated, averaging 50.9 points per game with quarterback Christian Dhue-Reid breaking the state record for career passing touchdowns, and have allowed 43 points in eight games.

But Canton is undefeated as well. Led by running backs Zack Badger and Marco Johnson, the Chiefs offense is averaging 39.1 points per game, its highest total since the 2017 season. Canton has not allowed more than four touchdowns in a game this season.

Canton will try to make it to the regional round for the first time since 2017, while Belleville will try and make it three-straight seasons in regionals.

Canton will take on Belleville at home in the Division 1 district final 7 p.m. Friday.

Brother Rice at Chelsea

Since the 17-12 loss to Detroit Catholic Central Sept. 25, Brother Rice is on a roll.

The Warrior defense has not allowed more than 13 points in a game since, beating Orchard Lake St. Mary's in a Catholic High School League rematch, 31-13, in the district semifinal. Brother Rice has outscored opponents, 178-54, in its last six games.

Brother Rice is attempting to make it past the district final for the first time since 2014.

The Warriors will have to do it against undefeated Chelsea, a team that came within five points of losing to South

Lyon East in the district semifinal this past weekend. The Bulldogs have scored more than 30 points in all but one game this season.

Brother Rice will travel to Chelsea and take on the Bulldogs in the district final 7 p.m. Friday.

Lakeland vs. Detroit Catholic Central

Lakeland beat out Detroit Catholic Central for a No. 1 seed by 2.25 playoff points. The two undefeated teams in District 1 of Region 2 will now get a chance to face off.

Over the past three weeks, Detroit Catholic Central has looked like the teams from 2016 and 2017, limiting opponents to 17 points combined, while the Shamrock offense — a pass-first look with senior quarterback Declan Byle at the helm — has averaged 41 points.

Lakeland's win streak nearly ended in the district semifinal, holding off Howell for a 41-40 overtime victory secured by a stop the Highlanders' attempt at a two-point conversion to end the game.

Over the past three weeks, the Eagles offense has stepped up, scoring 35 points or more in each contest. This season, Lakeland has averaged 28.6 points per game, its highest since 2017.

Lakeland will host Detroit Catholic Central 1 p.m. Saturday.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Canton

Continued from Page 1B

On the 10 plays that didn't involve Woodall, Stevenson picked up three yards and threw five incompletions.

The game's first two possessions resulted in a lost fumble from each team. Spartan Jack Rushlow pounced on a loose ball at the Stevenson 41 to stymie Canton's opening drive.

Stevenson advanced the ball to the Canton 5 — thanks largely to a 15-yard pass-interference penalty — but coughed it up into the hands of Chief defensive end Jacob Davis.

Badger broke free for his 86-yard sprint the play after Davis's fumble recovery. Two plays later, Burg and Levine connected on a bootleg crossing pattern to jump ahead 7-0 following the first of five extra points by Arturo Trevino.

Stevenson answered immediately, knotting the game at 7-7 on a spectacular 75-yard run by Woodall, who escaped the clutches of Chief tackler, reversed field briefly then motored up the sideline, leaving a trail of empty-handed Chiefs in his wake. Edward Markarian tacked on the first of his four successful PATs.

Burg put Canton ahead for good with a 1-yard sneak with 18.7 ticks on the first-quarter clock.

Six minutes later, Faulkner's pick-six made it 21-7.

Canton appeared to seal the deal when Badger's 26-yard scoring run late in the first half extended the hosts' lead to 28-7, but Stevenson wasn't done.



On Stevenson's first drive of the third quarter, Woodall, who is headed to Harvard next fall, scored on a 70-yard jaunt to cut the Chiefs' lead to 28-14.

Johnson's 2-yard scoring plunge in the final minute of the third quarter made it 35-14. The touchdown was made possible by a successful fourth-and-3 conversion by Badger near midfield.

Stevenson shifted to a Wildcat-type offense with Woodall taking the shotgun snaps — and it worked as the elusive force brought his team to within 35-

21 on an 8-yard run with 9:33 to go in the game.

Following a rare Stevenson defensive stop — made possible by a third-down sack by Lukas Kallis — the Spartans took over at the Canton 35 and inched to within 35-28 on Woodall's 2-yard keeper with 6:44 to play.

Taking over at its own 26, Canton orchestrated one of its typical time-devouring drives, running out the rest of the clock — the key play being a two-yard sneak by Burg on fourth-and-1 with 3:42 remaining — to punch its ticket to



Above at left, Canton defenders gang up on Stevenson's Caden Woodall during a second-quarter run. Canton won, 35-28. Above at right, Zack Badger and Wesley Faulkner both starred in Canton's victory over Livonia Stevenson.

PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Friday's district championship game against the Tigers.

Stevenson finished 4-4.

Badger and Faulkner both said their team can gain confidence knowing that Belleville barely snuck past Stevenson, 29-26, earlier this season.

"We know they're probably the best team we've played so far this season, but that's no excuse," Badger said. "We want to keep moving on."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

Senior defender Jack Leuker pictured himself in that moment. He said he could see himself taking the opportunity two or three years later.

The senior captain had the opportunity.

After a scoreless first half, after Shamrocks junior Vincent Stockton was fouled by a Titans defender in the box, Leuker gave Detroit Catholic Central the one-score lead, pushing the ball left past a diving senior goalkeeper Blade Kalbfleisch.

Traverse City West tied the game on a penalty kick by junior Colin Blackport with 6:24 left in the game, securing overtime.

But when Detroit Catholic Central senior Chad Ewing was fouled in the box with 19 seconds left in the first overtime period, the spotlight was shown on Leuker once again.

The senior captain prevailed, hitting another penalty kick, leading Detroit Catholic Central to its second Division 1 state title since 2017, beating Traverse City West (22-2-2), 2-1, in overtime Sat-

urday afternoon.

"We've come down from deficits in the three games prior to this," Leuker said. "In this game, we had to deal with the big momentum shift with them getting a penalty in the last five minutes. Through every single situation, we didn't give up, we held our head high and made sure we stayed focused and on task. It paid off."

Detroit Catholic Central head coach Gene Pulice said Leuker, one of five captains on the Shamrocks roster, has been one of the main rocks for the team as a whole.

"He's had a great attitude, great work rate, he picks guys up, gives direction well," Pulice said. "All of our captains have been fantastic, but you take away Jack and Chad (Ewing) out of the mix, they organize the whole midfield. It would have been very tough to do it without those guys."

But after his second penalty kick, Leuker's immediate thought was not on the state title. It was on the next 10 minutes of play.

Traverse City West tried to press, as the Titans recorded two corner kicks in the final four minutes to try and get something going. But senior goalkeeper John Browning and the defense stood

strong, limiting the Titans to seven shots in the contest, none of which were on goal, and failing to convert on six corner kicks.

Heading into the overtime period, giving up the late penalty kick goal by Blackport, Detroit Catholic Central was not rattled. Instead, it was what Pulice expected in a game against a Traverse City West offense that had averaged over four goals per game coming into the final.

"We were composed enough and knew we would have to score goals," Pulice said. "We knew that we were going to get scored on. That's the mindset we have, don't worry about it, we're going to go get it back."

"That's kind of what we lived on all year long is you are going to give a goal up for whatever reason. Deal with it, come back, play hard and get the goals back."

And when Leuker had his chance to answer, he said it was all about trust, knowing where he was going to put the ball while making good enough contact to put it in the back of the net.

Throughout the 2020 season, Detroit Catholic Central has been resilient, earning come-back wins in its past three playoff games, working to cap off

this senior class in the way it had started, with many of them watching from the stands at Rochester Hills Stoney Creek.

Many did not know if they would get to this point, but the championship was something the Shamrocks had been working toward.

"We haven't stopped working, this team hasn't let up since Day 1," Pierson said. "It's just a dream to come true, finally."

To Leuker, walking off the field after his final high school soccer game, just being crowned a champion, the magnitude had not hit him. The fact that his high school career was over had not hit him.

