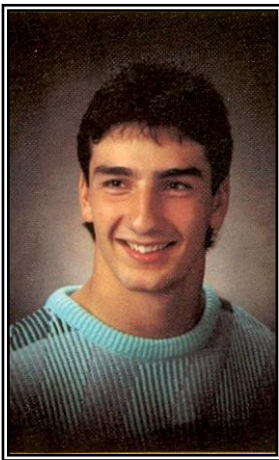
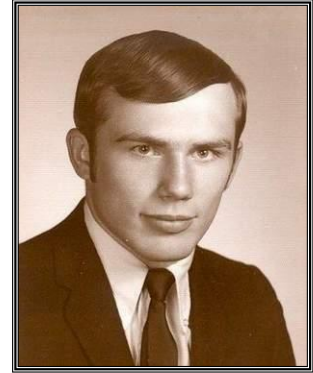


# DEWITT PANTHER FOOTBALL

## All-State Players

**Tom Isanhart:** Tom was the first player from DeWitt to be an All-State player. He was named to the Associated Press All-State team in 1961. Additional information on Tom is forthcoming.

**Mike Ashley:** Mike was named to the 1969 Associated Press Class C First Team as a defensive guard, Detroit News All-State Class C First Team offensive guard and United Press International All-State second team as a guard. Beyond all the statistics that evaluate offensive “skilled positions”, there are those that are recognized for greatness by the success of the team. Mike started on varsity all four years in high school. An 0-8 record his freshman year in the tough CMAC was followed by an 0-7-1 his sophomore season, 5-4 as a junior, including breaking a 36 game winless streak. Entering his senior year in 1969, third year Coach Gary Roberts named Mike as captain. Mike’s quiet leadership, lead by example and tough as nails player, enabled DeWitt to win their first CMAC league championship and first undefeated season since 1964. The team posted five shutouts defensively and beat third ranked Potterville 40-34 before a crowd of 4,000. Twice, Mike accounted for over 20 tackles in a game. At 5’10” and 170 pounds his size is dwarfed by today’s standards. However, Ashley’s outstanding play earned him the post season honors he deserved and is one of the best linemen in DeWitt Football history. Mike went on to assist DeWitt baseball in the 1990s, lending his leadership skills as the Panthers garnered eight league titles and three appearances in the State championship games, winning one in 1993.



**Chad Daggy:** Chad was named to the 1988 Class C Associated Press All-State team and Captain of the Lansing State Journal Dream Team as a running back. One of DeWitt’s finest all around male athletes, Chad also excelled in track as an all-state finisher and three time state champion in wrestling. On the gridiron, Daggy was a shifty, quick and hardnosed running back in Gail Thornton’s powerful wishbone attack. His senior season, he helped DeWitt rush into the State Semi-Finals for the first time in history. Alongside junior Mike Cowdrey, the duo made up one of the most prolific backfields in DeWitt History. His senior season rushing total of 1,349 yards (to Cowdrey’s 1,351) and 18 touchdowns (including four against Leslie) rank amongst DeWitt’s finest season totals. His career totals are 1,886 yards rushing and 25 touchdowns, all-purpose yards 2,882, 57 punts for a 32 yards-per-punt average, 831 return yards and 150 points.

Truly a special athlete, on the other side of the line of scrimmage, Chad ended his career with 273 tackles, including 203 assists and three interceptions. Besides four school track records and several wrestling records, Chad accounted for 13 individual football records when he hung up the football cleats in 1988.



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# DEWITT PANTHER FOOTBALL

## All-State Players



**Scott Simon:** Scott was named to the 1992 Associated Press All-State Team and Lansing State Journal Dream Team as a running back. Scott's freshman year was a learning experience as the fourth running back in coach Gail Thornton's prolific and senior laden wishbone attack that ended up in the Class B state finals at the Pontiac Silverdome in 1989. By Scott's senior year, the Panthers finished undefeated only to lose to Montrose in a "mudder" in the playoffs. Scott's senior year stats were outstanding, with 1,121 yards on 136 carries and 18 touchdowns in 10 games. He also returned 12 punts for a gaudy 14 yards per return and 5 kickoff returns for an unbelievable 222 yards, a 44 yards per return average. For his career, Scott rushed for 2,241 yards on 257 carries and ended up with 30 touchdowns. Defensively, he ended with 65 solo tackles and 47 assists and three interceptions. Scott was perhaps one of the most outstanding all around athletes in DeWitt history earning All-State recognition in baseball as well. Scott went on to play baseball at Dartmouth and was part of the first inductees into DeWitt Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

**Tony Pulice:** Tony was the Associated Press Special Mention Class B quarterback in 2000. He was the first in a long line of outstanding quarterbacks coached by Rob Zimmerman. Tony expertly ran the new potent option run offense along with timely accurate passing. One of Tony's most memorable games was the district playoff game with defending State Champion Chesaning in 2000, leading DeWitt to a come from behind 35-28 game only a week after Chesaning gave DeWitt its only regular season loss in the regular season finale. Tony ranks third in passing on the all-time DeWitt record books with 173 completions in 341 attempts for 2,375 yards and 20 touchdowns. Tony went on to play at the University of Chicago.

