

High School Athletes Ready for Strong Season of Competition

By David Latva

This 2008-09 winter sports preview features girls and boys basketball, wrestling, bowling, cheerleading, and "Looking Back" photographs highlighting the St. Ignace Saints, Cedarville Trojans, Mackinac Island Lakers, Engadine Eagles, Pickford Panthers, DeTour Raiders, Mackinaw City Comets, Rudyard Bulldogs, Brimley Bays, and Maplewood Baptist Black Bears.

Stories feature the newly formed LaSalle High School Sports Hall of Fame, with inductions to be held Sunday, December 28, and Monday, December 29, and the "Hooping for the Cure" girls basketball game between St. Ignace and Cedarville to benefit the Mackinac Straits Hospital oncology department. That game will be Wednesday, January 21.

This will be the second year that the girls and boys basketball teams will be playing at the same season and after the 2007-08 season, schools have accepted the change and have worked



**Coach Jason Marshall
St. Ignace**

out the difficulties.

In wrestling, the Saints team, led by Coach Harvey Bentley, with all of its strong returning grapplers, could have another successful season.

In St. Ignace boys basketball, Jason Marshall will take over for 16-year veteran coach Doug Ingalls and Jason Latz will coach the Saints junior varsity squad.

At Cedarville, boys and girls basketball teams could make another tournament run as 19-

year veteran Coach David Duncan will gear his boys toward hopes of their fourth consecutive trip to the Breslin Center at Michigan State University. Sonja Duncan, and the girls team reached the final four at Eastern Michigan University in 2007-08 for the first time in school history.

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference boys and girls sports races will be very competitive, with leadership by experienced coaches Elmer Albright (fifth year) and Daryl Browning (second year) at Engadine, Shawn Bennin (second year) and Becky Arbic (fifth year) at Pickford, Matt Bathey (second year) and Ray

Bell (seventh year) at Brimley, and Rob Anderson (third year) and Sarah Adams (second year) at DeTour.

Coach Dorene Ingalls and the Saints have the talent to make a tournament run in Class C girls basketball. St. Ignace, Rudyard with boys coach Grant Ross (eighth year), and girls coach Mike Jarvie (seventh year), Newberry, Sault Ste. Marie, Cheboygan, and Rogers City will battle for the Straits Area Conference in girls and boys basketball action.

Mackinaw City boys lost six players to graduation, but Coach Garth Law will put together a competitive team this season in the Northern Lakes

Conference. Veteran coach Paul Wallin for the Comets girls' squad will build his team with nine returning players.

Mackinac Island boys with Coach Jim Fisher will once again defend the Northern Lights League championship, while Coach Mary Patay will lead her young Lakers girls basketball team in their second season on the hardwood.

The Saints bowling team will be led by veteran coach Terri Allan, and with its returning bowlers, could have a strong squad.

Good luck this season to all athletes on the basketball, wrestling, bowling, and cheerleading squads.

Vecellio and Saints Prepare for Play



Bud Vecellio, basketball coach at LaSalle High School, uses chalk to design a play on the floor of the gymnasium at the old high school during the 1950-51 season.

Preseason Picks: Top 10 Area Basketball Players

The boys and girls top 10 basketball players from *The St. Ignace News* area include 13 high school seniors, five juniors, and two sophomores, selected by sportswriter David Latva.