Instead, he was focused on what his team did, achieving the ultimate goal with a group, he said, that could not be better.

"It was an amazing team effort out there and it has been all season," Leuker said. "Those are my brothers. I could not have done it without them. It just feels fantastic to finish the season like this."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

CC smashes past Novi in district semifinal

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi seemed to be peaking at the right time.

With a younger group, head coach Jeff Burnside said things had started to click over the past two weeks, earning wins against Salem and Brighton while the Wildcats scored their first two 40-point games of the season.

But in the district semifinal, Detroit Catholic Central (8-0) easily halted Novi's (3-5) momentum, beating the Wildcats, 37-0, with the Shamrocks defense recording its first shutout of the season.

"I thought Joe Mach, our defensive coordinator, did a great job getting our boys in position to make the plays," Catholic Central head coach Dan Anderson said. "Thank goodness they made the plays tonight. He did a great job, the defensive staff did a great job at getting them ready."

Defense rises to occasion

The Catholic Central defense had always been keen at stopping the run this season, but had yet to face a team with a triple-option approach.

Throughout the week heading into Friday night's game against the Novi offense, the Shamrocks used sophomore quarterback Brady Blakita as their scout team quarterback, mimicking reads and moves the coaches expected Novi sophomore Luke Aurilia to make behind center.

At the start of the game, it took a bit for the Shamrocks to adjust.

Novi methodically moved the ball down the field, never eclipsing more than nine yards on a single run. But, facing a 3rd-and-2 at the Shamrocks 45, a false start moved the Wildcats back five yards, a length Aurilia was not able to capitalize on and were forced to punt.

On the next drive, Novi recorded a first down on a 10-yard option by senior Isaiah Washington, but failed to convert on a 3rd-and-10, with Aurilia missing a pass intended for the senior slot receiver.

Novi failed to convert on its first six third-down attempts for an average distance of 8.5 yards per chance. The Wildcats finished the night with one third-



CC safety Jackson Ewald brings down Novi quarterback Luke Aurilia.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

down completion on nine attempts.

Over the course of the contest, junior defensive end and captain Sean Field said the Catholic Central defense relished each chance it had to be out on the field, using the linebackers to see handoffs and pitches, snuffing out options.

"The coolest part about it was even if there was a turnover or something, our defense was just excited to get back out there," Field said. "And I thought we were patient and really got after it and we were able to read the ball and see where it was going."

The Shamrocks allowed 155 yards of offense, with Novi averaging 3.3 yards per play.

As the Shamrocks stifled the run, allowing 3.8 yards per carry, Aurilia tied to open up the passing game. But the sophomore was unsuccessful, missing all six pass attempts and throwing two interceptions — a late third-quarter grab by Catholic Central senior defensive back Owen Lamarra and one by senior defensive back Sam Dersa in the fourth.

Shamrocks senior defensive end

Connor Dewan also forced a fumble, picked up by sophomore linebacker Brayden Courser.

Burnside said, watching film during the week, he understood that Catholic Central would be a different challenge than teams the Wildcats have faced this season.

"We understood that that was the possibility: when you play a team like this, you got to play things very well," Burnside said. "Unfortunately, as we saw on our replays, some bad reads — not bad, just inconsistent. We made some inconsistent blocks."

"They are good. I give them all the credit in the world. They played their butts off."

Byle leads high-scoring offense

The Catholic Central defense set the table for the Catholic Central offense to shine.

After the Shamrocks forced a punt on the first drive, junior running back Mohamed Jaffer answered, taking a handoff from senior quarterback Declan

Byle for an aggressive 22-yard touchdown run.

After the Shamrocks forced another punt, it was Byle's turn to capitalize, turning the first offensive play of the second quarter into six points on a 59-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Owen Semp.

Trailing 17-0 at half, Novi tried to create momentum, building off an Alex Vargas interception of Byle at the end of the second quarter. The Wildcats tried an on-side kick and retained possession to start the third quarter, but could not cash in after starting from the Shamrocks 39-yard line.

Catholic Central instead capitalized, as, after two incomplete passes, Byle found Jaffer for a 64-yard screen-pass touchdown, later creating a 30-point deficit on a 75-yard touchdown pass to junior Kamron Davenport.

Byle finished the game completing nine-of-18 pass attempts for 314 yards and three touchdowns and an interception. Jaffer added 28 yards on the ground along with his 64-yard touchdown reception.

"We'd like to be 50/50, but sometimes you have to throw the ball a bit more, sometimes you can run the ball a bit more," Anderson said. "I'm a run-first guy. (Offensive assistant coach) Kevin (Glenn) is a pass-first guy, but I think we have a good balance right now."

Sophomore Evan Haeger capped off the night with a six-yard touchdown score in the fourth quarter.

No matter what is happening on the field, whether it's Byle shining in the pass game or senior safety Jackson Ewald recording a tackle for loss, Field describes it simply as "smash-mouth football."

"I think we are bringing back the tradition," Field said. "I think the boys are getting after it. Again, I like the words smash-mouth football. We're bringing it back."

Catholic Central will travel to Lakeland to take on the Eagles next weekend in the district final.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Lakeland

Continued from Page 1B

"You're snapping it to Grant, who represents and bleeds Howell football. Who else would you want the ball to be in their hands?"

Lakeland was aware that Howell was successful against Brighton when lining up in an unbalanced formation and snapping the ball to Porter for a 2-point conversion. Typically, Howell will shift into a traditional formation to kick the extra point, but the Highlanders were looking to end the game one way or another.

"We were ready for it every time," Lakeland coach Joe Woodruff said. "We told our kids if they snap the ball back to him, you better hit him around the ankles, because you're not hitting that big joker high."

Lakeland scored first in overtime on Sherrill's fourth touchdown catch of the game, a 9-yarder from Tate Farquhar. The Eagles went up 41-34 with the extra point.

Howell countered with an 11-yard touchdown run by August Johannsmeyer to get within a point before its season ended at 4-4 on the failed 2-point run.

"You've got to think about all the things these kids have been through, not just with the coronavirus," Lewis said. "I was in the school for five weeks before the coronavirus shutdown. We were brand new when we started in June. To see our progress, to see our growth, to see our development, man, I'm so proud of these kids, so proud of our effort, so proud of them buying in and representing Howell the right way and honoring Howell."

The Highlanders jumped out to a 21-6 halftime lead on a 34-yard pass from Nolan Petru to Jarrett Hughes and two short runs by Petru.

Lakeland set the tone for the rest of the game by scoring on a 30-yard pass from Farquhar to Sherrill less than two minutes into the second half.

Farquhar threw five touchdown passes after halftime, giving the Eagles their first lead at 34-28 on an 11-yard strike to Sherrill and a 2-point pass with 10:20 left in the fourth quarter.

Howell recovered a fumble at the 1-yard line with 6:11 left as the Eagles were about to expand their lead. The High-



Lakeland's Mike Sherrill breaks up a pass intended for Howell's Jackson Kovarik in a playoff game Nov. 6.
TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

"To see our progress, to see our growth, to see our development, man, I'm so proud of these kids, so proud of our effort, so proud of them buying in and representing Howell the right way and honoring Howell."

Brian Lewis Coach, Howell football

landers marched 99 yards to tie the game before missing the extra point.

Sherrill made a 32-yard catch on third-and-9 from the Eagles' 11 with 5:11 seconds left to avoid giving the ball back to Howell late in the fourth.

Sherrill finished with seven catches for 183 yards. Besides making the game-winning stop on Porter, Sherrill also had an interception. Farquhar was 16-for-22 for 368 yards.

"I don't know who's doing the stats for this game, but good luck," Woodruff said. "Statistically, there must have been about 5,000 yards of offense out there."

Lakeland connected on long passes seemingly at will.

"We knew the corners weren't going to be that good," Sherrill said. "Their safeties didn't play over the top that well. We were going to use that against them."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.

