



SEASON PREVIEW  
FOR ALL 30 AREA TEAMS

Trivisonno's last season  
at Mentor | Inside



# HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL '19

Jaylen Anderson  
Perry

Luke Floriea  
Mentor

Mason Sullivan  
Kirtland

Jack Porter  
Kenston

Rico Small  
South



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## ON THE COVER

Photos taken for The News-Herald by: David Turben (Trivisonno), Coleen Moskowitz (Anderson and Sullivan, Brittany Chay (Floriea), Patrick Hopkins (Porter) and Barry Booher (Small).

## OPINION

# Might be difficult to top banner 2018

It seems like yesterday the Kirtland and Kenston football teams were hoisting championship trophies into the air at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, the Hornets for the fourth time and the Bombers for their celebrated first.

Nearly nine full months have passed since that decorated day, and here we are on the doorstep of what promises to be another action-packed, memory-making high school football season.

The big question is how do area teams top what happened in 2018?

High school football isn't a game of "Can you top that," but it sure is fun to try.

For instance:

- Kirtland, with a coach (Tiger LaVerde) who could lose 142 straight games and still own a .500 record, has moved up to Division V this season after winning the Division VI title last year.

Even though Kirtland graduated a slew of seniors, does anyone actually believe the Hornets will take a step back in a bigger division?

- The bar at Kenston has been raised. After chasing an elusive state



**John Kampf**

championship for its entire existence, the Bombers now have one.

We're not sure how a team improves on a state title and hanging a running clock on every oppo-

nent during a five-game tournament run, but the Bombers are gonna give it a go.

- Mentor enters the season with somewhat of a sense of urgency, with Coach Steve Trivisonno having announced he is stepping down at season's end.

Trivisonno, four games away from 200 career wins, has led Mentor to four Division I state runner-up finishes in his career.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to calculate how one tops that.

- Perry has played in a state semifinal (2016), regional final (2017) and regional semifinal (2018) in the past three seasons.

The Pirates return an experienced skill set on offense loaded with firepower. Can the Pirates top what they've done in recent years?

- The Western Reserve Conference crowned a state champion (Kenston) last season and sent its tri-champions — Riverside,



DAVID C. TURBEN — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Chardon and Mentor face off in a scrimmage on Aug. 22. Both teams have high expectations in 2019.

Chardon and the Bombers — to the postseason last year, and Mayfield also made the playoffs.

Looking at this year, the WRC is trending up across the board. Virtually every team considers its offensive line its strength, and the young skill that lost close games last year is a year older and wiser.

The WRC is going to be a slugfest this year, probably more so than last year.

- Can the Chagrin Valley Conference top what it's been, which is one of the strongest-traditioned leagues in northeastern Ohio?

The league, led by com-

mish Dr. Don Lewis, is sure making a run at it.

The CVC adds six schools to the mix this year — Grand Valley, Lutheran West, Trinity, Brooklyn, Edgewood and Lakeside. The additions, in varying sizes of enrollment, will strengthen the league and balance things out across three divisions.

This is an easy one — the CVC appears to have already won its game of 'Can you top that.'

- Euclid has never qualified for the playoffs five years in a row. The Panthers are aiming for that goal in 2019.

Chasing history with a young team — Euclid has a smallish senior class but has some huge junior and freshmen classes coming — should be fun for the Panthers faithful.

- One rule change to keep an eye on this year is the implementing of a 40-second play clock.

Under the new rule, a 40-second play clock starts immediately after an official signals the end of the previous down — with some exceptions, of course.

For teams that already play fast and want to get off as many plays as humanly possible, it might not seem like a big deal. For teams who slow things

**Looking at this year, the WRC is trending up across the board. Virtually every team considers its offensive line its strength, and the young skill that lost close games last year is a year older and wiser.**

down, like to shorten the game and be more methodical, there might be an adjustment.

Being new, this will be interesting to see how it plays out.

The storylines could go on and on. Some teams have new head coaches. Some have new offensive and defensive coordinators. Some have new or refurbished playing fields.

Everything is done with an eye on the future.

Can things actually get better than a banner 2018 year?

Answers are on the way. It all starts soon.

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## Preseason Top of the Crop



**1 Mentor:** The Cardinals have a scary skill set on offense, but wow, that schedule is a bear.



**2 Euclid:** The Panthers' running game is going to give teams fits this year, and QB Dion Valentine is no slouch, either.



**3 Kenston:** The Bombers could outscore teams this year, and if the young defense steps up, look out.



**4 Perry:** The Pirates aren't as big on the lines as some years, but defending this offense won't be easy for the opposition.



**5 Chardon:** Big and physical lines will lead the Hilltoppers where they want to go this year.



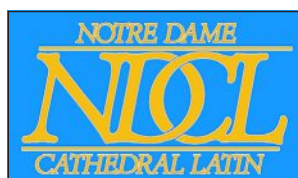
**6 Kirtland:** A decorated senior class graduated, but the goals haven't changed for the Hornets.



**7 Mayfield:** The Wildcats are shooting for a third straight playoff berth, and have the 'Cats to do it.



**8 Benedictine:** The Bengals looking to build on the youth that got valuable experience last year.



**9 NDCL:** The Lions are a veteran group — 22-seniors strong — and want to build on last year's 7-3 mark.



**10 Lake Catholic:** The Cougars were 7-3 last year and missed the playoffs by one game.

**Watch list:** Geneva, Madison, North, South

## Tony Fisher Award watch list

**By John Kampf**  
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The Tony Fisher Award goes to The News-Herald's high school football player of the year. It is named after the former Euclid star, the 1997 Ohio Mr. Football, who went on to play at Notre Dame and then in the NFL.

The following is a preseason list of players to watch who are key returners from a year ago. That being said, the Fisher Award watch list is fluid, where players can appear based on the previous week's performances.

The Tony Fisher Award is tentatively scheduled to be awarded on Monday, Nov. 25, at a special edition of the Varsity Chalk Talk show at Hooley House.

**Jaylen Anderson, Perry:** The junior running back is a two-time All-Ohioan. He can run and catch the ball. There's a reason his college offer list (including Nebraska) is large and growing.

**D.J. Bowman, Chardon:** The Hilltoppers will have a group of great backs — as usual — but this senior two-way starter is in line for a huge breakout season running the ball.

**Alex Dragas, Madison:** A three-year starter at quarterback, Dragas is a dual-threat QB that has a big, experienced offensive line in front of him. He could put up huge numbers passing and running.

**Luke Floriea, Mentor:** The senior slot receiver is committed to Boston College. He can catch, run and even throw if needed. One of the area's top playmakers.

**Chase Fortkamp, Wickliffe:**

He had 110 tackles and seven sacks as a sophomore. Kent State has already offered him. He is set to have a big year running the ball.

**Luke Gardner, Kirtland:** He was the No. 3 running back last year for the state champion Hornets. Now he's THE man. He runs a 4.38 in the 40 and can run away from defenders. Give him a crease and he's gone.

**Michael Huss, Mayfield:** He has experience at quarterback and a talented skill set, including Joey Isabella, around him. Couple that with an offensive scheme that fits his talents, and Huss is primed for a huge year.

**Ian Kipp, Mentor:** The junior quarterback had a big year last year despite missing a few games with injuries. He could run for 1,000 yards and pass for 2,000 yards with his talent and skill set around him.

**Jaabir Mujihad, Euclid:** He shared carries last year with Michigan State commit Brandon Wright. This year he'll be the primary carrier. Look out.

**Jack Robinson, NDCL:** The senior running back had a breakout season last year as a junior. With a veteran offensive line, he could have a record-breaking season as a senior.

**Jack Porter, Kenston:** The senior running back is a two-time, first-team All-Ohioan. He has run for more than 1,500 yards in each of the past two seasons. When he has the ball in his hands, scoreboard numbers change.

**Charles Rosser, Benedictine:** The speedy receiver is committed to Akron. With a 6-foot-3 frame, he's a night-

mare in matchups.

**Drew Schiano, Perry:** The senior quarterback had huge numbers last year and has a dynamic skill set around him again this year. That spells another big year for him.

**Rico Small, South:** The electric playmaker is a senior. He could line up at slot, receiver, running back or even take snaps in the wildcat sets and defenses would shudder.

**Mason Sullivan, Kirtland:** He was a first-team Division VI All-Ohioan at linebacker last year, and will also be a focal point of the Kirtland rushing attack this year.

**Charlie Taylor, Geneva:** What do you get when you put a 6-2, 220-pound running back behind a huge offensive line anchored by a Division I recruit (tackle Sam Davis)? Watch Taylor run this year and find out.

**Jon Tomcufcik, Kenston:** The senior quarterback threw for more than 3,000 yards and accounted for more than 30 touchdowns last year. He's the trigger man for the Bombers' highlight reel offense.

**Brian Trobel, Mentor:** The senior running back, one of the best backs Mentor has ever had, Trobel has a 1,000-yard season last year despite missing a few games with injuries. He's healthy now. Look out.

**Dion Valentine, Euclid:** He got a lot of experience at quarterback last year, and has a tremendous skill set around him this year. Look for a big season.

**Max Vujaklija, Chardon:** When the Hilltoppers' offense is at its best, the quarterback is a big reason why. Vujaklija is experienced and savvy. He's primed for a big year.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Geneva should push Perry in CVC Chagrin race

By John Kampf

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## CVC Chagrin

**FAVORITE »** Perry  
**DARKHORSE »** Geneva  
**DON'T FORGET ABOUT »** Orange

**FOR THE RECORD »** The Pirates haven't lost a league game since Oct. 23, 2015, when West Geauga took a 49-28 victory. Perry has won 22 straight CVC games since then. The Pirates have a loaded skill set on offense, so anyone wanting to beat them this year will need some serious offensive weaponry.

Enter Geneva, which boasts a massive offensive line and a grueling running game that — hypothetically — is the type of offense that could be a great defense. The more Geneva's run-oriented offense has the ball, the less Perry's highlight-reel offense is on the field.

Keep an eye on Orange. The Lions were a 7-3 playoff team a year ago and have a slew of offensive skill players returning. Then again, Perry took a 49-7 victory last year. So Orange would have to make a big step from that to get a victory.

West Geauga has a big, physical team this year, too, and bear mentioning in the race for the CVC Chagrin



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Perry's Drew Schiano looks to evade an Orange defender in 2018. The Pirates and Lions are expected to be two of the top teams in the new-look CVC Chagrin.

## CVC Metro

**FAVORITE »** Cuyahoga Heights

**DARKHORSE »** Independence  
**FOR THE RECORD »** This really looks like a two-horse race from the get-go. League expansion added newbies Trinity, Brooklyn and Lutheran west to this — the smallest division, enrollment-wise of the CVC. Those three are added to holdovers Fairport, Richmond Heights and the top dogs, Cuyahoga Heights and Independence.

Cuyahoga Heights was a Division VII state final four participant a year ago and returns quarterback Sam Shafer (6-1, 195) and an athletic skill set. The rest of the league is going to have problems slowing

down Shafer, who will operate behind a big, physical offensive line.

The only team — likely — to be in a position to slow down Coach Al Martin's Redskins is Independence. Kyle Zygmunt (receiver), Braden Sears (line) and Adam Miklovic (linebacker) were all-district performers last year and will spearhead the Blue Devils' quest for conference superiority.

## CVC Valley

**FAVORITE »** Kirtland  
**DARKHORSE »** Wickliffe  
**DON'T FORGET ABOUT »** Grand Valley

**FOR THE RECORD »** The Hornets are the reigning Division VI state championship who will take their talents to Division V this season.

Kirtland has won 15 conference games in a row and is 67-1 in league play dating back to 2009, when it lost back-to-back league games against Hawken and Cuyahoga Heights in Weeks 4 and 5 of the season.

That makes Coach Tiger LaVerde's team the standard of not only the CVC Valley, but also the standard for Northeast Ohio small-school football.

Wickliffe has turned into a perennial playoff team under Coach Marce Porcello. The Blue Devils are 23-7 in the regular season over the past three years, all resulting in playoff bids. Chase Fortkamp headlines an experienced Wickliffe team. The Blue Devils travel to Kirtland on Sept. 27 for a key CVC showdown.

Grand Valley is back in the CVC after a handful of years in the smaller Northeast Athletic Conference. The Mustangs, who feature a big offensive line and a good running game, are 36-4 over the past four regular seasons with three playoff berths. They're a good addition to the league.

## Greater Cleveland Conference

**FAVORITE »** Mentor  
**DARKHORSE »** Euclid  
**DON'T FORGET ABOUT »** Solon  
**FOR THE RECORD »** Not much

of a surprise here. This league has come down to the triumvirate of Mentor, Euclid and Solon in recent years and promises to deliver the same this year.

Mentor (first), Euclid (third) and Solon (fourth) all hosted first-round playoff games in Division I, Region I last year. Mentor's only loss was to Solon, Euclid's lone loss in the league was to Mentor. So the three shared the GCC crown.

Mentor returns QB Ian Kipp, RB Brian Trobel and a solid receiving corps that includes Boston College commit Luke Floriea. Euclid has QB Dion Valentine back, as well as RB Jabir Mujihad with a big offensive line. Solon has big returns, too, including QB Pat McQuaide and DE Najee Story.

This race could go any way. But the nod goes to Mentor, although the trip to Solon on Oct. 4 promises to be a doozy. Mentor hosts Euclid. The Panthers host the Comets.

This will be a fun conference race to track this year.

## NCL Blue

**FAVORITE »** Akron Hoban  
**DARKHORSE/DON'T FORGET ABOUT »** The rest of the crew

**FOR THE RECORD »** Not to sound harsh, but the race here is for second place. Hoban has won four state titles in a row and is loaded

again this year, putting itself in the category of "best team in Ohio, regardless of division."

Is an upset possible? Sure. We're talking about teenage boys. Is it likely? Probably not.

Locally, there is a lot to like about the members of the NCL Blue. NDCL returns the crux of its offensive and defensive lines, as well as a hammer at running back in Jack Robinson. Benedictine has tremendous skill and should be able to light up the scoreboard this year. Lake Catholic looked strong in a scrimmage against Medina Highland and could put itself in the Division IV playoff picture after narrowly missing out in Division III last year.

But as of now, the NCL Blue is Hoban's to lose. The Knights have experience at QB, a running back committed to Arizona State and a tight end committed to Alabama. No one else in the league has anything like that.

## NCL White

**FAVORITE »** Warren JFK  
**DARKHORSE »** VASJ  
**DON'T FORGET ABOUT »** Gilmour

**FOR THE RECORD »** Warren JFK, which advanced to a Division VII regional final in 2018, projects as the favorite here with the amount of returnees.

**CONFERENCE »** PAGE 13



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Trivisonno prepares for swan song

Mentor coach will step aside after 2019 season, his legacy building alma mater into state power intact

By John Kampf

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*@NHPreps on Twitter*

The Mentor football team was ready for the next step.

Five years had passed since Steve Trivisonno had taken the reins of his alma mater's football program in the summer of 1997. To that point, Trivisonno's plan to rebuild a struggling Cardinals' program that had fallen on hard times was in place.

He and his staff had strengthened the youth program and shut off the pipeline of high-profile players to private schools.

Now it was time to, in his words, "Go for it."

Which meant implementing the shotgun, no-huddle, fast-paced offense that he felt fit the "type of kids we had in Mentor."

"We spent all summer talking with Urban Meyer, who was at Bowling Green," Trivisonno said, recalling back to the early 2000s. "Those first two scrimmages, we didn't score a point. Not ... one ... point ... I'm like, 'Gawwww-leeeee. What are we gonna do? Are we gonna get this?'"

One week later, the Cardinals hung 450 yards on Glenville in a 48-33 season-

opening win.

Ever since, the Trivisonno-led Cardinals have been the envy of big-school, public-school football in Ohio, winning 78 percent of their games and playing in four Division I state championship games.

That era comes to an end at the completion of the 2019 season, though. Trivisonno announced in February that the 2019 season will be his last.

When the Cardinals run onto the field in Lakewood for the season-opener against St. Edward, so will begin the swan song of the most decorated high school football coach in school history.

"Oh, I'm going to miss it. I'm sure I will," said Trivisonno, taking a break from a late-August practice at Jerome T. Osborne Stadium. "It is hard to believe it's almost over. You think, 'What's next in your life?' But at this point I'm not going to worry about it. I'll see what that next page is in my life come December. Right now, I'm just having fun with this."

Much like he did in 1997 when then-athletic director Max Ness rolled the dice with an eager, wet-behind-the-ears assistant

coach at Madison who had never been a head coach in his life.

But as Ness said in a 2015 News-Herald story, he had a gut feeling about the young kid who had played his football under former Mentor coach Tom Frazier.

Then-coach Mike Pavlansky had just left for the Canfield position, leaving Ness with short time in mid-July to find a coach.

"I was his principal when he was a student, so I knew him from being a student and knew his character piece," Ness said of Trivisonno in 2015. "His knowledge of the game was unquestioned. I asked a few coaches he had worked with outside of Mentor, and they all responded, 'Max, you'd be silly to not go with that young man.'"

Even before Trivisonno took the Mentor job, he had a blueprint of what he felt needed to be addressed to make Mentor a football powerhouse. Having been a student at Mentor, he knew it was what he called "a massive job" to undertake, with a large youth program and three junior highs feeding one of the biggest high schools — enrollment-wise — in Ohio.

TRIVISONNO » PAGE 6



TIM PHILLIS — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor's Tadas Tatarunas and coach Steve Trivisonno celebrate after the Cardinals defeated Olentangy Liberty, 27-21, in a Division I state semifinal on Nov. 24, 2017.



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# Trivisonno

FROM PAGE 5

“We had to start building from the ground up,” Trivisonno said. “The youth program we had to fix. Then the junior high. Then ninth grade. We had to build that Mentor pride that being from Mentor meant something.”

Which meant putting up a proverbial fence around the school district, giving athletes a reason to stay rather than go to private or parochial schools.

“When I first came here, 18 of Lake Catholic’s 22 starters were from Mentor junior highs,” Trivisonno said. “We needed to do a better job of keeping our kids at home. We needed to sell taking great pride of where you’re from.”

The early results were decent. In the first four years with Trivisonno’s plan in place, Mentor went 32-19 (.627). After a 2001 year in which the Cardinals went 7-3, Mentor implemented the fast-paced spread offense.

“That is a huge part of our success, to be honest with you,” Trivisonno said. “We knew being here our biggest advantage was numbers. We could two-plateau. (The spread) wasn’t popular in that time. But we knew that’s what we wanted to do.”

Once Mentor went to the spread and used its resources, along with the blue print of lower-levels in the

## TRIVISONNO’S RECORD AT MENTOR

**1997:** 4-6  
**1998:** 7-4  
**1999:** 6-5  
**2000:** 6-4  
**2001:** 7-3  
**2002:** 11-2  
**2003:** 12-1  
**2004:** 7-3  
**2005:** 5-5  
**2006:** 13-2  
**2007:** 11-3  
**2008:** 9-3  
**2009:** 6-4  
**2010:** 7-4  
**2011:** 11-2  
**2012:** 12-2  
**2013:** 13-2  
**2014:** 11-2  
**2015:** 8-4  
**2016:** 6-4  
**2017:** 13-2  
**2018:** 11-2

program and keeping the local kids home, the Cardinals flourished.

After winning roughly 63 percent of their games in the first four years, the new-look, fast-paced Cardinals are 165-47 (.778) using the spread offense, with five appearances in the Division I state final four.

Mentor was state runner-up four times — 2006, 2007, 2013 and 2017 — while also being a state semifinalist in 2012. Trivisonno reflected on each of the state appearances:

▪ 2006, when Mentor lost to Hilliard Davidson, 36-35, in double overtime of the championship game.



DAVID C. TURBEN — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Mentor coach Steve Trivisonno during a Aug. 22 scrimmage at Chardon.

“We had our chances,” Trivisonno said. “Boy did we have our chances. I don’t second-guess games anymore. But that one hurt. We had a lot of chances to win. We just didn’t. ... You could second-guess that maybe we shoulda gone for two in the first overtime because we knew stopping that option from the 20 would be hard. ... But man, the town was going wild that we got to that game. Now everybody expects it, but wow, what a great game.”

▪ 2007, when Mentor lost to Cincinnati St. Xavier, 27-0, in the championship game.

“I remember coming out to take the field for the game and it was sleet, snow and wind. I was like, ‘Aw, man.’ We were all-throw that year. .. We played hard, but it wasn’t until after we flipped on the game film — that was probably the greatest football team we’ve ever seen in St. X. ... Second guesses? Probably wouldn’t

have mattered in 2007.”

▪ 2012, when Mentor lost to Toledo Whitmer, 62-34, in the state semifinal round.

“That’s probably the best offense we ever had. We weren’t as good on defense — really young. Mitch (Trubisky) really carried us that year. We lost Brandon Fritts on the first play of the state semi. We were so young on defense that year, we had to score a lot of points every game. That young defense made a big difference the next year.”

▪ 2013, when Mentor lost to Cincinnati Moeller, 55-52, in the championship game.

“Great football game. A couple mistakes cost us, and that’s all it takes in a game like that. Whoever had the ball last was going to win. They had that kid (Sam Hubbard) who went on to play at Ohio State and is in the NFL now. Conner (Krizancic) was unbelievable that game and Eddie (Daugherty) had 18 catches. Each team had a really good defense, but boy those offenses were great.”

▪ 2017, when Mentor lost to Pickerington Central, 56-28, in the championship game.

“That was a special year. We were perfectly healthy all year. We didn’t have as many big-time talents playing. But boy that team played well. It got away from us in the second half. Tadas (Tatarunas) did a great job leading us. Probably the best offensive line I’ve ever had.”

Trivisonno paused for

a moment when the memory of the 2017 season was discussed. A few days after that loss to Pickerington Central, his father, Joe, died at the age of 84.

Joe Trivisonno, a longtime area coach at Collinwood and Brush, was a mainstay on the Mentor sidelines during his son’s tenure.

Since his death, Trivisonno said, things are different. Perspectives are different.

“(His absence) became hard,” Trivisonno said. “That changed the whole idea without him around. I still go by his grave and talk to him, stop on game day and say, ‘What can you do up there to pull a string or two for us tonight?’

“I’m lucky he was here for a good portion of it, to see what we built and to see four state championship games. But yeah, it’s different — difficult — without him here.”

Trivisonno rattled off the list of people who have helped him personally and professionally while at Mentor, from the assistants to the players to the administration. Assistants Nes Janiak and Jim Funk have been with him from the get-go.

Wife Pam and daughters Tori and Kari also deserve a huge part of the credit, he said. Tori, 31, lives and teaches in Dublin, while Kari lives and teaches in Hilliard, both near Columbus.

“The good thing about being retired (from teaching) is I’ve already gotten

to working on the projects I didn’t while teaching,” he said with a laugh.

Come next year, time frees up even more when he steps aside from football coaching.

“I’m going to miss it,” he said. “Stuff like uniform pass-out day, not so much. But I’m going to miss it.”

Trivisonno let out a laugh that he isn’t ready to write his epitaph, but he does know how he wants to be remembered.

“As a guy who gave everything he had,” he said. “I never claimed to be the smartest guy in the world, but we worked hard here and made something special. I think we did it the right way with hard work and discipline. I’m proud that our kids go on to be successful people, parents and husbands. We prepare guys for life — that’s how I’d like to be remembered.”

Trivisonno heads into the season with a 196 career wins. He’s been to five state final fours. His Cardinals have secured four state runner-up finishes. They did it while turning out good people.

Trivisonno will take that legacy, even if the 2019 season doesn’t provide the elusive state championship.

“It’d be nice, don’t get me wrong,” he said. “I’d love one this year, and we’re going to give it a run. But I’m proud of what this program is. I always dreamed this is what I wanted to do, but for it to work out how it has, I’m the luckiest guy in the world.”

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Talented Hornets in hot pursuit of back-to-back state championships

By John Kampf

*JKampf@news-herald.com*  
*@NHPreps on Twitter*

Luke Gardner just knew he wasn't going to sleep very well the night of Dec. 2, 2011.

A fourth-grader at Kirtland Elementary, Gardner and his classmates were all sprung from school that day to go watch the Hornets play Coldwater in the 2011 Division V state championship game.

Of course, Gardner was giddy all day. It wasn't even about getting out of a day of school. It was about getting to watch the hometown heroes such as Christian Hauber and Damon Washington hoist the championship trophy after plowing through the Coldwater defense for a combined 343 yards rushing in a 28-7 victory at Massillon Paul Brown Stadium.

As Gardner laid in bed that night, all he thought was "I wanna do that someday."

Now a senior, Gardner will not only get a chance to do that. But he and his teammates on the 2019 Kirtland football team will get a chance to do what no



MICHAEL P. PAYNE — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

**KIRTLAND » PAGE 8**

Kirtland's Luke Gardner carries during a scrimmage at South earlier this month.

# K

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# Kirtland

FROM PAGE 7

one else in program history has ever done.

Win back-to-back state titles.

As the Hornets grind through the August practices, that's the goal — to go where no Hornet has ever gone as a back-to-back state champion.

"That would mean so much," Gardner said. "I want to get two rings. Being back-to-back would be so great."

There have been opportunities — three to be exact — for the Hornets to do that in the Tiger LaVerde era.

After beating Coldwater for the 2011 title, the Hornets and Cavaliers met up for a rematch the following year, with Coldwater holding on for a 10-9 win to thwart Kirtland's effort to repeat.

In 2013, the Hornets blew through their season with a 15-0 record, destroying undermanned Wayne Trace, 44-16, in the Division IV title bout. But the back-to-back quest evaporated in 2014 when Minster rallied for two late touchdowns in the fourth quarter to knock off the Hornets, 46-42, in Ohio Stadium.

Kirtland hoisted a gold trophy in 2015 again with a 22-20 win over Marion Local for the Division VI championship, but were ousted in the regional final a year later by eventual state runner-up — and con-



THE NEWS-HERALD

The Kirtland football team poses for a championship photo at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium after defeating Marion Local, 16-7, in the Division VI state championship game on Nov. 30, 2018.

ference rival — Cuyahoga Heights.

Kirtland defeated Marion Local in the 2018 state title game in Division VI.

Is the fourth time a charm?

The answer will reveal itself in a few months.

"If we keep doing what we do, we can win it," said Zach Samsa, a returning starter at tight end.

Samsa remembers fondly seeing Joey Bates blow through the Marion Local line to cement the 2015 state title. Classmate and two-way starter on the lines Mike Alfieri relishes the memory of Owen Loncar's interception against the Flyers that helped ice the game.

After playing significant roles on last year's state championship team, Samsa and Alfieri are eager to lead the team to another title.

"It makes us push harder every day," Alfieri said of the

quest for back-to-back titles. "We want to get there."

There are a slew of new faces on this year's team.

Kirtland graduated a massive — and talented — senior class from a year ago. Samsa, Gardner and Alfieri are the only starters returning on the offensive side of the ball, while junior All-Ohioan Mason Sullivan is the only person returning who started all 15 games last season.

At many schools, the graduation of such a big senior class might be a problem.

Perhaps not at Kirtland, though, a program that is an almost-unfathomable 159-17 (.903) under LaVerde.

"We probably had 18 different guys who started on defense at some point last year," LaVerde said. "Guys like Louie Loncar, Caleb Stephenson, Jayme Torok, Luke Gardner — they're all back. Mason's the only one

who started all 15, but we have a lot back, especially at linebacker."

Offensively, Kirtland will continue to do what it does — run the ball.

Gardner scored one of Kirtland's two touchdowns in last year's state championship game. When All-Ohioan Joey Torok went out with a concussion in the second half, Sullivan ran for 29 yards to help the Hornets put the game away.

Add in the physical running of Jaymes Torok and the Hornets are well-stocked to do continue their pounding running game no matter who is taking snaps under center.

Senior Jonathan Ridge-way and sophomore Liam Powers, brother of last year's starter Tommy Powers, are both in the mix at quarterback.

