

State champs dominate area honors



Dave Moss
Catholic Central



Jason Moul
Redford Unified



Brandon Keleniecki
Catholic Central



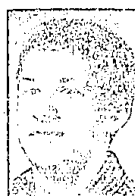
Brian Williams
Catholic Central



Ryan Yost
Catholic Central



Jim Spivack
Catholic Central



Adam Kung
Livonia Churchill



Matt Lee
Farmington Unified



Mark Nobus
Livonia Stevenson



Kato Jakubowski
Livonia Churchill



Dave Salin
Redford Unified



Kevin Marlowe
Livonia Stevenson

Four years ago, Pete Mazzoni was at a crossroads. He had just been hired to coach Redford Union's fledgling hockey team, but he still wanted to give college football coaching a try.

So he quit the job before the season started and spent some time at Defiance (Ohio) and Albion colleges.

"But I decided that it wasn't what I wanted to do," Mazzoni said. "I wanted to get back into teaching."

A spot opened at Redford Union along with the coaching job for the hockey team — now combined with Thurston High to form the Redford Unified team.

Nice career choice. After going 19-4-2 in its first year, this past season RU went 22-2-1 and was ranked as high as No. 4 in the state rankings. It also earned Mazzoni the Observerland Coach of the Year honor.

FIRST TEAM

Dave Moss, Catholic Central: Moss was a leader in many ways for the Shamrocks as they clinched their third state championship in four years. He was named first team All-State in Division I and made the coaches' association's All-State Dream Team.

Moss, who will play next season with the St. Louis Sting of the North American Hockey League, had 46 goals and 30 assists for CC with a plus-minus rating of plus-27. He scored a hat trick in the Shamrocks' 5-1 semifinal win over Troy.

"He's got great hands and a great feel for the puck," said CC coach Gordie St. John. "At 6-2, he's got tremendous reach. He picks the corners well."

Jason Moul, Redford Unified: Moul was the spark for Unified this season. He led the team with 32 goals and added 39 assists in leading the team to the Michigan Midget Conference title.

Not only did Moul, a senior, make the Division I all-state team, but received more votes than any other forward.

"He's a tremendous competitor who's work ethic is second to none," said RU coach Pete Mazzoni. "There was a point in the season where Jason couldn't buy a goal. But he ended up as our leading scorer."

Brandon Keleniecki, Catholic Central: Keleniecki had the kind of season that some players can only dream about.

Keleniecki, a senior forward, led the Shamrocks in goals with 26 and scoring



with 56 points, was named Division I first team All-State and was a solid candidate for the Mr. Hockey Award by the coaches' association. He'll have a chance to lead his skills next year, by joining Moul with the St. Louis Sting.

"He was the heart of the whole team," said St. John of the Shamrocks' most valuable player. "He went from a kid who couldn't do two pushups to one of the strongest players on the team. He's the most wonderful success story in the world."

Brian Williams, Catholic Central: A pair of goals in the championship game was a perfect way to cap the season for Williams.

The senior forward scored 20 goals — including a team-leading four power-play goals during the regular season — and added 20 assists for the Shamrocks this year and earned first-team All-State honors for his efforts.

"As far as pure talent goes, he might be one of the most talented in the state for his age," said St. John. "He's got the quickest feet in the state. He's just a tremendously talented kid."

Ryan Yost, Catholic Central: At 5-9, 165 pounds, Yost wasn't the biggest player on the ice, by any stretch. But he played big and came up with big games in anchoring a CC defense that yielded just 44 goals and 447 shots in the regular season.

In all, the senior had five goals and a team-leading 35 assists on the season. He also led the squad with a plus-minus rating of plus-47 and earned all-state first team honors.

"He became a real offensive force for us in the second part of the season," St. John said. "Playing defense, you have to have a feel for the game. He had the ability to control the pace of the game

and that's what you look for in a defenseman."

Jim Spivack, Catholic Central: Spivack is the lone junior on the team but his play landed him a spot on the all-Observer team as well as all-state first team honors.

He scored 13 goals and 14 assists during the year and had three power-play goals during the regular season with a plus-minus rating of +31. "He has a great work ethic and is an extremely strong, physical player," said St. John. "In terms of underclassmen, he's the leader. When times got tough he had the ability to turn it up a notch."

SECOND TEAM

Adam Kung, Livonia Churchill: The 5-foot-9, 150-pound junior center finished the year with 12 goals and 27 assists in 24 games for the Division I regional champions.

"Adam is a smart player, very crafty," Churchill coach Jeff Hatley said. "He's a tough little guy. He played with a broken wrist his freshman year and had a very good comeback, around 40 percent, against CC in the quarterfinals. He'd have to be dead to take him out of the lineup."

"Adam is a good playmaker, the kind of guy who makes everyone around him better," Hatley said.

Matt Lee, Farmington Unified: The sophomore forward led the Flyers in scoring with 21 goals and 24 assists and was the team's most valuable player.

Lee was a tremendous playmaker, according to coach Ginn Breuhan, and was Farmington's go-to player on the power play.

"To me he's a Wayne Gretzky style player," Breuhan said. "He's so fluid in

his skating, and he sees the ice so well. He can make a scoring chance out of nothing."

"He is a very responsible defender; he's one of the first guys back. You get everything out of Matt Lee every night. He gives you 100 percent all the time."

Kate Jakubowski, Livonia Stevenson: The 5-0, 160-pound senior played both for word and defense for the Spartans.

In 21 games, Jakubowski had eight goals and 23 assists with 24 penalty minutes. "Mark is a second-kid, old captain, a leader on and off the ice with a 3.0 grade point average," Stevenson coach Mike Harris said. "Mark moved back to defense from center to make his team better defensively."

"He's a fabulous hockey player, tremendously strong with excellent skating skills and explosive speed." Stevenson's coach was selected to represent Team Michigan, an elite high school team, in the upcoming Chicago (Ill.) Showcase.

Kate Jakubowski, Livonia Stevenson: The 5-0, 160-pound junior captain was a shutdown on defense for the Spartans.

Jakubowski was named to the All-Western Lakes team.

"Kate is a good athlete," Hatley said. "He brings a good attitude. He's a good leader."

"He's a fabulous defenseman who likes to get in the rush and create chances. He's also a physical player."

In 24 games, Jakubowski had seven goals and 17 assists.

Dave Salin, Redford Unified: If Moul was the heart of RU's squad, then Salin was its soul. With 19 goals and 46 assists, Salin was second on the team in scoring and in the Mega.

Salin, a senior defenseman, earned honorable mention All-State honors and ranked up an eye-popping plus-minus rating of plus-60.

"Dave has great vision," said Moul. "He sees the ice as well as any body. If he gets into trouble, he finds a way to escape. He did everything I was on the power play, our No. 1 penalty killer — and got us much ice time as possible."

Kevin Marlowe, Livonia Stevenson: In 19 games, the 5-0, 170-pound junior netminder had a 12-5-1 record with three shutouts. His goals-against average was 1.63. He allowed 32 goals in 21 games. He also had two assists.

He was named game MVP, stopping 37 of 39 shots against host Marquette in a 2-1 overtime loss during a holiday tournament.

"He was the backbone of our team because everyone had tremendous confidence in his abilities," Harris said.

"He had outstanding game preparation and concentration skills. He's as good as any goalie we've had in the past 11 years, maybe the best goalie."

(Jeff Walters/Red Bull/Brady Bird/Enola and Dave D. Moore contributed to this story.)

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