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District final high school football games to watch

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Livonia Churchill vs. Livonia Franklin

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Since losing to Belleville, 56-0, Oct. 16, Franklin has been on a roll outscoring teams, 108-32, in its last three games and are coming off a 45-8 district-semifinal victory against Ypsilanti, helped by a defense allowing 76 yards on 50 plays.

Since 2015, Franklin is 13-5 in playoff games, but has lost in two of its past three district finals appearances. Churchill, on the other hand, has won only

one district final in its history: a 47-7 win against Lakeview in 2019.

Churchill will host Franklin in the Division 2 district final 7 p.m. Friday.

South Lyon vs. North Farmington

Meeting for the first time since 1995, South Lyon and North Farmington are both teams that are, seemingly, back on track.

After starting the season 2-2, failing to score more than 24 points in a game, South Lyon has won four straight, scoring 42 points in the district semifinal against Walled Lake Western. Against the Warriors, the Lions recorded 428 yards of offense and six touchdowns, including four by quarterback Dawson Skupin.

North Farmington started the season losing two of its first three games, but has won four of its last five — forfeiting the final game of the regular season against Seaholm.

The Raiders have scored more than 30 points in three of their past four wins, including two-straight 44-point performances in their two playoff games.

In past meetings South Lyon has won four-of-six games against the Raiders. This is their first meeting in the playoffs.

South Lyon will take on North Farmington at home in the district final 7 p.m. Friday.

Canton vs. Belleville

Canton holds a three-game win streak against Belleville, last beating the Tigers, 28-25, in the 2017 district fi-

nal. But this is not the same Belleville team that the Chiefs had faced in the past.

Coming into the 2020 district final, the Tigers are undefeated, averaging 50.9 points per game with quarterback Christian Dhue-Reid breaking the state record for career passing touchdowns, and have allowed 43 points in eight games.

But Canton is undefeated as well. Led by running backs Zack Badger and Marco Johnson, the Chiefs offense is averaging 39.1 points per game, its highest total since the 2017 season. Canton has not allowed more than four touchdowns in a game this season.

Canton will try to make it to the regional round for the first time since 2017, while Belleville will try and make it three-straight seasons in regionals.

Canton will take on Belleville at home in the Division 1 district final 7 p.m. Friday.

Brother Rice at Chelsea

Since the 17-12 loss to Detroit Catholic Central Sept. 25, Brother Rice is on a roll.

The Warrior defense has not allowed more than 13 points in a game since, beating Orchard Lake St. Mary's in a Catholic High School League rematch, 31-13, in the district semifinal. Brother Rice has outscored opponents, 178-54, in its last six games.

Brother Rice is attempting to make it past the district final for the first time since 2014.

The Warriors will have to do it against undefeated Chelsea, a team that came within five points of losing to South

Lyon East in the district semifinal this past weekend. The Bulldogs have scored more than 30 points in all but one game this season.

Brother Rice will travel to Chelsea and take on the Bulldogs in the district final 7 p.m. Friday.

Lakeland vs. Detroit Catholic Central

Lakeland beat out Detroit Catholic Central for a No. 1 seed by 2.25 playoff points. The two undefeated teams in District 1 of Region 2 will now get a chance to face off.

Over the past three weeks, Detroit Catholic Central has looked like the teams from 2016 and 2017, limiting opponents to 17 points combined, while the Shamrock offense — a pass-first look with senior quarterback Declan Byle at the helm — has averaged 41 points.

Lakeland's win streak nearly ended in the district semifinal, holding off Howell for a 41-40 overtime victory secured by a stop the Highlanders' attempt at a two-point conversion to end the game.

Over the past three weeks, the Eagles offense has stepped up, scoring 35 points or more in each contest. This season, Lakeland has averaged 28.6 points per game, its highest since 2017.

Lakeland will host Detroit Catholic Central 1 p.m. Saturday.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Canton

Continued from Page 1B

On the 10 plays that didn't involve Woodall, Stevenson picked up three yards and threw five incompletions.

The game's first two possessions resulted in a lost fumble from each team. Spartan Jack Rushlow pounced on a loose ball at the Stevenson 41 to stymie Canton's opening drive.

Stevenson advanced the ball to the Canton 5 — thanks largely to a 15-yard pass-interference penalty — but coughed it up into the hands of Chief defensive end Jacob Davis.

Badger broke free for his 86-yard sprint the play after Davis's fumble recovery. Two plays later, Burg and Levine connected on a bootleg crossing pattern to jump ahead 7-0 following the first of five extra points by Arturo Trevino.

Stevenson answered immediately, knotting the game at 7-7 on a spectacular 75-yard run by Woodall, who escaped the clutches of Chief tackler, reversed field briefly then motored up the sideline, leaving a trail of empty-handed Chiefs in his wake. Edward Markarian tacked on the first of his four successful PATs.

Burg put Canton ahead for good with a 1-yard sneak with 18:7 ticks on the first-quarter clock.

Six minutes later, Faulkner's pick-six made it 21-7.

Canton appeared to seal the deal when Badger's 26-yard scoring run late in the first half extended the hosts' lead to 28-7, but Stevenson wasn't done.



On Stevenson's first drive of the third quarter, Woodall, who is headed to Harvard next fall, scored on a 70-yard jaunt to cut the Chiefs' lead to 28-14.

Johnson's 2-yard scoring plunge in the final minute of the third quarter made it 35-14. The touchdown was made possible by a successful fourth-and-3 conversion by Badger near midfield.

Stevenson shifted to a Wildcat-type offense with Woodall taking the shotgun snaps — and it worked as the elusive force brought his team to within 35-

21 on an 8-yard run with 9:33 to go in the game.

Following a rare Stevenson defensive stop — made possible by a third-down sack by Lukas Kallis — the Spartans took over at the Canton 35 and inched to within 35-28 on Woodall's 2-yard keeper with 6:44 to play.

Taking over at its own 26, Canton orchestrated one of its typical time-devouring drives, running out the rest of the clock — the key play being a two-yard sneak by Burg on fourth-and-1 with 3:42 remaining — to punch its ticket to



Above at left, Canton defenders gang up on Stevenson's Caden Woodall during a second-quarter run. Canton won, 35-28. Above at right, Zack Badger and Wesley Faulkner both starred in Canton's victory over Livonia Stevenson.

PHOTOS BY ED WRIGHT/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Friday's district championship game against the Tigers.

Stevenson finished 4-4.

Badger and Faulkner both said their team can gain confidence knowing that Belleville barely snuck past Stevenson, 29-26, earlier this season.

"We know they're probably the best team we've played so far this season, but that's no excuse," Badger said. "We want to keep moving on."

Contact reporter Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

Soccer

Continued from Page 1B

Senior defender Jack Leuker pictured himself in that moment. He said he could see himself taking the opportunity two or three years later.

The senior captain had the opportunity.

After a scoreless first half, after Shamrocks junior Vincent Stockton was fouled by a Titans defender in the box, Leuker gave Detroit Catholic Central the one-score lead, pushing the ball left past a diving senior goalkeeper Blade Kalbfleisch.

Traverse City West tied the game on a penalty kick by junior Colin Blackport with 6:24 left in the game, securing overtime.

But when Detroit Catholic Central senior Chad Ewing was fouled in the box with 19 seconds left in the first overtime period, the spotlight was shown on Leuker once again.

The senior captain prevailed, hitting another penalty kick, leading Detroit Catholic Central to its second Division 1 state title since 2017, beating Traverse City West (22-2-2), 2-1, in overtime Sat-

urday afternoon.

"We've come down from deficits in the three games prior to this," Leuker said. "In this game, we had to deal with the big momentum shift with them getting a penalty in the last five minutes. Through every single situation, we didn't give up, we held our head high and made sure we stayed focused and on task. It paid off."

Detroit Catholic Central head coach Gene Pulice said Leuker, one of five captains on the Shamrocks roster, has been one of the main rocks for the team as a whole.

"He's had a great attitude, great work rate, he picks guys up, gives direction well," Pulice said. "All of our captains have been fantastic, but you take away Jack and Chad (Ewing) out of the mix, they organize the whole midfield. It would have been very tough to do it without those guys."

