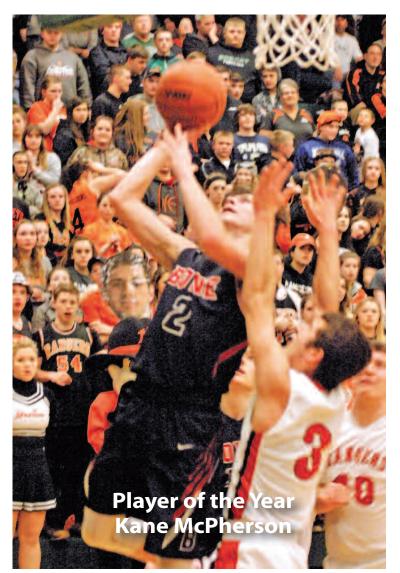


2017 CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEWS ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL DREAM TEAM

PLAYER OF THE YEAR - KANE MCPHERSON, BOYNE CITY COACH OF THE YEAR - NICK REDMAN, BOYNE CITY



The Charlevoix County News 2017 Boys Basketball All-Area "Dream Team". (L-R) Eric Carson, Boyne City; Justin Higbee, Ellsworth; John Roehrig, East Jordan; Mason Gardner, Boyne City; Kevin Pearl, Charlevoix; Kane McPherson, Boyne City; Jackson Robbins, East Jordan; Colin Smith, Charlevoix; Leszek Wasylewski, Boyne Falls; Colin Shepard, East Jordan; Jacob Ager, Boyne City; Cole Essenburg, Ellsworth. (Photo by Chris Fiel)



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY — Following the graduation of a ton of talent over the past couple of seasons, many area and state residents thought there would be a dropoff in Northern Michigan basketball.

The student athletes in Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, East Jordan and Ellsworth decided to prove those doubters wrong and that they did, behind a lot of hard work, quality team play and execution, we saw solid players get better and new stars emerge throughout the season.

Despite a few teams turn to a rebuilding season after major losses, there were a few surprises as Ellsworth competed for the Northern Lakes Conference title and Boyne City was atop the Lake Michigan Conference for the better part of the season before putting together another tournament run that included their third straight Class C district title.

Area fans witnessed a new brand of basketball in some areas, with some teams playing more uptempo, while others chose to slow it down and execute in the half court. Regardless of what team you were following, many teams will return a solid cast and look to close the competitive gap and make some noise of their own in conference play as well as the MHSAA tournament.

As the season came to a close a few weeks ago, the Charlevoix County News has selected the top players from the area and is proud to announce the 2016-17 All-Area Boys Basketball "Dream Team".

Player of the Year honors go to Boyne City's, Kane McPherson. The senior worked extremely hard in the offseason to not only earn playing time, he took the area by storm, turning doubters into believers with each passing contest.

Earning selections alongside McPherson in school alphabetical order: Mason Gardner, Eric Carson and Jacob Ager, Boyne City; Leszek Wasylewski, Boyne Falls; Kevin Pearl and Colin Smith, Charlevoix; Jackson Robbins, John Roehrig and Colin Shepard, East Jordan; and Cole Essenburg and Justin Higbee, Ellsworth.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

(#2) KANE MCPHERSON, SENIOR

When last season ended, McPherson was a role player for the Ramblers, seeing limited action throughout the season. Last offseason, Kane went to work, revamping his shot and improving his balance as well as his ball handling. The results he got speak for very loud as he earned Class C honorable mention All-State and BCAM Best honors to name a few.

McPherson finished the season with 367 points (14.6 per game average), while also hauling in four

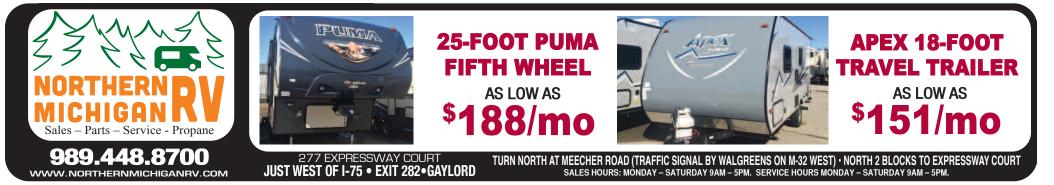


Coach of the Year: Nick Redman

rebounds per game, and shooting 52 percent from the floor and 75 percent from the charity stripe.