"We're not as big (up front), so maybe we need to be more physical this

**"The standard we hold ourselves up to is working hard every day, practicing as hard as we can and giving it our all on Friday nights. Hopefully we can win it all again. That's the goal."**

— Kirtland coach Tiger LaVerde

year — maybe get more speed going," Samsa said. "We've just got to play Kirtland football and run the ball."

Gardner said he never imagined scoring a touchdown in a state final like he did last year. But that experience has him hungry for more.

"I can't wait to run the ball," he said. "I hope to get a lot of snaps, a lot of carries and rush for a lot of yards."

Of course, the quest for back-to-back titles isn't going to be easy.

Kirtland has one of the hardest nonconference schedules it has ever entertained, starting the season with Division IV Cortland Lakeview, Division II Riverside and Division III Geneva prior to the start of a CVC schedule that leads off with perennial playoff teams Cuyahoga Heights and Wickliffe.

"I think that's probably

our toughest," LaVerde said of the nonconference schedule. "Our first five games are pretty tough. Cuyahoga Heights was a final four team last year, Wickliffe was in the playoffs, Geneva has all those guys back and Riverside won a playoff game last year."

"It's a tough five-game stretch to start the season."

Additionally, Kirtland has moved up to Division V this season, which provides — at least hypothetically — a tougher road to the final four not to mention a whole list of teams with which the Hornets are unfamiliar.

Part of that Division V picture is defending state champion Orrville, which returns All-Ohio running back Marquael Parks.

The Hornets aren't looking that far ahead, though.

As LaVerde has long said: "If you don't take care of business the first 10 weeks, Week 11 doesn't matter."

The Tiger LaVerde era is chock full of marquee players who won a lot of games and played on the grandest of stages with championships on the line. Gardner pointed out that standard and process.

The goal is to follow that process to where the program has never been before, as a back-to-back champion.

"The standard we hold ourselves up to is working hard every day, practicing as hard as we can and giving it our all on Friday nights," he said. "Hopefully we can win it all again. That's the goal."



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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Bombers are hungry for more

## Defending D-III state champions won't rest on '18

By John Kampf

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@NHPreps on Twitter

Never forget where you came from.

It took the Kenston football team's entire existence, including two near-misses in previous state finals, to hang its first state championship banner on the wall last season.

To think the Bombers are going to lay back and spend the 2019 season reminiscing about their 2018 state championship season would be a mistake.

If anything, the 2019 Bombers are more hungry than ever.

So while many might think Coach Jeff Grubich's crew is going to stand atop the mountain-top it ascended to last season with the mindset of knocking off anyone who nears them, the opposite is true.

Kenston is looking at the 2019 season as a fresh start from the bottom of the mountain, where they started last year on their quest for greatness.

"Oh, there's no doubt we have a target on our backs

and people are gunning for us," Grubich said. "But our focus hasn't changed. We're making a climb back to the top one week at a time."

A year ago this time, the Kenston football team was grousing over a 2017 season in which an 8-2 record left then three-tenths of a point out of a playoff position. The Bombers trained in the offseason with a chip on their shoulders, practiced viciously and played angry.

It measured up to a 14-1 record in 2019 and the program's first state title, courtesy of a 42-6 bludgeoning of heavily favored Kettering Alter.

The same mindset has fueled the team this offseason, even though there is a state championship banner on the wall and a golden state championship trophy in the new Gurd Family Fieldhouse.

"Same mentality as last year," said two-time, first-team All-Ohio running back Jack Porter. "Don't get ahead of ourselves. We're going to work hard every day, every play, every practice."

Most of the Bombers admit they dreamed of winning a second state championship even before they departed from Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium

last December. Even though Kenston was going to be graduating a ground-breaking senior class that led the program to the promised land of Ohio High School football, they knew eight starters were returning to an offensive side that averaged more than 40 points per game last year.

The defense, with only three starters returning, would be green. But the dream was there.

"I think that's always been in our minds since the game ended," said senior linebacker Logan Vargo of winning back-to-back titles.

"Probably since we were little," chimed in senior offensive tackle George Sell, a Wake Forest commit.

"Who doesn't want to win two?" Vargo said. "We got one. Let's go win another."

But it won't come without hard work, they warned.

So when Grubich and his staff gathered the group for winter lifting, when the summer workouts started, and when Aug. 1 arrived for the first day of practice for the 2019 season, the Bombers treated it like the 2019 team had won nothing.

Because actually, it hadn't.

"We actually pushed the kids harder this offseason

**BOMBERS » PAGE 10**



JOHN KAMPF — THE NEWS-HERALD

The Kenston football team is primed for another run at the Division III state championship this year. Shown are front, George Sell, second row, Jack Porter and Coach Jeff Grubich, and third row, Tyler Mintz, Jon Tomcufcik and Logan Vargo.

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# Bombers

FROM PAGE 9

in the weight room and with our summer conditioning,” Grubich said. “I think we could be in better shape than we were last year because the coaches are stressing you can’t take anything for granted. You have to work hard to get back to where you want to be.

“(Winning a title) is a good thing, but for us, it’s something we’ve moved on from. This is a brand new team.”

Well, sort of.

The offense could be – or should be – stunning.

All-Ohio quarterback Jon Tomcufcik is back after throwing for more than 3,000 yards last season and accounting for more than 40 touchdowns between his throwing and running.

Porter has run for 1,500-plus yards in both his sophomore and junior seasons. He has committed to Wake Forest as a preferred walk-on.

While All-Ohio receiver Bransen Stanley graduated, a talented group of receivers in Tyler Mintz, Jay Middleton, Ryan Miller and more return.

Oh, and three starting linemen return.

“We’ve thrown in a couple new wrinkles on offense,” said offensive mastermind Grubich, who cut his teeth coaching in Mentor’s high-octane offense with current Bears QB



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Tyler Mintz is swarmed by teammates after scoring a touchdown in Kenston’s 42-6 win over Kettering Alter in the Division III state championship game on Nov. 30, 2018.

Mitch Trubisky at the helm. “We have our quarterback, tailback, majority of our offensive line and receivers back. That helps. I think there’s still some room for growth we can make.”

Defensively, the Bombers will be semi-inexperienced. Lineman Tim Matty, linebackers Anthony Valocchi and Vargo, and cornerback Mintz are the only returners with starting experience. Vargo isn’t using inexperience as an excuse.

“A lot of guys have to come in and take more reps,” Vargo said, adding the unit is motivated by people saying Kenston’s defense is vulnerable. “I don’t want to win games based on our offense playing great and our defense stopping them once. I want the defense to be the backbone of the team.”

In last year’s state championship run, the Bombers held the opposition to one touchdown in the regional

final, state semifinal and the state title game.

“We’ll figure it out,” Mintz said. “It’s a big hit, but I think we’ve got the guys.”

The Bombers look at their 2019 season with pride. The gold trophy is amazing. The rings are shiny. The memories are vivid. The “almost undefeated” thing sticks in their craw.

A 27-24 loss to Chardon in Week 9 was the only blemish on the record. A

handful of Chardon players recently said that win showed they could contend for a state title in 2019. Well, the Bombers, too, remember that loss well.

“I think it’s obviously an important game for us,” Vargo said of the rematch with Chardon set for Oct. 11. “We’ve got to go week-by-week up til then. But there will be a lot of hype around that game. It means a lot to us. It was almost a perfect record. One blemish on it.

We want to correct that.”

Vargo caught himself looking down the road. He quickly pulled himself back to the present, which is practice on the hot, steamy day and focus on Week 1 when Kenston travels to Black River for the opener.

“We’re focusing on now,” Mintz said. “Last year was a great thing to happen, but this is a new year with a new group of guys. All we’re worrying about is a Week 1 win right now.”

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# With school facing likely end, Newbury strives for big finale

By Chris Lillstrung

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@CLillstrungNH on Twitter

As football players waited for picture day Aug. 12 at Newbury, the hallways were filled with bustle, much like they have since right after the datestone was placed at the top of the school in 1928.

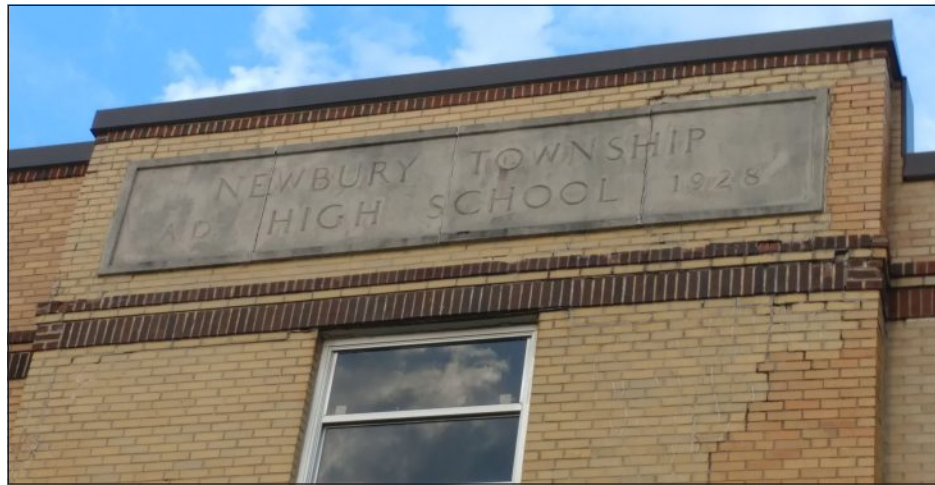
Generations of families in a community deeply proud of its small-town roots have walked through the doors at the corner of Route 87 and Auburn Road and left their imprint.

Their legacy and pride are felt in the present day.

There are the pictures of the great athletes of yesterday. The trophies earned through dedication and sacrifice.

The mural of a Black Knight, and the knight's armor on the stage in the cafeteria.

"I'm aware of (the history) quite a bit, because I spend a lot of time with my wrestling coach, and he's from around here," Newbury standout senior tight end and defensive tackle Mitch Sanders said. "So it



The datestone at Newbury High School

seems like every time I go somewhere, I meet someone, 'Oh, he was on the (1986) state championship wrestling team, or he went undefeated in whatever year in football as a quarterback.'

"You sit back and you look at it, and it's like, 'Wow, they actually had a lot of accomplishments in the years we've been around.'"

For 91 years, Newbury has fought valiantly, at many junctures with its size as an underdog, to forge its

identity and accumulate those accomplishments.

And in 2019, never has that quest meant more.

Because the end is near.

In January, Newbury's school board — amid a clear pattern of declining enrollment and financial constraints in the district — announced it was taking the necessary steps to seek consolidation with West Geauga. There are 49 boys and 44 girls in grades 10-12 according to the last OHSAA enrollment figures.

The goal would be for the consolidation to take effect for the 2020-21 school year.

In turn, should that come to fruition as proposed, this is the final year for Newbury — including on the gridiron.

For Coach Ryan Williams and the 19 players he has out for football this fall, it's a responsibility not taken lightly.

"Nobody really looks at Newbury as a football powerhouse, as kind of a small school," Williams said.



CHRIS LILLSTRUNG — THE NEWS-HERALD

League championship trophies, a football and a plaque adorn an awards display at Newbury. After the school district initiated the process of consolidation with West Geauga last year, this is expected to be the Black Knights' final season.

"But every game, we come out and compete with everybody. We win some. We lose some. But teams know that they'll be in for a battle for it.

"This year is obviously a little bit different. This is probably going to be the

last season. So we've used that as a little bit of a rallying cry."

Going back to six-man football in the old Geauga County League, the Black Knights have had their moments to savor.

NEWBURY » PAGE 12

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## Newbury

FROM PAGE 11

They logged unbeaten campaigns in 1951, 1955 and 1963. They had a stretch during which they went 24-3 from 1967-69 under George Cervenka.

More recently, there's been workhorse running back Justin Yates' 2,266-yard, 24-touchdown season in 1998, third in News-Herald coverage area history.

And there were the late charges for the playoffs in 2016 and 2017, led by the prolific Johnny Chambers.

"It's really fun, because football is just Friday night lights — everyone loves it," junior center and defensive end John Tropf said. "It brings everyone in. Even if you have a kid in the school or not, everyone wants to be there. You talk to people, and they say, 'I checked the newspaper every morning.' Everyone wants to see how Newbury football does."

"We're small, so you might not expect much. But we just go out and show them how good we really are."

Part of the mettle that has captured the hearts of their community and their neighbors has been earned under challenging circumstances as well.

In 2015, the Black Knights had to cancel their final three games when, as a result of injuries, they were down to 12 healthy players.

In 2008, Newbury hovered between 11 and 15 players, at times perilously close

to not being able to put a full squad on the field, but finished the season anyway, heads held high.

Among the honors in the trophy case is a plaque honoring that team and their "dedication to the game of football."

For this 2019 edition, the Black Knights return six two-way starters and boast experience on the lines and at linebacker.

As they waited for their picture day, a conversation was overheard with one player asking another about a memory from their freshman year.

Memories, in this unique circumstance, carry more resonance.

"I definitely find myself reminiscing about my past years more than I would have," senior left guard and linebacker Jacob Orms said, "because I don't get the fact of coming back."

That's what makes this upcoming finale so tough.

Many of the families in Newbury have multiple children who go through the school district, each with their own story of watching their hometown team and then contributing to that cause themselves.

Williams, who knows the small-school bond well as a Tuscarawas Central Catholic graduate, joked about how he's surprised he hasn't had a Munn yet, one of the more well-known families in Newbury lore.

Sanders smiled and laughed as he recalled being a youth player on a side yard adjacent to the high school game and the foot-

ball from their game going onto the high school field and hearing vociferously about it.

"I think it's just kind of weird that after this year, we're not going to have games to come back to, whenever we're home from college or whatever," Sanders said.

"I remember, before I was playing football when I was in junior high and elementary, coming and watching the games and seeing a lot of my older brother's friends back from college. I think it's just going to be weird not having that anymore."

Which is exactly why these Black Knights want to finish with a flourish.

Coming off a 2-8 campaign, it's not going to be easy. Truthfully, for large stretches, it hasn't been in this corner of Geauga County.

But one final time, they're ready to fight for it.

With North qualifying for the playoffs in 2017, Newbury is the last News-Herald coverage area school that has never made the playoffs.

Typically, in Division VII, Region 25, getting around .500 will at least yield a chance in the stretch run at Week 11.

Nothing would please the team and its community more than to have that chance, especially now.

The bustle will depart, and the end may be near.

But the legacy, hopefully, isn't going anywhere, with one last memorable chapter to go.



CHRIS LILLSTRUNG — THE NEWS-HERALD

A mural of Newbury's Black Knight mascot, flanked by framed basketball and football jerseys, are shown outside the gymnasium at the school.


"I hope they remember, even with the small numbers, they're not going to forget how hard we worked," Tropf said. "We went out there, and you see guys flying across the field


and just everyone going as hard as they can. We're going to be remembered as small, but mighty."

Added senior running back and linebacker Julian Cicchella: "I think one of the

big things I like about Newbury, it's not really a school as much as it is a family. Everybody here is pretty tight. Stuff we do here, it's almost like a brotherhood. Hopefully, that lives on."

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## Spartans embracing challenge of 10 road games

By Nate Barnes

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Richmond Heights Local School District broke ground on its new school building May 28. The \$26 million project includes construction of a new high school and middle school building, library and board of education building.

Completion of construction is expected by January 2021.

In the meantime, many of the Spartans athletic teams are displaced. The varsity gym has been demolished. Although the football stadium remains standing, Richmond Heights' football program will compete without a home field in 2019.



CARRIE GARLAND — THE NEWS-HERALD

Rico McPherson returns a kickoff against Kirtland on Sept. 21, 2018.

Seniors Rico McPherson, Jaelen Johnson, Jerrell Owens and their teammates will spend the entire 2019 season on the road. The Spartans embrace their status as road warriors.

"It's going to be a fight," McPherson said. "I don't know all the details, but it's going to be a fight. That's all

I know."

McPherson and Johnson are a pair of four-year starters for the Spartans, who are now under the guidance of new head coach Dante Darby Sr. Darby spent the past 10 seasons as an assistant at Maple Heights, where he helped the Mustangs to the 2010 state championship. Previously, Darby coached at Thiel College where he was an All-Presidents Athletic Conference selection as a linebacker.

Darby's increased the Spartans' film study and attention to detail during two-a-days. The back of his truck also doubles as Richmond Heights' locker room. Darby stores the players' pads in his truck bed

between practices while locker rooms are inaccessible due to construction.

The Spartans were disappointed when they missed the playoffs in 2018 after a 2-1 start. Richmond Heights' players find their new coaching staff more demanding, but recognize their progress on the field.

"They're teaching us more fundamentals," Johnson said. "More team schemes, that's all it is. They're just coaches looking out for kids, they're loving us."

Richmond Heights' season-long road trip will span 533 miles, beginning Aug. 30 at Rittman. The team's longest trip goes to Lowellville in Week 3, a 152-mile

round trip.

Darby would prefer the luxury of a home field. But to prepare, he scheduled all but one of the Spartans' scrimmages away from their practice field on Richmond Road. While he tries to lay his program's foundation, 10 road games present Darby's coaching staff a teaching opportunity.

"For the most part, you just deal with your circumstances," Darby said. "What I told them earlier is never let your environment be the dictation of your future. Our destiny right is now winning, going 1-0. Next week, go 1-0. It's a one-week season for us."

Football teams needn't often look far for motivation. From outright, face-to-

face trash talk to perceived slights posted to social media, any avenue to fuel competitive fire is taken.

A schedule played entirely away from home adds to the proverbial chip on Richmond Heights' shoulder pads.

"I feel like when you're on the road you've got to battle adversity," Johnson said. "You're going to battle adversity in life, so why not here?"

The Spartans hope to be taken lightly as perpetual underdogs who weekly visit another team's home.

As road warriors, their expectations still run high.

"We're going to go to the playoffs this year," Owens said. "We're going to shock everybody."

## Conference

FROM PAGE 4

The Eagles feature QB Christian Marantis and two-way standouts including Cameron Hollobaugh and Jesse Likens.

VASJ and Gilmour could make it interesting. The Lancers aren't going to replace 2018 Tony Fisher Award winner C.J. Charleston but have enough veteran talent returning to have another nice year. The Vikings were young a year ago, and taking

those lumps should translate to improved fortune in 2019 under first-year coach and program legend Elvis Grbac.

## Northeast Athletic Conference

**FAVORITE** » Windham  
**DARKHORSE** » Newbury  
**DON'T FORGET ABOUT** » Pymatuning Valley  
**FOR THE RECORD** » Windham won the league last year with a 9-1 record. The next-best team — Grand Valley — is now in the Chardon Valley Conference.

In short, this is Wind-

ham's league to own right now. Pymatuning Valley and Newbury both were 2-8 teams last year, but both have shown a lot of promise in the preseason despite having low numbers. But that's a league-wide issue.

Can Newbury figure into the conference title picture in its final season? Absolutely. The Black Knights play PV twice — home Sept 20 and away Oct. 11. A home game against Windham on Oct. 25 is a biggie.

## Western Reserve Conference

**FAVORITE** » Kenston  
**DARKHORSE** » North  
**DON'T FORGET ABOUT** » Chardon

**FOR THE RECORD** » Naturally, the nod goes to the defending Division III state champion Bombers, who return eight starters to a championship offense that averaged more than 40 points per game last season. But this isn't as easy as some might suspect.

The only team to beat Kenston last year was Chardon, a big, physical team whose offensive scheme — a grueling running game —

is built to be a problem for high-octane offenses such as Kenston's. Chardon's defense is very good, but its best defense might be its offense, which can grind out yards and shorten games while keeping opposing offenses safely on the sidelines.

That being said, Kenston's offense is the best in the league — and one of the best maybe in Ohio. The WRC will have to play some exceptional defense to keep Coach Jeff Grubich's team from hanging a conference banner.

Mayfield has been to the D-II playoffs in each of the

past two years, has experienced skill and a big, physical line. The Wildcats will be in the conference hunt, too.

It bears noting that the league on a whole is "up" this year. Madison is experienced, South has exceptional skill, Mayfield has a lot back off a playoff year, Riverside has playoff experience to rely on, and Brush is trending up in Year 2 under Coach Eddie Hall.

The WRC is going to be a slugfest this year.

Staff Writer Chris Lillstrung contributed



Good Luck to WICKLIFFE, CHARDON and ALL of our area teams headed to the PLAYOFFS!



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## High school football » Playoff region outlooks

By Chris Lillstrung

CLillstrung@news-herald.com  
@CLillstrungNH on Twitter

Teams are listed in alphabetical order by group; 2018 won-lost records are in parentheses

### DIVISION I, REGION 1

**Favorites:** Canton McKinley (9-3), MENTOR (11-2), St. Edward (11-3), St. Ignatius (8-3)

**Contenders:** Berea-Midpark (5-5), EUCLID (9-3), Lorain (6-4), Massillon Jackson (6-4), Solon (8-3), Stow-Munroe Falls (5-5)

**What to look for:** There's a lot to like with Mentor in Coach Steve Trivisonno's swansong, especially the offense with first-team All-Ohio RB Brian Trobel (28 TDs), QB Ian Kipp and an armada of talent at skill positions. There will be transition on the offensive line and on defense, but as always the Cardinals have plenty of points to push for home field. ... Obviously, sweeping the Holy War duo of St. Edward and St. Ignatius out of the gate would be a massive statement of intent and should give Mentor a good chance at a head of steam to go into a Week 6 showdown at Solon unbeaten. ... Euclid graduated a ton, so it's probably best to temper expectation somewhat at least in the early going. But Panthers coach Jeff Rotsky is a virtuoso in transition and getting Euclid in a competitive spot. ... That Week 3 venture to Canton



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Mentor running back Brian Trobel is shown against St. Edward in the 2018 Division I, Region 1 final.

McKinley could be the key to the Panthers' campaign. ... Elsewhere, defending state champion St. Edward has an astounding 220 players out for football. ... As is typically the case, the trenches will be a strong suit for the Eagles, with three senior Division I recruits in DE Jeff Pietrowski (Michigan State), T Roman Chambers (Akron) and C Brian Kilbane Jr. (Bowling Green). ... St. Ignatius will have a bevy of new faces in new places — but it's the Wildcats and Chuck Kyle, after all. So it's better to be bullish in that regard. ... Canton McKinley is under new leadership in Marcus Wattley after Dan Reardon returned to Ursuline. ... The

Bulldogs return first-team All-Ohio RB Lameir Garrett (1,224 yards, 21 TDs in 2018).

### DIVISION II, REGION 5

**Favorites:** Akron Hoban (15-0), Massillon (14-1), Massillon Perry (8-2), North Canton Hoover (7-3)

**Contenders:** Austintown-Fitch (8-3), BRUSH (4-6), MADISON (4-6), MAYFIELD (5-6), NORDONIA (9-2), RIVERSIDE (9-3), Uniontown Lake (6-4), Warren Harding (8-3)

**What to look for:** Good luck in this region — it is an embarrassment of riches. ... From a News-Herald coverage area perspective, the issue is, was and will be for

the duration who steps up as the second-best team in the Western Reserve Conference. ... Reigning Division III state champion Kenston, on paper, will be the favorite in the WRC again — and with the traffic jam of parity seemingly behind the Bombers, it's difficult to gauge who makes a move. ... Last year, it was Riverside, translating a junior-heavy group in 2017 to a laudable ascent last fall. ... Madison and Mayfield both started a lot of juniors last fall, so perhaps they're in line to take a similar path. ... Brush boasts some key returnees, but needs to show more mettle down the stretch than it did in 2018, when it

lost three straight to close. ... With respect to the WRC, though, something around 7-3 for whoever does emerge as an upper-echelon squad will probably not yield home field, because the extent of league parity makes points too scarce when vying for the top four. ... No need to belabor this point: Four-time defending state champion Akron Hoban is unbelievably good again. The Knights have two of the top five Ohio seniors in the ESPN 300 in Deamonte Trayanum (Arizona State) and TE Caden Clark (Alabama) and a third stand-out on the list in LB Devin Hightower (Michigan State). ... As stacked as Hoban is, so is the quest for Nos. 2-4 with Massillon and the Federal League contingent. Massillon Perry, with standout lineman Vinny Scuiry, and North Canton Hoover, with QB Connor Ashby, will be a handful. ... Uniontown Lake could be a sleeper as well, especially if it can capitalize more on those Federal League points. ... Austintown-Fitch will be playing this season in honor of longtime coach Phil Annarella, who unexpectedly died over the summer.

### DIVISION II, REGION 6

**Favorites:** Avon (12-2), Maple Heights (12-1), North Royalton (4-6), Wadsworth (12-1)

**Contenders:** Avon Lake (10-2), Barberton (10-1), BENEDICTINE (4-6), Medina Highland (8-2), North Ridgville (4-6), Olmsted Falls (8-3), Padua (6-4), Wooster

(8-3)  
**What to look for:** The lone area representative in this region is Benedictine — but the Bengals are an intriguing option. ... This time a year ago, Benedictine had two senior starters on offense and four on defense. Granted, one of those seniors was standout QB Nick Demchuk, which will be a big loss. But most of the squad that took its lumps during a 4-6 campaign is back. With the amount of talent returning, there's possibly at least five winnable games on the Bengals' schedule, and if they can take a step forward in the North Coast League, the dominoes may fall into place here for a return to the playoffs and potentially making it interesting for home field late. ... Generally, there was a lot of graduation turnover in this region, including with the usual front-runners. Until proven otherwise, though, it's safe to side with programs such as Avon, Maple Heights and Wadsworth. ... A deep sleeper in this region could be North Royalton. The Bears return QB Joey Marousek, who threw for 2,422 yards and 29 TDs and ran for 575 yards and nine scores last fall, along with fellow seniors Simon Antonio (595 rushing yards, eight TDs) and Riley Knurek (1,153 all-purpose yards). North Royalton was electric all of last year and had three one-possession setbacks. So if it can fare better in close games, a memorable campaign could be in the cards.

PLAYOFFS » PAGE 15



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# Playoffs

FROM PAGE 14

## DIVISION III, REGION 9

**Favorites:** Akron East (9-3), Akron SVSM (7-3), KENSTON (14-1), Steubenville (10-2)

**Contenders:** Akron Buchtel (6-5), Aurora (7-3), CHARDON (7-4), GENEVA (4-6), NDCL (7-3), New Philadelphia (4-6), Streetsboro (4-6), UNIVERSITY (4-6)

**What to look for:** The grind begins anew for Kenston, fresh off its Division III state championship charge a year ago. With so many key performers back in the fold, including first-team All-Ohio RB Jack Porter and QB Jon Tomcufcik, from a state title squad, suffice to say it's reasonable to label the Bombers as the Western Reserve Conference favorite and a state championship contender once again. ... If Chardon, which dealt Kenston its lone loss last year, can slot in at least as the second-place team in the WRC, with all those D-II points available, that should serve the Hilltoppers well. Coach Mitch Hewitt has a solid group back to take a shot at that aspiration — and perhaps more. ... Geneva, in order to factor in for Week 11, needs to slot in, at minimum, as the CVC Chagrin runner-up with a signature win in tow. Week 1 at Madison could be a big deal for the Eagles. ... NDCL will be a tough customer as usual, but needs to get more



COLEEN MOSKOWITZ — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Perry's Jaylen Anderson scores a touchdown against Harvey in 2018.

out of the NCL Blue than it did a year ago. ... University, with its depth and returnees, has a chance to be markedly better as well. ... Region 9 becomes a little different, as always-formidable Steubenville comes up from D-IV and Akron SVSM appears poised to be one of the premier teams here — although to be fair, the Fighting Irish's margin for error with their schedule is minimal at best. ... The program on the upswing that may be the most talented foe here for Kenston is Akron East, paced by LB Bangally Kamara, a Pitt recruit, and fellow D-I recruits CB Deshawn Jones (Cincinnati), DE Tariq Williamson

(Toledo) and WR Travon Walker (Central Michigan). If anyone can attest to how good the Dragons are, it's Chardon after their playoff encounter a year ago.