But after his second penalty kick, Leuker's immediate thought was not on the state title. It was on the next 10 minutes of play.

Traverse City West tried to press, as the Titans recorded two corner kicks in the final four minutes to try and get something going. But senior goalkeeper John Browning and the defense stood

strong, limiting the Titans to seven shots in the contest, none of which were on goal, and failing to convert on six corner kicks.

Heading into the overtime period, giving up the late penalty kick goal by Blackport, Detroit Catholic Central was not rattled. Instead, it was what Pulice expected in a game against a Traverse City West offense that had averaged over four goals per game coming into the final.

"We were composed enough and knew we would have to score goals," Pulice said. "We knew that we were going to get scored on. That's the mindset we have, don't worry about it, we're going to go get it back."

"That's kind of what we lived on all year long is you are going to give a goal up for whatever reason. Deal with it, come back, play hard and get the goals back."

And when Leuker had his chance to answer, he said it was all about trust, knowing where he was going to put the ball while making good enough contact to put it in the back of the net.

Throughout the 2020 season, Detroit Catholic Central has been resilient, earning come-back wins in its past three playoff games, working to cap off

this senior class in the way it had started, with many of them watching from the stands at Rochester Hills Stoney Creek.

Many did not know if they would get to this point, but the championship was something the Shamrocks had been working toward.

"We haven't stopped working, this team hasn't let up since Day 1," Pierson said. "It's just a dream to come true, finally."

To Leuker, walking off the field after his final high school soccer game, just being crowned a champion, the magnitude had not hit him. The fact that his high school career was over had not hit him.

Instead, he was focused on what his team did, achieving the ultimate goal with a group, he said, that could not be better.

"It was an amazing team effort out there and it has been all season," Leuker said. "Those are my brothers. I could not have done it without them. It just feels fantastic to finish the season like this."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

CC smashes past Novi in district semifinal

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Novi seemed to be peaking at the right time.

With a younger group, head coach Jeff Burnside said things had started to click over the past two weeks, earning wins against Salem and Brighton while the Wildcats scored their first two 40-point games of the season.

But in the district semifinal, Detroit Catholic Central (8-0) easily halted Novi's (3-5) momentum, beating the Wildcats, 37-0, with the Shamrocks defense recording its first shutout of the season.

"I thought Joe Mach, our defensive coordinator, did a great job getting our boys in position to make the plays," Catholic Central head coach Dan Anderson said. "Thank goodness they made the plays tonight. He did a great job, the defensive staff did a great job at getting them ready."

Defense rises to occasion

The Catholic Central defense had always been keen at stopping the run this season, but had yet to face a team with a triple-option approach.

Throughout the week heading into Friday night's game against the Novi offense, the Shamrocks used sophomore quarterback Brady Blakita as their scout team quarterback, mimicking reads and moves the coaches expected Novi sophomore Luke Aurilia to make behind center.

At the start of the game, it took a bit for the Shamrocks to adjust.

Novi methodically moved the ball down the field, never eclipsing more than nine yards on a single run. But, facing a 3rd-and-2 at the Shamrocks 45, a false start moved the Wildcats back five yards, a length Aurilia was not able to capitalize on and were forced to punt.

On the next drive, Novi recorded a first down on a 10-yard option by senior Isaiah Washington, but failed to convert on a 3rd-and-10, with Aurilia missing a pass intended for the senior slot receiver.

Novi failed to convert on its first six third-down attempts for an average distance of 8.5 yards per chance. The Wildcats finished the night with one third-



CC safety Jackson Ewald brings down Novi quarterback Luke Aurilia.
TOM BEAUDOIN/SPECIAL TO HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

down completion on nine attempts.

Over the course of the contest, junior defensive end and captain Sean Field said the Catholic Central defense relished each chance it had to be out on the field, using the linebackers to see handoffs and pitches, snuffing out options.

"The coolest part about it was even if there was a turnover or something, our defense was just excited to get back out there," Field said. "And I thought we were patient and really got after it and we were able to read the ball and see where it was going."

The Shamrocks allowed 155 yards of offense, with Novi averaging 3.3 yards per play.

As the Shamrocks stifled the run, allowing 3.8 yards per carry, Aurilia tied to open up the passing game. But the sophomore was unsuccessful, missing all six pass attempts and throwing two interceptions — a late third-quarter grab by Catholic Central senior defensive back Owen Lamarra and one by senior defensive back Sam Dersa in the fourth.

Shamrocks senior defensive end

Connor Dewan also forced a fumble, picked up by sophomore linebacker Brayden Courser.

Burnside said, watching film during the week, he understood that Catholic Central would be a different challenge than teams the Wildcats have faced this season.

"We understood that that was the possibility: when you play a team like this, you got to play things very well," Burnside said. "Unfortunately, as we saw on our replays, some bad reads — not bad, just inconsistent. We made some inconsistent blocks."

"They are good. I give them all the credit in the world. They played their butts off."

Byle leads high-scoring offense

The Catholic Central defense set the table for the Catholic Central offense to shine.

After the Shamrocks forced a punt on the first drive, junior running back Mohamed Jaffer answered, taking a handoff from senior quarterback Declan

Byle for an aggressive 22-yard touchdown run.

After the Shamrocks forced another punt, it was Byle's turn to capitalize, turning the first offensive play of the second quarter into six points on a 59-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Owen Semp.

Trailing 17-0 at half, Novi tried to create momentum, building off an Alex Vargas interception of Byle at the end of the second quarter. The Wildcats tried an on-side kick and retained possession to start the third quarter, but could not cash in after starting from the Shamrocks 39-yard line.

Catholic Central instead capitalized, as, after two incomplete passes, Byle found Jaffer for a 64-yard screen-pass touchdown, later creating a 30-point deficit on a 75-yard touchdown pass to junior Kamron Davenport.

Byle finished the game completing nine-of-18 pass attempts for 314 yards and three touchdowns and an interception. Jaffer added 28 yards on the ground along with his 64-yard touchdown reception.

"We'd like to be 50/50, but sometimes you have to throw the ball a bit more, sometimes you can run the ball a bit more," Anderson said. "I'm a run-first guy. (Offensive assistant coach) Kevin (Glenn) is a pass-first guy, but I think we have a good balance right now."

Sophomore Evan Haeger capped off the night with a six-yard touchdown score in the fourth quarter.

No matter what is happening on the field, whether it's Byle shining in the pass game or senior safety Jackson Ewald recording a tackle for loss, Field describes it simply as "smash-mouth football."

"I think we are bringing back the tradition," Field said. "I think the boys are getting after it. Again, I like the words smash-mouth football. We're bringing it back."

Catholic Central will travel to Lakeland to take on the Eagles next weekend in the district final.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

Lakeland

Continued from Page 1B

"You're snapping it to Grant, who represents and bleeds Howell football. Who else would you want the ball to be in their hands?"

Lakeland was aware that Howell was successful against Brighton when lining up in an unbalanced formation and snapping the ball to Porter for a 2-point conversion. Typically, Howell will shift into a traditional formation to kick the extra point, but the Highlanders were looking to end the game one way or another.

"We were ready for it every time," Lakeland coach Joe Woodruff said. "We told our kids if they snap the ball back to him, you better hit him around the ankles, because you're not hitting that big joker high."

Lakeland scored first in overtime on Sherrill's fourth touchdown catch of the game, a 9-yarder from Tate Farquhar. The Eagles went up 41-34 with the extra point.

Howell countered with an 11-yard touchdown run by August Johanningsmeier to get within a point before its season ended at 4-4 on the failed 2-point run.

"You've got to think about all the things these kids have been through, not just with the coronavirus," Lewis said. "I was in the school for five weeks before the coronavirus shutdown. We were brand new when we started in June. To see our progress, to see our growth, to see our development, man, I'm so proud of these kids, so proud of our effort, so proud of them buying in and representing Howell the right way and honoring Howell."

