

High school boys basketball preview: Top teams

Dean Holzwarth | The Grand Rapids Press, December 06, 2011

1. Grand Rapids Christian

The return of several key contributors from last year's OK White Conference championship team have the Eagles poised for another conference title — and more.

2. Hudsonville

The Eagles won their first regional title since 1938 last season with a young squad and will be the favorites in the OK Red behind the return of seniors Blake Hibbits and BJ Van Loo.

3. Northview

The talented duo of Darren Kapustka and Kevin Rich will create problems for opposing teams as the Wildcats look to contend in the OK White.

4. East Grand Rapids

The Pioneers didn't peak last year until the state tournament, but expect them to challenge Grand Rapids Christian and Northview in the OK White.

5. Godwin Heights

Senior guard Kevin Badger's presence will make the Wolverines a tough team to handle in the OK Silver.

6. Tri-unity Christian

The defending Class D state champions have plenty of returning talent.

7. Rockford

The Rams lost leading scorer Ryan Majerle to graduation and coach Steve Majerle to retirement. However, a capable returning cast will keep them in the OK Red hunt.

8. Ottawa Hills

The Bengals have experience with seven players back, including three starters.

9. Holland

The inside-outside combination of seniors Coreante DeBerry and Trent Windemuller will have The Dutch poised to dethrone defending OK Black champion Union.

10. Zeeland East

The return of senior Zac Van Beek will enable the Chix to chase an OK Green championship.

High school boys basketball preview: Top players

1. Kevin Badger, Godwin Heights

The 5-foot-11 lightning quick senior guard averaged more than 20 points per game last season in leading the Wolverines to an OK Silver crown.

2. Darren Kapustka, Northview

A four-year varsity player, the versatile 5-foot-11 senior guard recently committed to Grand Valley State.

3. Drake Harris, Grand Rapids Christian

Being recruited by several Big Ten schools, the 6-foot-4 sophomore is an athletic scorer with unlimited potential.

4. Blake Hibbits, Hudsonville

Recently signed with Samford University to play baseball and basketball, the 6-foot-5 senior helped spark last year's postseason run to the Class A quarterfinals.

5. Joey Blauwkamp, Tri-unity Christian

A tough and aggressive 6-foot-1 junior guard, he played a key role in Defenders' march to a Class D state championship.

6. Eric Evans, Jenison

The 6-foot-1 senior guard averaged 18 points per game and returns as one of the top players in the OK Red.

7. DeAndre Grady, East Grand Rapids

The 6-foot-1 senior guard will be the catalyst of a Pioneers' squad that reached the Class B quarterfinals a year ago.

8. Coreante DeBerry, Holland

An imposing force in the middle, the 6-foot-9 senior center averaged nearly 14 points and 10 rebounds per game last season.

9. Chad Carlson, Rockford

The 5-foot-8 junior guard is a pure shooter and will help shoulder the scoring load after the departure of all-stater Ryan Majerle.

10. Jon Maas, Holland Christian

The 6-foot-5 senior standout is strong and athletic; makes plays on both ends of the court.



By **Greg Chrapek | Advance Newspapers** December 06, 2011

Hudsonville boys basketball looking to build on last year's success

Hudsonville enjoyed one of its best seasons in school history last winter and with a number of key players back another big season may be in the cards.

A total of seven seniors and two other key contributors are back from a team that finished 15-11 last year and advanced to the Class A regional championship game.

"We're excited about this group," said Eagle coach Eric Elliott, who is entering his third year as head coach. "We have seven seniors back and the majority of our scoring and rebounding back.

Seniors BJ VanLoo (6-6), Blake Hibbitts (6-6) and Hunter Prince (6-3) return to the starting lineup.

VanLoo is a third-year, varsity player who can score the ball in a variety of ways including in the paint and shooting threes. Hibbitts earned second-team, all-conference honors last season and is one of the top three-point shooters in all of West Michigan. Prince is a space eater inside who is a strong rebounder and defender.

Matt Postma (6-0), Brad Lidgard (6-1) and Lucas Tans (6-2) are three more returning seniors. Postma is an all-purpose player who defends well, Lidgard is also a strong defender and makes things happen and Tans can play the three or four spot and defends well.

Also back are junior Jake Bull (6-6) and sophomore point guard Logan Magsig. Bull is a rugged rebounder and defender while Magsig is a developing point guard with good leadership skills.

Junior Cody Stivey (6-5) is a newcomer to watch who brings length on the inside and is a good shooter.

Senior core to lead the way for East Kentwood boy's basketball team

East Kentwood captured the O-K Red championship last winter and with a trio of seasoned senior starters back to lead the way, the Falcons will again be a major factor in the race for the league title.

Kentwood turned in a 11-3 conference record last season and finished 19-5 overall. Kentwood's senior trio of Miles Robinson (6-1), Melvin Harris (6-4) and Tavon Robinson (6-1) have won league titles on the freshman, junior-varsity and on the varsity level last season.

Robinson is a solid all-around guard who sees the floor well and is a good scorer and penetrator. Harris is very athletic and is one of the top defenders in the area while Robinson is a lefty wing who is a good slasher to the basket on offense.

