

Michigan High School Basketball Class A Pre-season Team Rankings
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Detroit Pershing won the Class A state championship in March 2009. It could be all Doughboys again in 2010. These are the best teams and players in Michigan's largest high school division.

1. Detroit Pershing

Defending state champion graduated Mr. Basketball Derrick Nix, but return his likely heir apparent, senior guard Keith Appling, who set the state final scoring record last March. Pershing has enough offense with the likes of 6-5 senior Juwan Howard, senior guard Keidez Foster and soph guard Sherron Dorsey-Walker to make teams play Appling honestly. If that happens, Doughboys aren't going to get beat.

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2. Rockford

With 6-3 junior Ryan Majerle and sophomore point guard Justin Klein, the Rams have twice as many DI players as their 2003 state championship team. Their senior class is underrated.

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3. Kalamazoo Central

Senior Devin Oliver and junior Darius Norman, both 6-6, are DI players, as is junior guard TJ Buchanan. Of last year's accomplished (Class A runner-up) senior class, the one that may be hardest to place is point guard Juwan Hemphill.

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4. Saginaw Arthur Hill

The Jacks' senior point guard, USC signee Maurice Jones, will win games by himself. But to reach their potential, 6-8 soph Jordan Hare will have to be a star, not just a prospect.

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5. Saginaw

A lot of good guards who will come of age and prosper in a system they know, what else is new -- the Trojans have shooters and playmakers. Draymond Green was a junior when he led Saginaw to a state title, can Tommie McCune?

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6. Detroit Southeastern

Have as much talent as anyone, including 6-6 junior Brandon Kearney and 6-8 junior Percy Gibson. But it's tough to replace a championship coach like Mark White.

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7. Holt

Justin Edmonds played with Holt in the summer, with him this is probably the No. 2 team in Class A. Holt's still going to be tough, as 6-7 senior Cole Darling is one of the state's most versatile player, and senior Donlunto Jackson is the vet you like to have at point guard.

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8. Mount Pleasant

We all know about 6-5 senior Trey Zeigler, a Mr. Basketball favorite. Now the Oilers have an influx of talent to go with him in seniors Matt Strickland and James Arnold.

9. Detroit Cass Tech

The Technicians' senior class has a ton of experience, and talent with two D1 prospects in 6-7 Shannon Williams (Morehead State) and 6-5 Lanier Brown. What they didn't have was a pure point guard, but lo and behold here comes Robichaud sophomore transfer Ray Lee.

10. Lansing Eastern

If freshman point guard Charles Tucker is as good as they say, Eastern could be a favorite for the 2011 state title, when 6-6 LaDontae Henton will be a senior.