The Highlanders jumped out to a 21-6 halftime lead on a 34-yard pass from Nolan Petru to Jarrett Hughes and two short runs by Petru.

Lakeland set the tone for the rest of the game by scoring on a 30-yard pass from Farquhar to Sherrill less than two minutes into the second half.

Farquhar threw five touchdown passes after halftime, giving the Eagles their first lead at 34-28 on an 11-yard strike to Sherrill and a 2-point pass with 10:20 left in the fourth quarter.

Howell recovered a fumble at the 1-yard line with 6:11 left as the Eagles were about to expand their lead. The High-



Lakeland's Mike Sherrill breaks up a pass intended for Howell's Jackson Kovarik in a playoff game Nov. 6.
TIMOTHY ARRICK/FOR THE LIVINGSTON DAILY

"To see our progress, to see our growth, to see our development, man, I'm so proud of these kids, so proud of our effort, so proud of them buying in and representing Howell the right way and honoring Howell."

Brian Lewis Coach, Howell football

landers marched 99 yards to tie the game before missing the extra point.

Sherrill made a 32-yard catch on third-and-9 from the Eagles' 11 with 51.1 seconds left to avoid giving the ball back to Howell late in the fourth.

Sherrill finished with seven catches for 183 yards. Besides making the game-winning stop on Porter, Sherrill also had an interception. Farquhar was 16-for-22 for 368 yards.

"I don't know who's doing the stats for this game, but good luck," Woodruff said. "Statistically, there must have been about 5,000 yards of offense out there."

Lakeland connected on long passes seemingly at will.

"We knew the corners weren't going to be that good," Sherrill said. "Their safeties didn't play over the top that well. We were going to use that against them."

Contact Bill Khan at wkhan@gannett.com.

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GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Seaholm's DaDamio finishes first in D1 states

Colin Gay hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Coming off the course at Michigan International Speedway, having just completed her Division 1 state finals race — the first heat — Seaholm senior Audrey DaDamio did not know whether she had won or lost.

She just knew how fast time had flown by.

"Each year, when we have gotten here, I have kind of been like 'Oh my gosh, I can't believe I'm a freshman. Oh my gosh, I can't believe I'm a sophomore, a junior, now a senior,'" DaDamio said. "It just seems like time is going by."

Each season, DaDamio has improved, from starting in 62nd place her freshman year at the state meet to 11th her sophomore year and fifth her junior season.

In 2020, her final race as a member of the Maples cross country team, DaDamio came out on top, winning the Division 1 girls state cross country title, finishing the race in 17:46.07, nine seconds ahead of second-place finisher Rachel Forsyth, a freshman at Ann Arbor Pioneer.

"There are so many incredible girls in Michigan, it's really crazy actually how many there are under 18 minutes," DaDamio said. "So I knew every time I come here I can't ever count anyone out because crazy things happen, but I was definitely confident coming in."

In each of her postseason races — the pre-regional and the regional contests — DaDamio finished in first place. One of the only times the Seaholm senior did not place first was in the 2020 Shepherd Invite, in which, despite recording a season record, she fell to Traverse City Central junior Julia Flynn, who placed third at the state race Friday.

DaDamio said her approach to this race was different from state meets in the past. Instead of starting slow and picking up speed on the straight away back into the stadium, she said, this race, she started right from the gun, setting the pace how she wanted.

But with the coronavirus pandemic putting the 2020 season into question seemingly at every race, DaDamio was



Seaholm's Audrey DaDamio finished in first place at the Division 1 girls state cross country meet, finishing the race in 17:46.07. JOHN HEIDER/HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

just thankful to be back after both her indoor and outdoor track season had been canceled.

"Kind of over the summer, I was like 'I don't know if cross country is even going to happen,'" DaDamio said. "So it was definitely a lot of back and forth and really every race I had felt like a win to compete."

For the Seaholm senior, time had flown by. To her, it felt like just yesterday, she had been running with junior teammates Haley and Lexi Deighan in middle school.

"I was like, 'I just remember when we like 11 and running a mile under six minutes was crazy,'" DaDamio said. "Now

we do that in 5Ks.

"It's just been a great experience at Seaholm. I've been really focused on enjoying my last year and hopefully indoor will happen, but definitely outdoor and just focusing on the team right now, but I'm really excited for things to come."

Northville junior Jennie Line thought the cross country season was going to be canceled before it even started. But when the first meet arrived, she developed a mentality she carried into each meet she ran.

"I just decided that if this is my last meet, I'm just going to go for it," Line said. "I proved to myself what I can do." The Mustangs junior finished 13th in

the Division 1 girls cross country state meet Friday, continuing Northville's streak of All-State girls runners. As a team, Northville finished in seventh place at 254, with Ann Arbor Pioneer taking the top spot with a 129.

"Amazing all season long from top to bottom," Northville head coach Nancy Smith said of Line. "She put in the extras, she had the mindset, she knew what she wanted to do and wanted to accomplish and she put it all out there today."

Plymouth junior Lauren Kiley helped her team come in ninth place, finishing in fourth place overall behind DaDamio, Forsyth and Flynn.

"I know we were all really excited to be here because this is our third time as a team qualifying for this," Kiley said. "Our coach reminded us the first year, we wanted to show up and see what we could do because it was new to us. The second year, we had a feeling of it, and we wanted to do better than we did last year." "This year, she had a goal for us to move up spots as a team than what we were seeded. And I think we did that. Everyone did great. I don't know, we had 'Eye of the Tiger' — that's what my mom says — and we all went out and tried our best."

South Lyon East placed 14th (370) in its first team state meet in school history, something sophomore Lili Aitamma, who finished 31st — one spot out of All State honors — thought was nearly impossible earlier in the season.

"I was telling my family and my friends: There's probably a 25% chance we will make it as a team. And we blew that chance out of the water," Aitamma said. "Now we are here and everybody ran so good. Everybody did better than they thought."

Salem finished 15th (387), Canton finished 21st (446) and Farmington finished 26th (603).

Livonia Churchill senior Abbie Haupt (15th: 18:46.01) was also an All State finisher.

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6700. Follow him on Twitter @ColinGay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

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Granddaughter receives special gift hours after grandpa's death

Ed Wright Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The greatest symbol of the uncommon bond shared between Ted Fournier and his granddaughter Katie Fournier was a bouquet of yellow roses.

On each of her birthdays and on other special occasions, Katie Fournier would receive a delivery of the flowers, rain or shine, from her beloved grandpa.

On Nov. 2, just a few hours after Ted Fournier, 67, of Garden City, passed away following a several-month battle with lung cancer, Katie Fournier received a remarkable gift: a bouquet of yellow roses that was accompanied by a card from her grandpa, describing his everlasting love for her.

"When dad knew his cancer was really bad, he contacted one of Katie's friends and asked her if, on the day he died, she could arrange for the roses to be delivered," explained Matt Fournier, Ted's son and Katie's dad. "We were all surprised. The yellow roses were their thing. The gesture described my dad perfectly."

Matt Fournier said his dad deeply loved all of his grandchildren, but the immediate connection between Ted and his first grandchild was priceless.

"I mean, the minute their eyes first connected after she was born ... it was just special," Matt Fournier said. "They would always go over the candidates before he voted. He was very knowledgeable about broadcasting equipment, so when she was 7 or 8, he taught her how to operate a camera. It was a one-of-a-kind bond."

Ted Fournier's death created a void in thousands of people's lives as his What-can-I-do-to-help spirit positively affected those who knew him well and those who may have only met him in passing.

Initially diagnosed with cancer at the age of 22, Fournier was given six months to live by doctors, who obviously underestimated their patient's resilience.

"Since he went through that at such a young age, I think he looked at every day as a gift," Matt Fournier said. "He was



Ted Fournier stands with grandson Cal and son Matt. COURTESY OF FOURNIER FAMILY

one of those people who was always asking, 'How can I help?' without wanting anything in return. I think that's why so many people loved him."