**Chad Alger:** In 2002, Chad was the Associated Press First Team Class B quarterback and named Captain and quarterback of Detroit Free Press All-State Dream Team. He was also the Lansing State Journal Offensive Player of the Year. Running primarily option run offense his junior year, Chad's passing talents as a quarterback and a new spread offense helped rocket DeWitt to the top ranking in Division IV in 2002. Along with his ability to read defenses and his rocket arm, Chad was also a bruising runner. With a wealth of excellent receivers and speedy running backs, Chad led the high powered Panther offense to the Division III Finals at the Pontiac Silverdome where he set a number



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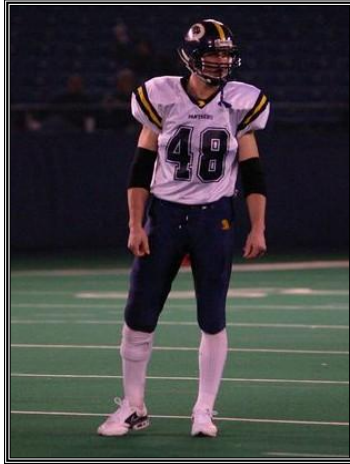
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# DEWITT PANTHER FOOTBALL

## All-State Players

of Finals passing records. His record number of attempts (51) and completions (23) still stand today despite playing with a painful separated left shoulder, which he suffered in the semi-final game. His season numbers are amongst the States' top performances; 164 completions in 290 attempts for 2,930 yards and 29 touchdowns along with 1,207 yards rushing on 187 carries and 16 TDs. For his career, Chad ended with 3,813 yards passing and 37 touchdowns, 1,728 yards rushing and 32 touchdowns. Chad went on to play at Michigan Tech.



**Justin Braska:** Justin was named on the Associated Press First Team Class B linebacker in 2004. He was also named the Defensive Player of the Year by the Lansing State Journal. He was the team captain and leader of a tough bruising defense that mimicked Justin's style of play. He also played tight end on a powerful running offense and would occasionally drop back into the backfield to open a hole as a blocking back or getting the ball and running for some tough yards. Justin was perhaps the best and the last in a line of Braska brothers that excelled in football at DeWitt. Justin was the leader of the 2004 team that returned to the Silverdome in Division IV. Despite all of the accolades and accomplishments given to him, his quiet toughness was exemplified by playing his entire senior with a partially torn ACL. After being a three year starter at DeWitt, Justin went on to play and start at Western Michigan University.



**Ken McClure:** Ken was named on the first team Associated Press Class B as a defensive back in 2004. Ken was a defensive back on the 2004 defensive team that was one of the most stingiest defenses ever. Playing safety behind one of the most talented quartet of linebackers in DeWitt Football history, Ken made the most of his 6'4" stature by picking off a record 15 passes. His reading opposing quarterbacks and cat quick reactions let the linebackers concentrate on stopping the run. By far, the most exciting play made by Ken was the regional final win over Pontiac Notre Dame Prep by intercepting a pass in his own end zone and returning it 106 yards for a game sealing touchdown. Ken went on to become a walk-on player at Central Michigan University.



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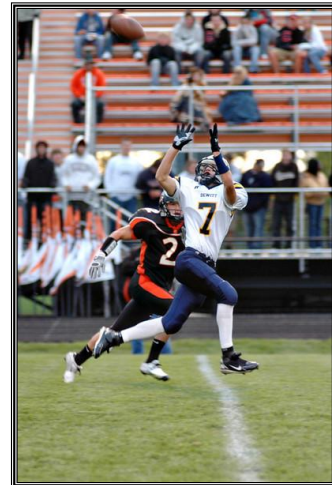
## All-State Players



**Dan VanDreumel:** Dan was named to the Associated Press Class B team and the Detroit Free Press Dream Team in 2007. He was also the Offensive Player of the Year in the Lansing State Journal. Dan was brought up mid-season as a sophomore and inserted right away. In his first game, he drove the Panthers 95 yards late in the game to beat Williamston. With a wealth of top receivers, his senior season was one for the record books. His 39 touchdown passes in only 11 games set the State season record. His career total of 69 TD passes is

second on the all-time State list. Dan's low key approach on the field allowed him to patiently wait for his receivers to get open and zip a pinpoint pass. An excellent junior season set the stage for a prolific senior season; 166 completions in 266 attempts for 2,565 yards and 38 touchdowns yet he was only intercepted three times. Dan also ran for 714 yards on 101 carries for an additional 11 TDs. His career passing stats; 373 completions in 614 attempts for 5,052 yards ( 2.9 miles! ) with 69 touchdowns. Also, Dan rushed for 2,395 yards and 25 touchdowns.

