



Toppmeyer: Is Michigan settling for another 9-4 year?

SPORTS, 1B

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Trans athlete debate reaches high court



The Supreme Court in 2020 sided with workers who claim they were fired because they were gay or transgender.

JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

Advocates hope to build upon 2020 legal victory

Maureen Groppe

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Becky Pepper-Jackson was in elementary school, already sure she was a girl despite being designated male at birth, when the nation took notice of two transgender athletes.

The debate over whether the high school runners in Connecticut had an unfair advantage ricocheted around the country, prompting more than half the states to block transgender girls from competing on female teams.

In Pepper-Jackson's home state of West Virginia, lawmakers "reasonably expected that the mounting stories" of transgender athletes outperforming competitors because they're bigger, faster and stronger would soon reach their communities, state officials said.

In reality, Pepper-Jackson's lawyers said, the law enacted in 2021 banned exactly one transgender girl — who hadn't experienced typical male puberty — from participating on her school's cross-country and track and field teams.

"Rarely has there been such a disconnect between a law's actual operation and the claimed justifications for it," lawyers for the now 15-year-old told the Supreme Court in advance of



Becky Pepper-Jackson, a West Virginia high school student, and her mother, Heather Jackson, challenged a state law barring transgender girls from participating in female sports. The Supreme Court will hold oral arguments in the case Jan. 13. PROVIDED BY SCOUT TUFANKJIAN/ACLU

the Jan. 13 oral arguments about her case challenging the law.

The two sides may disagree over the phenomenon that West Virginia and 26 other states say they are addressing, but there's no question that the issue has seized national attention. Pepper-Jackson's lawsuit and another student's

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Trump-Walz feud reaches boiling point

Disdain hits new levels after fatal ICE shooting

Phillip M. Bailey

USA TODAY

Ahead of key midterm elections, the feud between President Donald Trump and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has reached volcanic heights since a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement



Walz



Trump

officer fatally shot 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good on Jan. 7 in Minneapolis.

The Trump administration is refusing to allow state investigators to examine the evidence and spotlighting Minnesota's recent welfare fraud scandal, while Walz and allies, such as Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, are responding by seeking an in-

dependent review. They have harsh words for the administration, which has vigorously defended ICE agent Jonathan Ross and alleged that Good provoked the killing by driving toward Ross.

After months of trading insults with Trump, Walz launched into the fray with criticism in the initial hours of the incident, casting the administration's

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President Donald Trump has been critical of Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz since the 2020 George Floyd protests.
KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS FILE

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