

2009-2010 Will Be Exciting Year for Area Winter Athletics

Three New Members In the Coaching Fraternity

By David Latva

The 2009-2010 sports preview features the sports of basketball, wrestling, bowling, and cheerleading and highlights the St. Ignace Saints, Cedarville Trojans, DeTour Raiders, Engadine Eagles, Brimley Bays, Mackinaw City Comets, Mackinac Island Lakers, Pickford Panthers, and Rudyard Bulldogs.

Feature stories include a "Looking Back" report on the 1969-1970 St. Ignace boys basketball team, Class C runner-up, coached by Gene Shank, and the 1999 Saints girls squad who captured the Class C state championship, coached by Dorene Ingalls.

The St. Ignace News welcomes new girls coaches Dave McNeil at Engadine, Paul



Dave McNeil
Engadine

Griffin at Pickford, and Adam Stefanski at Mackinaw City.

Area Coaches Head Alma Mater Programs

Thirteen area coaches are heading programs at their alma maters for the 2009-2010 season. They are:



Paul Griffin
Pickford

St. Ignace: Harvey Bentley-wrestling, eighth year; Terri Allan-bowling, sixth year; Jason Marshall-boys basketball, second year; Cedarville: Dave Duncan-boys basketball, 20th year; Sonja Duncan-girls basketball, fourth year; Engadine: Elmer Albright-boys bas-



Adam Stefanski
Mackinaw City

ketball, sixth year; Mackinac Island: Jim Fisher-boys basketball, fifth year; Rudyard: Mike Jarvie-girls basketball, eighth year, Grant Ross-boys basketball, ninth year; Pickford: Shawn Bennin-boys basketball, third year; Brimley: Matt Bathey-boys basketball, third

year; DeTour: Sarah Adams-girls basketball, third year; Rob Anderson-boys basketball, seventh year.

Remaining coaches are Dorene Ingalls, 11th year for St. Ignace girls team; Ray Bell, eighth year for Brimley girls team; Garth Law, fourth year for Mackinaw City boys team; Mary Patay, third year for Mackinac Island girls team; and first year girls coaches Adam Stefanski at Mackinaw City, Paul Griffin at Pickford, and Dave McNeil at Engadine.

Teams in the area compete in five conferences: the Straits Area Conference, Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference, and Northern Lights League, Northern Lakes Conference for basketball and wrestling, and Northern Michigan Bowling Association Conference.

Good luck to all of the teams, from the sports desk at The St. Ignace News.

St. Ignace Saints Girls Capture First State Crown 10 Years Ago

By David Latva

The St. Ignace Saints basketball team captured the first girls state championship in the history of LaSalle High School and the Upper Peninsula 10 years ago during the fall season of 1999.

Dorene Ingalls had coached the Saints junior varsity team and took over the varsity program in 1999.

The St. Ignace team groomed for the championship with a strong showing during the previous three seasons, including a quarterfinal appearance in 1997.

Defense wins championships, and the 1999 squad allowed 35.5 points per game while scoring 71.4, lifting the Saints to the Class C crown.

The Saints' only blemish on the season was a 61-48 non-league setback at the hands of Sault Ste. Marie. St. Ignace won the Straits Area Conference with a 10-0 record and compiled a 19-1 overall mark.

St. Ignace opened tournament play at Rudyard with victories over Manistique (82-48) and Newberry (60-23) for the district title. Then it was on to Northern Michigan University for the regionals, and wins over West Iron County (77-42) and Westwood (60-36).

Gaylord High School hosted the Class C quarterfinals that featured Maple City-Glen Lake Lakers and the Saints.



The St. Ignace Saints 26-1 overall won the school's first girls' basketball crown and was the first Class C team from the Upper Peninsula to capture a championship. Coach Dorene Ingalls (center) is surrounded by players (front, from left) Kathleen Peterson, Micaela Kelso, Liz Elliott, Samantha Litzner, Adria West, Karolyn Getzen, Emily Evashevski, Mandi Johnson, Randi Johnson, Melisa Massaway, Ashley St. Louis, Jenny Massaway, Kate Springsteen; (back) Marielle Calcaterra, Jessica Martin, Assistant Coach Jon Olsen, Kate Ruegg, Assistant Coach Doug Ingalls, Katie Harris, Holly Cole, Eryn Mercer, and Meghann Savard. (Johnson family photographs)

St. Ignace defeated the Lakers 70-39 and held Liz Shiemke, who later was named Miss Basketball for the State of Michigan, to 13 points.

Saints statistics: Randi Johnson, 30 points; Emily Evashevski, 10 points; Eryn Mercer, eight points; Mandi Johnson, seven points; Micaela Kelso, six points; Holly Cole, three points; Meghann Savard, Kate Ruegg, Adria West, two points.

During the final four at Central Michigan University's (CMU) Rose Arena, the Saints edged Saginaw Nouvel in the defensive battle 43-42 in the semifinals.

Saints statistics: Randi Johnson, 14 points; Holly Cole, 11 points; Meghann Savard, five points; Mandi Johnson, Eryn Mercer, four points; Emily Evashevski, Micaela Kelso, two points.

The Saints of St. Ignace and the Redskins of Sandusky faced each other in the Class C state finals with the Upper

Peninsula team leaving CMU with the championship trophy after breezing to a 65-40 win and closing out the season with a 26-1 overall record.

Defense played a key role all season. In the finals, the Saints' intensity echoed throughout Rose Arena. The team, coached by the Ingalls trio of Dorene, Doug, and Jack, put the St. Ignace pressure defense on the map.

Randi Johnson, the Class A-B-C Upper Peninsula Player of the Year, said: "This was a dream of mine since I was in junior high, to play in the championship game. There was a lot of hard work and numerous hours in the gymnasium and playing at home against my sister, Mandi."

Saints statistics: Randi Johnson, 30 points, state final record with seven steals, three assists; Holly Cole, 14 points; Meghann Savard, five points; Kate Ruegg, four points; Mandi Johnson, Micaela Kelso, three points; Eryn Mercer, Katie Harris, Jessica



Randi Johnson (14) drives to the hoop against Sandusky during the Class C state finals at CMU.

Martin, two points.

Coach Ingalls lost just two players, Randi Johnson and Katie Harris, to graduation. The Saints continued their success for the next four years.

The team was named Class

C Upper Peninsula Team of the Year.

"Dreams do come true," said Coach Ingalls. "The 1999 team was truly a very great squad, especially during my first varsity season."



Defense wins championships. Mandi Johnson and Meghann Savard combine to shut down the Sandusky player in the state finals.