Senior Quaye Cobbs (6-6) is another veteran returnee. Cobbs is an athletic forward who is excellent at running the floor.

The Falcons also have an excellent point guard in junior Jaylen Carter (5-9). Carter is one of the most athletic guards in the area and gives the team plenty of options in the backcourt.

Kentwood also has a pair of talented freshmen to add to the mix. Brent Kimbrel (5-10) is a skilled guard while Qi'antae Ewing (6-2) is very strong and gives the team some size and muscle up front.

"Our seniors have done a great job of preparing for the season," said Kentwood coach Jeff Anama, who is entering his eighth season. "For us to have a good season we have to be a balanced team. We also have to be very good defensively."

Muskegon boy's basketball team looking to compete for title

Muskegon returns a strong core of veterans from a team that finished third in the conference last season. The Big Reds reached the regional finals where they fell to Hudsonville by a point and finished the year with a 17-6 mark.

Topping the list of returnees is senior guard Juwan Loudermill (6-1 ½). Loudermill is a combo guard with a good shot and can take it to the basket. Loudermill improved his mid-range jumper over the summer and led the team in assists last year.

Senior Jhemonte Melton (5-10) returns at the point where he has outstanding quickness and court vision. Melton is a very good passer and is good in transition.

Senior guard Rob Brooks (6-1) has good size and is one of the top outside shooters on the squad.

The Big Reds are also solid up front. Travelle Oakes (6-3) was second on the team in rebounding last year. Mikal McCoy (6-3) has good length and is a good defensive player and good jump shooter. Josh Wynn (6-5) returns in the paint. Wynn is a lefty with a good touch and good post moves.

The team also has a number of newcomers led by junior Sherman Hodges (6-2) and Marcus Smith (5-10).

"I think we are a better defensive team," said veteran Muskegon coach Bernard Loudermill, who is entering his ninth season. "We lost a little bit of size but we made up for it in quickness. We should also be a good rebounding team. I also think our team chemistry is a lot better."

Grand Haven boy's basketball team set to contend

Grand Haven has a strong core of veterans returning from last year's squad that turned in a 14-9 overall record last winter.

The Bucs are solid along the perimeter. Senior guard Alex Eidson (6-2) is a scoring threat inside and outside. Eidson is also a strong rebounder from his guard spot and is a good free-throw shooter.

Outside shooting will be a strong point for the Bucs. Senior Matt Kroll (6-2) is a strong outside shooter and solid defender as is fellow senior Jeremy Lattig (6-1).

A pair of senior veterans also return up front. Danny Cotter (6-2) is a solid defender and rebounder who runs the floor well, is very athletic and can score in the paint. Brent Boerema (6-3) is a returning forward who can score in the paint and plays good defense and rebounds.

The Bucs also have some talented newcomers to mix in. Up front, Ryan Peterson (6-3) is a good athlete who can knock down the mid-range jumper. Ty VanWieren (6-2) can score and defend while junior Mac Carter (6-2) is a strong inside player with a nice touch around the basket.

Newcomers in the backcourt include Sean Steffel (5-11) who can score and play the point, Kevin LaCroix (5-10) who can also play the point and is an excellent defender and Ethan Groothuis (6-1) who has a good shooting touch at shooting guard.

"How well we can defend and rebound will determine how well we finish in the O-K Red," said Grand Haven coach Steve Hewitt, who is entering his seventh year as coach of the Bucs.

New faces to be on the bench, floor for Rockford boys basketball

Rockford will have a new look this season. Not only did the Rams graduate a number of key players led by Ryan Majerle, but a new coach will also be guiding the team as last year's junior-varsity coach, Nick Allen, has taken over for Steve Majerle.

Allen will have some familiar faces to build around led by big man Aaron Weston (6-7). Weston is a strong post defender and rebounder who provides a presence in the paint.

Junior Xavier Stewart (6-3) has good basketball instincts and drives to the basket well.

Junior Chad Carlson (5-7) returns on the perimeter. Carlson sees the floor well, is good at pushing the ball up the floor and is a tremendous shooter.

The Rams also have a number of other players who can play a variety of roles. Scott Nikodemski can play the point or two guard. Mark Pearson (6-0) can play the three or four spot as can Mitch Cawood (6-1). Alex Dirken (6-1) will be at the three spot while Ivy Johnson (6-6) will give the Rams good depth in the post and is a strong rebounder."

A pair of sophomores who were brought up at the end of last season will also be in the mix. Kyle Short (6-0) can play either the two or three spot as can Chase Fairchild (6-1).

"We have a team full of hard-working kids," Allen said. "Everyone on the team is going to contribute in one way or another. Hopefully we can shoot the ball pretty well."

Quickness, strong guard play to be keys for Jenison boys basketball

Jenison will be relying on quickness this season as a cast of veteran guards leads the way for a team that finished 11-10 overall last season and 5-9 in conference play.

Senior guard Eric Evans (6-1) leads the way for the Wildcats. An explosive scorer with great range, Evans is one of the premier all-around guards in the area.

Senior Cory Barriegear (5-10) is a quick guard who can run the floor. Senior Tyler Fredricks (5-10) has more quickness to the backcourt. Fredricks has quick feet and hands and is a solid defender.