He was a good-natured fixture in Garden City, where he lived for the past 40 years, and in several Downriver communities, where he became a semi-celebrity thanks to his cable-television presence.

The longtime co-host of a popular Garden City cable access sports talk show called "The Bullpen," Fournier was a talented local sports announcer and behind-the-scenes public-access professional in Grosse Ile for several years.

He also served as an assistant coach for Garden City's basketball programs, making sure the last kid on the bench received as much coaching as the teams' star players.

"Dad was the coach who would make it a point to take the 11th and 12th kids on the team and try to make them better," said Matt Fournier, the longtime coach of the Livonia Franklin baseball team. "It's something I always admired and wished I could have done better myself."

Garden City High School softball coach and former Cougars girls basketball coach Barry Patterson, who

coached with Ted Fournier for several years, said his good friend's passing leaves an unfillable void.

"Ted is a one-of-a-kind person, who is precious and admired and can never be replaced," Patterson wrote on a special Facebook group page developed by Katie Fournier. "I will forever be grateful for all the wonderful memories we shared. RIP my friend!"

A store manager at Kmart for the first 20 years of his professional career, Fournier then served 23 years as a communications manager for Grosse Ile Township. His popularity in Grosse Ile resulted in Sharkey Riverfront Tavern naming a sandwich after him: The Teddy.

He is survived by his wife, Janice; sons Matt (Tammy) and Chris (Sara); grandchildren Katie, Cal, Caden, Cason and Lane; and siblings Mike (Annette), Andy (Eileen), Margaret (Ed) Boyer, Kathy Marson, Anne Hardin and Rev. Mother Marie DeMontfort.

Fournier's family honored his wishes to not hold a public viewing due to his fear of the spread of COVID-19.

Contact reporter Ed Wright at edwright@hometownlife.com or 517-375-1113.

South Lyon swim and dive claims LVC tournament title

The South Lyon girls swim and dive team had one goal for the season: win the Lakes Valley Conference dual-meet championship and the LVC tournament title four years in a row. After losing talent from the 2019 team, the 2020 team knew the task would not be easy. Along with the coronavirus pandemic, just completing the season became the primary goal.

However, despite every obstacle, the Lions achieved that goal this weekend by outscoring their opponents by more than 110 points at the two-day LVC championship meet held at South Lyon East and Waterford Kettering High Schools.

The diving portion was held at South Lyon East Friday, where South Lyon placed six divers in the top 10 finishes: Anna Lang, Molly Younkin, McKenzie Valencia, Ellie Peitz, Reese Linton and Sarah Kohler led the way for the Lions and will go on to the Regional Diving Meet held at Fenton High School on Nov. 12, competing for an opportunity to dive at the State Meet in Grand Rapids.

The Lions kept the momentum going as their relay teams took first place in the 200 Medley and 200 Free Relays.

In the 200 Free Relay, the team, consisting of Melanie Hesterman, Meghan Bandy, Emma Cusumano and Sierra Newton, swam a 1:41.61, which was a Division 1 state cut.

Sophomore Emma Cusumano, also found her stride as she made MHSAA Division 2 state cuts in the 200 Individual Medley and the 100 Backstroke. Cusumano had been chasing these cuts all season and finally achieved them with a strong 2:15.13 in the 200 IM and a 1:01.63 in the 100 Back. Cusumano joins Sabrina Oliveira and Sierra Newton in achieving individual Division 2 state-cut times for the Lions.

Sierra Newton also swam a new best time in the 100 Free with a 53.35 which led to a first place finish in that event.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Plymouth's Byrnes pushes through injury, finishes third at states

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Patrick Byrnes was not 100% heading into the final cross country meet of his high school career.

Over the course of his senior season at Plymouth, he suffered through an Achilles strain. And while he was still finding his way near the top of the leaderboard in each race, finishing third at regionals, he knew it was not the way he had pictured ending his career.

But heading into the state meet at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Byrnes knew, no matter what shape he was in, he was going to give it all he had, no matter the cost.

"My physical therapist, he was like 'Go all out as you can,'" Byrnes said. "You will probably re-strain it and make it worse, but we have four months for you to rest and recover until track. It's more than enough time."

The Plymouth senior said his Achilles began to hurt a mile-and-a-half into the race, getting worse and worse each step he took. He ended up losing pace with Ann Arbor Skyline senior Hobbs Kessler.

In the final stretch, Byrnes erased the pain from his mind and pushed.

"When I finally decided the pain wasn't that bad — like it was bad, but it wasn't anything that was torn or anything — I continued to push it and go through," Byrnes said. "Especially at the end, I sprinted for the first time for four weeks, five weeks."

"That was pretty painful at the end."

The Plymouth senior finished third in the Division 1 boys cross country state meet, improving upon his fifth-place finish in 2019 by seven seconds with a 15:25.66 time.

Area teams step up at state meet

The Novi high school boys cross country team came into the regular sea-

son expecting to place in the top-20 at states. As the season continued, the Wildcats moved up to the top-10.

Novi surpassed even those expectations Friday, finishing No. 4 in the Division 1 boys race, finishing behind Romeo, Caledonia and Rockford with a score of 239.

Novi senior Miles Brown finished in 14th place, finishing in 15:46.63, followed by junior Mihir Gupta in 47th and senior Matt Gustitus in 64th.

"We had some real good battles," Novi head coach Brad Moore said. "Our league is full of good teams, and we were right there with them, battling. We won a few, lost a few."

"Our goal today was top-10, maybe top-five. But fourth, we're really excited."

As teams, Milford placed seventh (273) and Salem placed eighth (289), while Northville came in 11th (318), Farmington placed 16th (386) and Plymouth placed 18th (430).

"I know my guys left it all out there," Northville senior Jacob Meek said. "We had a lot of guys step up in big ways today."

Individually, Farmington senior Peter Baracco placed immediately behind Plymouth's Patrick Byrnes, finishing the race in 15:30.8.

Salem senior Talha Syed had high hopes for his final state meet, but fell to ninth, finishing in 15:41.77.

"I wanted to get a third-place finish. I was in second place in our race coming into the stadium and then my legs started to feel really heavy, couldn't really get a stride going," Syed said. "But first time All State — last year I kind of got tripped up at states, so I didn't finish as well as I could have. I'm happy with an All-State finish."

Milford senior Kazuma Bowring (14th, 15:46.56) and Detroit Catholic Central junior Brett Leidal (22nd, 15:51.78) also each earned All-State honors.

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South Lyon's Newton earns state cuts, wins athlete of the week

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Sophomore Sierra Newton continued her dominant start to her career with the South Lyon swim and dive team, earning state cuts in the 50 Free and in the 100 Free while helping the Lions to a Lakes Valley Conference tournament title.

This helped Newton to earn Athlete of the Week honors for the week of Oct. 26, earning 63,559 votes (76.24%).

Plymouth cross country runner Lauren Kiley finished in second place with 8,506 votes (10.2%), while Churchill cross country runner Owen Swisher finished in third with 7,010 votes (8.41%).

Detroit Catholic Central football player Michael Ramirez and Livonia Stevenson football player Caden Woodall came in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

We caught up with Newton about her season and why her future may be focused on a sport outside of the pool.

At what point did you start swimming and what made you want to start?

"I was 7 when I started swimming. My dad was a swimmer... Maybe when I was younger, I just thought swimming was cool because it looked cool and felt cool."

Was it always something you knew you wanted to do at the high school level?

"Yeah, I always knew I wanted to try high school because I also knew a lot of girls that did it and they always said it was very fun."

At what point did you figure out your potential in the sport?

"When I turned 13, that's when I really started kind of getting faster. That's kind of when I realized I could be pretty good."

How has this season been for you?
"Last year, I did the same thing, so I kind of expected to do it, but a little later than usual because of the whole COVID situation. ...

"I'm hoping to get top-eight, all state in both events."

What kind of training goes into ensuring a top time?

"I practice every day, except for



Newton

Sundays every week. I train a lot of doubles — practice before school and after school a lot of times. Just a lot of practice."