## DIVISION IV, REGION 13

**Favorites:** East Liverpool (6-4), Hubbard (11-2), Indian Creek (8-3), PERRY (10-2)

**Contenders:** Carrollton (5-5), Girard (13-2), LAKE CATHOLIC (7-3), Orange (7-4), Poland Seminary (6-4), Salem (6-4), Struthers (7-3), WEST GEAUGA (4-6)

**What to look for:** Optimism should still rightfully be high at Perry, even after the loss of a valuable senior class.

With RB Jaylen Anderson, QB Drew Schiano, a deep receiving corps and the addition of Harvey transfer Devon Holbert, the Pirates will be outstanding and should be among the class of the CVC Chagrin and this region. ... Lake Catholic, as with the rest of the NCL Blue, has to solve the puzzle of who will emerge from the proverbial fray as the No. 2 team behind Akron Hoban. Whoever does likely notches a playoff berth, and the Cougars will be among that mix. ... West Geauga, provided it can gain some traction in the CVC Chagrin, has the opportunity to be a Week 11 contender, particularly with the upper-division points

available on its schedule. ... This region feels a lot different without Steubenville and with the graduation of dynamic QB Mark Waid from state champion Girard. ... In turn, there may be room for some new blood in the top four beyond usual suspects such as Perry and Hubbard. ... Indian Creek, fresh off a playoff appearance in 2018, may be a candidate with QB Sam Mazar (1,427 total yards, 15 total TDs in 2018), RB Trevor Fante (1,052 rushing yards, 12 TDs) and LB Tyler Smarrella (140 tackles, 14 TFLs). ... It could be worth throwing East Liverpool in that debate as well, led by versatile RB Derek Carter (1,044 yards from scrimmage, 11 total TDs) and two-way stalwart Nick Woodyard (43 catches, 119 tackles).

## DIVISION V, REGION 17

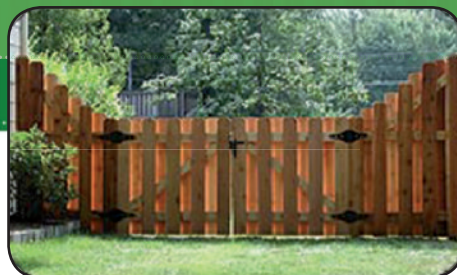
**Favorites:** Bellaire (8-4), KIRTLAND (15-0), Martins Ferry (7-4), Sandy Valley (9-2)

**Contenders:** Akron Manchester (9-4), Barnesville (5-5), Garrettsville (6-4), GILMOUR (11-1), Harrison Central (4-6), Rootstown (9-2), Sugar Creek Garaway (8-2), WICKLIFFE (8-3)

**What to look for:** The regional and divisional addresses change for Kirtland, moving to Division V. But the aspirations for the 2018 D-VI state champion do not, of course. ... Kirtland will have an unusually high amount of turnover, with three starters back apiece on offense and defense. But

with the program's success this decade, it's hard to believe a downturn is coming as a result. What could aid the Hornets' cause immensely, ascending to a larger division, is a three-game nonconference road stretch to open, at a D-II (Riverside), D-III (Geneva) and D-IV (Cortland Lakeview). Even with transition abounding, Kirtland should still be among the class of its region and beyond. ... Two other News-Herald coverage area squads, have their own turnover. Gilmour, with 2019 Tony Fisher Award winner C.J. Charleston, and Wickliffe, with program staple Isaac Pettway, will have some proverbial big shoes to fill in the backfield. But the Lancers and Blue Devils have enough returnees to reasonably believe they can contend for Week 11 once again. ... Bellaire should chew up yards from ground with RB Cole Porter (school-record 1,610 rushing yards, 16 TDs) back in the fold. ... Martins Ferry, one of the more highly regarded traditional powers in Ohio, has a four-year starter at QB in Jacob Probst and should vie for home field. ... Sandy Valley should be a geared up for a memorable fall, bringing back essentially the entirety of a prolific offense, featuring QB Cameron Blair (2,641 yards, 39 TDs), RB Brendan Obradovich (816 rushing yards, 10 TDs) and WRs Brodie Kelly (39 catches, 821 yards, 11 TDs) and Demetrius Evans (38 catches, 708 yards, nine TDs).

OUTLOOK 5» PAGE 16



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GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR LOCAL TEAMS THIS SEASON!

## Outlooks

FROM PAGE 15

### DIVISION V, REGION 18

**Favorites:** Genoa Area (12-1), Northwood (9-2), Orrville (13-2), Pemberville Eastwood (6-4)

**Contenders:** BEACHWOOD (6-4), Bucyrus Wynford (6-4), Elyria Catholic (9-3), Liberty-Benton (4-6), Marion Pleasant (8-3), Millbury Lake (7-4), North Union (7-3), Oak Harbor (10-2)

**What to look for:** All you need to know about the geographic scope of this region, featuring News-Herald coverage area squads Beachwood and Villa Angela-St. Joseph: It stretches to Paulding, in west central Ohio along the Indiana border. Its county's football media day was covered by a Fort Wayne TV station. ... And it's not just a demanding region for travel, with nine teams going at least 7-3 last year. ... The Bison, who have some solid speed and skill back in the fold, will probably need at least two wins in nonconference play and at least two of three from a tough midseason CVC Valley stretch hosting Independence and Cardinal sandwiching a trip to Wickliffe. ... Not having VASJ here isn't to say the Vikings, who were a predominantly young squad last fall, won't be a factor in the playoff chase. But they need to achieve more consistency over 10 weeks and likely win the NCL White to do so. ...



CARRIE GARLAND — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Morgan Hershberger, shown at Kirtland in 2018, and Cardinal are the lone News-Herald coverage area team in Division VI, Region 21 this fall.

Defending state champion Orrville returns electric RB Marquael Parks, who ran for 2,799 yards and 44 TDs a year ago to earn first-team All-Ohio honors. ... Northwood, with QB Jay Moten, returns nine starters on both sides of the ball and should be potent again. ... Punishing RB Daniel Novotney is the top returnee for Genoa Area, with 1,260 yards and 21 TDs on the ground in 2018. ... Eastwood, which lost three games last year by a combined 17 points, has a pair of dynamic rushers in Jayden Rayford and

Justin Pickerel. ... Generally speaking, Beachwood and VASJ will likely find it more difficult to be in the playoff mix here vs. Region 17.

### DIVISION VI, REGION 21

**Favorites:** Berlin Center Western Reserve (8-2), Fort Frye (12-1), Mogadore (11-2), Trimble (13-2)

**Contenders:** Brookfield (3-7), Columbiana (6-4), Dalton (4-6), Hanoverton United (8-2), Nelsonville-York (4-6), New Middletown Springfield (9-1), Salineville Southern (9-2), Youngstown

Liberty (7-3)

**What to look for:** Region 21 undergoes drastic change, with Kirtland moving to Division V and this region now stretching all the way to southeast Ohio along the Ohio River. ... The lone News-Herald coverage area squad left in Region 21 is Cardinal. The Huskies will be fun to watch under new coach George Gresko and boast size and experience. Not including the Huskies here isn't so much indicative of them as much as it is the quality elsewhere in the region and how much

the CVC Valley will help with second-level points. Having all larger-division points available in league play will be a benefit, but to what extent? In this region, 7-3 might be borderline. ... With Kirtland's exit, the class of the region appears to be 2018 D-VII state runner-up Glouster Trimble, which returns three all-Ohio seniors in RB Conner Wright, QB Cameron Kittle and LB Sawyer Koons. ... It's pretty simple at this point: When in doubt, trust Mogadore to be at the forefront regardless of circumstance. ... Berlin Center Western Reserve has a wealth of talent and depth back under longtime coach Andy Hake and will be eager to finish the job after going 8-2 last fall and not making Week 11. ... Fort Frye, which fell to Kirtland in a D-VI state semifinal last year, graduated key personnel but should be strong again. ... If you want a deep sleeper, try Brookfield, with RB Tyler Briggs, dual-threat QB Haden Gibson and seven of its top eight tacklers returning. Such a young team a year ago, going 3-7, should be poised to vault.

### DIVISION VII, REGION 25

**Favorites:** Cuyahoga Heights (11-3), Lucas (10-3), South Central (7-3), Warren JFK (7-6)

**Contenders:** Independence (6-4), McDonald (11-1), Southington (6-4), Steubenville Catholic Central (7-4), Toronto (4-6), Tuscarawas Central Catholic (5-6), Valley Christian (5-6),

Windham (9-2)

**What to look for:** First, the positives from the area contingent should be noted. Fairport's numbers are in the 30s, which is highly encouraging. Newbury has a lot of experience with its two-way starters, and Richmond Heights played several juniors in key spots last fall. ... The issue, as always, in Region 25, is getting enough points in CVC play for the Skippers and Spartans, and the Black Knights have to climb back from going 2-8 a year ago. ... That said, what a story it would be, in its likely final season, if Newbury can keep its squad of 19 healthy, get going a little better offensively, garner some steam in NAC play and be a factor for its first-ever playoff berth. ... Highly regarded Cuyahoga Heights should be geared up for another deep charge with its cadre of All-Ohio returnees of QB Sam Shafer, WR Jason Bartosik, lineman Isaac Durant and DBs Max Alpert and Kyle Polack. ... Lucas has done a nice job of establishing its program and is led by two-way standout Logan Niswander. ... South Central, paced by dual-threat Evan Legg, could intrigue. ... Warren JFK has several two-way starters back from a D-VII regional finalist squad. ... Steubenville Catholic Central has a fascinating area tie with the Ohio return of first-year coach Tony Agresta, a Mayfield graduate and former Wildcats assistant back in the Buckeye State after coaching stops in Norway, Youngstown and Louisiana.

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## High school football » Games to watch

By John Kampf

*JKampf@news-herald.com*  
*@NHPreps on Twitter*

There are few places better to be on a Friday night in the fall than at a local high school football field.

Here are a number of games fans can circle on their calendar this upcoming season.

**Mentor at St. Edward, 7:30 p.m., Aug. 29:** Is there any bigger game in Ohio on opening night? Probably not. Especially with it being a Thursday night game.

**Euclid at Glenville, 7, Aug. 30:** This could be a high-scoring affair between rivals who really don't like each other very much.

**Riverside at Perry, 7, Aug. 30:** Both teams won conference titles, won a playoff game and sustained heavy graduation losses last year. This is a good barometer for both programs.

**West Geauga at Chardon, 7, Aug. 30:** The Wolverines upset the Hilltoppers in the season-opener last year. This is a bitter rivalry and should be a fun one to watch.

**Chardon at Perry, 7, Sept. 6:** The Hilltoppers' 49-43 win last year carried a lot of weight and computer points to thrust them into the Division III playoffs. Suffice to say, the Pirates haven't forgotten.

**Kirtland at Riverside, 7, Sept. 6:** The reigning Division VI state champs (now in D-V) take on the Division II Beavers. This is going to be mega-computer points



DAVID C. TURBEN — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Chardon Head Coach Mitch Hewitt talks to his team after the Hilltoppers defeated Kenston in Week 9 last season. It was the only loss of the season for the eventual Division III state champion Bombers. Kenston and Chardon will meet again Oct. 11 at Chardon.

for the winner.

**St. Ignatius at Mentor, 7, Sept. 6:** The second of back-to-back hammers for the Cardinals to start the season. Going St. Edward-St. Ignatius to start the season is as ambitious as it gets.

**Euclid at Canton McKinley, 7, Sept. 13:** The Panthers head to one of the cathedrals of Ohio high school football — Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium — for what could eventually be a playoff preview.

**Madison at Perry, 7, Sept. 6:** These bitter nextdoor-

neighbor rivals renew the battle for the Little Brown Jug. Perry has won four in a row, the last two by lopsided scores.

**Cleveland Central Catholic at Lake Catholic, noon, Sept. 7:** A rare — if not inaugural — game hosted by the Cougars at their field next to the school.

**Kenston at North, 7, Sept. 20:** The Rangers feel they have the size and speed to win a conference title and make a playoff run. They'll find out quick where they stand against the defending Division II state champs.

**Cuyahoga Heights at Kirtland, 7, Sept. 20:** Kirtland won the Division VI state title last year. Heights was a state final four team in Division VII. Nothing more needs to be said here.

**North at South, 7, Sept. 27:** The Rangers snapped a 14-game losing streak to the Rebels last year with a 37-29 win. South won't be in a good mood on this night as North goes for two in a row.

**Mentor at Solon, 7, Oct. 4:** Many feel this is the Greater Cleveland Conference championship game.

They might be right, though Euclid wants to have its say, too.

**South at Kenston, 7, Oct. 4:** Not to advocate wagering on high school games, but it would be safe to "bet the over" in this one.

**North at Madison, 7, Oct. 10:** Neither team has an offensive lineman anywhere near 200 pounds — both teams are gigantic. This WRC collision might measure on the Richter Scale.

**Benedictine at NDCL, 7, Oct. 11:** The young Bengals upset the veteran Lions last year, a loss that kept NDCL

out of the playoffs. Benedictine just seems to have their rival's number in this series.

**Kenston at Chardon, 7, Oct. 11:** The Hilltoppers beat the Bombers on the final play of the game last year, handing Kenston its only loss of the season. Rest assured, the Bombers have this one circled on the calendar.

**Solon at Euclid, 7, Oct. 11:** Most feel the GCC comes down to Mentor, Euclid and Solon — as usual. So this is a biggie for both teams.

**Euclid at Mentor, 7, Oct. 25:** Mentor won last year, 29-7, but ever since Jeff Rotsky took over at Euclid, this has been a toughie for the Cardinals.

**Geneva at Perry, 7, Oct. 25:** Heading into the season, many feel this is the game to watch in the CVC. The ground-and-pound Eagles take on the run-and-gun Pirates.

**NDCL at Lake Catholic, 7, Oct. 26:** St. Edward vs. St. Ignatius have naming rights to "The Holy War," but on the east side, this game is the version of that. Bitter rivals.

**Chardon at North, 7, Nov. 1:** This game should have WRC and playoff implications. It might take 30 minutes to play, going by the propensity of both teams to run the ball 24-7.

**Perry at West Geauga, 7, Nov. 1:** Longtime rivals in the CVC, there have been some classic Perry-West G showdowns. This could be another one.

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## Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 18  
**Head coach:** Damion Creel, fifth year (12-28)  
**2018:** 6-4 (2-4)  
**Twitter:** @BisonAthletics  
**Home field:** Allen D. McCullough Field

## Schedule

**Opponent**                      **2018 result**  
**Aug. 30:** Orange at Beachwood, 7 L, 35-7  
**Sept. 6:** Beachwood at Chaney, 7 DNP  
**Sept. 13:** Beachwood at Collinwood, 7 W, 23-6  
**Sept. 20:** Beachwood at Grand Valley, 7 DNP  
**Sept. 27:** Independence at Beachwood, 7 DNP  
**Oct. 4:** Beachwood at Wickliffe, 7 DNP  
**Oct. 11:** Cardinal at Beachwood, 7 (HC) DNP  
**Oct. 18:** Beachwood at Kirtland, 7 DNP  
**Oct. 25:** Berkshire at Beachwood, 7 DNP  
**Nov. 1:** Hawken at Beachwood, 7 W, 52-14  
**Game to watch:** There are six teams Beachwood did not play in 2018, and Sept. 27 home vs. Independence is a big one.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Desmond Horne*	Jr.	5-10	185
RB Kendyn Wiggins*	Jr.	5-10	185
RB Dewann Gray*	Jr.	5-9	190
WR Deon'te McCutcheon Jr.	Sr.	6-1	165
WR Kylan Clark	Sr.	6-2	165
WR Jalen Minter	So.	5-8	155
LT Te'jamere Nash	So.	6-4	295
LG Atonio Roscoe*	Sr.	6-1	290
C Andrai Jones	Fr.	6-0	290
RG Marcus Moore	Sr.	6-2	305
RT Ethan Winger*	Jr.	6-0	200
K Spencer Kornspan	Sr.	5-11	180

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Rondell Lewis Jr.	Sr.	5-11	215
DT James Flowers*	Sr.	5-11	180
NT Marcus Moore	Fr.	6-2	290
DT Antonio Roscoe*	So.	6-0	290
DE Andrew Baker*	Jr.	5-8	180
DB Letraize Walker*	Sr.	6-0	180
DB Kylan Clark	Sr.	6-1	175
DB Kendyn Wiggins	Jr.	5-10	185
DB Jack McPhillips*	Jr.	5-10	170
DB Deon'te McCutcheon Jr.	Sr.	6-1	165
P Spencer Kornspan	Sr.	5-7	175

(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** James Flowers, Hameed Thornton, Spencer Kornspan

**Returning lettermen:** 12

## Outlook

The 2018 season was so promising for the Bison. After nine weeks, they were 6-3. But then an unfortunate melee between Beachwood and Harvey in a Week 9 victory resulted in several suspensions, which took their tool in the last game of the season against Orange. Coach Damion Creel said there were many lessons learned that can be applied to this season. The playoffs are again a goal and with 12 starters returning there is a solid base. The numbers are Bison are pretty good for a D-V squad.



Gray

### Player to watch

Dawann Gray Jr. is a tough, hard-nosed linebacker and will be a leader on the defense. But this two-way star doesn't rest. On offense, he will share the load with two other backs as the Bison look to do some damage on the ground in 2019.



Wiggins

**Underclassman to watch:** Kendyn Wiggins, like most Bison players is a two-way player as a defensive back/running back, but the junior should be a force toting the ball. Last season, he was the team's leading rusher with 756 yards.

**Best in the classroom:** Ben Desatnik 4.0, GPA, Jack McPhillip 4.0, Andrew Baker 4.0, Ethan Winger 3.7

**+** **Online:** Coach Damion Creel and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** it can navigate a schedule in which four of the first six games are on the road, THEN: Beachwood should again be in contention for a playoff spot.

— Mark Podolski



## Just the facts

**Conference:** NCL Blue  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 6  
**Head coach:** Jarritt Goode, first year  
**2018:** 4-6 (2-3)  
**Twitter:** @BeneBengalsFB  
**Home field:** Bedford Bearcat Stadium

## Schedule

**Opponent**                      **2018 result**  
**Aug. 30:** Bene. at Youngs. Ursuline, 7 W, 35-0  
**Sept. 6:** Shaker Heights at Bene., 7 L, 23-21  
**Sept. 14:** Cle. Cent. Cath. at Bene., 7 DNP  
**Sept. 20:** Bene. at Erie Prep, 7 L, 66-39  
**Sept. 27:** Bene. at Austintown Fitch, 7 DNP  
**Oct. 5:** Akron Hoban at Bene., 1 L, 42-14  
**Oct. 11:** Bene. at NDCL, 7 W, 30-26  
**Oct. 18:** Lake Catholic at Bene., 7 (HC) L, 35-17  
**Oct. 26:** Padua at Bene., 7 L, 31-28  
**Nov. 1:** Bene. at Walsh Jesuit, 1 W, 40-19  
**Game to watch:** The Bengals travel to St. Vincent-St. Mary for a contest that will show Goode where his squad is early on.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Ronnie Schultz	Jr.	6-0	175
RB CJ Yarbboro	So.	5-9	170
WR Charles Rosser	Sr.	6-3	205*
WR Christopher Gales	Jr.	6-1	195*
WR Gary Merrill	Jr.	5-9	185*
TE Andre Rodgers	Jr.	5-9	160
LT Sawyer Hamrick	Jr.	6-2	235*
LG Thomas Jolly	Jr.	6-0	265*
C Luke Beltavski	Jr.	6-1	260*
RG Brandon Black	Jr.	5-10	270*
RT Jacob Vasko	Jr.	6-2	235
K Ivan Shuran	Jr.	5-10	150*

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Luke Beltavski	Jr.	6-1	260
DT Thomas Jolly	Jr.	6-0	265*
DT Sawyer Hamrick	Jr.	6-2	235
DE Charles Rosser	Sr.	6-3	205
MLB Gary Merrill	Jr.	5-9	185
WLB Terrance Hollon	Jr.	6-1	190
Bengal Uchena Nzekwe	Sr.	6-2	200*
DB Christopher Gales	Jr.	6-1	195*
DB Andre Rodgers	Jr.	5-9	160*
SS Jalen Edwards	Sr.	6-0	190*
FS Matt Stauffer	Sr.	5-10	166
P Ivan Shuran	Jr.	5-10	150*

(\* - returning starter)

Returning lettermen: 17

## Outlook

Expectations are high for the Bengals under new head coach Jarritt Goode, a man of Benedictine himself. The Bengals appear to be excited for the program's new era under their new head coach. Benedictine returns seven offensive starters and five defensive starters, and the Bengals are eager to return to the postseason after they went 4-6 a year ago. Benedictine also comes off a losing season that left the Bengals disappointed as the roster contained a wealth of high-caliber talent. New quarterback Ronnie Schultz takes over an offense filled with weapons.



Rosser

### Player to watch

Charles Rosser hauled in 42 passes for 783 yards as a junior and his status as one of the area's top pass-catchers was cemented when he committed to Akron this summer. Rosser will also line up on defense as an end.



Hollon

**Underclassman to watch:** Ronnie Schultz takes over at quarterback after the graduation of Nick Demchuk, a three-year starter who earned a walk-on spot at Akron. Schultz is an outstanding athlete with a big arm. The Bengals will miss Demchuk, but Schultz has the ability to keep their offense dangerous.

**+** **Online:** Coach Jarritt Goode and players discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** The Bengals' returning talent takes a step forward, THEN: Benedictine will again factor into the postseason.

— Nate Barnes



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## Berkshire Badgers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**Head coach:** Josh DeWeese, seventh year (21-40)  
**2018:** 1-9 (0-7)  
**Twitter:** @bhsfbal19  
**Home field:** Dr. William A. Reed Field

### Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Berkshire at Harvey, 7	W, 26-23
Sept. 6: Fairport at Berkshire, 7	L, 19-14
Sept. 13: Garrettsville at Berkshire, 7	L, 47-6
Sept. 20: Berkshire at Cardinal, 7	L, 28-8
Sept. 27: Grand Vall. at Berk. 7 (HC)	L, 41-21
Oct. 4: Berkshire at Lutheran West, 7	DNP
Oct. 11: Berkshire at Wickliffe, 7	DNP
Oct. 18: Hawken at Berkshire, 7	DNP
Oct. 25: Berkshire at Beachwood, 7	DNP
Nov. 1: Kirtland at Berkshire, 7	L, 43-6

**Game to watch:** A Week 6 trip across town to new CVC member Lutheran West could be helpful with the Division IV points.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Jake Brown*	Jr.	5-11	175
RB Ryan Pennypacker*	Sr.	5-10	210
WR Blake Jenkins*	Jr.	5-10	150
WR Hunter Gifford	Jr.	5-8	145
WR Chris Groudle	Jr.	5-10	180
TE Evan McDermott	Jr.	5-11	187
LT Zac Nehas*	Sr.	5-11	200
LG Peter Brent	Sr.	5-8	184
C Kaige Martin*	So.	5-10	215
RG Denton Yoder*	So.	5-11	210
RT Andy McKinney*	Sr.	5-10	160
K Ben Wasson*	Sr.	5-10	195

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE J.J. Perrin	Jr.	5-11	180
DT Donald Reis*	Sr.	5-5	145
DT Shawn Catley*	Sr.	6-4	385
DE Andy McKinney	Sr.	5-10	160
LB Chris Groudle	Jr.	5-10	180
LB Zac Nehas*	Sr.	5-11	200
LB Evan McDermott	Jr.	5-11	187
CB Blake Jenkins	Jr.	5-10	150
CB Josh Tribuzzo	Jr.	5-6	130
S Joe Barcikowski*	Sr.	5-6	130
S Hunter Gifford	Jr.	5-8	145
P Ryan Pennypacker*	Sr.	5-10	210

(\* - returning starter)  
**Key reserves:** Lucas Stoddard, So., 6-3, 205, Brian Brent, Jr., 5-8, 155, Matt Politzer, Sr., 5-10, 170

**Returning lettermen:** 22

### Outlook

With four returning starters on the offensive line and skill-position experience, the Badgers should be poised to improve upon a season in which they averaged just 238 yards a game, paced by QB Jake Brown (1,351 yards, 15 TDs) and RB Ryan Pennypacker. The defense is in a state of flux and acknowledges improvement is necessary after yielding 3,527 yards. An interior look with Donald Reis (5-5, 145) and Shawn Catley (6-4, 385) is unique and could be disruptive.

#### Player to watch



**Pennypacker**

Pennypacker should be a workhorse for the Badgers in the backfield after rushing for 740 yards and five TDs as a junior.

**Underclassman to watch:** WR-CB Blake Jenkins (5-10, 150) is one of four junior two-way starters. He broke his collarbone in Week 2 last year.

**Best in the classroom:** Lucas Stoddard 3.963 GPA, Blake Jenkins 3.664, Evan McDermott 3.664, Chris Groudle 3.651, Peter Brent 3.557, Jacob Brown 3.505

**Best bench press:** Ryan Pennypacker, 275 pounds

**Best 40 time:** J.J. Perrin, 4.63

**Best squat:** Zac Nehas, 435 pounds

**Jenkins**



**Online:** Chris Groudle and Evan McDermott discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

### Bottom line

**IF:** the defense encourages more out of the gate and maintains that form, THEN: the Badgers could ascend toward .500 or better.

— Chris Lillstrung



### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5  
**Head coach:** Eddie Hall, second year (4-6, 2-5)  
**2018:** 4-6  
**Twitter:** @BrushAthletics  
**Home field:** Korb Field

### Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Aurora at Brush, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Uniontown Lake at Brush, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Brush at Hudson, 7	DNP
Sept. 20: Mayfield at Brush, 7	L, 20-19
Sept. 27: Kenston at Brush, 7	L, 51-28
Oct. 4: Brush at Chardon, 7	L, 42-12
Oct. 11: Riverside at Brush, 7 (HC)	L, 61-21
Oct. 18: Brush at North, 7	W, 55-54
Oct. 25: South at Brush, 7	W, 36-33 (OT)
Nov. 1: Brush at Madison, 7	L, 35-6

**Game to watch:** The Arcs will play host in their first two weeks, but a Week 3 win at Hudson could go a long way to building confidence

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB A.J. Shorts*	Jr.	5-11	205
WR Corey Floyd*	Sr.	6-2	210
WR Keyshawn Johnson*	Sr.	5-10	170
WR Octavian Harris	Sr.	6-5	200
WR Chris Joffieron*	Sr.	5-10	175
RB Christian Bolden	Jr.	5-9	175
LT Vincent Lester*	Sr.	6-3	285
LG Mason McCombs	Sr.	6-0	320
C Ben Kensil	Sr.	6-0	210
RG Da'Von Hanson	Sr.	6-1	260
RT Ramone Starling*	Sr.	6-1	260
K Matt Kendig	Jr.	5-10	175

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Ishma Abdoul-Rasheed	Sr.	6-1	260
DL Kel-Lel Wells	Sr.	6-3	230
DL Maliek Williams	So.	6-2	275
LB Corey Floyd*	Sr.	6-2	210
LB Davion Britten	Sr.	5-11	185
LB Josh Lebowitz	Sr.	5-10	250
LB Ke'Ante Collier*	Jr.	5-10	220
DB Jameel Shakoor*	Sr.	5-10	165
DB Johntez Stroizer*	Sr.	5-9	155
DB Denzel Hakim*	Sr.	5-11	160
DB Taron Alston*	Sr.	5-11	170
P Jaylen Richardson	Jr.	5-11	165

(\* - returning starter)  
**Key reserves:** La'Ren Pearson, Maliek Henderson

**Returning lettermen:** 11

### Outlook

In his first year, Hall had the Arcs at 4-5 and with a win in Week 10, would have qualified for the Division II playoffs. But the team came up short. The coach is hopeful the lessons from that experience carried over to 2019. Several starters return but not all are returning to their positions in 2018. That's fine with Hall, who is confident those experienced players can make the transition.