The Wildcats also return a pair of players to the frontcourt. Sophomore forward Luke Diekevers (6-3) is a solid all-around player with a complete inside and outside game.

Senior Nick Winchel (6-1) also returns at forward and is a player who plays bigger than his height.

Blending in with the veterans are a number of newcomers. Junior guard Cooper Logsdon (5-9) is a good shooter while junior Austin Duval (5-9) is a quick defender.

Up front, junior Trent Baar (6-1) is a good team player with a lot of hustle. Junior forward Dakota Mekkes has good outside range and sophomore forward C.J. Vantimmeran is a good scorer and rebounder.

The Wildcats also have a pair of juniors at center. Colin Nyboer and Travis Schuitema are both strong players in the post.

"We will need for everyone to contribute as a team this year," said Jenison coach Brent Dyke, who is entering his 10th year as coach of the Wildcats. "Defense will be emphasized along with rebounding. We will be quick and will look to get into our transition game."

West Ottawa boy's basketball team to face rebuilding project this season

West Ottawa is facing a rebuilding project this season as a number of players have graduated from a team that went 3-11 in the conference last season and 7-14 overall.

The Panthers do have a core of five veterans to build around. Senior Taylor Otteman (6-0) is a team leader. Otteman can play either guard or forward and is the best shooter on the team.

Senior Jackson Brown (6-0) returns at a forward. A team leader, Brown is a versatile player with good strength who does the dirty work inside.

The Panthers also have some size up front in Austin Getz (6-5). Getz gives the team a presence inside with his length and leaping ability and also has a nice touch around the basket.

Andre Andrews (6-1) gives the team a solid all-around forward. Andrews is strong and has a nose for the ball and does the little things needed to win.

Senior Marquise Hatter (5-9) runs the show at point guard. Hatter is very quick and a good ball handler who also gives the team a proven scorer.

"We have quite a few new faces," said West Ottawa coach Jeff VanFossan, who is entering his fifth season as coach. "We're young but we have some promise. I think our team chemistry is real good. We work real hard every day. We also have quite a bit of athleticism."

Mixing in with the veterans are a hard-working group of juniors who play unselfish basketball.

"The junior group has had some success because they play together as a group," VanFossan said.

Rebuilding to be the name of the game for Grandville boys basketball this winter

Grandville will be in the midst of a major rebuilding project this season. The Bulldogs have 12 new players on the team this season after graduating 10 seniors from last year's squad.

Junior guard Colin Telman (5-10) is the lone returner from last year's team that turned in a 10-13 record and fell to Hudsonville in the district finals.. Telman is an excellent leader and solid defender who will give the team a good starting point to build around in the backcourt.

A number of juniors will need to step into key roles this season. Up front, Joe Lanning(6-5) gives the Bulldogs some size and should be a solid rebounder. Fellow junior Seth Cook (6-4) is another front court player who should contribute points and the paint and rebounds.

Jason Whipple (6-2) is another versatile player who should play a key role.

"This is an extremely young team with 11 juniors and two sophomores," said Grandville coach Kyle Vanderwall, who is entering his fourth year as head coach of the Bulldogs. "With only one player returning with any experience we'll have to mature quickly this year. Great group of young men who are learning what it will take to be successful at the varsity level."

Vanderwall points to the overall athleticism of the team and the ability to score in transition as being strong points.

Defense and rebounding will be keys.

"The keys to a successful season for us are going to be our ability to defend and rebound given our lack of size," Vanderwall said, "and adjusting to varsity basketball given our lack of experience."

Tom Markowski/ The Detroit News

Romulus leads News' rankings of top boys basketball teams

Romulus— Coach Nate Oats begins his 10th season at Romulus and he's still searching for his first state title.

That might sound harsh but it seems every year Romulus is mentioned when the top contenders for the Class A title are discussed. It lost in the finals in 2005 and reached the semifinals in '08 and '09. And so it is this season.

"We have a ton of talent," Oats said. "And talent is tough to come by at times. We're not lacking that. Our talent level is higher than it's ever been."

Though Oats returns just one starter, senior Ray Lee, a lack of experience is not a concern. Juniors E.C. Matthews and Wes Clark, on the court at the end of most games last season, will move into roles. Like Lee, both are being recruited by Division I schools.

Those three are predominantly perimeter players. The frontcourt players, senior Raheem Johnson (6-9) and junior Leo Edwards (6-8), have size but lack experience at the varsity level. Johnson lacks post moves to make him an effective scorer, but he'll be counted on to clog up the middle defensively.

Senior Aveon Simmons, a transfer from Westland John Glenn, will help out on the perimeter, and senior Marcus Williams has played so well in preseason practice that Oats said he might have earned himself a starting spot. Romulus finished 23-2 last season, losing to Detroit Southeastern in the state quarterfinals.

2. Lansing Sexton (26-2), B

If Romulus is the team to beat in Class A, Sexton is without doubt the team to beat in Class B. The defending state champion returns four starters, all of whom signed with or have been offered a scholarship from a Division I school. **Denzel Valentine** (6-4) is the team leader. **Anthony Clemmons** (6-0) is one of the top combo guards in the state and **Bryn Forbes** (6-3), who signed with Cleveland State, scored 29 points in last year's semifinal. **Jalen Hayes** (6-7) is one of the top juniors and 6-8 **Trevon Manuel** is one of the best freshmen.