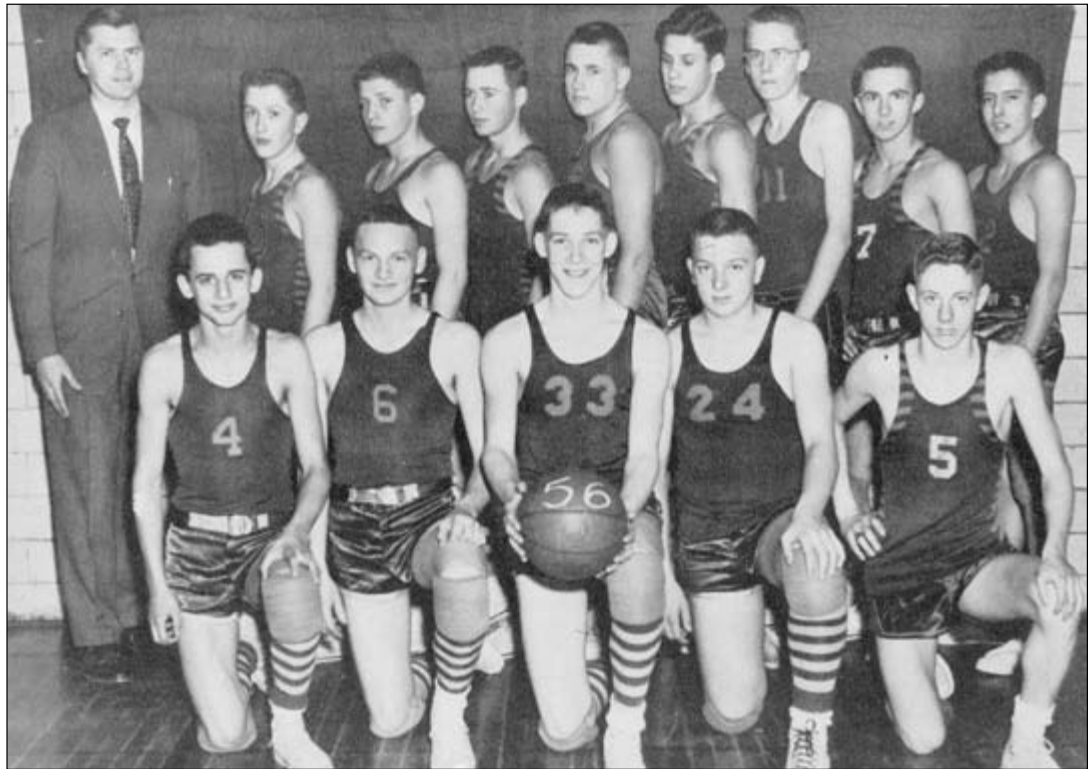
The boys first team consists of senior C.J. Paquin of Cedarville, junior Gerrit Mortensen of St. Ignace, seniors Arik Hesselink of Rudyard and Anthony Lester of St. Ignace, and junior Mckinley Portice of Pickford.

The girls first team includes seniors Jessica Duncan and Billie McLeod of Cedarville, Amanda Coveyou of St. Ignace, junior Emily Jeffreys of Rudyard and sophomore Nicole Elmlblad of St. Ignace

The boys second team includes sophomore Austin St. Louis of St. Ignace, junior Phillip Hood of Engadine, seniors Michael Gamble of Mackinac Island and Mickael Cantin of Pickford, and junior Adam Alexander of Mackinaw City.

The girls second team consists of seniors Lauren MacArthur of Engadine, Marcie Rickley of St. Ignace, Jasmine Ledy of Pickford, Erin Jarvie of Rudyard, Kelly Graham of Brimley.

Looking Back: 1955-56 St. Ignace Saints



The 1955-56 St. Ignace Saints junior varsity boys team includes (front, from left) Gary Gustafson, Donald Vallier, Mike Dory, Calvin McPhee, John MacDonald; (back) Coach Paul Nelson, Jimmy Utter, David Earl, David Nelson, Roger Beers, Steve Alward, Ed Reavie, Jim Perry, and Mike Holtham.

Saints, Trojans To Play in 'Hooping for a Cure'

By David Latva

The St. Ignace Saints and Cedarville Trojans girls basketball teams will play in a "Hooping for the Cure - Make it Possible" game to benefit the oncology department at the new hospital to be built in St. Ignace. The hoops game will be played at LaSalle High School Wednesday, January 21, 2009.

Coach Dorene Ingalls and her Saints and Coach Sonja Duncan and her Trojans will wear uniforms to signify the benefit. Uniforms will be purchased by sponsors for \$100 each and those who want to be a sponsor can contact St. Ignace Area Schools. Phone Kathy Marshall at 643-8145.

Pre-sale game tickets, which include a T-shirt, will be available for \$15, with additional shirts available for purchase on the evening of the game. There will be a 50/50 raffle and silent auction at the game. Those who would like to donate items to the auction may contact Kim Latva at 643-8886 or drop off donations at First National Bank Drive-In Bank in St. Ignace, or contact Bob Smith in Cedarville at 484-2456.

Dr. Edward Smith of Northern Michigan Regional Hospital and Mackinac Straits Hospital, Rod Nelson, CEO at Mackinac Straits Hospital, and members of the hospital board are supporting and participating in the "Hooping for the Cure" game.

"The event is an outstanding idea and it's for a great cause," said Dr. Smith. He pointed out that of every 18 women - the number of players on both the St. Ignace and Cedarville basketball team rosters - two will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

MHSAA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

BOWLING

February 27-28 Regionals
March 6-7 State Finals

TEAM WRESTLING

February 18 Division 1 and 3
19 Division 2 and 4
March 6-7 Team State Finals

INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING

February 21 Districts
28 Regionals
March 12-14 Individual State Finals

GIRLS BASKETBALL

March 2-6 Districts
10-12 Regionals
17 Quarterfinals
19-20 Semifinals
21 State Finals

BOYS BASKETBALL

March 9-13 Districts
16-18 Regionals
24 Quarterfinals
26-27 Semifinals
28 State Finals