#### Player to watch



The Arcs have a strong group of receivers, and the best of that group is senior Keyshawn Johnson, who Hall said has become "absolutely stellar for us." Hall said Johnson impressed the Kent State coaches at a recent offseason trip to a camp at the University.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior quarterback A.J. Shorts (21 TD passes) started as a sophomore in 2018, and Hall is excited about his development.

**Best in the classroom:** Keyshawn Johnson 3.7 GPA

**Best bench press:** Ishma Abdoul-Rasheed 350

**Best squat:** Vince Lester 425

**Best 40 time:** Johntez Stroizer 4.5

**Online:** Coach Eddie Hall, A.J. Shorts, Keyshawn Johnson discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

### Bottom line

**IF:** they can navigate a brutal six-game stretch to start the season; **THEN:** the Arcs could be in line for a winning season.

— Mark Podolski



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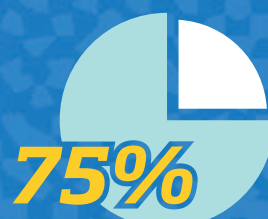


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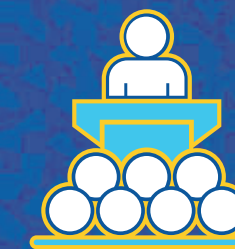
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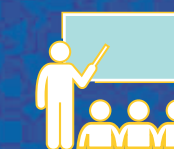
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## Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division VI, Region 21  
**Head coach:** George Gresko, first year  
**2018:** 4-6 (3-4)  
**Twitter:** @huskies\_fb  
**Home field:** Richard A. Moss Field

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Garrettsville at Cardinal, 7	L, 40-19
Sept. 6: Cardinal at Pymatuning, 7	W, 60-14
Sept. 13: Cardinal at Crestwood, 7	DNP
Sept. 20: Berkshire at Cardinal, 7	W, 28-8
Sept. 27: Cardinal at Hawken, 7	DNP
Oct. 4: Kirtland at Cardinal, 7 (HC)	L, 58-6
Oct. 11: Cardinal at Beachwood, 7	DNP
Oct. 18: Grand Valley at Cardinal, 7	L, 16-7
Oct. 25: Brooklyn at Cardinal, 7	DNP
Nov. 1: Cardinal at Wickliffe, 7	L, 34-14

**Game to watch:** A Week 3 trip to Crestwood intrigues because of the computer points it could eventually yield.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Joey Soltis	Jr.	6-2	205
RB Richie Jones	Sr.	5-10	190
WR Mike Lucarelli	Sr.	5-11	175
WR Dario Decaro*	Sr.	5-9	150
WR Casey Horner*	Sr.	5-10	155
WR Morgan Hershberger	Sr.	5-10	170
LT Robbie Granny*	Sr.	6-4	270
LG Mike Soltis*	So.	6-3	260
C John Avalon*	So.	5-10	240
RG Gavin Williams*	Jr.	6-1	240
RT Josiah Zurick*	Sr.	6-0	205
K Mac Robinson	So.	6-0	160

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Robbie Granny	Sr.	6-4	270
DT John Avalon	So.	5-10	240
DT Mike Soltis	So.	6-3	260
DE Josiah Zurick	Sr.	6-0	205
OLB Seth Peters*	Sr.	5-11	190
ILB Dominic Dragolich*	Sr.	6-0	200
ILB Zach Czako	So.	5-10	205
OLB Morgan Hershberger	Sr.	5-10	170
CB Casey Horner	Sr.	5-10	155
CB Mike Lucarelli	Sr.	5-11	175
S Dario Decaro	Sr.	5-9	150

P TBD

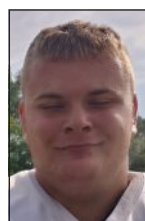
(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Cardale Sheppard, Jr., 5-11, 170, Sebastian Granito, Jr., 5-8, 140, Aaron Reese, So., 5-9, 150

**Returning lettermen:** 8

## Outlook

Change abounds in Middlefield as the George Gresko era commences. Cardinal, long known as a old-school ground-and-pound outfit, will be implementing more of a passing look with a four-wide, single-back set. What will aid that effort immensely is the return of the entire and massive offensive line, averaging 243 pounds. That should afford new QB Joey Soltis time to make his reads and find his targets. Defensively, with just two returning starters in a 4-4, it may take time for that group to jell.



**Granny**

### Player to watch

Robbie Granny, a 6-foot-4, 270-pound senior, should be a formidable force in the trenches as a left tackle and defensive end. A team leader and four-year O-line starting staple whom Gresko lauds as "aggressive," Granny is excited for the chance to pass block more than years past in a new set.



**Soltis**

**Underclassman to watch:** The Soltis name is synonymous with Cardinal, and among the latest to hit the gridiron is Joey Soltis (6-2, 205), a junior QB whom Gresko won't be shy to flash his arm.

**Best in the classroom:** Josiah Zurick 4.0 GPA

**+** **Online:** Rob Granny and Dom Dragolich discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the defense stabilizes amid turnover and the offense clicks in its new scheme, **THEN:** 6-4 or better doesn't seem like too much to ask.

— Chris Lillstrung



## Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin  
**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 13  
**Head coach:** Mark Iammarino, 25th year (176-92)  
**2018:** 4-6 (4-2)  
**Twitter:** @chagrinAD  
**Home field:** C.S. Harris Stadium

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Chagrin Falls at Streetsboro, 7L, 24-14	
Sept. 6: Chagrin Falls at Kenston, 7	L, 41-14
Sept. 13: Woodridge at Chagrin, 7 (HC)	DNP
Sept. 20: Chagrin Falls at Harvey, 7	W, 40-21
Sept. 27: Chagrin Falls at Lakeside, 7	DNP
Oct. 4: Edgewood at Chagrin Falls, 7	DNP
Oct. 11: Perry at Chagrin Falls, 7	L, 21-7
Oct. 18: Orange at Chagrin Falls, 7	W, 29-21
Oct. 25: Chagrin Falls at West G, 7	W, 31-0
Nov. 1: Geneva at Chagrin Falls, 7	L, 48-33

**Game to watch:** Coming off a showdown with Perry, a Week 8 home clash with Orange could prove pivotal.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Dawson Pierce*	Jr.	6-2	225
RB Will O'Brien	Sr.	5-9	180
RB Xavier Perez*	Jr.	5-11	165
WR Lucas Gaizutis*	Sr.	5-11	180
WR Will Richmond	Sr.	5-7	165
TE Owen McClintock*	Jr.	6-0	185
LT Ben Streicher	Jr.	6-0	210
LG Andrew Bazzone	So.	5-11	200
C J ackson Chinnici	Jr.	5-11	215
RG Bryce Sellars*	Sr.	6-0	195
RT Nick Dalessandro	So.	6-4	225
K Andrew Kirkpatrick	So.	6-4	200

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Drew Zimmer*	Sr.	6-0	190
DT Bryce Sellars*	Sr.	6-0	195
NT Trenton Kruse	Sr.	5-8	170
DE Owen McClintock	Jr.	6-0	185
LB Adam Melham	Sr.	5-8	190
LB Dawson Pierce*	Jr.	6-2	225
LB Lucas Gaizutis*	Sr.	5-11	180
LB Adam Munday	Sr.	5-9	175
CB Cameron Owen*	Sr.	5-8	160
CB Paul Fierman*	Sr.	5-9	160
Rov Will O'Brien*	Sr.	5-8	180
P Lucas Gaizutis*	Sr.	5-11	180

(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Grady Ziegler, Jr. 6-0, 220

## Outlook

Last fall was a tale of two halves for Chagrin. Amid a schedule featuring five 2018 playoff teams, the Tigers won four of five to close. The strength of this squad appears to be defense, returning seven starters including an active linebacker corps, DE Drew Zimmer (60 tackles, eight TFLs in 2018), CB Cameron Owen (78 tackles) and rover Will O'Brien (69 tackles). Offensively, versatile junior Xavier Perez caught 24 passes last year and figures to get more carries. In terms of girth, this isn't the largest Chagrin team as opposed to recent years.



**Sellars**

### Player to watch

Bryce Sellars, a 6-foot, 195-pound senior, is the lone returning starter on the offensive line, manning right guard, and will also be key as a defensive tackle after 33 tackles (12 solo) in 2018. Coach Mark Iammarino praised Sellars as a veteran leader who had a great summer.



**Pierce**

**Underclassmen to watch:** QB-LB Dawson Pierce (6-2, 225) and Perez (5-11, 165) are juniors and returning all-district honorees who will play an integral role. Pierce logged 66 tackles (16 solo) in 2018.

**Best in the classroom:** Cameron Owen 4.48 GPA

**+** **Online:** Will O'Brien and Drew Zimmer discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** Chagrin can garner more out of the first half of its schedule, powered by its defense, **THEN:** 6-4 or perhaps a bit better is there to be had.

— Chris Lillstrung



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## Chardon Hilltoppers

### Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Head coach:** Mitch Hewitt, ninth year (60-28)  
**2018:** 7-4 (6-1)  
**Twitter:** @topperfb  
**Home field:** Chardon Memorial Field

### Schedule

**Opponent** **2018 result**  
**Aug. 30:** West Geauga at Chardon, 7 L, 20-19  
**Sept. 6:** Chardon at Perry, 7 W, 49-43 (OT)  
**Sept. 13:** Alliance at Chardon, 7 DNP  
**Sept. 20:** Riverside at Chardon, 7 (HC) L, 28-27  
**Sept. 27:** Chardon at Mayfield, 7 W, 34-17  
**Oct. 4:** Brush at Chardon, 7 W, 42-12  
**Oct. 11:** Kenston at Chardon, 7 W, 27-14  
**Oct. 18:** Chardon at South, 7 W, 52-27  
**Oct. 25:** Madison at Chardon, 7 W, 28-7  
**Nov. 1:** Chardon at North, 7 W, 42-6  
**Game to watch:** Chardon goes to Perry in a rematch of last year's Topper victory that helped propel them to the D-III playoffs.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Max Vujaklija*	Sr.	5-11	165
RB D.J. Bowman	Sr.	5-11	175
RB James Pettijohn	Jr.	5-9	160
RB Cade McDevitt	Jr.	6-0	180
TE Thomas Fowle*	Sr.	6-1	205
WR Lucas Semler	Sr.	5-10	165
LT T.J. Finger*	Sr.	6-2	220
LG Nick Fay*	Jr.	6-0	270
C Dylan Friend	Jr.	5-11	290
RG* Jaret Hall	Sr.	6-0	285
RT Jesse Decipeda*	Jr.	6-1	290
K Keaton Ziegenfuss*	Sr.	5-10	160

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Joe Niedhurst*	Sr.	6-0	290
DL John Dinko*	Sr.	6-2	210
DL Gavin Slife	Jr.	6-0	220
LB Myles Mendezsoon*	Jr.	6-3	190
LB Evan Ash	Jr.	6-0	180
LB Vince Ferrante*	Jr.	5-10	190
CB Keaton Ziegenfuss*	Sr.	5-10	160
CB Kevin Doyle	Jr.	5-9	150
S Nathaniel Sulka*	So.	6-3	190
S Brady Toth	Jr.	6-4	180
S Joey Trivisonno*	Sr.	5-10	180
P Keaton Ziegenfuss*	Sr.	5-10	160

(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Josh Kernc, Sr., 6-1, 230, Zach Morrison, Sr., 6-1, 210

**Returning letterwinners:** 26

### Outlook

The Hilltoppers are coming off a season in which they won their final six regular season games, got a share of the WRC title and went to the Division III playoffs. This is a veteran bunch with big games under its belt. The offensive and defensive lines are strong and deep. Jaret Hall, Dylan Friend and Nick Fay anchor a line group that rivals many/most in the area. QB Max Vujaklija is a returning starter, which helps. The running backs are new, but D.J. Bowman is a gamebreaker. The defense is big and physical.



**Bowman**

#### Player to watch

D.J. Bowman is in line to be the next big thing at running back for the Hilltoppers. He was a major disruptive force last year on defense, but will focus mainly on offense this year.

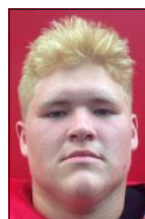
**Underclassman to watch:** This is a junior-heavy team, so there's many to pick from. Nick Fay squats 555 pounds. He's a bull on the offensive line.

**Best in the classroom:** Chris Carter 4.0 GPA, Jeffery Fletcher 4.0

**Best bench press:** Jaret Hall, 400 pounds

**Best 40:** James Pettijohn, 4.6seconds

**Best squat:** Dylan Friend, Nick Fay 555 pounds



**Fay**

**+** **Online:** Coach Mitch Hewitt and Hilltoppers players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

### Bottom line

**IF:** the Hilltoppers stay healthy at skill positions, **THEN:** this is a team that could realistically run the table and go deep in the playoffs.

— John Kampf



### Just the facts

**Conference:** GCC  
**OHSAA:** Division I, Region 1  
**Head coach:** Jeff Rotsky, fifth year (35-13)  
**2018:** 9-3 (6-1)  
**Twitter:** @EUCFOOTBALL  
**Home field:** Euclid Community Stadium

### Schedule

**Opponent** **2018 result**  
**Aug. 30:** Euclid at Glenville, 7 W, 42-17  
**Sept. 6:** Canisius (N.Y.) at Euclid, 7 DNP  
**Sept. 13:** Euclid at Canton McKinley, 7 DNP  
**Sept. 20:** Euclid at Medina, 7 W, 37-14  
**Sept. 27:** Elyria at Euclid, 7 W, 55-0  
**Oct. 4:** Euclid at Strongsville, 7 W, 50-31  
**Oct. 11:** Solon at Euclid, 7 W, 21-0  
**Oct. 18:** Brunswick at Euclid, 7 (HC) W, 42-7  
**Oct. 25:** Euclid at Mentor, 7 L, 29-7  
**Nov. 1:** Shaker Heights at Euclid, 7 W, 40-0  
**Game to watch:** Euclid visits Mentor in Week 9, and the Panthers will be eager to avenge last year's 22-point loss.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Dion Valentine	Sr.	5-10	170*
RB Jabir Mujihad	Sr.	6-1	205
FB Rasheed Evans	Jr.	5-9	175
WR Armond Scott	Jr.	6-3	195
WR Claishon Ivory	So.	5-9	165
Slot Tyrone Parks	Jr.	5-8	170
LT Herman Taylor	Jr.	6-4	280
LG John Brown	Sr.	6-0	280*
C Harold Jarvis	Jr.	5-10	280
RG Lance Miller	Sr.	6-0	265
RT Steve Hall	Sr.	6-3	285
K Mamadou Mbaye	Sr.	5-8	200

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Leron Parks	Sr.	6-0	230
DE Alex Reese	Jr.	6-3	270
DT Aric Hodnett	Sr.	5-11	240*
NT Chrishaun Edwards	Jr.	5-8	280
MLB Savion Jones	Jr.	5-9	205
WLB Andre Tillman	Jr.	6-2	210
SLB Ahjay Cody	Jr.	5-10	190
CB Jay'Quawon Phillips	Sr.	5-10	165
CB Malichai Davis	Jr.	5-10	170
S Atiba Fitz	Jr.	5-9	165
S Burrell Hannah	Sr.	6-1	185
P Mamadou Mbaye	Sr.	5-8	200

(\* - returning starter)  
**Key reserves:** Brandon Howard, Jr., 6-0, 240, Ty Howard, So., 5-10, 180, Marquise Duckworth, Sr., 5-7, 160, Jovell Woods, Sr., 5-6, 150

### Outlook

Euclid graduated 19 of its 22 starters from last year's team. As a result, the 2019 season will showcase the depth of coach Jeff Rotsky's program. Rotsky is confident in many of his new starters after many contributed to a successful junior varsity season a year ago. The Panthers' three returning starters are at key places in senior quarterback Dion Valentine, left guard John Brown and defensive tackle Aric Hodnett. Their leadership will prove valuable as Euclid's younger players gain varsity experience.



**Valentine**

#### Player to watch

Dion Valentine threw for 1,590 yards and 22 touchdowns as a junior. As one of two returning starters on offense, Rotsky will rely heavily on Valentine's leadership and production at quarterback.

**Underclassman to watch:** Atiba Fitz saw time on the field as a sophomore and will contribute in the offensive and defensive backfields this season.

**Best in the classroom:** John Brown, Steve Hall, Mamadou Mbaye

**Best bench press:** Chrishaun Edwards, 330 pounds

**Best squat:** Harold Jarvis, 515 pounds



**Fitz Jr.**

**+** **Online:** Coach Jeff Rotsky and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

### Bottom line

**IF:** The Panthers' inexperienced players fill their new roles, **THEN:** Euclid will again be a playoff team.

— Nate Barnes

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## Fairport Skippers

### Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 30:</b> Newbury at Fairport, 7	W, 14-7
<b>Sept. 6:</b> Fairport at Berkshire, 7	W, 19-14
<b>Sept. 14:</b> TBA	
<b>Sept. 20:</b> Lutheran West at Fairport, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 27:</b> Trinity at Fairport, 7	DNP
<b>Oct. 4:</b> Fairport at Cuyahoga Heights, 7	L, 38-0
<b>Oct. 11:</b> Brooklyn at Fairport, 7 (HC)	W, 22-13
<b>Oct. 18:</b> Fairport at Independence, 7	L, 35-14
<b>Oct. 25:</b> Richmond Heights at Fairport, 7L, 30-0	
<b>Nov. 1:</b> Fairport at Grand Valley, 7	DNP

**Game to watch:** The opener against Newbury is a good local game. It was a tight score last year, and both teams have high goals in 2019.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Sam Schuster*	Sr.	6-1	210
RB Cody Paugh*	Sr.	5-9	170
FB Josiah Cooper	So.	5-7	160
WR Tai Malone	Sr.	6-0	145
WR Hunter Barks	Sr.	6-0	155
TE Ethan Whitt*	Sr.	5-9	185
LT Noah Greene	Jr.	6-0	230
LG Martin Mendoza*	Sr.	5-8	175
C Quentin Piotrowski*	Jr.	6-1	180
RG Dominic Knesebeck*	Jr.	6-1	195
RT Michael Voiles*	Sr.	5-11	175
K Jayden Alston*	Sr.	5-11	180

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Jayden Alston*	Sr.	5-11	180
NG Quentin Piotrowski	Jr.	6-1	180
DE Michael Voile*	Sr.	5-11	175
OLB Josiah Cooper	So.	5-7	160
MLB Cody Paugh*	Sr.	5-9	170
MLB Ethan Whitt*	Sr.	5-9	185
MLB Dominic Knesebeck*	Jr.	6-1	195
OLB Dillon Knesebeck*	So.	6-2	160
CB Tai Malone	So.	6-0	145
CB Justice Bartley	Sr.	5-11	150
FS Damon Yahner*	Sr.	5-7	140
P Sam Schuster*	Sr.	6-1	210

**Key reserves:** Justice Bartley, Sr. 5-11, 150, Dillon Knesebeck, So. 6-2, 160  
**Returning letterwinners:** 11

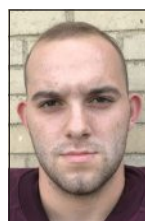
### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Metro  
**OHSAA:** Division VII, Region 25  
**Head coach:** Cameron Ruff, third year (4-16)  
**2018:** 3-7 (1-6)  
**Twitter:** @skippersfb  
**Home field:** Greig Field

### Outlook

The Skippers return seven starters on each side of the ball, and also have depth this year with 34 players. That experience and depth has the team aiming high this year. The offseason strength program has made for a stronger team, too. QB Sam Schuster is a leader and has good skill around him. All five linemen return as starters. Cody Paugh, Ethan Whitt and Dominic Knesebeck anchor the defense.

#### Player to watch



Whitt

Ethan Whitt has been starting for three years now, and he returns at tight end and middle linebacker. He's a physical player who can block and catch the ball on offense and also deliver the hard hits on defense.

**Underclassman to watch:** Dominic Knesebeck was a starter last year as a sophomore. He is a physical guard and a hard-hitting linebacker.

**Best in the classroom:** Gino Coretti 4.0 GPA, Mitch Myers 3.96

**Best bench press:** Jayden Alston, 245 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Tai Malone, 4.74 seconds

**Best squat:** Sam Schuster, 440 pounds



Knesebeck

**+** **Online:** Coach Cameron Ruff and players discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

### Bottom line

**IF:** the Skippers can run the ball behind their experienced offensive line, **THEN:** the team will be in good shape for a winning record this year.

— John Kampf



### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Head coach:** Chip Sorber, fifth year (12-27)  
**2018:** 4-6 (4-2)  
**Twitter:** @FbGeneva  
**Home field:** SPIRE Institute

### Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 30:</b> Geneva at Madison, 7	L, 22-14
<b>Sept. 6:</b> Jefferson at Geneva, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 13:</b> Kirtland at Geneva, 7	L, 35-0
<b>Sept. 20:</b> Orange at Geneva, 7	L, 38-14
<b>Sept. 27:</b> Geneva at Edgewood, 7	DNP
<b>Oct. 4:</b> West Geauga at Geneva, 7 (HC)	W, 16-8
<b>Oct. 11:</b> Geneva at Lakeside, 7	DNP
<b>Oct. 18:</b> Geneva at Edgewood, 7	W, 31-6
<b>Oct. 25:</b> Geneva at Perry, 7	L, 35-6
<b>Nov. 1:</b> Geneva at Chagrin Falls, 7	W, 48-33

**Game to watch:** An intra-county matchup awaits when the Eagles face Lakeside for the first time since 2014.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Ben Scibona	Jr.	6-4	200
HB Blake Peet*	Sr.	5-11	190
HB Justin Way*	Sr.	5-8	180
FB Charlie Taylor*	Jr.	6-2	240
SE Devan Young*	Sr.	6-0	165
TE Zane Francis	Jr.	6-1	190
LT Matt Gruzinski	Jr.	6-5	255
LG Edmund Juodenas*	Sr.	5-11	240
C Mike Cooper*	Sr.	5-9	215
RG John Amato*	Sr.	6-1	195
RT Sam Davis*	Sr.	6-4	270
K Cole Vennis	Sr.	6-1	175

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Charlie Taylor*	Jr.	6-2	240
NT Sam Davis*	Sr.	6-4	270
DE Brandon Thomas	Sr.	6-2	210
LB Vinny Varcette*	Sr.	5-11	190
LB Brady Peet	So.	6-0	170
LB Zane Francis	Jr.	6-1	190
LB John Amato*	Sr.	6-1	195
LB Edmund Juodenas*	Sr.	5-11	240
CB Justin Way*	Sr.	5-8	180
CB Terry Miller*	Sr.	6-1	155
FS Blake Peet*	Sr.	5-11	190

**Key reserves:** Zachary Buskirk, Sr., 6-0, 245, Aiden Cowles, Sr. 5-9, 170  
**Total returning lettermen:** 16

### Outlook

After going 4-6 a year ago, aspirations are high for a team that is high on experience, but short in depth. The offensive line, led by Temple commit Sam Davis (6-4, 270) returns four starters. Fullback Charlie Taylor (6-2, 240) is a tank and hard to bring down. Team speed is a forte, too, with Blake Peet and Justin Way leading the way. QB Ben Scibona is a new starter, but has all the physical tools. There are eight two-way starters, so depth is a concern.

#### Player to watch



Davis

Senior tackle Sam Davis is the best college prospect Geneva has had in decades. At 6-4, 270, he is big and powerful. The Eagles' run-oriented offense will often follow him, and he'll also be a stopper on defense.

**Underclassman to watch:** It's hard to believe Charlie Taylor (6-2, 240) is only a junior. He is a state-qualifying wrestler and a hammer at fullback for the Eagles.

**Best in the classroom:** Mike Cooper 4.3 GPA

**Best bench press:** Edmund Juodenas, 345 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Dean Young, 4.6

**Best squat:** Juodenas, 505 pounds



Taylor

**+** **Online:** Coach Chip Sorber and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

### Bottom line

**IF:** the Eagles stay healthy, **THEN:** they're talented enough to challenge for a CVC title and Division III playoff berth.

— John Kampf



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## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 31:</b> Aquinas at Gilmour, 2	W, 68-25
<b>Sept. 7:</b> Warrensville at Gilmour, 2	W, 35-14
<b>Sept. 14:</b> Hawken at Gilmour, 2	W, 61-22
<b>Sept. 20:</b> Gilmour at Rootstown, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 28:</b> John Adams at Gilmour, 2 (HC)	DNP
<b>Oct. 5:</b> University at Gilmour, 3	DNP
<b>Oct. 12:</b> University at Cleveland CC, 1	W, 42-6
<b>Oct. 18:</b> Gilmour at Warren JFK, 7	W, 14-3
<b>Oct. 26:</b> VASJ at Gilmour, 2	W, 46-6
<b>Nov. 1:</b> vs. LE vs. Gilmour (at Euclid), 7	W, 35-12

**Game to watch:** The Battle of SOM in Week 6 against rival University could loom large for both squads.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Thomas Richardson	So.	6-2	190
RB Connor Krebs	Sr.	5-11	165
RB Marco Costabile*	Sr.	5-6	200
WR Michael Snelling*	Jr.	6-4	170
WR Nathan Reichard*	Sr.	6-2	175
TE Charlie Shepherd	Jr.	6-1	176
LT Joshua Miavitz*	Sr.	6-0	193
LG C.J. Johnson	So.	5-10	185
C Christian Fowlkes	Sr.	5-11	210
RG Jimmy McCrone*	Jr.	5-8	215
RT Hunter Sebulsky	Fr.	5-11	232
K Connor Krebs	Sr.	5-11	165

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Jimmy McCrone	Jr.	5-8	215
DL Joshua Miavitz*	Sr.	6-0	193
DL Kevan Pack	Sr.	6-4	210
DL Christian Fowlkes	Sr.	5-11	210
LB Mick Hopkins*	So.	5-10	173
LB Marco Costabile*	Sr.	5-6	200
LB Sean Hodges	So.	5-6	155
LB Michael Snelling*	Jr.	6-4	170
DB Connor Krebs	Sr.	5-11	165
DB Nathan Reichard	Sr.	6-2	175
DB Aidan Muchnicki*	Sr.	6-1	155

P Connor Krebs\* Sr. 5-11 165  
(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Santino Harper, Fr., 5-6, 150, Dan Jevnikar, So., 6-1, 180, Louka Babic, Fr., 5-6, 150, Charlie Snelling, Fr., 6-3, 169, Adam Knaak, Fr., 6-1, 210, Will Lazzaro, Fr., 6-3, 186, Sam Casa, Sr., 5-8, 150, Rocco Hice, Fr., 5-9, 166

## Just the facts

**Conference:** NCL White  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**Head coach:** Chris Kosiorek, fifth year (25-18)  
**2018:** 11-1 (5-0), won NCL White  
**Twitter:** @GALancerAD  
**Home field:** Weber Field

## Outlook

The Lancers feel emboldened following one of the best seasons in program history, going 11-1 and giving eventual state champion Orrville all it could handle in a Division V regional semifinal triple-overtime heart-breaker. Replacing 2018 Tony Fisher Award recipient C.J. Charleston and his 51 touchdowns is an arduous task, but the returnees could not have learned from a better senior class about how to transform a program.

## Player to watch



**Miavitz**



**Snelling**

**+** **Online:** Nathan Reichard and Christian Fowlkes discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the Lancers can find balance in the post-Charleston era, **THEN:** 7-3 and a Week 11 charge is an achievable aspiration.