3. Detroit Consortium (20-6), C

Four starters return plus 6-9 senior **Marin Mornar**, a foreign exchange student from Croatia. Consortium's leader is point guard **Travon Baker** (5-11). This team has plenty of size with junior **Vincent Hunter** (6-8) and seniors **Devondre Peoples** (6-6) and **Tre Tigner** (6-6). Sophomore **Justin Tillman** (6-7), a transfer from Willow Run, will be eligible in January.

4. Detroit Community (21-4), B

Community reached a regional final and returns four starters, all juniors, plus junior **DeAndre Martin** (6-4), a transfer from Ohio, who committed to Eastern Michigan. **Bo Zeigler** (6-7) can [play](#) any position and 6-7 **Jerrell Martin** (no relation) will play the post. **Landie Davis** (5-1) scored 28 points in a regional semifinal, but the success of this young team will be greatly determined by point guard **Roumell Robinson** (6-1).

5. Kalamazoo Central (25-3), A

Just one starter returns from the two-time defending state champion, but coach **Mike Thomas** does have eight varsity players back. **Von Washington** (6-1) returns at the shooting guard and **H'Ian Hale** (5-10), a three-year varsity player, will start at the point. Thomas will start a third guard (**Eco Dunning**) and will rely on **Allie Buchanan** (6-4) and **Quante Hill** (6-4) to defend the post.

6. War. DeLaSalle (21-3), A

Three starters return for the three-time defending Catholic League champion. **Connor Tava** (6-6) is comfortable inside or out. **Brad Law** (6-3) and **Justin Beal** are the other returning starters. **Marc Wouters** (5-9) will take over at the point and **A.J. Turner** (6-4), who's just a sophomore, could be the fifth starter.

7. Ypsilanti (22-2), A

Four starters return led by **Tristan Simmons** (6-4), who averaged 21.9 points. **Derrick Richardson** (6-3) is back at the point. **Lavonte Davis** (6-7) averaged four blocks and **Mamadou Ba** (6-6) averaged 12 rebounds. The fifth starter will be a 5-10 sophomore, either **Xavier Higgins** or **Janeau Joubert** .

8. Det. Pershing (10-10), A

Pershing is coming off one of its worst seasons in recent history, but that will change with the return of Iowa State-bound **Sherron Dorsey-Walker** (6-4) and three other starters. Junior **Kahlil Felder** is one of the top point guards in Detroit. **Martiez Walker** (6-6) and **Jalen Smith** (6-7) give coach **A.W. Canada** experienced post presence.

9. Detroit Henry Ford (14-5), A

Four starters return for a team that will be guard-oriented and athletic. **Kendahl Amerson** (6-3) averaged 16 points and is being recruited by a handful of Division I schools. **Victor Edge** (6-2) played quarterback and is a strong rebounder. **Mile Ellington** (6-2) will share time at the point with **Jeremy Armstrong** (6-0). **DaVante Gilmore** (6-5), a transfer from Detroit CMA, will be eligible in January.

10. Saginaw Arthur Hill (14-7), A

Last season was a down year, but **Jordan Hare** (6-10), a highly-skilled forward, leads four returning starters for coach **Greg McMath**. **Johnathon Trimble** (6-3) is a shooting guard and **Jaylen Adams** (6-4) [plays](#) the wing. Freshman **Eric Davis** (6-3) could play the point and **Yenta Sanders** (6-2), a star running back, will play power forward.

11. U-D Jesuit (14-9), A

Three starters return including two of the city's top seniors in **Chris Jenkins** (6-7), who signed with Colorado, and **Cameron Fowler** (6-1). A number of mid-major schools have offered Fowler a scholarship. Junior **Andrew Horde** (5-9) averaged 12 points and is a solid perimeter shooter. U-D is counting on two 6-5 juniors (**Jared Scott-Ombima** and **Alex Wrocklage**) to man the post area.

12. East Lansing (17-4), A

Seven varsity players return including four starters. Left-hander **Tracy Edmond** (5-9) is back to run the offense and **Ese Scott-Emuakpor** (6-6), who committed to Ball State, is a strong post player. **John McAdoo** (6-4) led the team with 49 threes and left-hander **Javon Hayes** (6-3) is difficult to defend going to the basket.

13. Troy (17-5), A

Three starters return led by one of the state's top juniors, **James Young** (6-6), who will see time at the point. **Evan Moore** (5-8) has terrific range and **Jeff Holmes** (6-5) will play power forward. **Maceo Baston** (6-4, jr.) will play the wing and **Leo Aryault** (6-5) finds his home inside.

14. Detroit King (17-6), A

Malik Albert (6-2) averaged 20 points and is one of four starters returning. **Dennis Norfleet** (5-6) is the quickest point guard in the city and **William Abbott** (6-7) will play the post. **Marquan Armstrong** (6-4) moves from the post to the wing and **Corey Sumner** , a transfer from Detroit Southwestern, could be the fifth starter.