He used his quickness and an aggressive attack to the basket was one thing that stood out this season, his ability to finish with either hand made it difficult to defend him.

See All-Area Team—3B



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY NEWS' 2017 ALL-AREA BOY'S BASKETBALL DREAM TEAM PHOTOS BY CHRIS FIEL



Kane McPherson

Boyne City Jacob Ager

Boyne City Eric Carson

Boyne City





All-Area Team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"Kane is a great story,he went from not getting much playing time as a junior to leading our team his senior year," Boyne City coach Nick Redman said. "We totally redid his shot. He had to start over. I had him doing basic form shooting drills Kane then put the extra time in to develope his shot and improve his ball handling."

"He worked as hard and improved in one year as much as anyone I ever coached," Redman added. "I am happy for him, he is proof that hard work pays off."

McPherson took over regional play, scoring 19 and 22 points in the two contests, playing outstanding down the stretch in each contest for the Ramblers.

Boyne Falls

(#3) LESZEK WASYLEWSKI, SENIOR

The Logger senior was a bright spot for the team that had to deal with the loss of a talented class the year prior.

Wasylewski had to do a lot of different things for Boyne Falls this season, from ball handling to rebounding to scoring and matching up against the opponent's top threat.

Leszek would finish the season with a 16.9 point per game scoring average, which accounted for over 40 percent of the Loggers offense.

Coach Kurt Nothstine credited his outstanding attitude and him becoming a better passer throughout the season.

Boyne City

(#3) MASON GARDNER, JUNIOR

The Rambler multi-position player, could take opponents inside, outside or off the dribble and reward them with a first hand look at a three pointer or a thunderous dunk as one of the best allaround players in Northern Michigan. Gardner would use his athleticism and height to help

leticism and height to help create mismatches for his team and nightmares for those facing Boyne.

Coach Redman credited Mason with his hard work at improving his guard skills and is expecting big things from his next season.

Gardner would average 12 points per game for Boyne City this season, scoring over 300 on the season in addition to grabbing five rebounds per contest and shooting 53 percent from the floor.

Mason was also a LMC first team selection and BCAM Class C honorable mention.

(#21) ERIC CARSON, JUNIOR

Tal about a quick release. Defenders would have to play tight on the Rambler guard and respect his ability to drop a deep three pointer at anytime and with a minimal opening as his shot would seem to be launched with precision accuracy even before he looked ready to let it fly.

Eric would average eight points per game for Boyne, crossing the 200 point threshold and was the primary ball handler for the Ramblers.

"Eric is our best three point shooter," coach Redman noted. His is a smart, solid all around player with a bright future."

Carson was a LMC honorable mention this season.

(#35) JACOB AGER, JUNIOR

Jacob represented those area players that do all the little things and do them well and do it while not saying anything and is never flashy, just very effective.

The Rambler forward would often times find himself matched up against much taller opponents, but his strength and leaping ability made it difficult for players of any size to compete with him.

"Jacob had a very solid season. He has been a beast inside at times this season," coach Redman said. "He has worked hard and really improved throughout year. He has great balance, good hands and is smart strong player."

Ager came up big late in games for the Ramblers this season, using his workmanlike skills and ability to finish around the hoop, giving Boyne an inside threat that could also hit free throws when he needed to.

Jacob would average just over seven points per game this year for the Ramblers, shooting 53 percent from the floor and haul in nearly six boards per game.

Ager was a LMC honorable mention this season.

Charlevoix

(#32) KEVIN PEARL, SENIOR

The third year varsity Rayder would lead Charlevoix with 13.5 points per game as well as every other category.