— Chris Lillstrung



**Harvey Red Raiders**

## Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin  
**Coach:** Dan Cvelbar, third year (3-17)  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**2018:** 1-9 (0-6)  
**Twitter:** @GooooooRaiders  
**Home field:** Jack Britt Memorial Stadium

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 30:</b> Berkshire at Harvey, 7	L, 26-23
<b>Sept. 6:</b> Harvey at Wickliffe, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 13:</b> Harvey at Grand Valley, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 20:</b> Chagrin Falls at Harvey, 7	L, 40-21
<b>Sept. 27:</b> Harvey at Perry, 7	L, 41-0
<b>Oct. 4:</b> Lakeside at Harvey, 7	DNP (HC)
<b>Oct. 11:</b> West Geauga at Harvey, 7	L, 24-7
<b>Oct. 18:</b> Harvey at Geneva, 7	L, 31-6
<b>Oct. 25:</b> Edgewood at Harvey, 7	DNP
<b>Nov. 1:</b> Harvey at Orange, 7	L, 61-26

**Game to watch:** The Red Raiders travel to Wickliffe in Week 2 to renew a series that has been fairly competitive in recent memory.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Jaden Debevec	Jr.	6-1	175
RB Gil Hammond*	Sr.	5-11	220
RB Jaulan Gorham*	Jr.	5-11	185
WR Shareef Clayton	Jr.	6-3	175
WR Willie Grimes	Jr.	5-11	165
WR Elijah Rowdy*	Jr.	5-9	145
LT Bryan Martinez	Sr.	6-2	225
LG Jeron Hall*	Sr.	5-10	245
C Jordan Smith*	Sr.	6-0	330
RG Austen Thornhill	Sr.	6-2	225
RT Tyree Alston	Fr.	5-10	230
K Gil Hammond*	Sr.	5-11	220

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Gil Hammond*	Sr.	5-11	220
DT Jeron Hall*	Sr.	5-10	245
NT Jordan Smith*	Sr.	6-0	330
DE Dasean Anderson	Jr.	6-4	200
SLB Kaleb Puckett	Fr.	5-9	225
MLB Bryan Martinez	Sr.	6-2	225
CB Elijah Thompson	Sr.	5-8	150
CB Dre Smith	So.	5-9	155
WS Elijah Rowdy*	Jr.	5-9	145
FS Willie Gries	Jr.	5-11	165
SS Jalaun Gorham*	Jr.	5-11	185
P Jalaun Gorham	Jr.	5-11	185

**Key reserves:** Shareef Clayton, 6-3, 175, Mataio Snyder, Jr., 5-9, 150, Dre Smith, So., 5-9, 155, Kaleb Puckett, Fr., 5-9, 225.

**Returning letterwinners:** 9

## Outlook

The third year under Coach Dan Cvelbar promises to be a good one despite some new faces. The offensive line, anchored by Jeron Hall and Jordan Smith, is big and experienced. They should open up a good running attack paced by 220-pound Gil Hammond and speedy Jaulan Gorham. Jalen Debevec is a first-year starter at QB, but is a smart, heady leader. Defensively, three of the four starters on the front line return. Freshman Kaleb Puckett is an up-and-comer at linebacker.



**Hammond**



**Gorham**

**+** **Online:** Coach Dan Cvelbar and players discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the Red Raiders stay healthy at the skill positions, **THEN:** they'll make significant strides over 2018.

— John Kampf

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# NORTH RIDGE YAMAHA

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## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Hawken at Trinity, 7	L, 42-12
Sept. 6: Newbury at Hawken, 7	DNP
Sept. 14: Hawken at Gilmour, 2	L, 61-22
Sept. 20: Wickliffe at Hawken, 7	DNP
Sept. 27: Cardinal at Hawken, 7	DNP
Oct. 4: Hawken at Grand Valley, 7	DNP
Oct. 11: Richmond Hts. at Hawken, 7 (HC)	DNP
Oct. 18: Hawken at Berkshire, 7	DNP
Oct. 25: Kirtland at Hawken, 7	DNP
Nov. 1: Hawken at Beachwood, 7	L, 52-14

**Game to watch:** A Week 7 encounter with a full rebuilding program in Richmond Heights could be an opportunity at momentum.

## Projected lineup

OFFENSE			
Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Terrence Robison	So.	6-0	180
RB Zach Miller*	Jr.	5-9	170
WR Cooper Jared*	Jr.	6-0	145
WR Dominic Johnson	Fr.	5-3	120
WR Ryan Levine*	So.	5-9	135
TE A.J. Sands	So.	5-11	160
LT Cletus Brosovich*	Sr.	6-3	215
LG Tyler Gipson	Fr.	6-0	233
C William Lindsey*	Sr.	6-0	290
RG Thomas Gorenc	So.	6-1	235
RT Zach Reitman*	Jr.	6-0	195
K NA			

DEFENSE			
Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Cletus Brosovich*	Sr.	6-3	215
DT Tyler Gipson	Fr.	6-0	233
DT William Lindsey*	Sr.	6-0	290
DE A.J. Sands	So.	5-11	160
LB Jackson Reineke*	Sr.	5-4	145
LB Zach Reitman*	Jr.	6-0	195
DB Chris Shea	Fr.	5-9	160
DB Jordan Harrison	So.	5-7	137
DB Kenan Tabachnik*	Sr.	5-11	172
DB Cooper Jared	Jr.	6-0	145
DB Ben Elenin*	So.	5-6	130
P Terrence Robison	So.	6-0	180

(\* - returning starter)  
**Key reserves:** Stone Zashin, Jr., 6-3, 145  
**Returning lettermen:** 12

## Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 13  
**Head coach:** Brian Stephenson, second year (0-9)  
**2018:** 0-9  
**Twitter:** @HawkenFootball  
**Home field:** Cliff Walton Stadium

## Outlook

Hope can be derived from a young nucleus, much of which saw significant playing time last fall. Hawken boasts a good-sized line, paced by two-way standout William Lindsey. Coach Brian Stephenson hopes to turn a quick receiving corps loose in space as sophomore QB Terrence Robison develops. The Hawks are fully aware the biggest improvement needs to come on defense, after yielding 436 points in 2018. Numbers are hovering in the low-20s, which could again become a concern.



Miller

### Player to watch

If the Hawks progress offensively, Zach Miller will likely play a vital role. The 5-foot-9, 170-pound junior getting untracked would allow Hawken to unleash that aforementioned receiver speed. Stephenson lauded Miller for transforming his body in the offseason, adding 15 pounds of bulk.



Lindsey

**Underclassman to watch:** Stephenson is excited about the potential of freshman Dominic Johnson, believing he can be "dynamic" in space. Johnson has already landed a role on the Hawks' team leadership committee as a ninth-grader.

**Best 40 time:** Jordan Harrison, 4.94 (FAT)

**+** **Online:** Cooper Jared and Will Lindsey discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the defense displays marked improvement, **THEN:** the Hawks will show marked improvement in the win column.

— Chris Lillstrung



## Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Head coach:** Jeff Grubich, eighth year (49-30)  
**2018:** 14-1 (6-1)  
**Twitter:** @Bomber\_Football  
**Home field:** Bomber Stadium

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Kenston at Black River, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Chagrin Falls at Kenston, 7	W, 41-14
Sept. 13: West Geauga at Kenston, 7	W, 37-0
Sept. 20: Kenston at North, 7	W, 53-20
Sept. 27: Kenston at Brush, 7	W, 51-28
Oct. 4: South at Kenston, 7 (HC)	W, 40-25
Oct. 11: Kenston at Chardon, 7	L, 27-24
Oct. 18: Madison at Kenston, 7	W, 28-6
Oct. 25: Kenston at Riverside, 7	W, 42-14
Nov. 1: Mayfield at Kenston, 7	W, 42-28

**Game to watch:** On Oct. 11, Kenston travels to Chardon to face the only team that beat the Bombers last year. Expect high emotions.

## Projected lineup

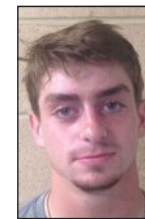
OFFENSE			
Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Jon Tomcufcik*	Sr.	6-1	195
RB Jack Porter*	Sr.	5-10	185
WR Javion Middleton*	Sr.	5-10	165
WR Ryan Miller*	So.	6-5	205
WR Tyler Mintz*	Sr.	5-11	175
WR Jonathan Abarno	Sr.	6-0	165
LT George Sell*	Sr.	6-5	280
LG Jeremiah Jones*	Sr.	6-3	250
C Kale Doyle	So.	6-2	275
RG Justin Schroeder*	Sr.	5-11	225
RT Todd Gruden	Sr.	6-3	245
K Blake Torres*	Sr.	6-0	170

DEFENSE			
Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Max Czech	Sr.	6-1	240
NT Eric Dombrowski	Sr.	5-11	215
DE Tim Matty*	Sr.	6-5	220
LB Anthony Valocchi*	Jr.	6-1	220
LB Garrett Uhlir	So.	6-1	210
LB Alec Kolenic	Jr.	6-1	190
LB Logan Vargo*	Sr.	6-0	195
SS Alex Castro	Sr.	5-11	165
FS Tyler Mintz*	Sr.	5-11	175
CB Javion Middleton	Sr.	5-10	165
CB Tyler Kestranek	Sr.	6-1	170
P Jon Tomcufcik*	Sr.	6-1	195

(\* - returning starter)  
**Key reserves:** Frank DiMarco, Sr., 5-10, 175, Conor Kratzert, Sr., 5-11, 255, Michael Payton, Jr., 6-0, 180, J.P. Germano, So., 6-1, 175, Harrison Skarmargas, Sr., 6-0, 235.  
**Total returning lettermen:** 18

## Outlook

Expectations are high for the Bombers, and rightfully so, after the team went 14-1 last year and won the Division III state championship. Eight starters return on the high-flying offense, including first-team All-Ohioans Jon Tomcufcik (quarterback) and Jack Porter (running back). The line is very solid, anchored by Wake Forest commit George Sell at tackle. The big key here is defense, where eight starters need to be replaced. Logan Vargo at line-backer is a difference maker.



Porter

**Player to watch:** Jack Porter is a two-time, first team All-Ohioan. He has rushed for more than 1,500 yards in each of the past two seasons. Word is he is going to flex out and play some slot this year, too. His presence makes others around him better.



Miller

**Underclassman to watch:** This is a senior-heavy team, keep an eye on 6-5 sophomore receiver Ryan Miller. He has the frame and agility to be a matchup nightmare.

**Best in the classroom:** Logan Vargo 4.22 GPA

**Best bench press:** Connor Kratzert, 345 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Tyler Mints, 4.5 seconds

**Best squat:** George Sell, 495 pounds

**+** **Online:** Coach Jeff Grubich and players discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** The young defense grows up fast and gets stops, **THEN:** The Bombers will be in position to win a second straight D-III state championship.

— John Kampf



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## Kirtland Hornets

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**Coach:** Tiger LaVerde, 14th year (159-17)  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**2018:** 15-0 (7-0)  
**Twitter:** @kirtlandsports  
**Home field:** Rogers Field

### Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Cortland Lakeview at Kirtland, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Kirtland at Riverside, 7:30	DNP
Sept. 13: Kirtland at Geneva, 7	W, 35-0
Sept. 20: Cuya. Hts. at Kirtland, 7 (HC)	W, 42-6
Sept. 27: Wickliffe at Kirtland, 7	W, 34-7
Oct. 4: Kirtland at Cardinal, 7	W, 58-6
Oct. 11: Grand Valley at Kirtland, 7	DNP
Oct. 18: Beachwood at Kirtland, 7	DNP
Oct. 25: Kirtland at Hawken, 7	DNP
Nov. 1: Kirtland at Berkshire, 7	W, 43-6

**Game to watch:** The game against Division II Riverside. That game is going to be worth mega-computer points if Kirtland wins.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Liam Powers	Jr.	5-10	180
QB John Ridgeway	Sr.	5-10	155
RB Luke Gardner*	Sr.	5-9	175
RB Mason Sullivan	Jr.	6-0	195
FB James Torok	Sr.	6-0	200
TE Zach Samsa*	Sr.	6-3	215
LT Mike Alfieri*	Sr.	5-10	230
LG Christian Gorman	Jr.	5-9	205
C Jacob Malvocino	Jr.	5-9	230
RG Brandon Adkinss	Sr.	5-9	190
RT Logan Snodell	Sr.	6-2	240
K Mario Rodin*	Jr.	6-1	160

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Mike Russ	Sr.	5-10	165
DT Brandon Adkins	Sr.	5-9	190
DT Mike Alfieri	Sr.	5-10	230
DE James Torok	Sr.	6-0	200
OLB Mason Sullivan*	Jr.	6-0	195
ILB Caleb Stevenson*	Sr.	6-1	170
ILB Louis Loncar*	Sr.	5-11	200
OLB Luke Gardner	Sr.	5-9	175
DB Joey Mongelluzzi,	Sr.	5-10	160
DB Tommy Drezetic	Sr.	5-11	185
S Anthony Demarco	Jr.	5-11	185
P Mike Alfieri*	Sr.	5-10	230

(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Joey Grazia, 5-10, 150, Jr., Carson Andonian, 5-10, 175, Jr., Angelo Blasini, 5-11, 185, Jr.

**Returning letterwinners:** 21

### Outlook

#### Outlook

The Hornets won their fourth state title last year and took heavy graduation losses, but goals and aspirations haven't changed this year. Now in Division V, Kirtland is geared for another state title run. There are only three starters back on offense and four on defense, but 21 players lettered last year, so experience is there. Luke Gardner and Mason Sullivan will headline another punishing running game, with Liam Powers or John Ridgeway at QB. .



Alfieri

#### Player to watch

Mike Alfieri is the only returning lineman on either side of the ball. He's a freakishly strong athlete who is going to command double teams. .

**Underclassman to watch:** Mason Sullivan was an All-Ohioan as a sophomore last year. A 6-foot, 195-pound junior, he'll play with an edge at linebacker.

**Best in the classroom:** Joey Mongelluzzi 4.0 GPA

**Best bench press:** Mike Alfieri, 185 pounds 32 times

**Best squat:** Chris Gorman, 525 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Luke Gardner, 4.38

**Online:** Coach Tiger LaVerde and players discuss the season in a view interview at

NEWS-HERALD.COM

### Bottom line

**IF:** the young lines hold up their end of the bargain, **THEN:** the Hornets will contend for the Division V state title.

— John Kampf



### Just the facts

**Conference:** NCL Blue  
**Coach:** Marty Gibbons, first year  
**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 13  
**Twitter:** @LCCougarFB  
**2018:** 7-3 (4-1)  
**Home field:** Jerome T. Osborne Sr. Stadium

### Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Lake, at Stow-Munroe Falls, 7	W, 31-7
Sept. 7: Cle. Cen. Cath. at Lake, noon	W, 45-6
Sept. 13: Lake at Youngs. Ursuline, 7	W, 33-14
Sept. 20: Cleveland Hts. at Lake, 7 (HC)	L, 27-24
Oct. 5: Walsh Jesuit at Lake, 7	W, 35-7
Oct. 12: Akron Hoban at Lake, 7	L, 52-3
Oct. 18: Lake at Benedictine, 7	W, 35-17
Oct. 26: NDCL at Lake, 7	W, 31-18
Nov. 1: Lake at Padua, 7	W, 41-33

**Game to watch:** The Week 9 vs. NDCL is a no-brainer. But also the Week 8 game at Benedictine is huge. They can't get caught looking toward NDCL.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Joe Malchesky	Jr.	6-1	185
RB Aaron Leovic*	Sr.	5-9	185
WR Christian DeMito*	Sr.	6-0	175
WR Justin Pike	Sr.	6-1	185
WR Vincenzo Patriarca*	Sr.	5-10	180
TE Danny Walsh*	Sr.	6-2	180
LT Stanley Tylman*	Sr.	6-3	220
LG Noah Schroeder*	Sr.	6-1	280
C Joe Gubanc	Sr.	5-10	195
RG Sean Gibbon	Jr.	5-11	215
RT Sam Quick*	Sr.	5-11	200
K Luka Eller*	Sr.	6-8	215

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Stanley Tylman*	Sr.	6-3	220
NG Lukas Harbert	Sr.	6-2	240
DE Jake Green	Jr.	5-10	205
OLB Danny Walsh*	Sr.	6-2	180
ILB Ryan Joy	Jr.	6-1	200
ILB Simon Taraska*	Jr.	5-9	185
OLB Aaron Leovic*	Sr.	5-9	185
CB Logan Campola*	Sr.	5-10	175
CB Rick Coleman	So.	5-10	160
S Logan Hyduke*	Sr.	5-10	180
S Vincenzo Patriarca*	Sr.	5-10	180
P Luka Eller*	Sr.	6-8	215

**Key reserves:** Liam Whelan Sr. 6-3 230, Brady Bowser, Jr. 6-2 195, Johnny Geiger, Jr. 5-10, 240

**Returning letterwinners:** 18

### Outlook

There's a high level of anticipation heading into the season under energetic first-year coach Marty Gibbons. There are seven starters back on offense and eight on defense from a team that was one win from a playoff berth last year. There's good experience at offensive skill positions. WR Christian DeMito is lightning quick, and the running game is in good shape with Aaron Leovic and Justin Pike. QB Joe Malchesky is new as a junior, but has shown promise in scrimmages.



DeMito

#### Player to watch

Christian DeMito makes things happen. He has game-breaking speed at receiver. The Cougars could also get it to him on jet sweeps if needed. Wherever he goes, defenses will follow, which will also open up opportunities for his teammates.

**Underclassman to watch:** A first-year starter, Joe Malchesky has a huge upside at quarterback. Scrimmages have shown his ability to read defenses and deliver the ball with pinpoint accuracy.

**Best in the classroom:** Luke Rako 4.5 GPA, Sam Quick 4.3, Joe Malchesky 4.3, Ryan Joy 4.27, Nick Antonelli 4.24



Malchesky

**Online:** Coach Marty Gibbons and players discuss the season in a video interview at

NEWS-HERALD.COM

### Bottom line

**IF:** the Cougars win the close games they lost last year, **THEN:** they will be in the hunt for a Division IV playoff berth.

— John Kampf

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## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 30:</b> Geneva at Madison, 7	W, 22-14
<b>Sept. 6:</b> Madison at Lakeside, 7	W, 29-0
<b>Sept. 13:</b> Madison at Perry, 7	L, 38-6
<b>Sept. 20:</b> South at Madison, 7	L, 42-21
<b>Sept. 27:</b> Madison at Riverside, 7	L, 28-13
<b>Oct. 4:</b> Mayfield at Madison, 7	L, 49-23
<b>Oct. 10:</b> North at Madison, 7 (HC)	W, 35-18
<b>Oct. 18:</b> Madison at Kenston, 7	L, 28-6
<b>Oct. 25:</b> Madison at Chardon, 7	L, 28-7
<b>Nov. 1:</b> Brush at Madison, 7	W, 35-6

**Game to watch:** The Week 3 game with South is the WRC opener, teams who are bent on vying for a conference title.

## Projected lineup

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Alex Dragas*	Sr.	6-1	175
<b>RB</b> Austin McCourt	Jr.	5-9	185
<b>TE</b> Jake Fisker*	Sr.	6-2	215
<b>WR</b> Brad McKeon	Jr.	5-10	160
<b>WR</b> Marcell Welch*	Sr.	5-10	150
<b>WR</b> Cole Tanner*	Sr.	5-11	160
<b>LT</b> Eddie Rodriguez*	Sr.	6-0	220
<b>LG</b> Nick Wardrop*	Sr.	6-0	220
<b>C</b> Jake Laurie	Jr.	5-10	215
<b>RG</b> Jacob Glass*	Sr.	6-3	295
<b>RT</b> Aiden Thompson*	Sr.	6-1	255
<b>K</b> C.J. Kessler* 6-0 150			

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DE</b> Jacob Glass*	Sr.	6-3	295
<b>NG</b> Dom Zirkle*	Sr.	6-1	250
<b>DE</b> Aiden Thompson*	Sr.	6-1	255
<b>ML</b> Braydon Johnston*	Sr.	5-11	200
<b>SL</b> Jacob Land*	Sr.	5-10	195
<b>WL</b> Michael Woody*	Sr.	5-9	185
<b>JLB</b> Alex Blackie*	Sr.	6-0	175
<b>CB</b> Alex Dragas*	Sr.	6-1	175
<b>CB</b> Will Weema*	Sr.	5-10	155
<b>FS</b> Hunter Nadzan*	Sr.	6-0	160
<b>SS</b> Alex Parmertor*	Sr.	5-11	165
<b>P</b> Alex Dragas*	Sr.	6-1	175

(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Derick Zirkle, Sr., 6-1, 225, Jacob Land, Sr., 5-10, 195, Zach Reynolds, Sr., 5-11, 205, Truman Myers, Jr., 5-8, 150

**Total returning lettermen:** 17

## Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5  
**Head coach:** Tim Willis, 20th year (124-77)  
**2018:** 4-6 (2-5)  
**Twitter:** @MadFootball212  
**Home field:** Dick Hamblin Field

## Outlook

The Blue Streaks are coming off consecutive seasons of 4-6 and 2-8 records. This is a senior-heavy team, with most of the players starting in both those seasons. This is an old-school Madison type of team, with a strong running game that includes Austin McCourt, a transfer from Alabama, and dual-threat QB Alex Dragas operating behind a burly offensive line anchored by three-year starters Jacob Glass and Aiden Thompson. Cole Tanner is a very good receiver.



Thompson

### Player to watch

Aiden Thompson embodies what Madison football is about. He's a big, physical weight-room junkie who plays with an edge on both sides of the ball. Madison's lines are its strength, and Thompson is the unquestioned leader.

**Underclassman to watch:** Austin McCourt is new to the Madison program, but has the speed at running back to be a big difference maker.

**Best in the classroom:** Hunter Nadzan 4.0 GPA, Alex Dragas, 4.0, Nick Wardrop, 4.0

**Best bench press:** Aiden Thompson, 325 pounds

**Best 40:** Alex Blackie, 4.5 seconds

**Best squat:** Thompson, 525 pounds

**Online:** Coach Tim Willis and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** The Blue Streaks get off to a good start and gain confidence, **THEN:** they'll be better than .500 with a shot to contend for the league title.

— John Kampf



## Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5  
**Head coach:** Ross Bandiera, fourth year (15-17)  
**2018:** 5-6 (4-3)  
**Twitter:** @MayfieldSports  
**Home field:** Wildcat Stadium

## Outlook

Coach Ross Bandiera has spent the last two seasons watching his young lineup grow, but even throughout that growth, the Wildcats have been a playoff team. Both times, they've made it as the No. 8 seed and faced state power Akron Hoban in Round 1. Bandiera is hoping Mayfield can do a little better in 2019, and he is hopeful. All those young players are upperclassmen, many seniors, so the lineup is experienced.

### Player to watch



Isabella



Cunningham

**Online:** Coach Ross Bandiera and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the skill players produce, and the team avoids injuries, **THEN:** the Wildcats should post a high finish in the WRC and contend for a D-II playoff spot.

— Mark Podolski



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## Just the facts

**Conference:** GCC  
**OHSAA:** Division I, Region 1  
**Head coach:** Steve Trivisonno, 23rd year (196-69)  
**2018:** 11-2 (6-1)  
**Twitter:** @MentorRedline  
**Home field:** Jerome T. Osborne Sr. Stadium

## Schedule

**Opponent** **2018 result**  
**Aug. 29:** Mentor at St. Ed., 7:30 W, 42-39, L, 24-14  
**Sept. 6:** St. Ignatius at Mentor, 7 W, 28-7  
**Sept. 13:** Clarkson (Canada) at Mentor, 7 DNP  
**Sept. 20:** Mentor at Elyria, 7 W, 48-0  
**Sept. 27:** Medina at Mentor, 7 (HC) W, 49-10  
**Oct. 4:** Mentor at Solon, 7 L, 29-28 (OT)  
**Oct. 11:** Brunswick at Mentor, 7 W, 35-0  
**Oct. 19:** Mentor at Shaker Heights, 1 W, 45-6  
**Oct. 25:** Euclid at Mentor, 7 W, 29-7  
**Nov. 1:** Mentor at Strongsville, 7 W, 45-20, W, 38-7  
**Game to watch:** No one in Ohio plays a 1-2 punch to start the season like Mentor. The Cardinals can't afford to start 0-2.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Ian Kipp*	Jr.	6-2	210
RB Brian Trobel*	Sr.	5-8	175
WR Luke Floriea*	Sr.	5-10	175
WR Justin Luke*	Sr.	5-10	165
WR Nolan Vernon*	Sr.	6-2	200
WR R.J. Fulmer	Sr.	6-2	190
LT Hunter Colao*	Jr.	6-0	265
LG Byron Floyd*	Sr.	6-1	255
C Stan Zalewski	Jr.	5-11	265
RG Chris Hatcher*	Sr.	6-0	270
RT Tommy Shea	Jr.	6-2	270
K Andrew Smith	Jr.	6-4	190

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Brenan Vernon	Fr.	6-5	245
DT Preston Cardina*	Jr.	6-1	285
DE Greg Predina	Jr.	6-4	230
OLB Jackson Paglio*	Sr.	6-0	200
ILB Kyle Bishop*	Sr.	6-1	215
ILB Justin Satterfield	Sr.	6-0	190
OLB Devin Harper	Sr.	6-0	180
CB Nyzier Fourqurean*	Sr.	6-1	175
CB Sonny Oddo	Sr.	5-11	175
S Marco Toth*	Sr.	5-8	180
S. Antonio Bertolami	Sr.	5-10	170
P Jake Sterio	Sr.	5-8	175

#### (\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Hutch Baird, Jr., 6-1, 180, Brian Kaleal, Sr., 5-10, 245, Alex Ehinger, Sr. 6-0, 195, Evan Boyd, Sr., 6-0, 195  
**Total returning lettermen:** 33

## Outlook

The Cardinals lost in a regional final last year, so goals are high to go beyond that. It starts with an electric skill set that includes eight starters back on offense, including QB Ian Kipp, RB Brian Trobel and three starting receivers. The Cardinals have a few holes to fill on the offensive line left by Big Ten recruits Nick Samac and Ryan Jacoby, but this should be a high-scoring offense. Five starters return on defense, including tackle Preston Cardina.

**Player to watch:** Luke Floriea can do it all. He can run the ball, catch the ball and even throw the ball if needed, such as when he filled in at QB last season when Ian Kipp was hurt. The Boston College commit makes things happen.

**Underclassman to watch:** There are several to choose from, but a lot is expected — and needed — from QB Ian Kipp. He started as a sophomore and showed that he can be a leader.

**Best in the classroom:** Marco Toth 4.43 GPA, Sonny Oddo 3.95, Alex Ehinger 3.85

**Best bench press:** Brian Trobel, 315 pounds

**Best 40:** Justin Luke, 4.5 seconds

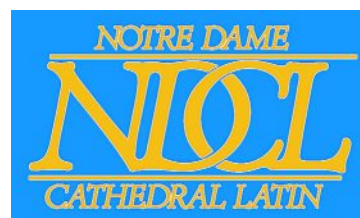
**Best squat:** Hunter Colao, 400 pounds

**Online:** Coach Steve Trivisonno and players discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the Cardinals can stay healthy and navigate through a brutal schedule, **THEN:** they can be a state final four team.