15. Det. Crockett (16-6), B

Crockett did not have a senior on last year's team. **Lloyd Neely** (6-5) is a top candidate for the Mr. PSL award. **Nick Tripp** , one of the PSL's top receivers, is the team's top defender. **Marqywell Jackson** (6-5) averaged 14 points as a freshman and will play the point. Junior **Kyle Steward** (6-7) is being recruited by Nebraska and **Markese Allen** will play the shooting guard.

16. Clarkston (19-6), A

Three starters return and once again coach **Dan Fife** will have an undersized, guard-oriented team. **Nick Tatu** (6-2) averaged 16 points and excels from 3-point range. **Mitch Baeziger** (6-1) is back at the point and **Matt Dellinger** (6-3) will be counted on to do the dirty work inside. **Zach Collins** (6-2) will start after missing last season due to an injury.

17. Flint Beecher (24-3), C

Three starters return plus two others who saw significant time for a team that reached the semifinals. Junior point guard **Monte Morris** (6-2) makes the team go. Seniors **Antuan Burks** (5-10) and **Cortez Robinson** (6-2) can score in double figures in any game. **Jequarius French** (6-4) is the top post player.

18. Okemos (19-4), A

Two starters return to a team that lost in a district final on a half-court shot. Okemos is led by point guard **Chris Harrison-Docks** (6-0), who signed with Butler, and **Taylor Moten** (6-6), who committed to Western Michigan for football.

19. Grand Rapids Christian (22-2), B

Two starters return plus 6-7 senior **Austin Heemskerk**, who suffered a knee injury and missed all last season. **Kavon Frazier** (6-1), who committed to Central Michigan for football, will play the point. **Drake Harris** (6-2), a sophomore, and senior **Jordan Daley** (6-1) are the returning starters.

20. Detroit Country Day (24-3), B

Some teams would have guarded expectations with no starters returning, but not Country Day. **Jodan Price** (6-7) signed with DePaul and his brother, **Austin** (6-3), a junior, is also a Division I recruit. Point guard **Reid McManus** (5-10) is being recruited by mid-major schools, and the X-factor is 6-9 senior **Robert Puleikis**, a transfer from Lithuania who has been offered a scholarship by Central Michigan.

The next five (alphabetically):

Bay City Western (24-3), A; Detroit Denby (14-9), A; Detroit Southeastern (23-4), A; East Grand Rapids (16-9), B; Lansing Eastern (19-6), A.

The Detroit News' top boys basketball players

Tom Markowski/ The Detroit News

As well as Bay City Western senior Matt Costello played last season, he and his coach agreed that some things needed to change.

Costello is a senior forward who spent as much time on the perimeter as he did in the post last season.

"I'll be posting up more this season," he said. "I've settled for the jump shot before. I tended to float a lot. I want to go more inside this year."

That's not to say Costello wasn't effective last season. At 6-9 and 220 pounds, he was a difficult matchup 15 to 20 feet away from the basket. He handled the ball well and his shot was good enough that a defender had to get a hand in his face at all times.

It's just that a change was in order. For one, Costello has grown an inch and added 25 pounds. He also doesn't have the [luxury](#) of Brandon Havercamp as a teammate. Havercamp was a 6-9 senior whose presence inside allowed Costello the freedom to roam. And lastly Costello likely will play inside at Michigan State next fall, so why not make the move now?

He signed a letter-of-intent with MSU last month.

Last season, Costello averaged 19.8 points, 13 rebounds and 3.8 blocks a game. He shot 53.4 percent from the field and 72 percent from the free throw line and was the lone junior selected to The Detroit News Dream Team. He is the News' top player heading into this season.

Costello worked with a personal trainer over the summer and he said it's made a huge difference in his game, particularly near the basket.

"We spent time strengthening my hips and other muscles," Costello said. "I've always had weak hips. Getting into a defensive position is easier now."

Following are the other top-20 players; all are seniors unless noted:

2. Denzel Valentine, Lansing Sexton, 6-4

Valentine is a complete player who averaged 18 points, eight rebounds and 8.5 assists. "He wants to win," his father and head coach Carlton Valentine said. "He plays like a coach's son." Valentine signed with [Michigan State](#).

3. Bo Zeigler, 6-7, jr., Detroit Community

Zeigler, a cousin of Central Michigan's Trey Zeigler, averaged 18 points, 11 rebounds and 3.5 assists. "He'll play wherever we need him," coach Ray Reeves said. Zeigler has been offered a scholarship by Georgetown, Indiana and Syracuse, among others.

4. Chris Harrison-Docks, 5-11, Okemos

A ballhandler extraordinaire, Harrison-Docks can score, too. He averaged 23 points and 3.5 assists and he signed with Butler. "He sees the floor so well," coach Dan Stolz said. "He has exceptional quickness and is a terrific defender."

5. Anthony Clemmons, 6-0, Lansing Sexton

Clemmons averaged 12.4 points and is a tremendous on-ball defender. He signed with Iowa. "He's real steady," coach Carlton Valentine said. "And he can score."

6. James Young, 6-6, jr., Troy

Perhaps the state's top junior, Young is being recruited by Kentucky, Michigan State and Ohio State, among others. He averaged 22.7 points and 7.5 rebounds last season. "He's so long and athletic," coach Gary Fralick said.