How close is your team to you? What does it mean to be a part of such a highly-regarded team in the Lakes Valley Conference?

"It's really fun. I love it because I have so many great friends on my team. A lot of us are really close. Like we do a lot of things outside of swim: we hang out all the time and all that."

Do you want to swim at the next level?

"I actually don't think I want to continue to swim in college... I also play soccer, so I actually want to continue that route instead of the swimming route. I just think I enjoy soccer a little more."

Do you have a different approach to swim than to soccer?

"There's a little bit of a different mentality, but there's not too much of a different mentality. Swimming used to be a lot for me. I think soccer just came more easily, I guess, than swimming did. There's really no difference."

How do you balance training for soccer with your time in the pool?

"Somehow I do balance it. I make it to all my soccer practices and swim practices. I do it all."

"I don't know how, but I do. I make it to everything."

How do you balance the time spent on soccer and swimming with academics?

"I just have to set aside certain times to do homework and to study and all that kind of stuff, in between my sports, after my sports."

How would people describe you out of the pool or off the soccer field?

"Fun, I like to have fun. I like to see the positives in everything. I like to try and make people laugh all the time. I like being the funny person."

"I guess that is how people would describe me."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Follow him on Twitter @Colin-Gay17. Send game results and stats to Liv-Sports@hometownlife.com.

CC needed comeback push in state semifinals

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Every game, it seems, Detroit Catholic Central head soccer coach Gene Pulice is watching his team perform a dramatic comeback.

After coming back from a 1-0 deficit for a 3-1 win in the regional final against Berkley, the same storyline showed up for the Shamrocks in the state semifinal against Mattawan: In the second minute of play, Wildcats senior Connor Burkett streaked down the right sideline, broke left and found the back of the net for a score, answered later by a strike by senior Joshua Filiputti to give Mattawan a two-goal first half lead.

Then Catholic Central turned it on. With 9:08 to go in the first half, Shamrocks senior defender Jack Leuker found daylight off two deflections after a corner kick, finding the right side of the net off his left foot to cut the deficit to one.

But that was all the juice the Catholic Central (12-0-3) needed, as the Shamrocks scored two second-half goals to

beat Mattawan (14-2-1), 3-2, and advance to their second Division 1 state final appearance since 2017.

After a slow start in the first half, Pulice said the first goal by Leuker ignited the whole team, a commonality of many games this season.

"Once we put the first one in, it's kind of like a lion who tastes the blood," Pulice said. "We just keep digging in and things just start clicking for us."

Just over 20 minutes into the second half, Catholic Central, who had controlled possession after returning from the break, continued that momentum.

Senior Clay Moscovic, near the sideline, kicked a ball he admitted that was meant as a cross to the back post, but landed in the top right corner of the net to tie the game. Eight minutes later, senior midfielder Landon Lodato took a header attempt from senior Chad Ewing and pushed it in the back of the net to take the lead.

"When you get that first goal, when you see one of your buddies scoring, everyone gets that adrenaline rush and just keep going and just keep scoring,"

Lodato said.

Moscovic said Catholic Central prepares for comeback moments, remembering times where Pulice continued with attack formations when the team led in regular season contests, or when the starting 11 would face 13 or 14 players on a practice field to practice playing under pressure.

The senior forward said the team learns a lot from those situations, and it pays off when it counts most.

"Going into it, when we are down, we just look to play our hearts out," Moscovic said. "It's not about, 'Oh, we need to come back.' It's just playing our hardest and seeing what we can make happen."

The team's chemistry reminds Moscovic of what he saw from the 2017 Detroit Catholic Central soccer team when he was a freshman.

Watching the Shamrocks win its first state title as a member of the junior-varsity team, Moscovic said he saw a team full of leaders, but full of friends, something he says the team has now and shows up on the field.

"We're super connected just like they were," Moscovic said. "We're all really good friends, and that's what makes us play well on the field, just like they did."

While happy for the team's second state final appearance in the past four seasons, Pulice knows this team's affinity for the dramatic will not work against Traverse City West, a team that beat Troy Athens, the reigning Division 1 state champions, 4-0, in the state semifinal.

"We can't be casual," Pulice said. "This is a business trip."

"We can't show up to a business trip unorganized or not ready to present yourself. We just have to have the mindset that we are there for one reason and one reason only. There's no more 'Kumbaya.' This is for all the money."

Lodato knows that something else is on the line too.

"At our school, whenever you win a state final, you get a day off," the senior said. "Everyone gets so excited."

Contact reporter Colin Gay at cgay@hometownlife.com or 248-330-6710. Twitter: @ColinGay17.

Novi volleyball wins district final in sweep of Salem

Colin Gay Hometownlife.com
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The Novi seniors know what it's like to play state championship-level volleyball.

As freshmen, they book-ended a state title three-peat, sweeping Marian in the 2017 Division 1 state final. Head coach Kacy Byron, taking over as head coach in 2018, knows players on her roster know that feeling and know what it takes to get there.

Novi has a fire to return to Battle Creek Nov. 21 for the state final and came one step closer Nov. 5, earning the three-set sweep of Salem in the district final.

The Wildcats recorded their sixth district title in the past seven years, winning 18-of-24 sets in district final games since 2014.

"Everyone at this point knows that it's win and move on or lose and go home," Byron said.

Third-set dominance

After a nine-point first-set victory and an eight-point second-set victory, Megha Gondi found herself in a groove.

With junior setter Rachel Karr standing close by, the Novi senior turned five feeds into five kills, helping the Wildcats

start the second set with an eight-point run.

And after Karr, the server to start the third set, hit the net on a try, giving Salem its first points of the set, the Novi offense woke up again. Starting with a kill by sophomore Reganne Bennett set up by Karr, the Wildcats started a 10-1 run, with Gondi adding four more kills to her total.

"We always just have a really strong connection at the net," Gondi said of her and her setter Karr. "When we are able to get going, we are just unstoppable. She always puts up the perfect ball for me and I can't thank her enough."

After the Rocks closed the deficit by a mini three-point run of their own, using a kill and a block by junior middle hitter Alexis Brooks, Novi sealed the deal.

Starting with a set-kill by senior Caleigh Robinson from Karr, the Wildcats scored seven straight, earning the 25-5 set victory and the match.

"We had a break down there," Salem head coach Nancy Blaylock said. "We had a couple of rotations that were very tough for us to get through and work through. They are a very good team and they earned every single point."

Blocking creates runs

While hitters like Gondi, Robinson

and sophomore Sarah Velluci shined in the front on offense with Karr creating chances for authoritative kills all night, blocking, something Byron said the team had been working to improve upon, proved to be the major key.

Tied at 14-all in the first set, the Wildcats went on a 10-0 run with three points coming from Robinson blocks up front, earning the nine-point victory. That approach continued into the second set as Robinson added two more points on blocks along with Vellucci.

Byron said that each of her main players in the front have strong blocking ability, which plays a major role defensively.

But, heading into the district final and looking ahead, the Novi head coach challenged Robinson to take charge in that area.

"I think that Caleigh is the one, as a senior leader, that takes over that," Byron said. "She's really bought in that she needs to be a defensive blocking quarterback for us, and I feel like when she gets one stuff block, it motivates everyone else to catch fire as well."

Novi caught fire multiple times throughout the contest, recording five runs of seven points or more in the three sets of play against the Rocks.

Turning up the dial

Coming into the district final, Salem had not played a game since the end of its regular season.

Blaylock said Salem had been expecting to play Canton, but that, with the lack of stability in the schedule due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Rocks started its postseason run in the district final.

"This whole season has been a pivot at every turn," Blaylock said. "It was just an honor to continue to play and to be healthy to play."

Novi, on the other hand, had a level of momentum.

After pulling out a tight five-set win against Northville in the first round, the Wildcats showcased its ability, earning the sweep against Plymouth and coming out with the three-set win against Salem in the final.

Heading into regional play, Byron said practices, moving forward, will be turned up a notch to match the increased level of play Novi will see.