— John Kampf



## Just the facts

**Conference:** NCL Blue  
**Coach:** Andrew Mooney, fifth year (32-14)  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Twitter:** @NDCLLions  
**2018:** 7-3 (2-3)  
**Home field:** Lozick Field at Lion Stadium

## Schedule

**Opponent** **2018 result**  
**Aug. 30:** NDCL at South, 7 W, 41-28  
**Sept. 6:** NDCL at West Geauga, 7 W, 42-7  
**Sept. 13:** NDCL at Columbus DeSales, 7 DNP  
**Sept. 20:** Canfield at NDCL, 7 DNP  
**Sept. 27:** Bedford at NDCL, 7 W, 35-0  
**Oct. 4:** Padua at NDCL, 7 (HC) W, 35-21  
**Oct. 11:** Benedictine at NDCL, 7 L, 30-26  
**Oct. 18:** NDCL at Walsh Jesuit, 7 W, 53-3  
**Oct. 26:** NDCL at Lake Catholic, 7 L, 31-18  
**Nov. 1:** Akron Hoban at NDCL, 7 L, 31-0  
**Game to watch:** You can never go wrong with the Lake Catholic-NDCL showdown, which happens in Week 9 this year.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Jon Sharp	Sr.	6-0	180
RB Jack Robinson*	Sr.	6-0	200
WR David Martin Kosier*	Sr.	6-2	190
WR Adam Zakrajsek	Jr.	6-3	190
TE Sam Urbanski*	Sr.	6-4	240
LT Robert Tamburrino*	Sr.	5-11	215
LG Danny Hoenigman*	Sr.	5-11	205
C Brian Taylor	So.	5-10	245
RG Jeff Conforte*	Sr.	5-11	200
RT Dominic Dutton*	Sr.	6-2	230
K Gianni Spetic	Fr.	5-7	140

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Sam Urbanski*	Sr.	6-4	240
DL Danny Hoenigman*	Sr.	5-11	225
DL Jeff Conforte*	Sr.	5-11	200
DL Max Zart*	Sr.	6-1	210
LB Johnny Nguyen*	Sr.	5-8	165
LB Jack Robinson*	Sr.	6-0	200
LB Dominick Roberts*	Jr.	5-10	205
DB Nick Balogh*	Sr.	5-8	180
DB Matt Ferrell	So.	6-0	160
DB Jimmy Mitchell*	Sr.	6-0	180
DB Donny Gatto	Sr.	6-2	165

P Gianni Spetic Fr. 5-8 180  
 (\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Nick Balogh, Fr., 5-8 180, Nathan Slattery, Jr., 6-1, 185, James Cipolla, So., 6-0, 175.

**Returning letterwinners:** 22

## Outlook

The strength of the team is on the lines, where four of the five starters return on offense and the entire front seven return on defense. This should be a physical, hard-hitting team. Jack Robinson is primed for a big year at running back. Jon Sharp or Jimmy Mitchell will play QB, and there is game-breaking speed at receiver with David Martin Kosier, Johnny Nguyen and more. Defensively, returning the front seven and guys such as Max Zart, Sam Urbanski and more will be a plus for the Lions.



Robinson

### Player to watch

Jack Robinson is going to be right in the thick of things this year. He is in line to be the bellcow back in the running game, and is also a big playmaker on defense at linebacker. Expect lots of touchdowns and tackles from this talented senior.



Roberts

**Underclassman to watch:** Dominick Roberts is a returning starter at linebacker. While this is a senior-heavy team, his experience in the front seven will be a big key this season.

**Best bench press:** Robert Tamburrino, 285 pounds

**Best squat:** Danny Hoenigman, 455 pounds

**Online:** Coach Andrew Mooney and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the Lions can navigate a tough nonleague schedule, **THEN:** they will be in the Division III play-off hunt again.

— John Kampf





## Just the facts

**Conference:** NAC  
**OHSAA:** Division VII, Region 25  
**Head coach:** Ryan Williams, fourth year (12-18)  
**2018:** 2-8 (2-3)  
**Twitter:** @NJSHS\_athletics  
**Home field:** Munn Stadium

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 30:</b> Newbury at Fairport, 7	L, 14-7
<b>Sept. 6:</b> Newbury at Hawken, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 13:</b> East Tech at Newbury, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 20:</b> Pymatuning at Newbury, 7	W, 36-18
<b>Sept. 28:</b> Carrick (Pa.) at Newbury, 7 (HC)	DNP
<b>Oct. 4:</b> Southington at Newbury, 7	L, 32-7
<b>Oct. 11:</b> Newbury at Pymatuning, 7	W, 36-18
<b>Oct. 18:</b> Newbury at Grove City Chr., 7	DNP
<b>Oct. 25:</b> Windham at Newbury, 7	L, 33-6
<b>Nov. 1:</b> Newbury at Mathews, 7	W, 28-14

**Game to watch:** D-III points against East Tech, albeit against a squad that has struggled recently with roster numbers and success.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Noah Arnold*	Sr.	5-11	170
<b>RB</b> Julian Cicchella*	Sr.	6-1	185
<b>FB</b> Jabriel Allen	Sr.	5-10	170
<b>WR</b> Evan Arnold	Jr.	6-1	165
<b>WR</b> Monte Myer	Sr.	5-9	160
<b>TE</b> Mitch Sanders*	Sr.	6-0	215
<b>LT</b> Luke Reed	Jr.	5-10	190
<b>LG</b> Jacob Orms*	Sr.	5-10	170
<b>C</b> John Tropf*	Jr.	6-0	200
<b>RG</b> Alex Bijelic*	Jr.	5-10	205
<b>RT</b> James Hammonds	Sr.	5-10	175
<b>K</b> Noah Arnold*	Sr.	5-11	170

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DE</b> Jabriel Allen	Sr.	5-10	170
<b>DT</b> Mitch Sanders*	Sr.	6-0	215
<b>NT</b> Alex Bijelic*	Jr.	5-10	205
<b>DT</b> Luke Reed	Jr.	5-10	190
<b>DE</b> John Tropf*	Jr.	6-0	200
<b>LB</b> Noah Arnold*	Sr.	5-11	170
<b>LB</b> Julian Cicchella*	Sr.	6-1	185
<b>LB</b> Jacob Orms*	Sr.	5-10	170
<b>CB</b> Evan Arnold	Jr.	6-1	165
<b>CB</b> HannaRose Brastoff	Sr.	5-9	135
<b>FS</b> Monte Myer*	Sr.	5-9	160
<b>P</b> Noah Arnold*	Sr.	5-11	170

(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** C.J. Holden, So., 5-9, 160, Seth Nichols, Fr., 5-11, 190, Calvin Eggleston, Fr., 5-7, 140, Riley Day, So., 5-11, 150

**Total returning lettermen:** 8

## Outlook

The final season has arrived at Newbury, and Coach Ryan Williams and a squad of 19 are eager to make it count. After failing to surpass seven points in seven games while going 2-8 in 2018, the offense will need improved efficiency. Noah Arnold moves to quarterback from fullback, and Julian Cicchella has good size and should garner a lot of carries. Seven returning defensive starters.

### Player to watch



Sanders

Mitch Sanders will be a tone-setter. He'll provide QB Noah Arnold a sizeable target at tight end, and last year, the standout defensive tackle recorded 12 tackles for loss.

**Underclassman to watch:** John Tropf, a 6-foot, 200-pound junior, will be among 10 two-way starters, a key cog anchoring the O-line at center, one of three returning interior starters, and as a defensive end.

**Best in the classroom:** Julian Cicchella, 4.0 GPA, James Hammonds 4.0, John Tropf 3.9, HannaRose Brastoff 3.7

**Best bench press:** Mitch Sanders, 285 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Noah Arnold, 4.8

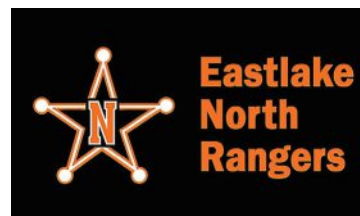
**Best squat:** Jacob Orms, 475 pounds

**+** **Online:** Mitch Sanders and John Tropf discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** an experienced 19-player squad stays healthy and consistent, **THEN:** they could make a stand and at least be a Week 11 factor late in Region 25.

— Chris Lillstrung



## Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**Coach:** Shawn Dodd, fifth year (15-26)  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5  
**Twitter:** @northrangers  
**2018:** 2-8 (1-6)  
**Home field:** Nick Carter Stadium

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 30:</b> North Olmsted at North, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 6:</b> North at Richfield Revere, 7	L, 46-0
<b>Sept. 13:</b> North at Lakeside, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 20:</b> Kenston at North, 7	L, 53-20
<b>Sept. 27:</b> North at South, 7	W, 37-29
<b>Oct. 4:</b> Riverside at North, 7	L, 33-13
<b>Oct. 10:</b> North at Madison, 7	L, 35-18
<b>Oct. 18:</b> Brush at North, 7 (HC)	L, 55-54
<b>Oct. 25:</b> North at Mayfield, 7	L, 35-0
<b>Nov. 1:</b> Chardon at North, 7	L, 42-6

**Game to watch:** The Rangers snapped an 11-game losing streak to South last season. Can North start a streak in their favor in the Week

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Dylan Froelich*	Sr.	6-2	215
<b>RB</b> James Walker*	Jr.	5-9	180
<b>RB</b> Thomas Walker*	Jr.	5-11	190
<b>RB</b> Brandon Dolan	Sr.	5-11	185
<b>WR</b> Trey Gay	Jr.	5-10	165
<b>WR</b> Cam Proctor*	Sr.	6-2	175
<b>LT</b> Josh Barzel	Jr.	5-11	255
<b>LG</b> Ryan Baer	So.	6-6	305
<b>C</b> Gabe Siupynys*	Sr.	6-0	290
<b>RG</b> Ethan Spoth*	Jr.	6-4	310
<b>RT</b> Ryan Volk	Jr.	6-3	265
<b>K</b> Ryan Volk*	Jr.	6-3	265

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DL</b> Cam Brown	Sr.	6-2	205
<b>DL</b> Luke Phares*	Sr.	5-8	190
<b>DL</b> Justin Pituch	Sr.	6-0	210
<b>OLB</b> Nate O'Connor*	Jr.	6-2	175
<b>ILB</b> Adam Kleinhenz*	Jr.	5-11	205
<b>ILB</b> Nick Stuck*	Jr.	6-1	190
<b>OLB</b> Joey Skolny*	Jr.	5-10	170
<b>CB</b> Chris Molica*	Jr.	5-7	150
<b>CB</b> Dominic Marciante	So.	5-7	140
<b>S</b> Mo Morgan	So.	5-10	170
<b>S</b> John Lanning	Jr.	5-9	155
<b>P</b> Austin Vittello	Sr.	6-0	185

**Key reserves:** Gabe Nish, Sr., 6-0, 170, Zach Kozel, Jr., 5-7, 150, Matt Kunsman, Sr., 5-10, 145, Sean Pesci, Jr., 6-2, 210

**Returning letterwinners:** 13

## Outlook

The Rangers suffered through a rash of injuries and inexperience last year, finishing with a 2-8 record. This is still a young team, but it returns a lot of experience from last season. The offensive line is mammoth, with senior Gabe Siupynys (285), Ethan Spoth (6-4, 305) and Ryan Baer (310) right in the middle of it. QB Dylan Froelich and the stable of backs should be able to run the ball in the new Flexbone offense. When the Rangers do pass, keep an eye on the Walker twins and Brandon Dolan.



Froelich

### Player to watch

Dylan Froelich got invaluable experience last year at quarterback. Now in his second year, he is trimmed down to 210 pounds and is a physical, quicker quarterback who can also throw.

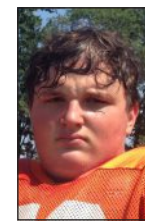
**Underclassman to watch:** He's only a sophomore, but Ryan Baer is 6-6, 310 pounds. He is a road-grader on the offensive line. He's already pulling in a long list of big college offers.

**Best in the classroom:** Ryan Volk 4.45 GPA

**Best bench press:** Ryan Baer, 335 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Chris Molica, 4.6 seconds

**Best squat:** Gabe Siupynys, 500 pounds



Baer

**+** **Online:** Coach Shawn Dodd and players discuss the season in a video interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the underclassman-heavy team grows up fast, **THEN:** this team will factor in the WRC race and perhaps challenge for a playoff spot.

— John Kampf

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## Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin  
**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 13  
**Head coach:** Matt Rosati, 13th year (94-41)  
**2018:** 10-2 (6-0)  
**Twitter:** @Perry\_Pirates  
**Home field:** Alumni Stadium

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 30:</b> Riverside at Perry, 7	W, 28-14
<b>Sept. 6:</b> Chardon at Perry, 7	L, 49-43 (OT)
<b>Sept. 13:</b> Madison at Perry, 7	W, 38-6
<b>Sept. 20:</b> Perry at Edgewood, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 27:</b> Harvey at Perry, 7 (HC)	W, 41-0
<b>Oct. 4:</b> Perry at Orange, 7	W, 49-7
<b>Oct. 11:</b> Perry at Chagrin Falls, 7	W, 21-7
<b>Oct. 18:</b> Lakeside at Perry, 7	DNP
<b>Oct. 25:</b> Geneva at Perry, 7	W, 35-6
<b>Nov. 1:</b> Perry at West Geauga, 7	W, 56-21

**Game to watch:** The Week 2 showdown with Chardon is a potential barnburner. Both teams scored in the 40s last year when they met.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Drew Schiano*	Sr.	6-0	150
<b>RB</b> Jaylen Anderson*	Jr.	6-0	210
<b>RB</b> Deandre Malone	Sr.	5-11	195
<b>WR</b> Devon Holbert	Sr.	6-3	192
<b>WR</b> Anthony Rosati*	Sr.	5-7	150
<b>TE</b> Matthew Sullivan	Sr.	6-0	195
<b>LT</b> Jack Blaurock	Sr.	6-4	220
<b>LG</b> Noah Stevenson	Sr.	6-1	205
<b>C</b> Seann Norman	Jr.	6-0	270
<b>RG</b> Dylan Oberlin	Sr.	6-2	200
<b>RT</b> Jacob Holroyd*	Sr.	6-5	200
<b>K</b> Calvin Rowan	So.	5-5	135

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DE</b> Jadynn Anderson	So.	6-2	215
<b>DT</b> Alec Gonzalez*	Sr.	6-3	325
<b>DT</b> Jeffrey Harris*	Jr.	5-9	280
<b>DE</b> Chris Janos	Sr.	5-11	210
<b>LB</b> Nathen Sith	Jr.	5-11	185
<b>LB</b> Matthew Sullivan*	Sr.	6-0	195
<b>LB</b> Aiden Lefelhoc	So.	5-10	185
<b>DB</b> Devon Holbert	Sr.	6-3	192
<b>DB</b> Desmond Malone	Jr.	6-2	175
<b>DB</b> Jacob Ashton	Jr.	5-10	180
<b>DB</b> Javin Richards	So.	6-1	175
<b>P</b> Drew Schiano*	Sr.	6-0	150

(\* - returning starter)  
**Key reserves:** Brandon Mason, Jr., 5-11, 170, Brock Sivon, So. 5-10, 160, Josh Korth, Sr. 5-8, 170, Jarrett Novak, Sr., 6-0, 170  
**Total returning lettermen:** 15

## Outlook

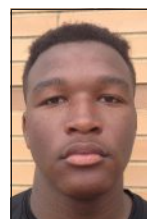
Perry has only four starters back on offense, but QB Drew Schiano has a slew of playmakers around him in what should be another fast-paced, high-scoring offensive scheme. Three are only three returning starters on defense. Skill is exceptional on both sides of the ball, but the Pirates must keep their marquee players healthy and have their young line produce quickly. Even with the heavy graduation losses, the goals are the same: a conference title and deep run in the Division IV playoffs.



Jayl. Anderson

### Player to watch

Jaylen Anderson is one of the area's premier playmakers. The 6-foot, 210-pound running back has a long list of college offers already, including one from Nebraska. He can run the ball with power and speed, and also catch the ball.



Jad. Anderson

**Underclassman to watch:** They call him "Pops," and that's what sophomore defensive end Jadynn Anderson does. He's 6-2, 215 and he packs a wallop when he hits.

**Best in the classroom:** Kameron Brewster 4.44 GPA, Jacob Holroyd 4.42, Jack Blaurock 4.06

**Best bench press:** Alec Gonzalez, 355 pounds

**+** **Online:** Coach Matt Rosati and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the offensive and defensive lines mature quickly;  
**THEN:** the Pirates can win the CVC Chagrin again and make a deep playoff run.

— John Kampf



## Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Metro  
**OHSAA:** Division VII, Region 25  
**Head coach:** Dante Darby Sr., first year  
**2018:** 4-6 (2-5)  
**Twitter:** @rhtspartans

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
<b>Aug. 30:</b> RH at Rittman, 7	L, 17-8
<b>Sept. 6:</b> RH at Lutheran East, 4	DNP
<b>Sept. 13:</b> RH at Lowellville, 7	W, 36-23
<b>Sept. 21:</b> RH at Trinity, 7	DNP
<b>Sept. 27:</b> RH at Lutheran West, 7	DNP
<b>Oct. 4:</b> RH at Independence, 7	L, 36-16
<b>Oct. 11:</b> RH at Hawken, 7	DNP
<b>Oct. 18:</b> RH at Cuyahoga Heights, 7	L, 21-6
<b>Oct. 25:</b> RH at Fairport, 7	W, 30-0
<b>Nov. 1:</b> RH at Brooklyn, 7	DNP

**Game to watch:** Richmond Heights could start strong, and the Spartans' sixth game against Independence will serve as a litmus test.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Jaivyn Thomas	Fr.	6-1	175
<b>RB</b> Jaelen Johnson	Sr.	5-10	180*
<b>WR</b> Rico McPherson	Sr.	5-9	170*
<b>WR</b> Tre'Von Matthews	Jr.	5-6 1	50*
<b>WR</b> Raymere Ahmad	So.	5-8	190
<b>LT</b> Nick Welm	Fr.	6-3	220
<b>LG</b> Aaron McLaughlin	Sr.	6-1	215*
<b>C</b> Avery Bolden	So.	5-10	200
<b>RG</b> Jerrell Owens	Sr.	6-1	220
<b>RT</b> Jerrell Talbert	So.	6-3	220*
<b>K</b> Jaivyn Thomas	Fr.	6-1	175

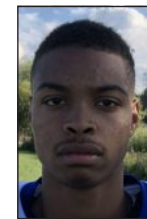
### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DL</b> Aaron McLaughlin	Sr.	6-1 2	15*
<b>DL</b> Jerrell Talbert	So.	6-3	220
<b>DL</b> Khair Hunt-Strong	Sr.	6-2	230
<b>DL</b> Marquise Washington	Sr.	5-9	260
<b>LB</b> Aaron Greer	Sr.	5-8	210
<b>LB</b> Avery Bolden	So.	5-10	200
<b>LB</b> Jerrell Owens	Sr.	6-1	220*
<b>DB</b> Rico McPherson	Sr.	5-9	170*
<b>DB</b> Jaelen Johnson	Sr.	5-10	180*
<b>DB</b> Tre'Von Matthews	Jr.	5-6	150*
<b>DB</b> Marshon Jones	Sr.	6-3	190
<b>P</b> Jerrell Talbert	So.	6-3	220

(\* - returning starter)  
**Returning lettermen:** 5

## Outlook

Richmond Heights begins 2019 with a new head coach, Dante Darby Sr., whom the Spartans will count on to build the program. Darby arrives with 10 years of experience as an assistant at Maple Heights and was on the staff at his alma mater, Thiel College, before he returned to Ohio. As Darby begins his tenure, the Spartans face the added challenge of a 10-game road schedule while construction of the district's new school building makes their home field unavailable.



McPherson

### Player to watch

Rico McPherson is a dynamic player on both sides of the ball for the Spartans. The 5-foot-9, 170-pound senior will start at wide receiver and defensive back, his fourth year as a starter.



Johnson

**Underclassman to watch:** Jaivyn Thomas will take the reins as a freshman starter at quarterback. At 6-foot-1, 175 pounds, Thomas will be responsible for distributing the ball to McPherson and running back Jaelen Johnson. The offense's effectiveness will depend on how quickly he adjusts to the high school level.

**Best in the classroom:** Rico McPherson, 3.6 GPA

**+** **Online:** Coach Dante Darby Sr. and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** The Spartans buy in to Darby's program, THEN: Richmond Heights will vie for a winning record in the face of a 10-game road slate.

— Nate Barnes

# 440-534-5000



## MENTOR MITSUBISHI



# 440-953-1000

## MENTOR KIA



**Riverside  
Beavers**

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Riverside at Perry, 7	L, 28-14
Sept. 6: Kirtland at Riverside, 7:30	DNP
Sept. 13: Lima Senior at Riverside, 7	DNP
Sept. 20: Riverside at Chardon, 7	W, 28-27
Sept. 27: Madison at Riverside, 7 (HC)	W, 28-13
Oct. 4: Riverside at North, 7	W, 33-13
Oct. 11: Riverside at Brush, 7	W, 61-21
Oct. 18: Mayfield at Riverside, 7	W, 14-6
Oct. 25: Kenston at Riverside, 7	L, 42-14
Nov. 1: Riverside at South, 7	W, 46-7

**Game to watch:** Riverside had a come-from-behind win over Chardon in 2018. The Beavers go to Chardon for a high-spirited rematch.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Dom Lulow	Jr.	5-10	180
<b>RB</b> Jordan Smith	Sr.	6-1	215
<b>WR</b> Matt Spofford	Jr.	6-3	190
<b>WR</b> Matt Watson	Jr.	6-2	220
<b>WR</b> Kaden Tinner	Jr.	5-10	160
<b>WR</b> Jame Bruno	Jr.	5-10	180
<b>LT</b> Noah Kneier*	Sr.	6-2	220
<b>LG</b> Brock Marus	Sr.	5-11	230
<b>C</b> Dylan Yowell*	Jr.	6-4	250
<b>RG</b> Nick Kalb*	Sr.	5-11	225
<b>RT</b> Alex Sigh*	Jr.	6-4	225
<b>K</b> Luke Griffith	So.	5-9	170

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DL</b> Matt Watson	Jr.	6-2	220
<b>DL</b> Giovanni Bottiggi*	Sr.	6-0	210
<b>DL</b> Alex Sigh*	Jr.	6-4	225
<b>LB</b> Jordan Smith*	Sr.	6-1	215
<b>LB</b> Matt Vencius*	Sr.	6-2	200
<b>LB</b> Gabe Sekki	Jr.	6-0	190
<b>LB</b> Josh Hannan	Sr.	6-1	185
<b>DB</b> Mason Stephens	Jr.	5-10	175
<b>DB</b> James Bruno	Jr.	5-10	180
<b>DB</b> Matt Spofford	Jr.	6-3	190
<b>DB</b> Pat Biats	Sr.	5-10	180
<b>P</b> Dom Lulow	Jr.	5-10	180

**Key reserves:** Cayman Locher, Jr., 5-10 190, Nick Messenger, So., 6-0, 250, Jamir Francis, Jr., 6-2 190, Danny Martich, Jr., 5-8, 180  
**Returning letterwinners:** 18

## Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**Coach:** Dave Bors, 10th year (47-46)  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5  
**Twitter:** @\_RHSFootball  
**2018:** 9-3 (6-1)  
**Home field:** Riverside Stadium

## Outlook

The Beavers had a landmark season last year with a co-league championship and the program's first playoff win. This year's team is underclassman-heavy, but they are hungry and ready to prove themselves. Eight starters need to be replaced on offense, including every skill position. Junior QB Dom Lulow has looked good in scrimmages. He can run or throw. Jordan Smith focused on defense last year, but he'll be the bellcow running back this year.

### Player to watch



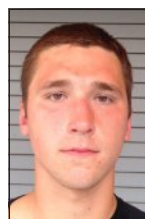
Smith

Jordan Smith stood out at linebacker last year. Now he adds running back to his duties. He's 6-1, 215, which means he can run with power and with speed. If he can produce in the running game, that will help the inexperienced QB and receiver.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior Alex Sigh is a sturdy 6-4, 225. He will command double teams on the defensive line. His dominance on the should free up players around him while he's being double-teamed.

**Best in the classroom:** Henry Busch 4.28, Tyler Weber 4.16, Alex Sigh 4.0

**Best bench press:** Matt Vancius, 275 pounds



Sigh

**+** **Online:** Coach Dave Bors and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the inexperienced skill players grow up in a hurry, **THEN:** the Beavers will again be a factor in the Western Reserve Conference.

— John Kampf



## Just the facts

**Conference:** WRC  
**Coach:** Matt Duffy, 16th year (105-58)  
**OHSAA:** Division II, Region 5  
**Twitter:** @southathletics  
**2018:** 2-8 (1-6)  
**Home field:** Harry E. Winters Stadium

## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: NDCL at South, 7	L, 41-28
Sept. 6: South at Maple Heights, 7	L, 41-0
Sept. 13: University at South, 7	DNP
Sept. 20: South at Madison, 7	W, 42-21
Sept. 27: North at South, 7 (HC)	L, 37-29
Oct. 4: South at Kenston, 7	L, 40-25
Oct. 11: South at Mayfield, 7	L, 45-14
Oct. 18: Chardon at South, 7	L, 52-27
Oct. 25: South at Brush, 7	L, 36-33 (OT)
Nov. 1: Riverside at South, 7	L, 46-7

**Game to watch:** The Rebels face rival North on Sept. 27. The Rangers got the upset last year, and the Rebels aren't happy about it.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Justin Grosel*	Sr.	5-10	170
<b>WR</b> Michael Ward	Sr.	6-4	160
<b>WR</b> Vince D'Eusanio	Jr.	6-1	205
<b>WR</b> Danny Gallagher*	Sr.	5-9	165
<b>WR</b> Rico Small*	Sr.	5-10	180
<b>RB</b> Deshod Reese*	Sr.	5-10	190
<b>LT</b> Parth Patel*	Sr.	6-4	260
<b>LG</b> Josh Braley	Sr.	6-4	240
<b>C</b> John Susnik*	Sr.	6-3	230
<b>RG</b> Alex Chiappero	Sr.	5-11	305
<b>RT</b> Jack Barnoski	Jr.	6-0	190
<b>K</b> Sam Patrizi	So.	6-0	175

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DL</b> John Susnik*	Sr.	6-3	230
<b>DL</b> Josh Bramley	Sr.	6-3	240
<b>DL</b> Tommy Elliott*	Sr.	6-2	190
<b>LB</b> Michael Marino*	Sr.	5-10	185
<b>LB</b> Ira Sampson*	So.	5-11	205
<b>LB</b> Drew Butera	Sr.	5-10	180
<b>LB</b> Vince D'Eusanio	Jr.	6-1	205
<b>DB</b> William Lewis*	Sr.	5-9	155
<b>DB</b> Ben Salesky	Sr.	5-11	165
<b>DB</b> Joe DiFranco*	Sr.	5-10	180
<b>DB</b> Danny Gallagher*	Sr.	5-9	165

**Key reserves:** Max Bour, Sr. 5-11 160, Ryan Racic, Sr., 5-10, 160, Ira Sampson (RB) So., 5-11, 205

**Letterwinners returning:** 20

## Outlook

The Rebels were an uncharacteristic 2-8 last year and are bent on remedying that. The offense, under new OC Gerald Hazzard (Lake Erie College) will be fast and high-paced. QB Justin Grosel returns and he has a slew of skill around him, including Danny Gallagher and Rico Small at receiver, and Ira Sampson and others at running back. Getting line protection is a must. Defensively, the Rebels gave up a lot of yards and points last year, so will have to tighten up.

### Player to watch



Small

Rico Small. The Eastern Michigan commit is a terror at receiver, in the slot, when he runs the ball and may be even in Wildcat formations this year. He can also play defense, but this playmaker will be best known for his highlight reel on offense.

**Underclassman to watch:** Sophomore back Ira Sampson is fast, strong and has a nose for the end zone on offense or defense.

**Best in the classroom:** Michael Marino 4.51 GPA, Drew Butera 4.14, Matt Vojtek 4.09, Max Bour 4.0

**Best bench press:** Alex Chiappero, 270 pounds

**Best 40 time:** Danny Gallagher, Rico Small 4.4 seconds



Sampson

**+** **Online:** Coach Matt Duffy and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the Rebels' defense gets the stops, **THEN:** the high-octane offense is going to give the opposition fits and win a lot of games this year.