7. Derrick Walton, 6-0, jr., Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy

A second team Class B all-state selection last season, Walton committed to Michigan. He averaged 24 points, six assists, six rebounds and four steals.

8. Chris Jenkins, 6-7, U-D Jesuit

A four-year varsity player, Jenkins is more of a perimeter player than he is a post-up. He averaged 17 points and eight rebounds and signed with Colorado. Coach Pat Donnelly said Jenkins has improved his ballhandling skills.

9. Monte Morris, 6-1, Flint Beecher

Most importantly, Morris is a winner. As the point guard he's led Beecher to the Class C semifinals in his first two years. Last season, he averaged 18.5 points, seven assists and 5.8 rebounds. He's a Big Ten prospect.

10. Jordan Hare, 6-10, Saginaw Arthur Hill

Hare is a sleek post player who is comfortable playing on the perimeter. He averaged 18 points, nine rebounds and four blocks, and he committed to Rhode Island. "He's not just a dunk machine anymore," coach Greg McMath said.

11. Sherron Dorsey-Walker, 6-4, Detroit Pershing

One of the top players in Detroit last season, Dorsey-Walker could be the best player in the Detroit Public School League. He averaged 14 points last season and greatly improved his game defensively. He signed with Iowa State.

12. Jodan Price, 6-7, Detroit Country Day

Price averaged 8.5 points in mostly a reserve role last season. Look for him to average in the 20-point range. "He's a tough matchup," coach Kurt Keener said. "He's a tremendous shooter." Price signed with DePaul.

13. Lloyd Neely, 6-5, Detroit Crockett

Strong enough to play the power forward position, Neely is the best 15-foot jump shooter in the city. He averaged 24 points and 14 rebounds, and he signed with Oakland.

14. Connor Tava, 6-6, Warren DeLaSalle

Tava uses his strength (230 pounds) to muscle players inside and he can consistently make the 15-footer to draw defenders away from the basket. Last season, he averaged 12.5 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks. He signed with Western Michigan.

15. Wes Clark, 6-0, jr., Romulus

Clark is an all-around player whose best attribute is his court sense. He averaged 13 points last season but can score 25 or more when called upon. He's been offered a scholarship by Southern California.

16. Kellen McCormick, 6-8, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep

McCormick averaged 18 points and eight rebounds. He can put the ball on the floor and he shot 52 percent from the 3-point range. He signed with Western Michigan.

17. Ray Lee, 6-3, Romulus

Lee, who was at Detroit Cass Tech his sophomore season, is back at Romulus for his second season. A versatile player, Lee averaged 12 points and six rebounds. His long arms and quickness help to make him a strong defender.

18. Taylor Perry, 6-2, Rochester

A four-year varsity player, Perry signed with Western Michigan. "Taylor plays with incredible energy," coach John Pleasant said. Perry averaged 19 points and seven rebounds.

19. John Simons, 6-8, Cadillac

Simons' game is not limited to the inside. He can shoot the 15-to-18-footer. He averaged 23 points and eight rebounds and led Cadillac to the Class B quarterfinals. Simons signed with Central Michigan.

20. Jared Klein, 6-1, Otsego

A pure point guard, Klein averaged 21.4 points, 4.7 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 1.7 steals last season. He signed with Western Michigan.

Top seniors to watch (listed alphabetically)

Malik Albert, 6-2, King; Kendahl Amerson, 6-3, Detroit Ford; Martez Asberry, 6-2, Douglass; Kevin Badger, 6-0, Wyoming Godwin Heights; Travon Baker, 6-0, Detroit Consortium; Paul Baumgart, 6-7, Canton; Myles Busby, 6-3, Niles; Kyle Cooper, 6-7, Detroit CC; Zach Cornish, 6-0, Mattawan; Coreontae Deberry, 6-9, Holland; Steven Enos, 6-4, Grayling; Bryn Forbes, 6-3, Sexton; Dorrell Foster, 6-5, North Farmington; Cameron Fowler, 6-1, U-D; Chris Hass, 6-4, Pellston; H'Ian Hale, 5-10, Kalamazoo Central; Charlie Helmer, 6-6, Blanchard Montabella; **Blake Hibbits, 6-7, Hudsonville**; Ryan Hickoff, 6-3, Fenton; Michael Hollingsworth, 6-1, Utica; Sebastian Johnson, 6-5, Adrian; **Darren Kapustka, GR Northview**; Nathan Landsgaard, 6-1, Goodrich; Marshall Leipprandt, 6-5, Ubly; Reid McManus, 5-10, Country Day; Luke Morrison, 6-6, Elk Rapids; Dexter Morton, 6-5, Southeastern; Logan Nemeth, 5-10, McBain; Tanner Nichols, 6-0, White Pigeon; Dennis Norfleet, 5-6, King; DeVondre Peoples, 6-6, Consortium; Robert Puleikis, 6-9, Country Day; Kent Redford, 6-1, Frankenmuth; Jay Redman, 6-4, Boyne City; Steve Repichowski, 6-4, Lansing CC; **Kevin Rich, 6-5, GR Northview**; Shakur Sanders, 6-1, GR Ottawa Hills; Sean Sheldon, 6-8, TC St. Francis; Tristan Simmons, 6-4, Ypsilanti; Kalia Spicer, 6-8, DH Robichaud; Keith Sykes, 6-0, Denby; Nick Tatu, 6-1, Clarkston; Matt Van Dyk, 6-5, Imlay City; Ryan Watson, 6-0, Delton Kellogg.