Kevin would also grab 7.5 rebounds per contest as well as 4.2 assists and 3.1 steals.

A nightmare matchup for opponents going into each game, Pearl would still get good looks at the basket and find open teammates when defenses collapsed on him.

Kevin would also record numerous double-doubles throughout the season.

He was a first team Lake Michigan Conference selection this season.

(#52) COLIN SMITH, JUNIOR

The Rayder sharpshooter in his second season on the varsity, Smith was always a threat to put it in the hoop from anywhere on the court. He would pull up and take a triple, knocking it down in an opponent's face, or blow by defenders with his quickness and lay it in off the glass for an easy two points.

Colin would average just under 10 points per game this season, coming in at 9.4 ppg, and also finished with 4.5 rebounds, 3.3 assists and two steals per contest.

Smith was a LMC honorable mention this season.

East Jordan

(#21) JACKSON ROBBINS, SENIOR

Robbins was the most consistent player for the Red Devils this season, stepping into a leadership role this season, taking over a majority of the scoring and was the team's best perimeter defender. Jackson averaged 13 points per game, 4.2 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.5 steals per outing, "He helped bring the ball

and start the offense and has done a great job not only knocking three point shots down (30%) he also does a great job of getting into the lane and getting to the line or setting up another teammate for a quality shot," East Jordan coach Nate Dzwik said. "He is a tough kid having played in all of our games despite being injured, He has forced other teams to match up to him with their best defenders this year which has opened other players, he understands this and does a great job of moving within our offensive sets to not only be hard to guard but to also draw and move defenders from the other teams. "

Robbins was a first team LMC selection.

(#54) JOHN ROEHRIG, SENIOR

Roehrig was another East Jordan senior that stepped up his play this season after not seeing much of the floor last year.

John led the Red Devils in rebounding, averaging 5.8 per game and made the other teams bigs defend him 94 feet, as he would run the floor and get to the rim for open looks.

Roehrig racked up a couple of double-doubles this season and when he didn't have an open look inside, he would kick the ball out and set up quality shots for perimeter players.

"As a captain he is the guy that when teammates are getting frustrated he talks to them and tells them they are doing a great job and at the same time when someone isn't performing the way he thinks someone should he will go tell them that as well," coach Dzwik noted. John was a LMC honorable

(#10) COLIN SHEPARD,

mention selection.

SENIOR Shepard was the only returning player that saw any significant playing time over the last few seasons and used that to his advantage, taking charge of things in games and practices for the Red Devils.

"His IQ is great and that has been the best thing he has brought to our team next to his leadership," coach Dzwik said. "He is great at going and getting rebounds and is always scrapping for loose balls and getting on the floor. He is the guy that toward the end of the quarters and games goes and gets the ball and takes control of the situations."

Shepard would average 7.4 ppg, 3.6 rebounds and dish out 2.6 assists per contest.

Ellsworth

(#5) COLE ESSENBERG, JUNIOR

Essenberg was one of the key members of the Lancers this season, carrying the bulk of the ball handling responsibilities, setting up teammates as well as getting himself into the offensive flow. Cole would finish the seacon with an 11.5 point por

son with an 11.5 point per game scoring average, shooting 46 percent from beyond the arch, while dishing out 3.5 assists per game.

Coach Jarod Steenwyk noted that Essenberg would rise to the occasion in big moments. "Cole's biggest games have come when we have needed him the most, in particular Mackinaw City. He scored 20 pts included a big three pointer in the closing minutes of overtime to pull us within one point. Then moments later drew a foul and hit two free throws to put us up by one point with 20 secs left. This turned out to be the winning free throws.' Cole was a second team Northern Lakes Conference selection this season.

(#4) JUSTIN HIGBEE, SENIOR

Credited with outstanding leadership from coach Steenwyk, Higbee was a lead by example player, willing to do the dirty work and take on an opponent's best perimeter offensive player.

"Justin is the guy rallying the troops before the game, in time outs and on the floor. The team this year has been famous for slow starts, Justin can always be counted on to bring energy and leadership to help steer the team in the right direction."