But Gondi knows what Novi can do. She knows what they can be.

"I think we are able to go so far," Gondi said. "I think that if we are able to play our 100%, we all go balls to the wall, I think we can put our mind on anything we can do."

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Tips, tools for networking online

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The old networking playbook included getting some business cards printed, preparing an elevator pitch, and attending industry conferences and mixers. But as ever more in-person events are canceled due to COVID-19, people the world over are shifting to doing most of their professional networking online.

Here are tips to help improve your virtual networking game, and some recommended tools for maximum success.

1. Find thought leaders and influencers

Let's say you want to find a job as an interior designer. The first step is to follow thought leaders and influencers in the industry. You can find them by searching "interior design" on Twitter and Instagram. One way to make your search more strategic, however, is to use a tool like Followwork. Search "interior design" + "blogger" or "writer," and you will get a list of people who write about interior design, ranked by their number of followers.

See whom they follow to grow your network. Through the people you follow, you are likely to learn about important industry news, online events, webinars and webcasts. Sign up and participate when interesting ones come along.

2. Start listening

Once you've found the right people to follow, start listening to what they have to say and gathering the latest news and insights in your

industry. Follow them on Twitter, Instagram, Quora, Yelp, Meetup and Listly. Download their podcasts. Put their names in Talkwalker and Newsle so you get emailed when they appear in the news. Subscribe to their newsletters and YouTube channels, or subscribe to their content on Patreon.

3. Build awareness

Now that you're aware of them, you can start making them aware of you. The key to successful networking is to create value for others, too. Retweet their content, +1 their posts, share their content on Facebook, comment (insightfully) on their publications and videos, and include their insights in your content (with appropriate attribution, tags and hashtags).

4. Connect

Only then — once you know a little bit about them and have a clue about what's going on in

the industry, and once you've created some value for them through retweets and shares and engagement — should you reach out. Friend-ing them on Facebook will likely come across as creepy because it is more of a personal network. But reaching out on LinkedIn and other professional network platforms is totally appropriate. Lead with a sentence that starts with something like "I loved your article last week about ..." Then let them know what you want ("I've written this ... and would appreciate your advice" or "I'd appreciate the chance to interview you about your career for my blog" or "I'm starting out in the industry and would appreciate your mentorship. Are you available for a quick virtual coffee meeting?")

If you don't hear back, send a quick follow-up message about a week later. After two or three follow-ups, it's time to move on to the next person on your list. But keep the door open by continuing steps 1, 2 and 3. The first secret of success is showing up — even when the room is in Zoom.



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19 Words on an F paper, maybe
24 Opening for a letter-shaped bolt
28 "My, my, old chap!"
30 Suffix with prop-
31 Ky. neighbor
33 Young guy, in hip-hop
34 Doc studying laryngitis
35 Wyo. neighbor
36 Hip '60s teen

ACROSS

- 37 Programs running in web browsers
39 Hanna-Barbera bear
42 "Live PD" network
43 Inmate
44 Two-time Wimbledon winner Lew
45 Improvise
46 Allude (to)
48 Committing to a fiduciary
49 Officers in training
50 Doglike scavengers
53 Prefix with afternoon
55 Really bother
56 Muscle jerk
57 One-on-one student
58 "Stop that, silly goose!"
59 Pool triangles
60 Yummy tidbit
61 Actress
62 Doesn't differ
68 Wrist-to-elbow bones
69 San —, California
71 Tinfoil giant
73 — Magnon
74 Klingon
78 Reviewer of paintings
79 Be suitable
80 Army wheels
81 For later use
85 — fi film
86 "Of course"
88 "Of course"
89 Coll. in Columbus
90 Neighbor of TV's Homer
91 Brunch fruit
92 — wee Herman
93 A Gabor
95 Chefs' tie-ons
98 Makes easier, with "down"
99 University in Atlanta
100 "Sounds like —!"
101 Sword types
102 Birds' refuges
103 Isle of Minos
104 Roof edges
106 Detested
109 Cots, e.g.
111 Holster fillers
112 Riga native, old-style
113 Rival of Petro-Canada
115 Spying tool
116 "Westworld" network
117 Actor Diesel
118 Suffix with serpent

SUDOKU

		1			9	3		
	7		2			6		
8		4				1		9
2						7		
				4				
	9							1
1		2				5		8
	4				1		3	
		8	3			2		

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/12

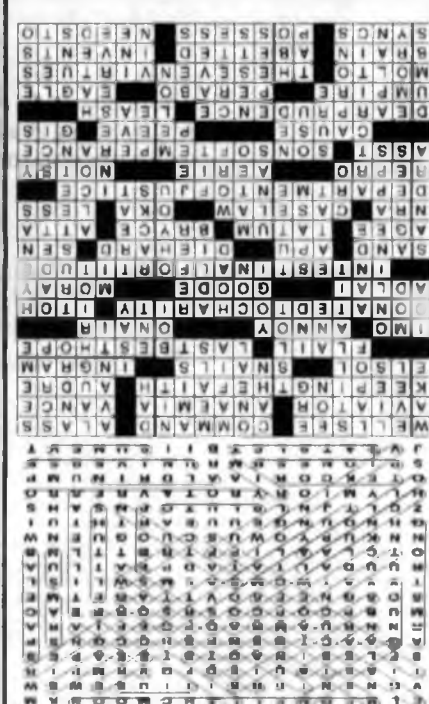
Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SPACED OUT

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, even diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

E L R E G N E L L A H C M O O N K M
V G N E N T S R K I T I U S E W S W
T I A E T A U I E C F Q V R M P I R
S F L E S I N A O T S T E E A P E S
A G A A C T B S N P S H O C G N S P
R N N R U A M R A O P O E F I A R A
M U B P C O P C O S R S O R F E A C
S O S G N E E S O V T S A B E T M E
T Y Y A T W C M S A E M S W L I S L
R U D A L T A T A D P E A T L U A
O T C L A A L I P F T R B T T L N B
N N K U P Y O W U S C U O G U E N W
G H N O U N G E U U E A R T H T U I
Z C L T J N L P L U T O P N S A H S
H L Y M I O R Y R O T A V R E S B O
O T E K C O R I A A L D R I N U M P
S P I O N E E R M R U N I V E R S E
I V P A T C I E T D I S H I N E V T

ALDRIN
APOLLO
ARMSTRONG
ASTRONAUT
ATMOSPHERE
BOOSTER
CHALLENGER
COSMONAUT
CREW
EARTH
FUEL
GLENN
LAUNCH
LIFT-OFF
MARINER
MARS
MIR
MOON
NASA
OBSERVATORY
ORBIT
ORBITER
PIONEER
PLUTO
PROBE
ROCKET
SALYUT
SATELLITE
SATURN
SHUTTLE
SPACE AGE
SPACECRAFT
SPACE LAB
SPACE STATION
SPACE WALK
SPUTNIK
SUIT
SUN
TELSTAR
UNIVERSE
VEGA
VENUS
VIKING
YOUNG



SPACED OUT

4	1	2	5	6	3	8	9	7
6	3	7	1	2	8	6	4	5
8	6	9	7	9	7	2	3	1
1	8	9	2	3	7	9	6	4
2	9	6	9	4	1	7	8	3
3	7	4	8	9	6	9	1	2
6	2	1	3	7	9	4	9	8
5	9	8	4	1	2	3	7	6
7	4	3	6	8	5	1	2	9

The Classifieds

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DO YOU
LOVE FOOD
AND FUN?



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HIRING

Great Benefits
Internal Growth Potential
Tuition Reimbursement
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Flexible Schedules



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ANN ARBOR-MAIN ST. | ANN ARBOR-PLYMOUTH RD. | BRIGHTON | CANTON | CLINTON
DEXTER | FARMINGTON HILLS | LIVONIA | NOVI | PINCKNEY | PLYMOUTH/NORTHVILLE
ROCHESTER HILLS | SALINE | SOUTH LYON | TECUMSEH | WEST BLOOMFIELD