— John Kampf

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## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Warrensville Hts. at US, 4:30	L, 30-19
Sept. 6: US at Bellevue, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: US at South, 7	DNP
Sept. 21: John Hay at US, 2 (HC)	DNP
Sept. 28: US at Cle. Cent. Catholic, 1	W, 50-28
Oct. 5: US at Gilmour, 3	DNP
Oct. 12: Youngstown Chaney at US, 2	DNP
Oct. 19: US at VASJ, 7	W, 42-12
Oct. 25: US at Youngstown East, 7	DNP
Nov. 2: East Tech at US, 2	DNP

**Game to watch:** A Week 3 trip to South could yield massive momentum with D-II points into several winnable games looming.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Ricky Radtke*	Jr.	6-6	190
<b>RB</b> Dylan Loconti*	Sr.	5-7	165
<b>WR</b> Parker Crowley*	Sr.	6-1	175
<b>WR</b> Nic Pujolas*	Sr.	5-8	160
<b>WR</b> John Pape	Jr.	5-10	155
<b>TE</b> Alec Radwancky*	Jr.	6-1	190
<b>LT</b> Karson Baldwin*	Jr.	6-2	215
<b>LG</b> Jake Mlakar	Jr.	5-8	190
<b>C</b> Ryan Devine*	Sr.	5-9	180
<b>RG</b> Jack Sweeney	Sr.	6-2	230
<b>RT</b> Gianfranco Calabrese	So.	6-1	205
<b>K</b> Evan Weybrecht	So.	5-5	110

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DE</b> Brooke Crowley	Sr.	6-2	170
<b>NT</b> John Sparber	Jr.	6-1	190
<b>DE</b> Miles McIlvaine	Sr.	6-2	180
<b>OLB</b> Joe Averill	Sr.	5-10	155
<b>LB</b> Jack Novak*	Jr.	5-11	160
<b>LB</b> Khari Tidmore*	Jr.	5-11	210
<b>OLB</b> Bobby Ware	Jr.	5-11	150
<b>CB</b> Charlie Brennan*	Sr.	6-0	155
<b>CB</b> Cam Gable*	Sr.	5-8	144
<b>S</b> Jack Borrow*	Sr.	6-0	180
<b>S</b> Max Young*	Sr.	5-10	155
<b>P</b> Ricky Radtke*	Jr.	6-6	190

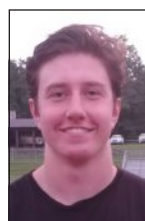
(\* - returning starter)  
**Key reserves:** Solomon Perez, Jr., 5-7, 170, Nick Flowers, Sr., 5-11, 175

## Just the facts

**Conference:** Independent  
**OHSAA:** Division III, Region 9  
**Head coach:** Ben Malbasa, fifth year (26-17)  
**2018:** 4-6  
**Twitter:** @USFootball1890  
**Home field:** Scovil Field

## Outlook

Incentive will not be lacking in Hunting Valley this fall, after a three-game losing skid to close 2018 knocked the Preppers out of the playoff hunt and under .500. There's a lot to like as US seeks an upswing. The offense could be potent and balanced led by QB Ricky Radtke, RB Dylan Loconti (1,010 yards from scrimmage, nine rushing TDs) and a seasoned and athletic receiver group. Defensively, with seven returning starters, cutting down 3,379 yards yielded in 2018 is achievable.



**Borrow**



**Tidmore**

**+** **Online:** Nic Pujolas and Charlie Brennan discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the defense is more disruptive than 2018, **THEN:** amid a new-look schedule, 7-3 and a playoff charge doesn't seem unreasonable.

— Chris Lillstung



## Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: CVCA at VASJ, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: VASJ at Collinwood, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Waterloo at VASJ, 7	DNP
Sept. 20: VASJ at Warrensville Hts., 7	L, 36-6
Sept. 28: Port Clinton at VASJ, 7 (HC)	DNP
Oct. 5: VASJ at Cle. Cent. Cath, 1	W, 35-14
Oct. 11: VASJ at Lutheran East, 4	DNP
Oct. 19: University at VASJ, 7	L, 42-12
Oct. 26: VASJ at Gilmour, 2	L, 46-6
Nov. 2: Warren JFK at VASJ, 7	L, 47-8

**Game to watch:** A victory at Gilmour on Oct. 26 could put VASJ in position to battle Warren JFK for the league title a week later.

## Projected lineup

### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>QB</b> Kevin Eiseman	Jr.	6-4	180
<b>RB</b> Nathan Oriani	Sr.	5-10	165
<b>WR</b> Cameron Williams	Sr.	5-11	185
<b>WR</b> Jordan Dean	Jr.	6-3	155
<b>WR</b> Noah Clarke	So.	5-10	160
<b>TE</b> CJ Green	Jr.	5-11	185
<b>LT</b> Kenyon Russell	Sr.	6-1	315
<b>LG</b> Isaac Bonner	So.	5-7	180
<b>C</b> Edward Marxen	Jr.	5-11	185
<b>RG</b> Isaih Wright	Sr.	5-7	220
<b>RT</b> Jamal Hill	Sr.	6-0	220
<b>K</b> Apollo Percic	Sr.	5-8	135

### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
<b>DT</b> Kenyon Russell	Sr.	6-1	315
<b>DT</b> Isaac Bonner	So.	5-7	180
<b>DE</b> Terrell Harvell	Jr.	6-1	265
<b>DT</b> Edward Marxen	Jr.	5-11	185
<b>LB</b> Nathan Oriani	Sr.	5-10	165
<b>LB</b> LaVelle Smith	Jr.	5-8	155
<b>LB</b> Joseph Webb	So.	5-11	170
<b>DB</b> Noah Clarke	So.	5-10	160
<b>DB</b> Jordan Dean	Jr.	6-3	155
<b>DB</b> Cameron Williams	Sr.	5-11	185
<b>DB</b> Andre Terry II	So.	5-10	155
<b>P</b> MacKenzie Flynn	So.	5-8	125

(\* - returning starter)  
**Key reserves:** Nicholas McLinton, Jr., Andre Terry II, So., Filippo Pavlica, So.

## Just the facts

**Conference:** NCL White  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 18  
**Head coach:** Elvis Grbac, first year  
**2018:** 3-7 (3-2)  
**Twitter:** @Vikings\_AD  
**Home field:** Sparky DiBiasio Stadium

## Outlook

Spirits are high throughout Villa Angela-St. Joseph's football program as one of its most distinguished alumni, Elvis Grbac, returned as the Vikings' athletic director and football coach. VASJ's focus is now to turn that energy into on-field results. The Vikings have electric playmakers in returning starters Jordan Dean and Cam Williams. They'll now receive the ball from junior quarterback Kevin Eiseman, who moved in from Olmsted Falls. Dean, Williams and sophomore Noah Clarke will anchor a defensive backfield capable of forcing turnovers.



**Williams**



**Eiseman**

**+** **Online:** Coach Elvis Grbac and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

## Bottom line

**IF:** the Vikings' playmakers mesh with new quarterback Kevin Eiseman, **THEN:** VASJ can begin Elvis Grbac's return with a winning record.

— Nate Barnes



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## West Geauga Wolverines

### Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: West Geauga at Chardon, 7	W, 20-19
Sept. 6: NDCL at West Geauga, 7	L, 42-7
Sept. 13: West Geauga at Kenston, 7	L, 37-0
Sept. 20: Lakeside at West Geauga, 7	DNP
Sept. 27: Orange at West Geauga, 7	W, 41-20
Oct. 4: West Geauga at Geneva, 7	L, 16-8
Oct. 11: West Geauga at Harvey, 7	W, 24-7
Oct. 18: West Geauga at Edgewood, 7	DNP
Oct. 25: Chagrin Falls at West G, 7	L, 31-0
Nov. 1: Perry at West Geauga, 7	L, 56-21

**Game to watch:** Chardon, eager for revenge after a Week 1 loss to the Wolverines in 2018, will be ready to test West G out of the chute.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Riley Huge*	Sr.	6-4	220
RB Trae Zimmerman*	Jr.	6-1	175
WR Aiden Pitcock	Sr.	5-9	185
WR Levi Veverka	Sr.	6-2	190
WR Luke Musser	Jr.	6-0	165
WR Nick Henry*	Jr.	5-10	160
LT Lucas Sadler	So.	6-3	265
LG Harrison Gruber*	Sr.	5-11	220
C Tyler Moriarty	Sr.	5-10	230
RG Luca Gasbarrino*	So.	6-0	230
RT Zach Slapnick*	Sr.	6-5	260
K Joey Dilalla*	So.	5-10	160

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DE Harrison Gruber*	Sr.	5-11	220
DE Zach Slapnick*	Sr.	6-5	260
DT Lucas Sadler	So.	6-3	265
DT Lou Alesnik*	Sr.	6-1	270
WLB Josh Moriarty	Sr.	6-0	180
MLB Dylan Baliker*	Sr.	5-10	195
SLB Levi Veverka*	Sr.	6-2	190
CB Luke Musser*	Jr.	6-0	185
CB Torry Stazzone	So.	6-1	160
FS Aiden Pitcock	Sr.	5-9	185
SS Trae Zimmerman*	Jr.	6-1	175
P Riley Huge*	Sr.	6-4	220

(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Mike Cavisinni, So., 5-6, 155, Eathen Pollack, Jr., 6-3, 190, Joe Petterson, Sr., 5-10, 185, Jaijuan Glover, Sr., 6-3, 180, Dillon Mikulski, Jr., 6-0, 165

Returning lettermen: 17

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Chagrin  
**OHSAA:** Division IV, Region 13  
**Head coach:** Adam Sopkovich, second year (4-6)  
**2018:** 4-6 (2-4)  
**Twitter:** @WestGFootball  
**Home field:** Howell Field

### Outlook

West Geauga opened its first season under Adam Sopkovich impressively with a victory over Chardon, but finished with a sub-.500 record for a second straight year. Numbers are up for the Wolverines, who are excited about their second season under Sopkovich. West Geauga brings back 17 lettermen from a year ago and a handful of starters on each side of the ball. Second-year starting quarterback Riley Huge leads the offense behind a stout line anchored by mammoth right tackle Zach Slapnick.



Huge

#### Player to watch

Riley Huge returns to start at quarterback after he took the reins of Sopkovich's offense as a junior. Huge has a big arm capable of delivering the ball to weapons such as Trae Zimmermann, Aiden Pitcock and Nick Henry at the skill positions.

**Underclassman to watch:** Trae Zimmermann started for the Wolverines as a sophomore and the rangy, athletic junior returns to contribute as West Geauga's starting running back and strong safety.

**Best in the classroom:** Luke Musser 4.5 GPA

**Best bench press:** Lou Alesnik, 355 pounds



Zimmermann

**Online:** Coach Adam Sopkovich and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

### Bottom line

**IF:** the Wolverines' returning contributors take a step forward, **THEN:** West Geauga should finish with its first winning record since 2016.

— Nate Barnes



## Wickliffe Blue Devils

### Just the facts

**Conference:** CVC Valley  
**OHSAA:** Division V, Region 17  
**Head coach:** Marce Porcello, ninth year (40-44)  
**2018:** 8-3 (5-2)  
**Twitter:** @wickliffefb  
**Home field:** Memorial Stadium

### Schedule

Opponent	2018 result
Aug. 30: Oberlin at Wickliffe, 7	DNP
Sept. 6: Harvey at Wickliffe, 7	DNP
Sept. 13: Wickliffe at Orange, 7	DNP
Sept. 20: Wickliffe at Hawken, 7	DNP
Sept. 27: Wickliffe at Kirtland, 7	L, 34-7
Oct. 4: Beachwood at Wickliffe, 7	DNP
Oct. 11: Berkshire at Wickliffe, 7 (HC)	W, 34-6
Oct. 19: Wickliffe at Trinity, 7	DNP
Oct. 25: Wickliffe at Grand Valley, 7	DNP
Nov. 1: Cardinal at Wickliffe, 7	W, 34-14

**Game to watch:** Wickliffe and Grand Valley last met in the 2017 playoffs. Their Week 9 tilt could hold playoff implications.

### Projected lineup

#### OFFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
QB Evan Rypinski*	Sr.	6-0	180
RB Isaiah Bolon*	Jr.	6-1	180
RB Chase Fortkamp*	Jr.	6-2	210
RB Mason Bala*	Jr.	6-0	160
WR Duke Stanczak	Jr.	6-3	165
WR Nick Martinitis	Sr.	6-0	180
LT Steve Kulchick	Jr.	6-0	230
LG Mikey Moon*	Jr.	5-11	215
C Donovan Liuzzo*	Jr.	6-0	215
RG Zak Esteves*	Jr.	6-1	200
RT Tyler Fisher*	Jr.	6-0	235
K Isaiah Bolon	Jr.	6-1	235

#### DEFENSE

Pos. Name	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.
DL Tyler Fisher*	Jr.	6-0	235
DL Anthony Ellis	Jr.	6-1	155
DL Zak Esteves*	Jr.	6-0	180
LB Jack Bunn*	Jr.	6-4	210
LB Chase Fortkamp*	Jr.	6-2	210
LB Mikey Moon*	Jr.	5-10	182
LB Vince Gargiulo	Fr.	5-8	160
DB Mason Bala*	Jr.	6-0	160
DB Duke Stanczak	Jr.	6-3	165
DB Nick Martinitis	Sr.	6-0	180
DB Isaiah Bolon*	Jr.	6-1	180
P Isaiah Bolon	Jr.	6-1	180

(\* - returning starter)

**Key reserves:** Daniel Byrne, Jr., 6-4, 170, Mario Cefaratti, Jr., 5-10, 150, Donell Jackson, Jr., 5-10, 165

Returning lettermen: 9

### Outlook

Wickliffe opens the 2019 season in search of its fourth straight postseason berth. To reach Week 11, the Blue Devils must count on contributions from players with expanded roles. Running back Isaac Pettway graduated, as did starting quarterback Brad Dieterich. Coach Marce Porcello does return an experienced group, as the majority of his players on each side of the ball started in 2018. Chase Fortkamp received his first Division I offer this summer, and the Blue Devils will rely on him for high production on offense and defense. Senior Evan Rypinski takes over behind center.



Fortkamp

#### Player to watch

Chase Fortkamp enters his junior year with a Division I football offer already in hand, from Kent State. Fortkamp is the linchpin of Coach Marce Porcello's defense and offense. He recorded more than 100

tackles last season and will become the offensive focal point after Isaac Pettway's graduation.

**Underclassman to watch:** Junior running back Isaiah Bolon saw time on the field as a sophomore and will assume a more prominent role in the backfield as a complement to Fortkamp.

**Best in the classroom:** Chase Fortkamp, Mason Bala, Donovan Liuzzo

**Online:** Coach Marce Porcello and players discuss the season in a view interview at [NEWS-HERALD.COM](http://NEWS-HERALD.COM)

### Bottom line

**IF:** a supporting cast emerges around Chase Fortkamp, **THEN:** the Blue Devils will again contend for a playoff appearance.

— Nate Barnes



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## High school football schedule

### AUG. 29

#### FOOTBALL

Mentor at St. Edward, 7:30

### AUG. 30

#### FOOTBALL

Aurora at Brush, 7  
Warrensville Heights at University, 4:30  
Benedictine at Youngstown Ursuline, 7  
Berkshire at Harvey, 7  
Chagrin Falls at Streetsboro, 7  
Cortland Lakeview at Kirtland, 7  
CVCA at VASJ, 7  
Euclid at Glenville, 7  
Garrettsville at Cardinal, 7  
Geneva at Madison, 7  
Hawken at Trinity, 7  
Kenston at Black River, 7  
Lake Catholic at Stow-Munroe Falls, 7  
NDCL at South, 7  
Newbury at Fairport, 7  
North Olmsted at North, 7  
Oberlin at Wickliffe, 7  
Orange at Beachwood, 7  
Richmond Heights at Rittman, 7  
Riverside at Perry, 7  
Walsh Jesuit at Mayfield, 7  
West Geauga at Chardon, 7

### AUG. 31

#### FOOTBALL

St. Thomas Aquinas at Gilmour, 2

### SEPT. 6

#### FOOTBALL

Beachwood at Youngstown Chaney, 7  
Canisius (N.Y.) at Euclid, 7  
Cardinal at Pymatuning Valley, 7  
Chagrin Falls at Kenston, 7  
Chardon at Perry, 7  
Fairport at Berkshire, 7  
Harvey at Wickliffe, 7  
Jefferson at Geneva, 7  
Kirtland at Riverside, 7  
Madison at Lakeside, 7  
Mayfield at Massillon Jackson, 7  
NDCL at West Geauga, 7  
Newbury at Hawken, 7  
North at Revere, 7  
Richmond Heights at Lutheran East, 4  
Shaker Heights at Benedictine, 7  
South at Maple Heights, 7  
St. Ignatius at Mentor, 7  
Uniontown Lake at Brush, 7  
University at Bellevue, 7  
VASJ at Collinwood, 7

### SEPT. 7

#### FOOTBALL

Cleveland Central Catholic at Lake

Catholic, noon  
Warrensville Heights at Gilmour, 2

### SEPT. 13

#### FOOTBALL

Alliance at Chardon, 7  
Beachwood at Collinwood, 7  
Brush at Hudson, 7  
Cardinal at Crestwood, 7  
Clarkson (Canada) at Mentor, 7  
East Tech at Newbury, 7  
Euclid at Canton McKinley, 7  
Garrettsville at Berkshire, 7  
Harvey at Grand Valley, 7  
Kirtland at Geneva, 7  
Lake Catholic at Youngstown Ursuline, 7  
Lima Senior at Riverside, 7  
Madison at Perry, 7  
NDCL at Columbus DeSales, 7  
Nordia at Mayfield, 7  
North at Lakeside, 7  
Richmond Heights at Lowellville, 7  
University at South, 7  
Waterloo at VASJ, 7  
West Geauga at Kenston, 7  
Wickliffe at Orange, 7  
Woodridge at Chagrin Falls, 7 (HC)

### SEPT. 14

#### FOOTBALL

Hawken at Gilmour, 2  
Fairport at St. John, 6 (8-man)  
Cleveland Central Catholic at Benedictine, 7

### SEPT. 20

#### FOOTBALL

Beachwood at Grand Valley, 7  
Benedictine at Erie Cathedral Prep, 7  
Berkshire at Cardinal, 7  
Canfield at NDCL, 7  
Chagrin Falls at Harvey, 7  
Cleveland Heights at Lake Catholic, 7 (HC)  
Cuyahoga Heights at Kirtland, 7  
Euclid at Medina, 7  
Gilmour at Rootstown, 7  
Kenston at North, 7  
Lakeside at West Geauga, 7  
Lutheran West at Fairport, 7  
Mayfield at Brush, 7  
Mentor at Elyria, 7  
Orange at Geneva, 7  
Perry at Edgewood, 7  
Pymatuning Valley at Newbury, 7  
Riverside at Chardon, 7 (HC)  
South at Madison, 7  
VASJ at Warrensville Heights, 7  
Wickliffe at Hawken, 7

### SEPT. 21

#### FOOTBALL

John Hay at University, 2 (HC)  
Richmond Heights at Trinity, 7

### SEPT. 27

#### FOOTBALL

Bedford at NDCL, 7  
Benedictine at Austintown Fitch, 7  
Cardinal at Hawken, 7  
Chagrin Falls at Lakeside, 7  
Chardon at Mayfield, 7  
Elyria at Euclid, 7  
Geneva at Edgewood, 7  
Grand Valley at Berkshire, 7 (HC)  
Harvey at Perry, 7 (HC)  
Independence at Beachwood, 7  
Kenston at Brush, 7  
Madison at Riverside, 7 (HC)  
Medina at Mentor, 7 (HC)  
North at South, 7 (HC)  
Orange at West Geauga, 7  
Richmond Heights at Lutheran West, 7  
Trinity at Fairport, 7  
Wickliffe at Kirtland, 7

### SEPT. 28

#### FOOTBALL

University at Cleveland Central Catholic, 1  
John Adams at Gilmour, 2 (HC)  
Carrick (Pa.) at Newbury, 7 (HC)  
Port Clinton at VASJ, 7

### OCT. 4

#### FOOTBALL

Beachwood at Wickliffe, 7  
Berkshire at Lutheran West, 7  
Brush at Chardon, 7  
Edgewood at Chagrin Falls, 7  
Euclid at Strongsville, 7  
Fairport at Cuyahoga Heights, 7  
Hawken at Grand Valley, 7  
Kirtland at Cardinal, 7 (HC)  
Lakeside at Harvey, 7  
Mayfield at Madison, 7  
Mentor at Solon, 7  
Padua at NDCL, 7 (HC)  
Perry at Orange, 7  
Richmond Heights at Independence, 7  
Riverside at North, 7  
South at Kenston, 7 (HC)  
Southington at Newbury, 7  
West Geauga at Geneva, 7 (HC)

### OCT. 5

#### FOOTBALL

Akron Hoban at Benedictine, 1  
VASJ at Cleveland Central Catholic, 1  
University at Gilmour, 3  
Walsh Jesuit at Lake Catholic, 7

### OCT. 10

#### FOOTBALL

North at Madison, 7 (HC)

### OCT. 11

#### FOOTBALL

Benedictine at NDCL, 7  
Berkshire at Wickliffe, 7 (HC)  
Brooklyn at Fairport, 7 (HC)  
Brunswick at Mentor, 7  
Cardinal at Beachwood, 7 (HC)  
Geneva at Lakeside, 7  
Grand Valley at Kirtland, 7  
Kenston at Chardon, 7  
Newbury at Pymatuning Valley, 7  
Perry at Chagrin Falls, 7  
Richmond Heights at Hawken, 7 (HC)  
Riverside at Brush, 7  
Solon at Euclid, 7  
South at Mayfield, 7  
VASJ at Lutheran East, 4  
West Geauga at Harvey, 7

### OCT. 12

#### FOOTBALL

Gilmour at Cleveland Central Catholic, 1  
Youngstown Chaney at University, 2  
Akron Hoban at Lake Catholic, 7

### OCT. 18

#### FOOTBALL

Beachwood at Kirtland, 7  
Brunswick at Euclid, 7 (HC)  
Brush at North, 7 (HC)  
Chardon at South, 7  
Fairport at Independence, 7  
Gilmour at Warren JFK, 7  
Grand Valley at Cardinal, 7  
Newbury at Grove City Christian, 7  
Harvey at Geneva, 7  
Hawken at Berkshire, 7  
Lake Catholic at Benedictine, 7 (HC)  
Lakeside at Perry, 7  
Madison at Kenston, 7  
Mayfield at Riverside, 7  
NDCL at Walsh Jesuit, 7  
Orange at Chagrin Falls, 7  
Richmond Heights at Cuyahoga Heights, 7  
West Geauga at Edgewood, 7

### OCT. 19

#### FOOTBALL

Mentor at Shaker Heights, 1  
University at VASJ, 7 (HC)  
Wickliffe at Trinity, 7

### OCT. 25

#### FOOTBALL

Berkshire at Beachwood, 7  
Brooklyn at Cardinal, 7  
Chagrin Falls at West Geauga, 7  
Edgewood at Harvey, 7  
Euclid at Mentor, 7  
Geneva at Perry, 7  
Kenston at Riverside, 7  
Kirtland at Hawken, 7  
Madison at Chardon, 7  
North at Mayfield, 7 (HC)  
Richmond Heights at Fairport, 7  
South at Brush, 7  
University at Youngstown East, 7  
Wickliffe at Grand Valley, 7  
Windham at Newbury, 7

### OCT. 26

#### FOOTBALL

VASJ at Gilmour, 2  
NDCL at Lake Catholic, 7  
Padua at Benedictine, 7

### NOV. 1

#### FOOTBALL

Akron Hoban at NDCL, 7  
Benedictine at Walsh Jesuit, 1  
Brush at Madison, 7  
Cardinal at Wickliffe, 7  
Chardon at North, 7  
Fairport at Grand Valley, 7  
Geneva at Chagrin Falls, 7  
Harvey at Orange, 7  
Hawken at Beachwood, 7  
Kirtland at Berkshire, 7  
Lake Catholic at Padua, 7  
Lutheran East vs. Gilmour (at Euclid), 7  
Mayfield at Kenston, 7  
Mentor at Strongsville, 7  
Newbury at Vienna Mathews, 7  
Perry at West Geauga, 7  
Richmond Heights at Brooklyn, 7  
Riverside at South, 7  
Shaker Heights at Euclid, 7

### NOV. 2

#### FOOTBALL

East Tech at University, 2  
Warren JFK at VASJ, 7

## On the air

### WINT-AM 1330, FM 101.5

**Aug. 30:** NDCL at South  
**Sept. 6:** St. Ignatius at Mentor  
**Sept. 13:** Clarkson at Mentor  
**Sept. 20:** Mayfield at Brush  
**Sept. 27:** North at South  
**Sept. 28:** Port Clinton at VASJ  
**Oct. 4:** Beachwood at Wickliffe  
**Oct. 5:** Walsh Jesuit at Lake Catholic  
**Oct. 11:** Grand Valley at Kirtland  
**Oct. 18:** Brush at North  
**Oct. 25:** Euclid at Mentor  
**Oct. 26:** NDCL at Lake Catholic  
**Nov. 1:** Cardinal at Wickliffe  
**Nov. 2:** Warren JFK at VASJ

### WKNR-AM 850

**Aug. 30:** Strongsville at Berea  
**Sept. 6:** Chardon at Perry  
**Sept. 20:** Cuyahoga Hts. at Kirtland  
**Oct. 4:** Buckeye at Valley Forge  
**Oct. 11:** Holy Name at Bay  
**Oct. 18:** Kenston at Chardon  
**Oct. 25:** Avon at Olmsted Falls  
**Week 10:** TBA

### WHK-AM 1420

**Aug. 29:** Mentor at St. Edward  
**Aug. 30:** Hudson at Solon  
**Sept. 6:** St. Ignatius at Mentor  
**Sept. 13:** Elyria Catholic at Bay  
**Sept. 20:** Nordonia at Twinsburg  
**Sept. 27:** Strongsville at Brunswick  
**Oct. 4:** South at Kenston  
**Oct. 12:** St. Ignatius at St. Edward  
**Oct. 18:** Lake Catholic at Bedford  
**Oct. 25:** Avon at Olmsted Falls  
**Nov. 1:** Trinity at Lutheran West

### WQGR-FM 93.7

**Aug. 29:** Mentor at St. Edward  
**Sept. 6:** St. Ignatius at Mentor  
**Sept. 13:** Clarkson (Canada) at Mentor  
**Sept. 20:** Mentor at Elyria  
**Sept. 27:** Medina at Mentor  
**Oct. 4:** Mentor at Solon  
**Oct. 11:** Brunswick at Mentor  
**Oct. 19:** Mentor at Shaker Heights  
**Oct. 25:** Euclid at Mentor  
**Nov. 1:** Mentor at Strongsville

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**GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF OUR AREA FOOTBALL TEAMS THIS SEASON!**



## High school football » Area rivalries

### NORTH VS. SOUTH

**Series:** South leads, 29-28-2  
**2018:** North 37, South 29  
**2017:** South 46, North 13  
**2016:** South 45, North 19  
**2015:** South 52, North 27  
**2014:** South 49, North 27  
**2013:** South 34, North 15  
**2012:** South 44, North 7  
**2011:** South 45, North 26  
**2010:** South 34, North 21  
**2009:** South 36, North 0  
**2008:** South 53, North 35  
**2007:** South 43, North 14  
**2006:** South 40, North 6  
**2005:** South 28, North 24  
**2004:** South 30, North 23 (OT)  
**2003:** North 28, South 20  
**2002:** South 44, North 14  
**2001:** South 14, North 0  
**2000:** North 7, South 3  
**1999:** North 21, South 7  
**1998:** North 38, South 20  
**1997:** North 15, South 14  
**1996:** South 36, North 0  
**1995:** South 20, North 17  
**1994:** North 26, South 0  
**1993:** North 20, South 14  
**1992:** North 22, South 8  
**1991:** North 20, South 6  
**1990:** North 41, South 20  
**1989:** North 21, South 7  
**1988:** North 14, North 7  
**1987:** South 26, North 17  
**1986:** South 21, North 7  
**1985:** North 9, South 6  
**1984:** North 14, South 13  
**1983:** North 16, South 15  
**1982:** North 24, South 14  
**1981:** South 21, North 0  
**1980:** South 23, North 0  
**1979:** South 10, North 10  
**1978:** South 14, North 7  
**1977:** North 23, South 12  
**1976:** South 17, North 8  
**1975:** South 20, North 0  
**1974:** South 28, North 7  
**1973:** South 32, North 8  
**1972:** North 20, South 8  
**1971:** North 9, South 0  
**1970:** North 14, South 8  
**1969:** North 20, South 20  
**1968:** North 18, South 12  
**1967:** North 28, South 0  
**1966:** North 30, South 0  
**1965:** North 38, South 16  
**1964:** North 50, South 20  
**1963:** North 16, South 0  
**1962:** North 14, South 0  
**1961:** North 42, South 6  
**1960:** South 14, North 8

### MENTOR VS. EUCLID

**Series:** Mentor leads, 25-17  
**2018:** Mentor 29, Euclid 7  
**2017:** Mentor 61, Euclid 59  
**2016:** Euclid 47, Mentor 37  
**2015:** Mentor 37, Euclid 27



PAUL DICICCO — FOR THE NEWS-HERALD

Rico Small and South will be looking to avenge a 2018 loss to North when the teams meet this season.