Higbee averaged 3.5 assists and 2.1 steal per game for the Lancers and shot 50 percent from the floor.

COACH OF THE YEAR

NICK REDMAN, BOYNE CITY

This years coach of the year is a familiar individual. Coach Redman has helped set a standard of excellence for the Ramblers over his time as the varsity coach.

Some of the key milestones Boyne has accomplished during his eight seasons include; five Class C district titles, including the last three, a pair of Lake Michigan Conference titles, a regional championship and a trip to the state semifinals.

"I'm happy for the players," Redman said. "A lot of people thought this would be a rebuilding season for us, but from day one they (players) wanted to prove themselves and they did that."

"As a coach your goal is that your team works hard and plays together to reach their potential and gives it all they have. That's all you can ask for."

Coach Redman also noted the great support the team receives from the community, school, the student section, better known as the "Rambler Rowdies" and the parents.

"That's important for a great experience for everyone," he added. "It means alot to me to see the school where you grow up and played have success."

Redman also was appreciative of the coaching staff and those that help make the program what it is. "We have a lot of good people from youth thru Varsity. Especially Chuck Day, Tim Hardy and Randy Calcaterra working together to build a successful program. It takes a lot of work to accomplish what we have the last eight years. Everyone should be proud of that."

The Charlevoix County News would like to thank Charlevoix Public School for the use of their gymnasium for the photoshoot and would also like to congratulate the members of the 2016-17 All-Area Boys Basketball "Dream Team."

NORTHERN MICHIGAN OUTDOORS

Brave Hearts on Ice Veterans retreat a perfect partner for ice fishing school



By Patrick Bevier

A serendipitous connection between walleye king, Mark Martin, a group of

sportsmen soldiers, and Brave Hearts Estate in Pellston, occurred recently on Burt Lake.

Martin hosts three Ice Fishing Vacation Schools annually in Michigan. The latest was planned for walleye-laden Saginaw Bay but poor ice conditions caused him-and his pro staff-to look for locations in our neck of the woods. Martin connected with Brave Hearts representatives and they welcomed his group with open arms for a three day ice fishing adventure on the lake.

Martin said, "We only had about two weeks to put it together with Dav Herriman and the terrific folks at Brave Hearts. It turned out really well and the fishing was phenomenal!"

I accompanied the group for a day of pre-fishing and also attended the seminars prior to the attendees first day on the ice. The cadre of professional anglers shared strategies ranging from how to best employ electronics to lure preference, and jigging techniques to tip-up use. The information had a common theme as all of the pros talked about the 'little things' that determine if anglers will put targeted game fish on the ice or if they'll have nothing but mangled minnows and cold feet to show for their efforts.

Brave Hearts Estate (BHE) is a remarkable property on Ely Road in Pellston. It was gifted by an enormously generous Korean War veteran and includes a large home, cabins, and 240-acres of lovely river valley land. It's been in operation for almost three years and is part of the 1500-member Operation Injured Soldiers (OIS) organization that is headquartered near South Lyon.

OIS's mission is, "Taking Care of Our Own" and a BHE committee member said, "we do everything possible to make things better for

veterans and their families by providing outdoor retreats. Brave Hearts gives them a unique opportunity to do something they normally wouldn't get to do."

> All of the veterans caught fish during the ice fishing school. Their haul included numerous plump walleye and jumbo perch that were surely destined for a sizzling skillet. A pleasant bonus was several behemoth brown trout.

When I asked 7-year Army veteran John Dupuis, who travelled from Kansas City to Brave Hearts, what he hoped to get from the ice fishing experience he said, "I've already learned a lot about how to use electronics to locate fish. I'm looking forward to putting it to use and landing some nice fish!"

The father-son team of Jeff and Rick Bloss, from the Detroit area, were unified when they said, "We just want to learn how to catch more fish!"