Top juniors

Landie Davis, 6-1, Community; Lavonte Davis, 6-7, Ypsilanti; Kahlil Felder, 5-8, Pershing; Rashawn Hamlin, 5-10, Carman-Ainsworth; Jalen Hayes, 6-7, Sexton; Vincent Hunter, 6-6, Consortium; Miroslav Jaksic, 6-10, W.L. Western; Jackson Lamb, 6-7, Temperance Bedford; DeAndre Martin, 6-4, Community; Jerrell Martin, 6-7, Community; E.C. Matthews, 6-4, Romulus; Brandon Moore, 5-10, Montague; Brian Morton, 6-2, Lansing Eastern; Austin Price, 6-3, Country Day; Taron Ramsey, 6-6, Melvindale ABT; Bishop Robinson, 6-2, Loy Norrix; Roumell Robinson, 6-1, Community; Luke Ryskamp, 6-2, Schoolcraft; Malachi Satterlee, 6-6, Climax-Scotts; Kenyatta Singleton, 6-2, Southeastern; Kyle Steward, 6-7, Crockett; J.D. Tisdale, 6-5, Swartz Creek; Cha Cha Tucker, 6-0, Lansing Eastern; Martez Walker, 6-6, Pershing; Jonathan Williams, 5-9, Southfield-Lathrup.

Top sophomores

Terrance Byrd, 5-8, Denby; Darnell Davis, 6-2, Douglass; Ali Farhat, 6-1, Dearborn; **Drake Harris, 6-2, GR Christian**; Marqywell Jackson, 6-5, Crockett; Jalen Johnson, 6-8, Ypsilanti; A.J. Turner, 6-4, DeLaSalle; Anthony Wartley-Fritz, 6-6, Taylor Truman.

From The Detroit News: <http://detnews.com/article/20111205/SPORTS05/112050327/The-Detroit-News--top-boys-basketball-players#ixzz1fo47j9fP>

Pre-preseason Top 25 teams: Class A * Steve Bell

1. Romulus
2. Kalamazoo Central
3. Detroit U-D Jesuit
4. Ypsilanti
5. Detroit Pershing
6. Okemos
7. **Warren De La Salle**
8. Lansing Eastern
9. Saginaw Arthur Hill
10. **Muskegon**
11. Jackson
12. Saginaw
13. Ann Arbor Huron
14. Novi Catholic Central
15. East Lansing
16. **Hudsonville**
17. Grand Rapids Northview
18. Taylor Truman
19. Clarkston
20. Holland
21. Detroit King
22. Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills
23. Petoskey
24. Detroit Renaissance
25. Troy

Impact newcomers

Nick Allen Coach Rockford
Eric Davis 6-2 Fr Saginaw Arthur Hill
Leo Edwards 6-8 Jr Romulus
DaVante Gilmore 6-5 Sr Detroit Henry Ford
Jhamonte Melton 5-9 Sr Muskegon
Marques Mondy 6-5 Sr Forest Hills Northern
RaRedding Murray Coach Walled Lake Western
Aaron Prim 6-7 Sr Walled Lake Western
Miroslav Jaksic 6-10 Jr Walled Lake Western
Casey Sanders 6-4 Sr Chippewa Valley
Logan Spiker 6-7 So Holly
CJ Sumner 5-11 Jr Detroit King
Diante Taylor 6-2 Sr Battle Creek Central
Julian Taylor Coach Saginaw
JD Tisdale 6-4 Jr Swartz Creek
AJ Turner 6-4 So Warren De La Salle
Adrian Young 6-3 Fr Kalamazoo Central

The best player in Class A is ...

One who led his team to the state semifinals last year, though due to a heavy graduation hit it would take a miracle to do it again, 6-10 Bay City Western senior **Matt Costello**. There haven't been many Michigan high school players Costello's size with his talent, skill level and versatility. You have to go back to guys like Robert Whaley at Benton Harbor or Winfred Walton at Detroit Pershing. Unlike those guys, Costello isn't likely to flake out. He was already Michigan's Gatorade Player of the Year, as a junior. He's headed to Michigan State.

"People are ranking them up there with the top recruiting classes in the country, and Matt is a big part of that," **Bay City Western coach Chris Watz said**. "To think that a kid out of Bay City is doing this makes this whole thing pretty awesome. Our community needs to take the opportunity to watch him play. He does things right. He's a good kid, and he's earned this opportunity. So when you have a player like that, you need to grab onto it and enjoy it."



Get used to seeing Bay City Western senior Matt Costello dunking at MSU's Breslin Center, like he did last March against Detroit Southeastern. He'll play next season for Michigan State.