**Jason Fleet:** Jason was named to the Associated Press Class B team in 2007. Jason had an incredible senior season with DeWitt and was surrounded by other talented receivers. The fleet footed Fleet dazzled the large crowds with a number of acrobatic catches during the season and was one of mid-Michigan's most versatile and exciting players. His 66 receptions, 1,302 yards and 19 TDs are all on the State season record books. Jason also picked off seven passes which he returned two for touchdowns. He also returned eight kickoffs for a gaudy 29 yards per return and one touchdown. He honored DeWitt by being named to the 2008 All-Star game played at Spartan Stadium. Jason went on to play college football at Saginaw Valley State University.



**Jimmy Williams:** Jimmy was named as the Associated Press Special Mention Class B quarterback for the 2009 season. He was inserted as quarterback in the fifth game of the 2008 season and helped lead the junior laden class to five wins in the next seven games, including an incredible come-from-behind district win over Lansing Sexton where he threw for 355 yards. The unflappable Williams then led the powerful Panther offense in dominating fashion past twelve straight teams on their way to a State semi-final appearance in 2009. A strong arm with a velvet soft touch and deceptive speed along with natural leadership skills, Jimmy guided the complex and potent yet balanced Panther offense to the most prolific scoring season in school history. Jimmy's senior numbers rank amongst the top three in series of outstanding quarterbacks in recent Panther



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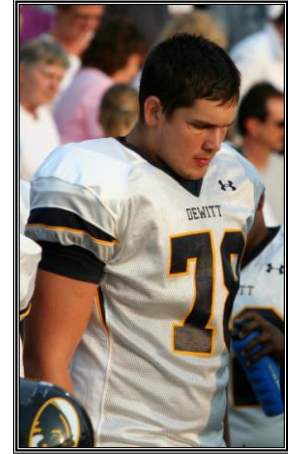
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# DEWITT PANTHER FOOTBALL

## All-State Players

history; 1,910 yards passing, 26 touchdowns, 137 completions and only three interceptions along with nearly 700 yards rushing and nine touchdowns. For a career, Jimmy ended up with 3,268 yards passing on 236 completions, 37 touchdowns and only eight interceptions. Rushing, Williams ended his career with 1,216 yards and 14 touchdowns.

**Paul Jorgensen:** Paul was named to the Associated Press Class B First Team as a lineman in 2009. He was also named to the Detroit Free Press Dream Team, Detroit News Dream Team, Lansing State Journal Defensive Player of the Year and named to the MHFCA All-Star team. Paul was a three year varsity starter on both sides of the ball. His dedication in the weight room added strength to his 6'7", 270lb frame and was a physically intimidating player. Defensively, "Jorgy" was a nightmare for the opposition, who could not run past him, through him or pass over him. Even with his size, Paul was very quick and agile, opening massive holes for running backs to follow or protecting the quarterback, which helped lead his team to a school record of 82 touchdowns for the year. Offensive line coach Bob Acre said Paul's greatest asset was his near perfect blocking techniques. Paul will continue his football career as a Wildcat at Northwestern University.



**Caleb Higbie:** Caleb was named the Associated Press First Team Class B All-State quarterback for the 2010 season. He was also named as the Lansing State Journal Dream Team quarterback and selected as the starting quarterback for the MHSFCA All-Star football game. Caleb's career stats are very impressive, except his career as a quarterback was his first and only season as a varsity quarterback. Caleb took over the QB reigns from 2009 All-Stater Jimmy Williams with a team that had only three returning offensive starters, including a whole new line and led the Panthers into the State Division III semi-finals. Higbie was a complete package; outstanding arm strength and touch, speed and quickness, ability to scramble and elude tacklers and ability to throw on the run. Other firsts for Caleb, he was Zimmerman's first left handed quarterback and the first QB that Zimmerman let play defense. Higbie's final numbers mirrored the team's offensive balance. He completed 169 of 262 (65%) passes for 2,571 yards and 34 touchdowns, rushed for another 1,253 yards on 155 carries and 11 touchdowns. Defensively, he finished with his career with 84 tackles (52 solo and 32 assists), 2 blocked kicks, 2 interceptions and 7 batted passes. His last minute heroics in wins over Portland, East Lansing, Harper Creek and Mason led LSJ Prep Sports Editor Geoff Kimmerly note that Caleb may have been the best pure athlete at quarterback that Coach Rob Zimmerman has had at DeWitt. Caleb went on to play football, along with his twin brother, Jacob, to Saginaw Valley State University.



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