Even the pros were impressed with the fishing on Burt. "While we



A proud veteran displays a Canada goose taken on a hunting outing sponsored by the Operation Injured Soldiers organization. COURTESY PHOTO

were out there a fishing buddy caught a gargantuan 17-inch perch. I've been fishing for decades and have never seen a perch that big. It was easily 2 ½ pounds and the fisherman said he has caught three that size this year. Burt Lake is a world-class perch fishery!" Martin said.

He continued, "The anglers donated several huge perch, walleye and brown trout to be displayed on the walls at Brave Hearts. A local taxidermist volunteered to mount them for free. They are going to look awesome on the walls of the estate!"

Dav Herriman, OIS fishing director said, "We're planning lots of fishing activities for veterans in the future including a salmon trip out of South Haven, Walleye for Warriors on Saginaw Bay, and the annual Muskie Meet on Lake St. Clair in late summer.

More globally, OIS sponsors hunting and fishing excursions for injured or combat veterans including deer hunting in Kansas, pheasant and turkey hunting in New York, and fishing in the Florida Keys and northern Ontario.

"We're planning to go out on Burt Lake with veterans from Brave Hearts this September as well. It will be our second openwater day with veterans on the lake. We are also planning another ice fishing school up here next year," said Martin.

If you're a veteran and would like to join your comrades on an outdoor adventure visit www.injuredsoldiers.org for details about upcoming outings. To attend one of Martin's schools go to www.fishingvacationschool.com.

Because OIS is a non-profit they could really use your help. Please consider making a profound impact on the lives of the brave women and men who have fought for our freedom in places that are the polar opposite of the environs we enjoy in Northwest Michigan. Many physically or emotionally disabled veterans don't have the connections or means to have outdoor experiences like these. Donate at my Facebook page at Patrick Bevier or at gofundme.com titled, "Support Operation Injured Soldiers." "Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory."

-George S. Patton



Pro angler Mark Martin (I.), veteran Rick Bloss, and Mike Schneider show off a hefty walleye Bloss caught on Burt Lake. COURTESY PHOTO



Walleye-expert Mark Martin (I.) shows veteran John Dupuis a preferred ice fishing spoon at the Brave Hearts Estate in Pellston. PATRICK BEVIER

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AUCTIONS

Devere Construction Company Live Public Auction, 1496 M-32 West Alpena, MI. Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 9:30 AM. Pickups, car, loader, crane, trailers, tools, more! Photos at SykoraAuctions.com. 989-386-9694

EEVIES RETIREMENT AUC-TION. Saturday, May 6, 10am. 526 North Garfield Road, Crump. Abe Yoder, Auctioneer. Farm Auction Saturday April 8 @ 10 A.M. Sale: Features; J.D. 4450, I.H. 1456 & Deutz Tractors, J.D. 6600 Combine, Like New Gravity Wagons, J.D. 8 Row Corn Planter, Lots Of Tillage Equip., Chevy Grain Truck, Shop Tools & Many Farm Related Items. Located: 11935 Denver Rd., Coleman. Herm Warner ,Owner. John Peck Auctioneer, (989) 426-8061. To View A Complete Listing With Photo's Visit johnpeckauctions.com

John Peck Auctions is now booking all types of auctions for Spring & Summer months of 2017 to include; farm machinery, shop tools, firearms, estates & moving sales. Call 989-426-8061 or visit www.johnpeckauctions.com

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE EAST JORDAN CITY COMMISSION

The East Jordan City Commission met March 20 at 7:00 p.m.; Mayor Peck presiding with all members of Commission except Penzien. Acknowledgement was given to paid bills in the amount of \$141,990.86.

Further Commission Action: Acknowledged Receipt of all board and commission meeting minutes; acknowledge receipt of the Monthly Public Safety Reports for Police, February 2017; approved Resolution #102-2017; and approved the East Jordan Community Development plan.