**2014:** Mentor 49, Euclid 0  
**2013:** Mentor 36, Euclid 0  
**2012:** Mentor 33, Euclid 13  
**2011:** Mentor 49, Euclid 21  
**2010:** Mentor 48, Euclid 7  
**2009:** Mentor 34, Euclid 14  
**2008:** Mentor 29, Euclid 7  
**2007:** Euclid 35, Mentor 34  
**2006:** Mentor 31, Euclid 6  
**2005:** Euclid 28, Mentor 16  
**2004:** Mentor 21, Euclid 14  
**2003:** Mentor 14, Euclid 7  
**2002:** Mentor 37, Euclid 7  
**2001:** Mentor 16, Euclid 14  
**2000:** Mentor 7, Euclid 0  
**1999:** Euclid 28, Mentor 27 (OT)  
**1998:** Euclid 20, Mentor 12  
**1997:** Euclid 45, Mentor 13  
**1996:** Euclid 20, Mentor 7  
**1995:** Euclid 14, Mentor 7  
**1994:** Did not play  
**1993:** Did not play  
**1992:** Mentor 27, Euclid 6  
**1991:** Euclid 35, Mentor 6  
**1990:** Mentor 27, Euclid 20  
**1989:** Euclid 21, Mentor 14  
**1988:** Euclid 35, Mentor 12  
**1987:** Did not play  
**1986:** Euclid 42, Mentor 35 (3OT)  
**1985:** Mentor 28, Euclid 6

### LAKE CATHOLIC VS. NDCL

**Series:** Lake Catholic leads, 21-8  
**2018:** Lake Catholic 31, NDCL 18

**2017:** NDCL 45, Lake Catholic 14  
**2016:** NDCL 28, Lake Catholic 14  
**2015:** Lake Catholic 37, NDCL 27  
**2014:** Lake Catholic 38, NDCL 28  
**2013:** Lake Catholic 29, NDCL 28  
**2012:** NDCL 21, Lake Catholic 0  
**2011:** Lake Catholic 24, NDCL 10  
**2010:** Lake Catholic 38, NDCL 0  
**2009:** Lake Catholic 49, NDCL 14  
**2008:** NDCL 31, Lake Catholic 14  
**2007:** NDCL 17, Lake Catholic 7  
**2006:** Lake Catholic 35, NDCL 6  
**2005:** Lake Catholic 35, NDCL 19  
**2004:** Lake Catholic 26, NDCL 20  
**2003:** NDCL 29, Lake Catholic 28  
**2002:** NDCL 35, Lake Catholic 0  
**2001:** Lake Catholic 20, NDCL 14  
**2000:** Lake Catholic 43, NDCL 0  
**1999:** Lake Catholic 44, NDCL 14  
**1998:** Lake Catholic 31, NDCL 28  
**1997:** Lake Catholic 48, NDCL 9  
**1996:** Lake Catholic 26, NDCL 14  
**1995:** Lake Catholic 45, NDCL 20  
**1994:** NDCL 18, Lake Catholic 14  
**1993:** Lake Catholic 13, NDCL 0  
**1992:** Lake Catholic 56, NDCL 7  
**1991:** Lake Catholic 55, NDCL 14  
**1990:** Lake Catholic 34, NDCL 0

### BERKSHIRE VS. CARDINAL

**Series:** Cardinal leads, 34-30-1  
**2018:** Cardinal 28, Berkshire 8  
**2017:** Cardinal 54, Berkshire 7  
**2016:** Berkshire 34, Cardinal 22

**2015:** Berkshire 57, Cardinal 13  
**2014:** Cardinal 34, Berkshire 7  
**2013:** Cardinal 30, Berkshire 2  
**2012:** Cardinal 33, Berkshire 24  
**2011:** Berkshire 28, Cardinal 19  
**2010:** Cardinal 26, Berkshire 13  
**2009:** Berkshire 13, Cardinal 7  
**2008:** Berkshire 16, Cardinal 13  
**2007:** Berkshire 14, Cardinal 10  
**2006:** Berkshire 26, Cardinal 0  
**2005:** Cardinal 18, Berkshire 15  
**2004:** Berkshire 31, Cardinal 7  
**2003:** Cardinal 34, Berkshire 7  
**2002:** Cardinal 30, Berkshire 7  
**2001:** Cardinal 33, Berkshire 0  
**2000:** Cardinal 26, Berkshire 21  
**1999:** Berkshire 19, Cardinal 14  
**1998:** Berkshire 53, Cardinal 22  
**1997:** Cardinal 21, Berkshire 17  
**1996:** Berkshire 28, Cardinal 21  
**1995:** Cardinal 32, Berkshire 0  
**1994:** Cardinal 22, Berkshire 0  
**1993:** Berkshire 26, Cardinal 0  
**1992:** Berkshire 7, Cardinal 0  
**1991:** Berkshire 20, Cardinal 9

### CHAGRIN FALLS VS. WEST GEAGA

**Series:** Chagrin Falls leads, 33-24  
**2018:** Chagrin Falls 31, West Geauga 0  
**2017:** Chagrin Falls 27, West Geauga 6  
**2016:** West Geauga 20, Chagrin Falls 13  
**2015:** West Geauga 24, Chagrin Falls 21  
**2014:** Chagrin Falls 36, West Geauga 34  
**2013:** Chagrin Falls 22, West Geauga 20  
**2012:** Chagrin Falls 30, West Geauga 16  
**2011:** Chagrin Falls 17, West Geauga 0  
**2010:** Chagrin Falls 28, West Geauga 0  
**2009:** Chagrin Falls 14, West Geauga 7  
**2008:** Chagrin Falls 25, West Geauga 0  
**2007:** Chagrin Falls 39, West Geauga 19  
**2006:** West Geauga 35, Chagrin Falls 0  
**2005:** Chagrin Falls 34, West Geauga 28 (OT)  
**2004:** Chagrin Falls 16, West Geauga 13  
**2003:** West Geauga 48, Chagrin Falls 14  
**2002:** West Geauga 3, Chagrin Falls (OT)  
**2001:** West Geauga 27, Chagrin Falls 21  
**2000:** Chagrin Falls 32, West Geauga 29  
**1999:** Chagrin Falls 20, West Geauga 13  
**1998:** Chagrin Falls 26, West Geauga 22  
**1997:** Chagrin Falls 27, West Geauga 26 (OT)  
**1996:** West Geauga 25, Chagrin Falls 0  
**1995:** Chagrin Falls 10, West Geauga 8  
**1994:** West Geauga 27, Chagrin Falls 7  
**1993:** West Geauga 20, Chagrin Falls 7  
**1992:** West Geauga 40, Chagrin Falls 27  
**1991:** West Geauga 17, Chagrin Falls 13  
**1990:** West Geauga 42, Chagrin Falls 14  
**1989:** West Geauga 33, Chagrin Falls 14  
**1988:** West Geauga 45, Chagrin Falls 7  
**1987:** Chagrin Falls 21, West Geauga 17  
**1986:** Chagrin Falls 6, West Geauga 0  
**1985:** Chagrin Falls 14, West Geauga 7

### HARVEY VS. RIVERSIDE

**Series:** Riverside leads 44-23-1  
**2018:** Riverside 41, Harvey 6

**2017:** Riverside 56, Harvey 20  
**2016:** Riverside 60, Harvey 14  
**2015:** Riverside 38, Harvey 2  
**2014:** Riverside 43, Harvey 7  
**2013:** Riverside 42, Harvey 13  
**2012:** Riverside 42, Harvey 0  
**2011:** Riverside 28, Harvey 11  
**2010:** Riverside 28, Harvey 27 (OT)  
**2009:** Riverside 35, Harvey 33  
**2008:** Riverside 30, Harvey 22  
**2007:** Riverside 34, Harvey 6  
**2006:** Riverside 28, Harvey 12  
**2005:** Riverside 39, Harvey 13  
**2004:** Riverside 18, Harvey 0  
**2003:** Riverside 20, Harvey 12  
**2002:** Riverside 33, Harvey 18  
**2001:** Riverside 21, Harvey 9  
**2000:** Riverside 21, Harvey 0  
**1999:** Riverside 17, Harvey 14  
**1998:** Riverside 42, Harvey 20  
**1997:** Riverside 42, Harvey 6  
**1996:** Riverside 14, Harvey 12  
**1995:** Riverside 20, Harvey 8  
**1994:** Riverside 24, Harvey 14  
**1993:** Riverside 19, Harvey 18  
**1992:** Harvey 18, Riverside 13  
**1991:** Riverside 28, Harvey 6  
**1990:** Riverside 28, Harvey 0  
**1989:** Harvey 6, Riverside 0 (OT)  
**1988:** Harvey 25, Riverside 22  
**1987:** Riverside 26, Harvey 19  
**1986:** Harvey 26, Riverside 21  
**1985:** Riverside 27, Harvey 6  
**1984:** Tie, 0-0  
**1983:** Riverside 27, Harvey 2  
**1982:** Riverside 21, Harvey 2  
**1981:** Harvey 7, Riverside 0  
**1980:** Riverside 14, Harvey 6  
**1979:** Riverside 14, Harvey 13  
**1978:** No game  
**1977:** Riverside 18, Harvey 13  
**1976:** Riverside 34, Harvey 0  
**1975:** Harvey 10, Riverside 9  
**1974:** Harvey 18, Riverside 16  
**1973:** Harvey 8, Riverside 0  
**1972:** Riverside 9, Harvey 6  
**1971:** Riverside 49, Harvey 0  
**1970:** Riverside 52, Harvey 8  
**1969:** Harvey 30, Riverside 6  
**1968:** Harvey 29, Riverside 28  
**1967:** Harvey 26, Riverside 14  
**1966:** Riverside 38, Riverside 12  
**1965:** Riverside 6, Harvey 0  
**1964:** Harvey 24, Riverside 6  
**1963:** Harvey 38, Riverside 6  
**1962:** Riverside 29, Harvey 16  
**1961:** Harvey 24, Riverside 14  
**1960:** Riverside 19, Riverside 6  
**1959:** Harvey 14, Riverside 8  
**1958:** Harvey 48, Riverside 8  
**1957:** Harvey 44, Riverside 6  
**1956:** Harvey 60, Riverside 26  
**1955:** Harvey 40, Riverside 8  
**1954:** Harvey 35, Riverside 0  
**1953:** Harvey 44, Riverside 7  
**1952:** Harvey 20, Riverside 19  
**1951:** Harvey 26, Riverside 0

### MADISON VS. PERRY

**Series:** Madison leads, 36-23

**2018:** Perry 38, Madison 6  
**2017:** Perry 49, Madison 7  
**2016:** Perry 21, Madison 14 (2OT)  
**2015:** Perry 27, Madison 26  
**2014:** Madison 40, Perry 7  
**2013:** Madison 34, Perry 6  
**2012:** Madison 28, Perry 27  
**2011:** Madison 34, Perry 6  
**2010:** Perry 36, Madison 7  
**2009:** Perry 31, Madison 28 (OT)  
**2008:** Perry 44, Madison 7  
**2007:** Did not play  
**2006:** Did not play  
**2005:** Did not play  
**2004:** Did not play  
**2003:** Did not play  
**2002:** Did not play  
**2001:** Did not play  
**2000:** Did not play  
**1999:** Did not play  
**1998:** Did not play  
**1997:** Did not play  
**1996:** Did not play  
**1995:** Madison 37, Perry 19  
**1994:** Madison 20, Perry 14  
**1993:** Madison 14, Perry 13  
**1992:** Perry 22, Madison 7  
**1991:** Madison 31, Perry 19  
**1990:** Perry 39, Madison 7  
**1989:** Perry 7, Madison 6  
**1988:** Madison 16, Perry 0  
**1987:** Perry 19, Madison 0  
**1986:** Madison 14, Perry 0  
**1985:** Madison 7, Perry 6

### BRUSH VS. MAYFIELD

**Series:** Brush leads 49-47-2  
**2018:** Mayfield 20, Brush 19  
**2017:** Brush 37, Mayfield 24  
**2016:** Mayfield 45, Brush 41  
**2015:** Mayfield 45, Brush 13  
**2014:** Mayfield 36, Brush 7  
**2013:** Mayfield 43, Brush 33  
**2012:** Mayfield 44, Brush 29  
**2011:** Mayfield 10, Brush 7  
**2010:** Mayfield 34, Brush 0  
**2009:** Mayfield 23, Brush 0  
**2008:** Mayfield 16, Brush 0  
**2007:** Mayfield 20, Brush 12  
**2006:** Mayfield 28, Brush 14  
**2005:** Brush 21, Mayfield 6  
**2004:** Mayfield 27, Brush 0  
**2003:** Mayfield 28, Brush 7  
**2002:** Mayfield 34, Brush 28  
**2001:** Mayfield 41, Brush 0  
**2000:** Mayfield 16, Brush 15  
**1999:** Mayfield 29, Brush 10  
**1998:** Mayfield 38, Brush 14  
**1997:** Mayfield 32, Brush 9  
**1996:** Mayfield 16, Brush 0  
**1995:** Mayfield 22, Brush 15  
**1994:** Mayfield 21, Brush 7  
**1993:** Mayfield 27, Brush 14  
**1992:** Mayfield 16, Brush 3  
**1991:** Mayfield 25, Brush 0  
**1990:** Mayfield 13, Brush 6  
**1989:** Brush 25, Mayfield 13  
**1988:** Brush 35, Mayfield 0  
**1987:** Brush 14, Mayfield 10  
**1986:** Mayfield 13, Brush 7  
**1985:** Mayfield 14, Brush 7



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## High school football » News-Herald Player of the Year/Tony Fisher Award

<b>1970</b>
<b>Back of the year:</b> Walt Keyser, Wickliffe <b>Lineman of the year:</b> Mark Zikesch, South
<b>1971</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Don Martin, Mentor <b>Defensive POY:</b> Dave Garden, Fairport
<b>1972</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Rich Kirbus, South <b>Defensive POY:</b> Dan Paschke, Wickliffe
<b>1973</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Roger Edwards, South <b>Defensive POY:</b> Bill Namestnik, Mentor
<b>1974</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Ed Prosuch, Lake Catholic <b>Defensive POY:</b> Ed Watral, North
<b>1975</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Ron Barwig, South <b>Co-Defensive POYs:</b> Rich Philipp, Wickliffe and Tim Sawicki, Mayfield
<b>1976</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Joel Payton, Mentor <b>Defensive POY:</b> Brett Modic, South
<b>1977</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Jim Baitt, Euclid <b>Defensive POY:</b> Mark Sullivan, Lake Catholic
<b>1978</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Bobby Orr, Madison <b>Defensive POY:</b> Joe Stevens, Mentor
<b>1979</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Merv Washington, Wickliffe <b>Defensive POY:</b> Tony Kukwa, North
<b>1980</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Dave Cornachione, West Geauga <b>Defensive POY:</b> Mike Golic, St. Joseph
<b>1981</b>
<b>Offensive POY:</b> Mike Lanese, Mayfield <b>Co-Defensive POYs:</b> Matt Grebenc, St. Joseph and Scott Ockington, Mentor
<b>1982</b>



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Robert Smith announces he will attend Ohio State on Feb. 7, 1990.

**Offensive POY:** Mike Denk, Lake Catholic  
**Defensive POY:** Lou Smilanich, Lake Catholic

**1983**

**Offensive POY:** Eric Bryll, Mayfield  
**Defensive POY:** Mike Sullivan, Lake Catholic

**1984**

**Offensive POY:** Sam Grida, Mayfield  
**Defensive POY:** Mike Sullivan, Lake Catholic

**1985**

**Classes A and AA**  
**Offensive POY:** Tony Cira, Wickliffe  
**Defensive POY:** Josh Sobul, Kirtland  
**Class AAA**  
**Offensive POY:** Paul Washlock, Riverside  
**Defensive POY:** Ralph Godic, St. Joseph

**1986**

**Classes A and AA**  
**Offensive POY:** O.J. McDuffie, Hawken  
**Defensive POY:** Matt Zelina, Wickliffe  
**Class AAA**  
**Offensive POY:** Dave Potokar, Euclid  
**Defensive POY:** Dave Diebolt, Mayfield

**1987**

**Classes A and AA**

**Offensive POY:** O.J. McDuffie, Hawken  
**Defensive POY:** Vic Peroni, Wickliffe  
**Class AAA**  
**Offensive POY:** Desmond Howard, St. Joseph  
**Defensive POY:** Randy Stark, Mentor

**1988**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Robert Smith, Euclid  
**Co-Defensive POYs:** Steve Tajgiszer, Euclid and Joe Tracz, Mentor  
**Divisions III, IV and V**  
**Offensive POY:** Sean Siebert, Harvey  
**Defensive POY:** Miguel Vargas, Harvey

**1989**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Robert Smith, Euclid  
**Defensive POY:** Bill Splete, St. Joseph  
**Divisions III, IV and V**  
**Co-Offensive POYs:** Craig Svendsen, Kirtland and Len Spacek, Hawken  
**Defensive POY:** Dean Paglio, Lake Catholic

**1990**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Som Kamsingh, Mayfield  
**Defensive POY:** Rob Zele, Euclid  
**Divisions III, IV and V**  
**Offensive POY:** Craig Svendsen, Kirtland  
**Defensive POY:** Dean Paglio, Lake Catholic

**1991**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Co-Offensive POYs:** Raeshaun Jernigan, Euclid and John Mandato, North  
**Defensive POY:** Marc Parker, Euclid  
**Divisions III, IV and V**  
**Offensive POY:** Darrell Allen, Perry  
**Defensive POY:** Marty Loncar, Lake Catholic

**1992**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Co-Offensive POYs:** Pepe Pearson, Euclid and Chad Green, Mentor  
**Defensive POY:** Chris Luoma, Mentor  
**Divisions III, IV and V**  
**Co-Offensive POYs:** Pete Jelovic, Lake Catholic and Tony Peters, Cardinal  
**Co-Defensive POYs:** Lloyd Kessler, Kenston and Scott O'Donnell, Lake Catholic

**1993**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Pepe Pearson, Euclid  
**Defensive POY:** Jim Eller, North  
**Divisions III, IV and V**  
**Co-Offensive POYs:** Marc Lantos, Wickliffe and Todd Bush, Kenston  
**Defensive POY:** Brian Ferritto, Lake Catholic

**1994**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Craig Kantz, North  
**Defensive POY:** Tom Germano, Mentor  
**Divisions III, IV and V**  
**Offensive POY:** Paul Bozick, Ledgemont  
**Defensive POY:** Corey Sarosy, Perry

**1995**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Scott Neill, Chardon  
**Defensive POY:** DeJuan Goulde, Euclid  
**Divisions III and IV**  
**Co-Offensive POYs:** Jim Fatica, Wickliffe and Andy Rule, Kenston  
**Co-Defensive POYs:** Bob Murphy, Wickliffe and John Wervey, Kenston  
**Divisions V and VI**  
**Offensive POY:** Don Herbe, Gilmour  
**Defensive POY:** Chad Hunter, Cardinal

**1996**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Erik Schroeder, South  
**Defensive POY:** Delmar Stewart, Euclid  
**Divisions III and IV**  
**Offensive POY:** Jason Battung, Lake Catholic  
**Defensive POY:** Rob Preseren, Lake Catholic  
**Divisions V and VI**  
**Offensive POY:** Chris Scherer, Berkshire  
**Defensive POY:** Pat Griffis, Cardinal

**1997**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Tony Fisher, Euclid  
**Defensive POY:** Mitch Hewitt, Chardon  
**Divisions III and IV**  
**Offensive POY:** Jason Parker, Lake Catholic  
**Defensive POY:** Craig Austin, Wickliffe  
**Divisions V and VI**  
**Offensive POY:** Jeff Walton, Hawken  
**Defensive POY:** Lee Gabriel, Kirtland

**1998**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Nick Palazzo, Mayfield  
**Defensive POY:** Mitch Hewitt, Chardon  
**Divisions III and IV**  
**Offensive POY:** Sean McHugh, Chagrin Falls  
**Defensive POY:** Mike Sheredy, Wickliffe  
**Divisions V and VI**  
**Offensive POY:** Justin Yates, Newbury  
**Defensive POY:** Matt Turner, Kirtland

**1999**

**Divisions I and II**  
**Offensive POY:** Jim Smith, Madison  
**Defensive POY:** Derek Buell, Mayfield  
**Divisions III and IV**  
**Offensive POY:** Sean McHugh, Chagrin Falls  
**Defensive POY:** Matt Komar, West Geauga  
**Divisions V and VI**  
**Offensive POY:** Brandon McDowell, VASJ  
**Defensive POY:** Matt Turner, Kirtland

**2000**

**Jason Cavell, Riverside**

**2001**

**Chad Breeden, Mayfield**

**2002**

**Thom Abbott, Mentor**

**2003**

**Mark Petruziello, Lake Catholic**  
**2004**  
**Eric Kettani, Lake Catholic**

**2005**

**Ricky Stanzi, Lake Catholic**

**2006**

**Bart Tanski, Mentor**

**2007**

**Bart Tanski, Mentor**

**2008**

**Mike Hanhauser, Perry**  
**2009**  
**Tim Wetzel, Mayfield**

**2010**

**Ray Russ, South and Richie Sanders, Lake Catholic**

**2011**

**Kareem Hunt, South and Mitch Trubisky, Mentor**

**2012**

**Mitch Trubisky, Mentor**

**2013**

**Conner Krizancic, Mentor**

**2014**

**D.J. Greene, South**

**2015**

**Alex Mathews, Mentor**  
**2016**  
**Tommy Benenati, Chardon**

**2017**

**Godwin Joe, Brush and Tadas Tatarunas, Mentor**

**2018**

**C.J. Charleston, Gilmour**  
**Note:** The News-Herald began publishing football all-stars in 1966, but didn't have players of the year voted upon by the NH sports staff and/or coaches until 1970. The N-H Varsity format, honoring an all-encompassing player of the year, began in 2000. The player-of-the-year was named the Tony Fisher Award and a trophy was introduced in 2007.

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## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Among area streaks, Kirtland is tops this decade

By Jay Kron

Sports@News-Herald.com  
@NHPreps on Twitter

If one has the inclination and a little bit of time, Joe Eitel.com, thanks to its wealth of 21-century Ohio high school football history, can be mined for interesting bits of information. Those that have followed area high school football over the last decade won't be surprised with most of the results, but there are always a few surprises that can be gleaned with an extra look or two.

## Notable streaks

Seven News-Herald area schools will carry noteworthy winning streaks going into 2019. The criteria here is that the streaks had to have reached double-digits, with one exception, that being Kirtland's area-best run of playoff appearances, which stands a good chance of reaching that threshold this season.

## Kirtland

- 15 Consecutive wins overall, accomplished by the Hornets with their 15-0 2018 season. Last loss: Dec. 2, 2017 — Division VI state final to Marion Local, 34-11.

- 21 straight regular season wins. Last loss: Oct. 21, 2016, to Cuyahoga Heights, 21-0.



NEWS-HERALD FILE

Kirtland QB Tommy Powers lines up behind his offensive line during a 2018 Division VI state semifinal against Fort Frye.

- 13 winning seasons in a row. Last non-winning season: 2005 (4-6).

- Nine consecutive seasons making the playoffs. Last time didn't: 2009, when the Hornets went 7-3 in finished 13th in Division 5, Region 17.

- 15 straight CVC Valley Division wins. Last loss: Oct. 21, 2016, to Cuyahoga Heights.

- 10 nonconference, regular season wins in a row. Last loss: Sept. 4, 2015, to Grand Valley, 30-21

- 13 consecutive home wins overall. Last loss: Oct. 21, 2016, to Cuyahoga Heights.

- 19 straight road wins,

- regular season. Last loss: Sept. 4, 2015 to Grand Valley.

- 14 straight wins over public schools. Last loss: Dec. 2, 2017, to Marion Local.

- 23 wins in a row over Lake County opponents. Last loss: Sept. 14, 2001, to Perry, 48-0.

- 65 consecutive wins over News-Herald coverage area opponents. Last loss: Sept. 17, 2009, to Hawken, 31-28.

## Gilmour

- 10 straight regular season wins, as a result of the Lancers 10-0 2018 season. Last loss in the regular sea-

- son: Oct. 28, 2017, to Lima Central Catholic, 36-22

## Kenston

- 11 nonconference, overall wins in a row. Last loss outside the WRC: Sept. 9, 2016, to Canfield, 44-12

## Mentor

- 13 consecutive winning seasons. Last non-winning season: 2005 (5-5)

- 11 straight road wins in the regular season. Last regular season road loss: Sept. 15, 2016, to Euclid, 47-37.

## NDCL

- 14 consecutive non conference, regular season

- wins. Last loss: Aug. 26, 2016, to South, 33-19.

## Perry

- 21 wins in a row in CVC Chagrin play. Last loss: Oct. 23, 2015, to West Geauga, 49-28.

- 18 consecutive home wins, overall. Last loss: Nov. 7, 2015, to Holy Name in a Division IV regional quarterfinal, 50-43, in triple overtime.

- 24 straight regular season wins at home. Last loss: Oct. 18, 2013, to Aurora, 28-3.

- 17 wins in a row over Lake County opponents. Last loss: Sept. 12, 2014, to Madison, 40-7.

## Wickliffe

- 10 straight wins over nonconference, regular-season opponents. Last loss: Sept. 4, 2015, to Archbold, 26-21.

- Kirtland would own several much lengthier winning streaks if it weren't for outlier losses in 2015 (Grand Valley), 2016 (Cuyahoga Heights, twice) and 2017 (Marion Local). Those were the Hornets' only four losses of the last four years.

## Odds and ends

- In the last 10 years, Kirtland is 95-5 in the regular season, 36-5 in the playoffs, 66-3 in the CVC Valley, 70-7 in non-CVC Valley games, 57-3 at home, 47-2

- on the road, 27-5 on neutral fields, and have played an area-best 50 different opponents.

- Mentor is a step behind Kirtland at 80-20 in the regular season, 18-8 in the playoffs, 57-7 in conference games, 52-8 at home, 35-13 on the road, and 11-7 at neutral sites.

- Kenston has enjoyed eight winning seasons in the past 10 years, culminating in last season's Division III state title.

- Perry has been especially strong in regular season games (68-31, third in the area), in non-CVC games (30-12, .714), and at home (40-13, .755) over the last decade.

- Chagrin Falls merits mention, although the larger part of the Tigers' success occurred in the first five years of the decade. Chagrin Falls went 14-5 in playoff games in that span, thanks to two state title runs, and also went 53-17 in the CVC Chagrin (.757), and a strong 33-16 in away games (.673), as well as 9-5 on neutral fields.

- Kirtland (7 times), Chagrin Falls (2), Mentor (2), Benedictine (1) and Kenston (1) have all reached the pinnacle, appearing in a state final in the last decade. In 9 of the 10 years, at least one News-Herald coverage-area team made it to a state final.



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