

SPORTS

THIS DATE IN SPORTS

1976: The last NFL All-Star game is held and is shortened when storms hit Chicago. The Pittsburgh Steelers beat the All-Stars, 24-0.

2000: Tiger Woods, at 24, becomes the youngest player to win the career Grand Slam with a win at the British Open.

QUESTIONS? Contact the sports department at 417-2035 or sports@lenconnect.com

Ayers retires after historic career

After 38 seasons leading the Sand Creek football program, coach Ernie Ayers stepped down as the Aggies' leader. Since taking over the program in 1979, Sand Creek went 264-124-1, made 20 playoff appearances, won 14 Tri-County Conferences, went to eight state semifinals and reached the state title game in 1992.

Scott Gallagher was named the new head coach. Gallagher was an assistant under Ayers and also spent time as an assistant at Adrian College after leading Lenawee Christian to the Cougars' first playoff berth in 2010.

TELEGRAM PHOTO BY DELORIS CLARK-OSBORNE



Hudson wrestling claims state title

PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY/ THE MONROE NEWS

The Hudson wrestling program went to its ninth straight Division 4 state final and won it for the sixth time in that span. The Tigers dominated New Lothrop, which had been a thorn in their side the last three years, in Mount Pleasant, as they topped the Hornets 51-13 in the final. Hudson's nine consecutive team finals appearances is an MHSAA record. The Tigers will be looking to make it 10 straight next season after graduating two starters.

Clinton's Fauser wins state championship

Clinton sophomore Austin Fauser dominated Forest Akers East at Michigan State to claim the Division 4 individual state title, shooting a two-day 139, beating Mitch Lowney's 143 for Clarkston Everest Collegiate.

Fauser became the first Lenawee County golfer to claim a state title since 1975, according to available records, when John Gibson won the Class B title for Tecumseh. Fauser was the county Golfer of the Year, as he led the Redskins all season to a TCC title and a sixth-place finish in the state finals.

TELEGRAM PHOTO BY MIKE DICKIE



Hudson baseball makes run to state title game

After an 11-29 season a year ago and going 4-10 in the Lenawee County Athletic Association, the Hudson baseball team peaked at the right time. The Tigers won a district title and then went on to earn two comeback wins in regionals, beat No. 8-ranked St. Joseph Lake Michigan Catholic in the quarterfinals then and No. 10 Gaylord St. Mary in the semifinals.

A loss to No. 2 Portland St. Patrick in the state final brought the season to an end, but with a load of talent returning, including All-Stater Blake Borck, the Tigers could make another playoff run next season.

TELEGRAM PHOTO BY MIKE DICKIE



Top 10 Boys Sports Stories 2016-17

The most memorable moments from this past school year in prep boys sports

By Kristopher Lodes, Daily Telegram Sports Writer



TELEGRAM PHOTO BY JOHN DISCHER

County grapplers strong at the Palace

Lenawee County was well represented at the 2017 individual wrestling state meet at the Palace of Auburn Hills with four state champions and three more taking second place.

Clinton's Noah Comar completed a perfect season, taking the Division 4 112 title, while Drew Marten won the Division 2 130-pound title for Tecumseh with a one-loss season. Hudson's Jordan Hamdan won the 119 title, while teammate Tyler Grames won the 189 title. The Tigers got runner-ups in Zach Bailey (285) and Tucker Sholl (112), while Noah Nieman of Blissfield took second at 145.

Adrian football captures district title

After losing in the regular-season finale 24-17 to Bay City John Glenn and falling to 5-4 on the season, Adrian's football season could've been over. But the Maples were able to sneak into the Division 3 playoffs as the last team announced and made the most of their newfound life.

Adrian traveled to Grosse Ile and won 27-20 in overtime, before heading to Milan, where the season began with a 27-13 loss, and beat the Big Red 28-13 to win the district title. The season concluded with a loss in the regional final at River Rouge. Adrian had as many playoff wins (two) as it did each of the past three seasons.

TELEGRAM PHOTO BY MIKE DICKIE



Hudson football wins district championship

Hudson's stellar sports school year began in the fall with the Tigers' football program coming off a 4-5 season to go 10-2 and win a Division 7 district title.

Hudson went 8-1 in the regular season and won the Lenawee County Athletic Association championship. The Tigers got some hardware after shutting out Detroit Delta 43-0 and then Sand Creek 27-0 in a matchup of the county's best offense against the county's best defense to win the district title. Hudson posted four shutouts in a row, before falling in the regional to Detroit Loyola.

TELEGRAM PHOTO BY BASHAR ALSHABI



Sand Creek basketball unbeaten in regular season

The Sand Creek boys basketball team won the Tri-County Conference championship, posted a perfect 20-0 record in the regular season and climbed to No. 3 in the Class C rankings.

Led by Lenawee County Coach of the Year Tory VanSickle, the Aggies had a year to remember with a solid group of seniors. Sand Creek won its first TCC title since 1996-97 and became just the third TCC team to finish the regular season undefeated. The Aggies' average margin of victory was 18.8 points. Unfortunately, the season didn't end how Sand Creek imagined.

TELEGRAM PHOTO BY DELORIS CLARK-OSBORNE



Madison basketball stuns Sand Creek

It was truly an up-and-down season for the Madison boys basketball team, but the biggest up came in the opening round of Class C districts when the Trojans knocked off undefeated Sand Creek, 64-61.

Donovan Slates led Madison with a game-high 17 points, as the Trojans battled back from an early 11-2 hole and had a slim 31-26 deficit at the half.

The Trojans went on to win their second straight district championship and third since 2014.

TELEGRAM PHOTO BY DELORIS CLARK-OSBORNE



Morenci football ends Clinton's winning streaks

Clinton football's streaks of 40 straight regular-season wins and 30 straight Tri-County Conference wins came to an end when Morenci edged the Redskins 20-17 in overtime. Tyler VanBrandt's touchdown pass to Garrett Smith on fourth-and-10 provided the winning points in overtime.

Clinton's regular-season streak lasted from Aug. 24, 2012 to Sept. 23, 2016. It ranks as the third longest such streak in county history.

Morenci also ended Hudson's regular-season win streak that lasted 33 games from 2008 to 2011.

TELEGRAM PHOTO BY JOHN DISCHER



HONORABLE MENTION

■ **Tecumseh football beats Adrian in OT:** Adrian football might have made the playoffs, but Tecumseh still has the Maples' number. The Indians made it five straight wins against their archrival, which was recently voted the No. 2 MHSAA football rivalry by Football Addix, but this one was a thriller. Tecumseh won 20-14 in overtime on a fourth-and-goal touchdown pass from Alex Fouch to Lukas Coker, before the defense shut down Adrian's final possession.