Class A All-State

Matt Costello 6-10 Sr Bay City Western
Kahlil Felder 5-9 Jr Detroit Pershing
Chris Jenkins 6-7 Sr Detroit U-D Jesuit
Chris Harrison-Docks 5-11 Sr Okemos
James Young 6-6 Jr Troy

Second team

Sherron Dorsey-Walker 6-4 Sr Detroit Pershing
Jordan Hare 6-9 Sr Saginaw Arthur Hill
Bishop Robinson 6-2 Jr Kalamazoo Loy-Norrix
Taylor Perry 6-4 Sr Rochester

Connar Tava 6-6 Sr Warren De La Salle

Third team

Kyle Cooper 6-7 Sr Novi Catholic Central
Cameron Fowler 6-1 Sr Detroit U-D Jesuit
Ray Lee 6-3 Sr Romulus
Cha Cha Tucker 6-0 Jr Lansing Eastern
Denzel Watts 6-0 Jr Flint Carman-Ainsworth

Fourth team

Malik Albert 6-2 Sr Detroit King
Coreontae DeBerry 6-9 Sr Holland
Darren Kapustka 5-9 Sr Grand Rapids Northview
Jackson Lamb 6-7 Jr Temperance-Bedford
JD Tisdale 6-4 Jr Swartz Creek

Fifth team

Clark Bishop 6-0 Jr Detroit Renaissance
Blake Hibbitts 6-6 Sr Hudsonville
Mike Lewis 6-3 Sr Ann Arbor Huron
Richie Lewis 6-0 Jr Flint Northern
Jeremy Williamson 6-2 Jr Jackson

Sixth team

Kendahl Amerson 6-3 Sr Detroit Henry Ford
Rashaun Harris 6-0 Sr Lansing Waverly
Dylan Hickoff 6-4 Sr Fenton
Ryan Hickoff 6-4 Sr Fenton
CJ Turnage 6-4 Jr Milan

Seventh team

Mitch Baezinger 6-2 Sr Clarkston
Wes Clark 6-0 Jr Romulus
Jimmy Holman 6-1 Sr Ann Arbor Pioneer
Zak Lewis 6-3 Sr Petoskey
Shakur Sanders 6-1 Sr Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills

Eighth team

Andre Bond 6-1 Sr Ann Arbor Huron
Allie Buchanan 6-4 Sr Kalamazoo Central
Tracy Edmond 5-9 Sr East Lansing
Frederick Edmonds 6-3 Sr Lansing Eastern
EC Matthews 6-4 Jr Romulus

Ninth team

Brian Morton 6-2 Jr Lansing Eastern
Kevin Rich 6-5 Sr Grand Rapids Northview
Tristan Simmons 6-3 Sr Ypsilanti
Martez Walker 6-4 Sr Detroit Pershing
Theron Wilson 6-3 Sr Ann Arbor Skyline

10th team

H'ian Hale 5-10 Sr Kalamazoo Central
Jon Harden 6-0 Sr St. Johns
Juwan Loudermill 6-1 Sr Muskegon
Nick Tatu 6-2 Sr Clarkston
Trent Windemuller 6-2 Sr Holland

Underclassman All-State

Luke Diekevers 6-5 So Jenison
Miroslav Jaksic 6-10 So Walled Lake Western
Jamal Poplar 6-7 So Westland John Glenn
Joseph Powell 6-7 So Saginaw
Anthony Wartley-Fritz 6-7 So Taylor Truman

Second team

Armand Cartwright 6-1 So Bloomfield Hills Lahser
Jalen Johnson 6-7 So Ypsilanti
Dylan Morris 5-5 So Ortonville-Brandon
Cameron Morse 6-0 So Flint Carman-Ainsworth
Darsean Woodson 5-8 So Detroit Pershing

I don't think it will happen, there's just not the talent commiserate with a Class A state championship team, but Kalamazoo Central has an outside shot to win a third straight title. The 2009-10-11 teams all featured a top 10 senior. But the only top 10 ballplayer in Kalamazoo now is a junior, **Bishop Robinson**, and he's at unranked Loy-Norrix. This group has solid program seniors but that may be good enough in the year when the only dominant team is in Class B -- point guard **H'ian Hale**, shooter **Von Washington** and bouncy 6-4 **Allie Buchanan**, who visited Jacksonville last week.

The Class A champ prior to K-Central's repeat performance was Detroit Pershing. The Doughboys don't have two Mr. Basketballs like in 2009, but there are D1 recruits in 6-4 senior **Sherron Dorsey-Walker**, junior point guard **Kahlil Felder** and 6-4 junior **Martez Walker**.

What in the name of Holland football beating EGR is going on here? Pershing is the only PSL team in the top 10 and only two total. The strongest Class A league remains the CAAC Blue with four top 20 members -- Jackson, East Lansing, Okemos, Lansing Eastern -- despite three of the four graduating an all-stater. The Catholic League's Central Division has three entries. U-D Jesuit, Catholic Central and De La Salle return all-state senior forwards.

Romulus ended the 2011 regular season No. 1 in the final rankings, and here they are again in the early rankings, the

same spot. Romulus has serviceable size and standout juniors in the backcourt, **Wesley Clark** and **EC Matthews**.

The Arthur Hill-Saginaw High games will be particularly interesting, in the post **Lou Dawkins** era. The young talent remains thick at both programs. Who knows, may have Arthur Hill too high, Saginaw too low.