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CNA's, Home Health Aids / Caregivers needed. (Grayling to Cheboygan, and Gaylord to Traverse City). ComForCare expanding in Northern Michigan; if you have a heart to care for seniors in the comfort of their homes we would love to speak with you. Prior experience in caring for a loved one is a huge plus! Apply at (989) 448-2778 or www.comforcare.com/northmi. Attributes we are looking for: -Training Available, - Have reliable transportation, - Be dependable, responsible and reliable. - Ability to pass drug screen and background check.

EMPLOYERS. Now you can post your jobs on-line FREE at www.MIHelpWanted.com. This new web site lists job openings from all over Northern Michigan. Online job sites have skyrocketed in costs. We have created this new site just for employers in Northern Michigan. Hurry though. This free offer won't last forever. The first 1,000 jobs posted are free. A service of the Weekly Choice, Charlevoix County News and the Michigan MoneySaver.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS. ROUTE DRIVERS needed for

Newspaper delivery. Walking Route.

Earn some extra money with a few hours each weekend delivering papers in the city.

We are adding some extra delivery routes in Gaylord, Kalkaska and East Jordan.

Contact Bill, 989-370-7303 or Lewis, 231-384-5899.

Motor Route Carriers

We are adding carriers for weekend Motor Route Delivery of our weekly papers in Gaylord, Harrisville, Lincoln, Glennie, Oscoda, Beulah, Frankfort, Bellaire, East Jordan, Central Lake, Alden, Rogers City.

Some routes are available immediately.

Must have dependable vehicle, valid driver's license and able to work weekends.

This is easy work and perfect for someone looking to earn some extra money. Some of our best delivery people are retirees. Contact us right away. Some of these routes fill up fast.

Pay varies between \$50 - \$150 a weekend.

Contact Lewis, 231-384-5899.

APS Advertisers Postal Service

Copies of the minutes of the above meeting are posted in City Hall for review during normal office hours.

newspaper delivery. Immediate opening in Buckley, Rogers City, Tawas areas. WALKING ROUTES available in Kalkaska, East Jordan. For information on available routes, email Ijsnyder@localnet.com or call Lewis at 231-384-5899. Great opportunity for extra income!



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SUV

2017 Ford Expedition XLT 4WD, twin turbo V-6, rear load leveling suspension, voice activated touch screen navigation, tow pkg, back-up camera, 3rd row seat, universal garage door opener. MSRP \$60,821. Feeny Price \$52,837. Feeny Ford, 208 S. James, Grayling. 989-348-2791.

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2005 VW Jetta GL 2.0 liter 5 spd manual One owner 180,000 miles runs like new many extras, Grey metallic well maintained. 810-990-4350

2007 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5 4.7L V-8 \$13,950. CARFAX 1 owner CD player, All-Weather Mats, Tow Pkg, Front air zones - Dual, Air conditioning, 4x2 Dbl cab. Dave Kring Chevy Cadillac. 1861 US 31 North, Petoskey, 231-347-2585

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1861 US 31 North, Petoskey,

231-347-2585 2016 Ford F-150 XLT. Ext Cab, 4WD, twin turbo 2.7L V-6, smart device integration MSPP

device integration. MSRP \$45,445. Feeny Price \$37,695. Feeny Ford, 208 S. James, Grayling. 989-348-2791. 2017 Ford E 150 XI. Crow Cob

2017 Ford F-150 XL. Crew Cab, 4WD, twin turbo V-6, STX appearance pkg, class IV tow pkg, all terrain tires. MSRP \$41,925. Feeny Price \$36,128. Feeny Ford, 208 S. James, Grayling. 989-348-2791.

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2008 Ford E-150 Van. Eclipse specialty vehicle, leather, disabled driving device, side lift. Sale Price \$7,999. Rivertown Auto Group, 989 VFW Road, Cheboygan, MI 231-627-6700. www.RiverAuto.net

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2017 Ford Transit Commercial Van. 3.7L V-6, back-up camera. MSRP \$36,560. Feeny Price \$30,785. Feeny Ford, 208 S. James, Grayling. 989-348-2791.

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Wednesday, April 26 – 1:00 pm Charlevoix Library, Rooms A&B

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